

4 - Stained Glass Windows

Stained Glass Windows at Ortega United Methodist Church, Jacksonville, Florida

The stained glass windows at the Ortega United Methodist Church in Jacksonville, Florida, are beautiful and unique; and their story is entwined around the lives of Virginia and Umberto Pezzulla and the Italian artist, Anzolo Fuga.

Umberto Pezzulla was the Italian consul in Jacksonville, but he knew Europe—and especially Italy—intimately. He was a native Italian, having fought with his country during World War I when he was only a teenager. He later came to the United States where he was employed by the U. S. Navy during World War II. When he died, the *Jacksonville Journal* ran an editorial entitled “Pezzulla’s Two Nations.”

Umberto married Virginia Moore, a native of Michigan, who learned to speak and write Italian like a native. Virginia’s father died just before the new church at Ortega was constructed, and the Pezzullas expressed a desire to make a special gift to the church in Mr. Moore’s memory. That gift was to be a stained glass window.

In the fall of 1960, with church architectural plans in hand, the Pezzullas set out for Europe and a trip of several months’

duration. Virginia wrote our building committee that they visited every church, cathedral, and basilica in their path, taking pictures as they went, always looking for just the right window to give to Ortega Methodist.

Finally they reached Italy where they learned of Senor Anzolo Fuga, an artist who had recently won the National Award for



Mrs. Virginia Pezzulla

Stained Glass Windows at the Exposition in Milan. After seeing many of his windows, and learning that he made windows for people of many faiths, they proceeded to Venice to see him.

The Pezzullas called Mr. Fuga and invited him to come to their hotel in Venice, where he came laden with oil paintings and slides of his work. Virginia said that the four hours they spent with him seemed more like a fleeting moment. Just

looking at the miniatures of his work gave them a deep feeling. They had no doubt that this forty-five year old artist was well qualified to adapt his artistry to our faith.

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From him they learned that he uses only handmade glass, which is produced in Murano, one of the islands incorporated in greater Venice. Some of the windows might contain as many as 120 shades of color. The color is fired in at high temperatures in a kiln and will last forever, unaffected by dampness, heat, cold, etc. His work is inspired by the traditional style of the classical figures of the thirteenth century with a modern interpretation.



Mr. Anzolo Fuga

Senor Fuga explained his method of operation as follows: (1) study the subject; (2) make preliminary sketches; (3) color the final drawing; (4) fuse the required pieces of glass; (5) assemble each piece in a mosaic of final dimension. Although he knew that he was being asked about only one window, he explained that it is customary to formulate a sequence against the possibility that some day all the windows could be works of art. The theme of the series would be the Life of Christ, and the central window in the sequence of sixteen would be the Last Supper. This was the window the Pezzullas wished to give.

Subsequently, they wrote to Bill Maness and the Building Committee explaining all that they had learned about Professor Fuga and his work and requesting permission to give the Last Supper window. Virginia added that they were interested in contributing a work of art "if it affords pleasure to the membership" – And what pleasure it continues to give through the years!

The Building Committee approved the Pezzullas' gift with joy and anticipation. Virginia and Umberto placed their order and soon returned to Jacksonville with many slides and pictures. The church excitedly awaited the arrival of the Last Supper window! In the meantime, the new building was consecrated in February 1961. On May 12, 1961, the window left Murano, making its trip in the Captain's quarters of an Italian freighter and arrived in Jacksonville on December 12, 1961.

This vertical version of the Last Supper was mounted like a huge picture and was hung from the main masonry wall at the rear of the building. Due to its great weight, the window required special steel and special engineering to extend it some eight feet in front of the rear wall. Fluorescent lamps were used to light the window, and the installation was complete. The *Florida Times Union* publicized it with a write-up and a picture of the Pezzullas admiring the window. People came from all over to revel in the beauty of this work of art. Despite the darkness of the day or night, with one flip of the switch the Last Supper comes alive.

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For a number of years this was the only stained glass window in our church. Then in 1968 the United Methodist Women asked Virginia to give a program, telling of the Pezzullas' trip to Europe, the background of the Last Supper, and detailing the sequence of sixteen pictures which Professor Fuga had planned. This program sparked a renewed interest in completing the series.

In May 1969 Umberto died, and Virginia wanted to remember him by presenting a window to the church. She talked with other members, Bob and Hazel Hancock, whose son Scott had recently been killed in Vietnam. They agreed to give a window in his memory. These windows were followed soon by two others. Spurred on by the enthusiasm and interest of a new minister, Dr. Donald W. Jones, the series of windows was completed. The last window, Pentecost, was installed in 1975.

The hours which Virginia gave to the completion of the stained glass windows cannot be calculated. Correspondence in Italian with the Bank of Italy and the artist in Venice was something no one else in the church could do. Once she had succeeded in

getting a donor, Professor Fuga sent back a miniature version of that particular window done in oil. The donor was asked to approve it and make any suggestions. The painting was returned to the artist. Then months later the window arrived, having necessitated the following items to be handled: artist's fee, ocean freight, insurance, letters of credit, customs duty, local freight, plexiglas covering, and final installation.

Virginia's death came very suddenly in 1978. At the time of her passing she had two desires for the windows. One was that metal plaques be placed at each window to identify them, and the other was that the windows be lighted so that night services, especially weddings, could be beautified by the pictures in stained glass. Both of the wishes were fulfilled. Metal plaques were placed under each window in memory of the John H. Morrisons, parents of Anne Killebrew. The windows were lighted with money made by the bazaar held in 1978 by the United Methodist Women.

We do not know whether Professor Fuga is still alive; but, if he is, it is still our dream that some day he will see his windows in place. The Killebrews visited him on the island of Murano in 1990 and found him and his studio to be delightful. Our church was extremely blessed to have Anzolo Fuga as our artist and to have the Pezzullas to spearhead the entire undertaking.

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1. THE NATIVITY

In Honor of Our Daughters Anne, Mary, and Lynn

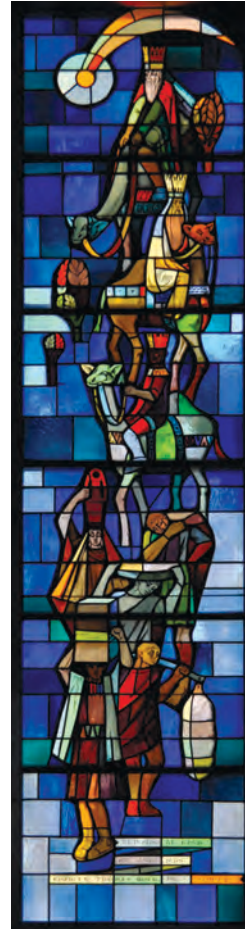
Mr. and Mrs. Webb Pruitt, Jr.
1972

Scriptural Reference:
Luke 2:1-7 (NIV)

The Birth of Jesus

¹In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. ²(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) ³And everyone went to their own town to register.

⁴So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. ⁵He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. ⁶While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, ⁷and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them.



2. THE WISE MEN

He is close at hand.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles T. Boyd, Jr. 1972

Scriptural Reference:
Matthew 2:1-11 (NIV)

The Magi Visit the Messiah

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him."

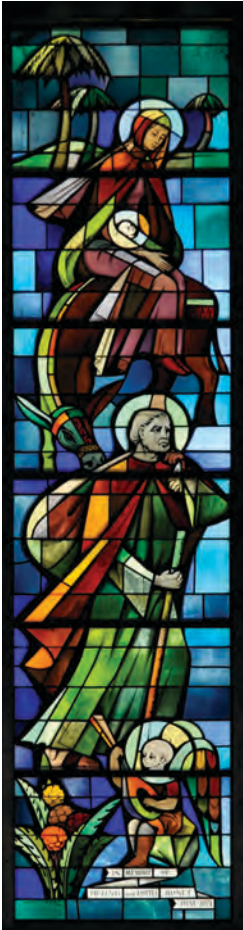
³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵"In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶"But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel."

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him."

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh.

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3. FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

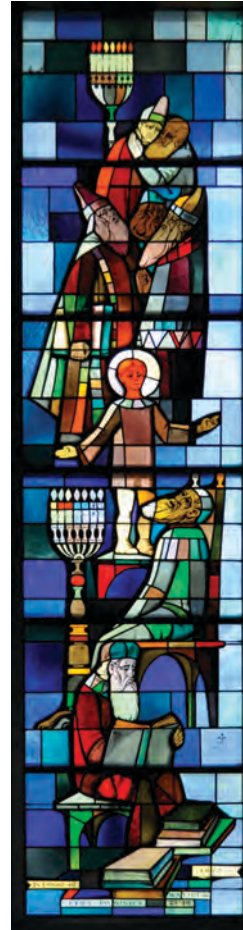
*In Memory of Irving and Lottie Roney
June 1971*

Scriptural Reference:
Matthew 2:13–15 (NIV)

The Escape to Egypt

¹³When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. "Get up," he said, "take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him."

¹⁴So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, ¹⁵where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: "Out of Egypt I called my son."



4. JESUS AT AGE TWELVE

*In Honor of Vera Dominick
Matthew 25:40
1972*

Scriptural Reference:
Luke 2:42–49 (NIV)

⁴²When he was twelve years old, they went up to the festival, according to the custom. ⁴³After the festival was over, while his parents were returning home, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem, but they were unaware of it. ⁴⁴Thinking he was in their company, they traveled on for a day. Then they began looking for him among their relatives and friends. ⁴⁵When they did not find him, they went back to Jerusalem to look for him. ⁴⁶After three days they found him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. ⁴⁷Everyone who heard him was amazed at his understanding and his answers. ⁴⁸When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you."

⁴⁹"Why were you searching for me?" he asked. "Didn't you know I had to be in my Father's house?"

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5. WEDDING AT CANA

To the Glory of God 1972
The John L. Mitchell Family

Scriptural Reference:
John 2:1–10 (NIV)

Jesus Changes Water Into Wine

¹On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, ²and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. ³When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine."

⁴"Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."

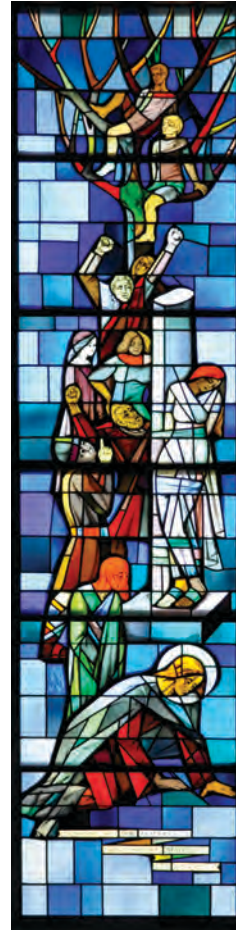
⁵His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you."

⁶Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

⁷Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

⁸Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, ⁹and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside ¹⁰and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now."



6. THE ADULTERESS

In Honor of Our Children
Isola Shuler Sewell 1972

Scriptural Reference:
John 8:3–11 (NIV)

³The teachers of the law and the Pharisees brought in a woman caught in adultery. They made her stand before the group ⁴and said to Jesus, "Teacher, this woman was caught in the act of adultery. ⁵In the Law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?" ⁶They were using this question as a trap, in order to have a basis for accusing him.

But Jesus bent down and started to write on the ground with his finger. ⁷When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, "Let any one of you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." ⁸Again he stooped down and wrote on the ground.

⁹At this, those who heard began to go away one at a time, the older ones first, until only Jesus was left, with the woman still standing there. ¹⁰Jesus straightened up and asked her, "Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?"

¹¹"No one, sir," she said.

"Then neither do I condemn you," Jesus declared. "Go now and leave your life of sin."

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7. MIRACLE OF THE LOAVES

In Memory of Our Son E. Scott Hancock

HM2. U.S.N.

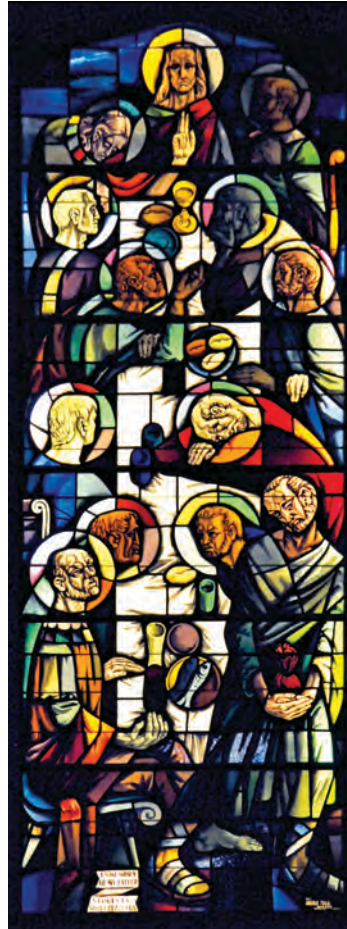
Navy Cross KIA 1969

Scriptural Reference:

John 6:9-11 (NIV)

⁹"Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?"

¹⁰Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." There was plenty of grass in that place, and they sat down (about five thousand men were there). ¹¹Jesus then took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.



8. THE LAST SUPPER

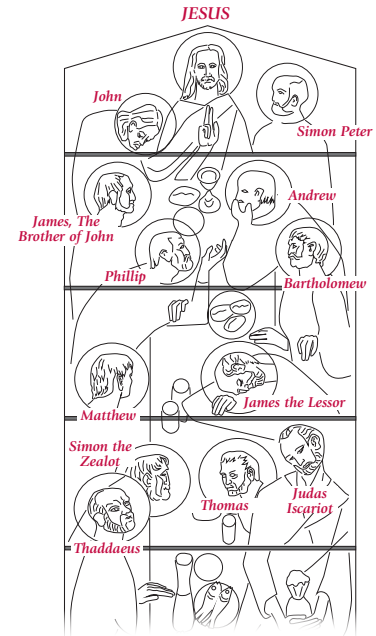
In Memory of My Father

Virginia Moore Pezzulla

1961-1962

Scriptural Reference:

Matthew 26:20-30



*The Last Supper (Right)
Identification of images*

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9. PETER'S DENIAL

*In Loving Memory of My Husband
Umberto Basile Pezzulla
1969*

Scriptural Reference:
Luke 22:55–61 (NIV)

⁵⁵And when some there had kindled a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had sat down together, Peter sat down with them. ⁵⁶A servant girl saw him seated there in the firelight. She looked closely at him and said, "This man was with him."

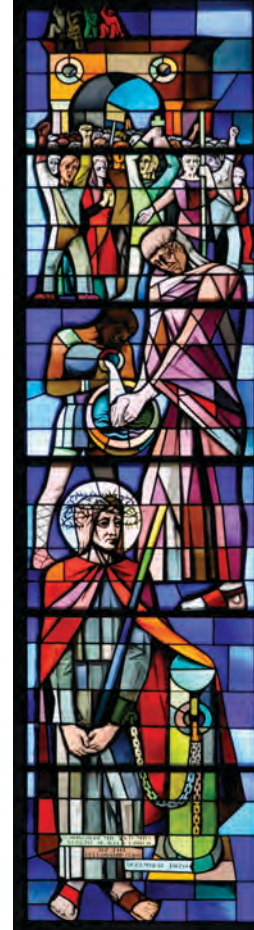
⁵⁷But he denied it. "Woman, I don't know him," he said.

⁵⁸A little later someone else saw him and said, "You also are one of them."

"Man, I am not!" Peter replied.

⁵⁹About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean."

⁶⁰Peter replied, "Man, I don't know what you're talking about!" Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. ⁶¹The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times."



10. THE DECISION (JUDGMENT OF PONTIUS PILATE)

*In Honor of
Mr. and Mrs. Albert M. Killebrew
By the Fellowship Class
December 1970*

Scriptural Reference:
John 19:1–6 (NIV)

Jesus Sentenced to Be Crucified

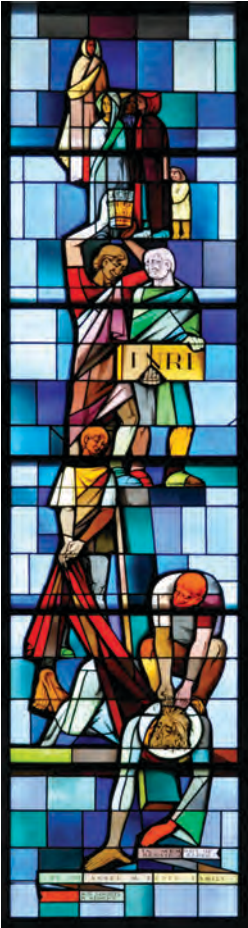
¹Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ²The soldiers twisted together a crown of thorns and put it on his head. They clothed him in a purple robe ³and went up to him again and again, saying, "Hail, king of the Jews!" And they slapped him in the face.

⁴Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews gathered there, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him." ⁵When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, "Here is the man!"

⁶As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, "Crucify! Crucify!"

But Pilate answered, "You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him."

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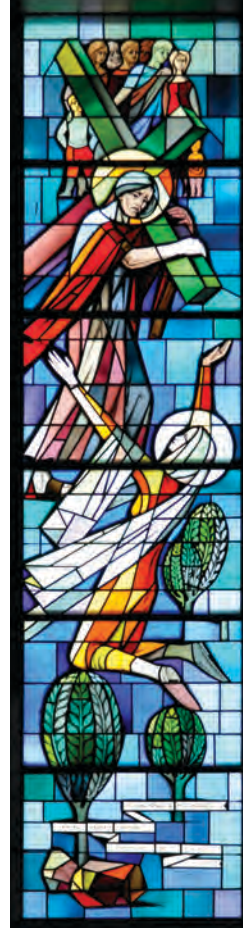


11. FIRST FALL ON CALVARY

*In Memory of Bessie J. Elder
By the Ansel M. Elder Family
And Women's Society of Christian Service*

*Scriptural Reference:
John 19:17 (NIV)*

¹⁷ Carrying his own cross, he went out to the place of the Skull (which in Aramaic is called Golgotha).



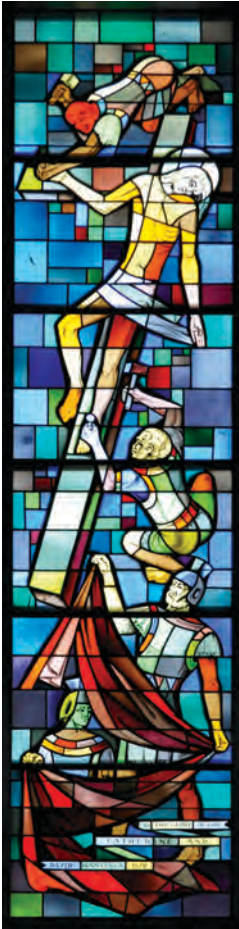
12. JESUS PASSES BEFORE MARY

*In Loving Memory of My Husband
John Hawley Crosby
June 12 1970*

*Scriptural Reference:
Luke 23:27-28 (NIV)*

²⁷ A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and wailed for him. ²⁸ Jesus turned and said to them, "Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children."

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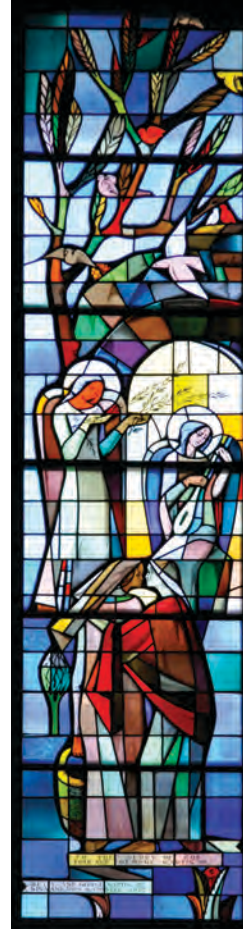


13. THE TUNIC

To the Glory of God
Catherine and David Hastings 1972

Scriptural Reference:
Mark 15:17–20 (NIV)

¹⁷They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” ¹⁹Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.



14. THE TOMB

To the Glory of God
Lois and George Martin, Sr.
Betty and George Martin, Jr.
Nina and John McConnell
1972

Scriptural Reference:
Mark 16:1–7 (NIV)

Jesus Has Risen

¹When the Sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices so that they might go to anoint Jesus’ body. ²Very early on the first day of the week, just after sunrise, they were on their way to the tomb ³and they asked each other, “Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?”

⁴But when they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had been rolled away. ⁵As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man dressed in a white robe sitting on the right side, and they were alarmed.

⁶“Don’t be alarmed,” he said. “You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. ⁷But go, tell his disciples and Peter, ‘He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.’”

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15. THE ASCENSION

*In Honor and Memory of All
Our Children
Mr. and Mrs. William E. Carter
1972*

*Scriptural Reference:
Luke 24:50-51 (NIV)*

The Ascension of Jesus

⁵⁰When he had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, he lifted up his hands and blessed them. ⁵¹While he was blessing them, he left them and was taken up into heaven.



16. PENTECOST

*In Loving Memory of
My Husband
J. Clifton Lynd
1972*

*To the Glory of God
Virginia M. Pezzulla
1972*

*Scriptural Reference:
Acts 2:1-3 (NIV)*

The Holy Spirit Comes at Pentecost

¹When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. ²Suddenly a sound like the blowing of a violent wind came from heaven and filled the whole house where they were sitting. ³They saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.

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The Johnson Windows

The stained glass panels on either side of the altar in the sanctuary were given "In Loving Memory of Charles Williamson Johnson, Jr." The windows represent important Biblical symbols.

The east window depicts the hand of God as He looks down upon the Fish, a symbol for Jesus, a "fisher of men."

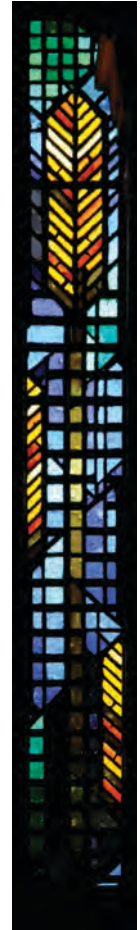
The west side panel shows wheat and grapes, which represent the bread and the wine of communion. The Roman cross at the foot of the west window represents the resurrection of Jesus.

The vivid shades of blue, purple, red, yellow, and green coordinate perfectly with the other stained glass windows in the church. In all of these windows we are reminded of the glow and the glory of the Christian faith.

The textured panels were built by the J. Piercey Studios in Winter Park, Florida. The windows were dedicated on April 19 1981, to "the inspiration of our worship, to the humbling of our heart before eternal mysteries, and to the lifting of our souls to abiding beauty and joy."



*The East Window
Top Segment, Left
Bottom Segment, Above*



*The West Window
Top Segment, Right
Bottom Segment, Above*