



Ashland Place

United Methodist Church 1942-2017

75th Anniversary Notes...

Most recently in these notes, the purpose of the proposed “chapel” as stated by the Saint Francis Street Church Planning and Building Committee (1939) according to Katharine Hope was recounted. Also, I gave a due for this week’s content: What does recycling have to do with the founding of Ashland Place?

Over the years, our sanctuary has had a special appeal to many people – our founders and early members, new members, passers-by, and many seeking a special setting in which to be married. We have preserved it much as it was originally, with some improvements, even while we have more than quadrupled our physical facilities.

Miss Hope recounts the origins of some of the interesting features that make our sanctuary special. It is comprised of many “used” materials, a sort of “recycling” in today’s terminology. For example, the land was prepared with fill dirt “from under the river where Mobile’s first tunnel was built and from the excavation where the Admiral Semmes Hotel was being built. The outside brick came from the home of Moses Waring, one of the founders of the First National Bank.

“The Gothic entrances are in cast stone bought from the Mobile Gas Company when the old Mobile Gas Plant was razed. The interior bricks are fire bricks, meaning they came from the inside of the furnaces. ...



The Sanctuary of Ashland Place, 1985

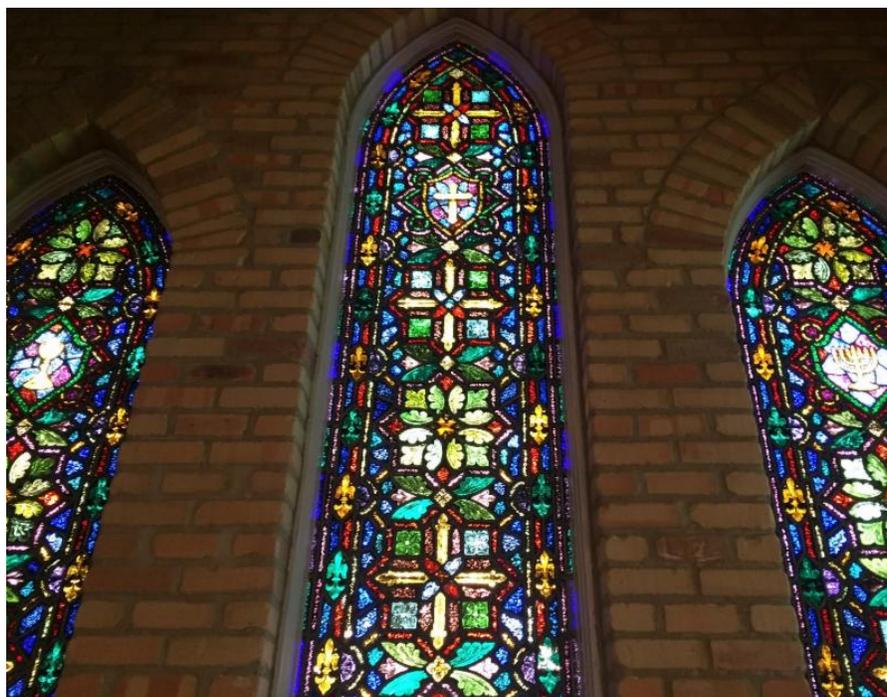
“The flooring is of wide rib pine from the old Waring House. The handsome paneling on the gallery came from the same place.”



The Gallery Paneling

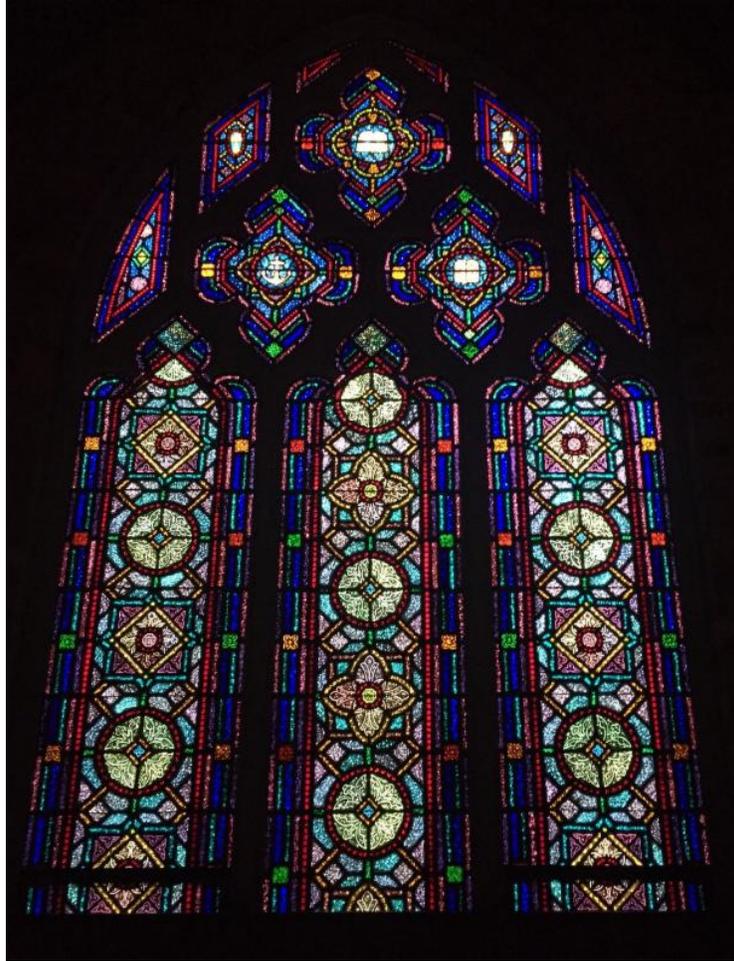
Miss Hope's full account is much more colorful than can be related here. We are extremely grateful that she researched these details and more.

Other architectural details are of interest. Miss Hope described "entering the sanctuary and looking straight ahead at three lance windows, each bearing a beloved symbol of the Christian faith – the Chalice, the Cup used in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper; the Cross, the symbol of Christ's death and reminding people of their redemption through his death; and the seven-branched Menorah, the symbol of the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit as recorded in Revelation 5:12, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing.'" (KJV)



The Lance Windows

"As the congregation leaves the chapel to begin a new week, the beautiful rose window, given by Mrs. Freeman Turner and Mrs. Bragg Morris, sisters, enhances the inspiration of the service and helps seal it within the hearts and minds of the worshippers.

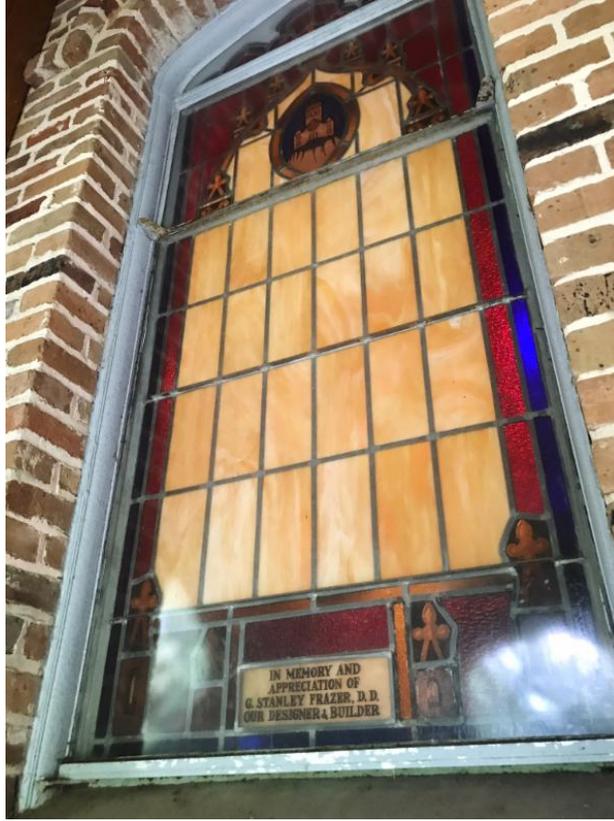


The Rose Windows

“These beautiful windows are the work of the Saint Joseph Art Glass Works of St. Joseph, Missouri, designers and manufacturers of art, stained and ecclesiastical glass. The cobalt blue resembles that made in Hebron in the days of Abraham.....”

The original side-wall windows, with multi-color, random-shape glass, were replaced with new memorial windows. (Some of us can recall the old windows being opened for ventilation during services). The memorial window project was begun under Dr. Leo Brannon (in the 1980s), and the project was completed during Rev. Ben Sawada's tenure as pastor.

Families interested in donating windows participated in choosing the symbols. Most of the detail work was managed by Mrs. Virginia Gray, serving as Memorial Chairman. Of special significance is the window along the walkway between the sanctuary and the fellowship hall. It was placed in memory of Dr. G. Stanley Frazer, the Saint Francis St. Church pastor who instigated the Ashland Place project. Many of our members contributed to a fund for the purchase of this window.



The Frazer Window

Dr. Frazer drew up the blueprints for the chapel, modeled from a church in England. Not only did he draw the plans, he saw that the work was done correctly and he spent much of his own money and time toward the construction of the chapel. Money and materials were scarce, and the Saint Francis St. Church board of stewards said, "We will build just as the funds are received. When they stop, then the building will stop." Freewill offerings kept the construction in progress. Imagine such a church undertaking without resorting to borrowing. That explains why the reuse of building materials (recycling) was so important in the success of the project.

Jane Finley
Memorial Chairman

There's a place for you!

A core group of interested members is working to develop the programs and events of the anniversary year. Your talents and prayers are needed. Please join in and take a role! **Contact Jane Finley, Memorial Chairman** or call the church office at 478-6356. Enjoy the fellowship, spiritual enrichment, and **fun** of being involved.

Contact Jane Finley

