

1901-2018



# Heritage in Stained Glass

First United Methodist Church  
Crockett, Texas  
1901-2018



# Heritage in Stained Glass

## History of

### **FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH'S STAINED GLASS WINDOWS**

The magnificent stained glass windows of First Methodist Church are one of its outstanding treasures. The windows most likely came from an area of Bavaria known at the turn of the century for the exceptional quality of stained glass its artisans produced. The glass may have been produced in Bavaria and then shipped via rail to Great Britain where it was then transported by ship to the United States. It can be assumed that the glass went to the port in Galveston, Texas, and again was transported via rail to Crockett. Once in Crockett, the pieces had to be assembled and meticulously installed. One can only assume that an extremely gifted artisan or artisans were on site to install the complex windows.

In keeping with a practice common to the stained glass trade at the turn of the century, the three largest windows in the sanctuary each have hand painted sections. Through the years, pieces of these windows have been broken and replaced and in some instances, the replacement pieces are not a match. One might view this as a beautiful material reminder of the imperfections in life.

Many of the windows were memorial gifts from family members of the Church. First Methodist Church obviously played an important role in the lives of these generous families. These were men and women who were faithful and loyal to the needs and growth of First Methodist Church. One hundred years since giving their generous gifts, the magnificent stained glass windows continue to inspire and minister to all who behold their beauty.

Dorian Knox Sullivan

# Heritage in Stained Glass

## SOUTH-EAST WINDOW

This patriotic window was given in memory of 26-year-old Edward E. Downes, first lieutenant in the U.S. infantry, who served his country honorably in the Spanish American War. Lieutenant Downes died in battle in June of 1901 on the Philippine Islands. When Edward went to the Philippines, he took seriously his mission as a Christian. It was reported that he shared the story of Jesus with as many people as possible. He must have been an exemplary soldier, as Camp Downes in the Philippines bears his name. Soldiers from Houston County who later served in the Philippines have been comforted knowing that a godly man from their home territory had served honorably before them.



EDWARD E. DOWNES—was the son of J.E. Downes, who served on the building and planning committee of the Church in 1897.  
( This committee formulated plans for our current brick sanctuary that was built 1901-1902.)



# Heritage in Stained Glass

## SOUTH-CENTRAL WINDOW

This magnificent window was given in memory of Catherine A. Burnett by her sons, George and Gary. Mrs. Burnett had been visiting relatives and friends in Crockett when a slow rain began to fall. Mrs. Burnett decided to return home before the rains became too heavy. She also wanted to help her grandchildren get ready for the start of the new school year. As the slow rain fell, Mrs. Burnett boarded the train in Crockett and left on her journey back to Galveston.

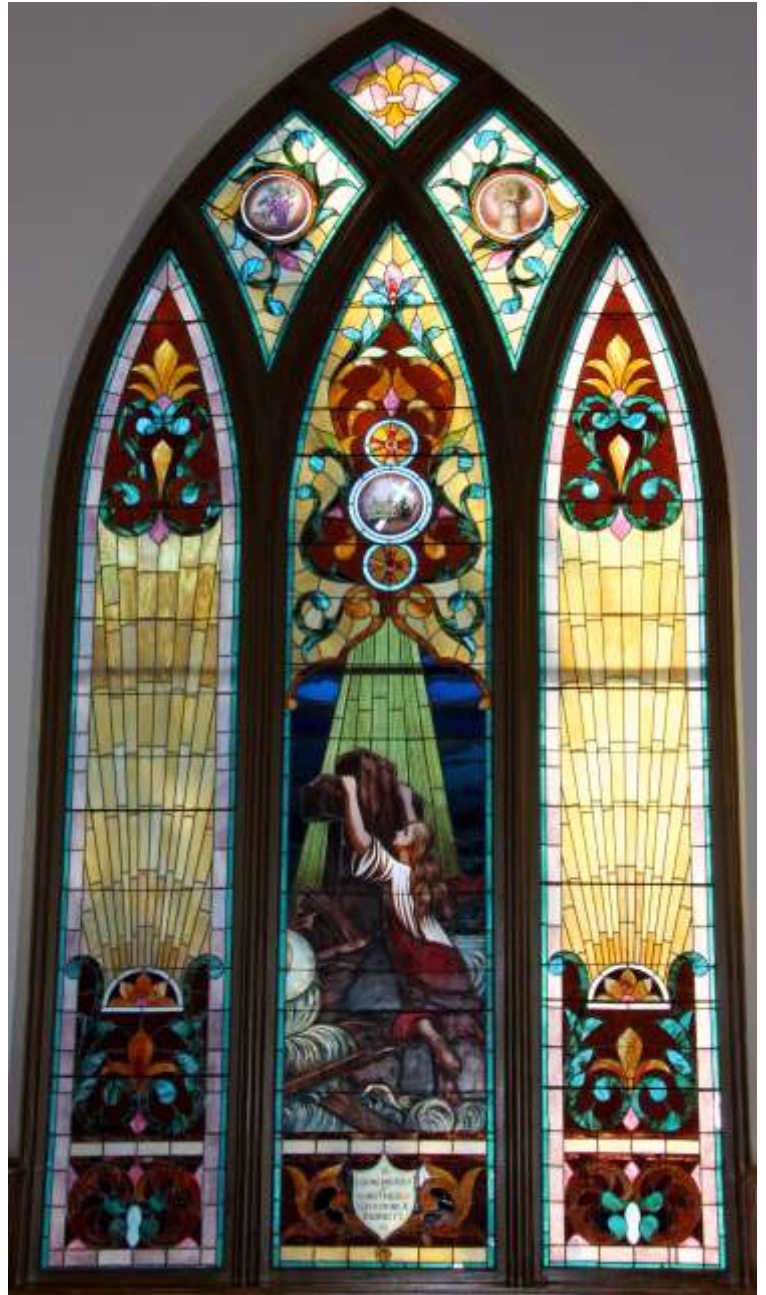
When Mrs. Burnett arrived in Galveston on Friday evening, the wind and rain had intensified. Through the night the storm continued to build and on Saturday, devastation occurred. According to an article published on September 14, 1900, in the Crockett Courier, the two Burnett family homes were adjoining between 23rd and 24th streets. On Saturday as the storm became **more intense, the Burnett family decided to gather in Rev. Judson P. Palmer's** house on the same block. His house was supposedly the strongest fortress.

**Unfortunately, when the storm hit, Rev. Palmer's house was swept to pieces** along with all the other houses on the block. All were lost except George and Gary who, though separated, had been saved by clinging to floating timbers throughout the night. George was severely hurt and both men were unconscious for a time. The brothers, each believing the other had drowned, were grateful to find each other the day after the storm. That day, September 8, 1900, is remembered in history as the day of the devastating hurricane of 1900 that killed as many as 6,000 people.



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Among those who died were Mrs. Burnett, her two daughters-in-law, and all of her grandchildren. The two houses where the families had lived were completely destroyed by the devastating storm. That day, two young men lost their mother, their wives and children, their homes, but not their faith. The sons gave the gift of the beautiful stained glass window on the south side of the main sanctuary as a constant reminder of the fragility of life and the importance of being **able to cling to one's faith.**





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## SOUTH-WEST WINDOW

The window on the southwest side of the sanctuary was given in memory of W.J. Foster by his children. Mr. Foster served faithfully as superintendent of **Sunday school for twenty years. Mr. Foster's son, John R.**, like his father, was superintendent of Sunday school for many years.

First Methodist was important in the lives of the large Foster family. Through the years, the family has continued the legacy of faithful service to their community and church.



# Heritage in Stained Glass

## WEST-CENTRAL WINDOW



### **“Suffer little children to come unto Me.”**

This window was given in memory of Pattie Smith and little Ernest Smith. Pattie was the wife of Ellis Smith, who was the pastor of First Methodist from 1900-1902. In October of 1901, Rev. Smith was asked to officiate at the marriage ceremony of Lucille Beasley and Gail Q. King. According to a journal written by Miss Beasley, the day

of the wedding, October 24, 1901, Rev. **Smith’s son, Ernest, became quite ill.** Hesitant to leave the side of his ailing child, Rev. Smith stayed with his child and was unable to perform the ceremony. Rev. Tenney from First Presbyterian Church stopped by the Beasley home on his way to prayer meeting and performed the marriage ceremony. During the night, the condition of little Ernest continued to deteriorate and that night, the young child died. It was due to the influence of Mrs. Gail Q. King and her family that we have this beautiful memorial to little Ernest and his mother Pattie.





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## WEST-SOUTH WINDOW

Nora McCarty was a faithful lifetime member of First Methodist. She lived only blocks from the church and rarely missed an opportunity to worship and fellowship at the church. Nora's granddaughter, Bobbie Maples, described her grandmother as a kind, humble Christian lady. Nora's son, Harvey, grew up in Crockett ,but, left after high school to pursue his dreams. Harvey became a successful businessman. When his mother passed away, Harvey honored his mother and her love of First Methodist Church by donating this beautiful stained glass window.





# Heritage in Stained Glass

## NORTH-CENTRAL WINDOW

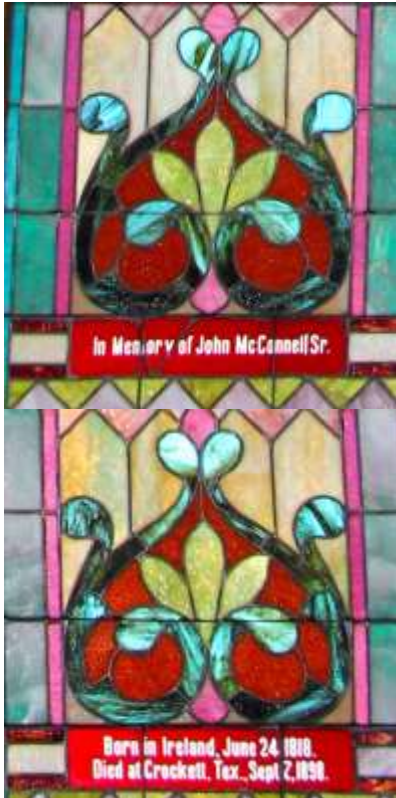
**“Come unto me all ye that labour and are heavy laden.”**

This beautiful window was given in memory of John McConnell, Sr., who was born in Ireland in 1818 and died in Crockett in 1898. Mr. McConnell left his homeland of Ireland in 1839 when he was only 21 years old. Living briefly in Scotland and England, he later sailed to America, landing in New York. Mr. McConnell worked his way south to New Orleans and then west to Nacogdoches and finally to Crockett where he settled around 1847. It was in Crockett that he successfully owned and operated a blacksmith shop and later a hardware store and was highly regarded by his fellow citizens.

Two of Mr. McConnell's sons, Robert Emmett and John Jr., were actively involved in First Methodist, Crockett. Robert Emmett was a devout worker who served on the building committee in July of 1897.



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This committee met to formulate plans for the sanctuary that was completed in 1902. R.E. McConnell died in the flu epidemic of 1918. John Jr. was a life member of first Methodist. He served as Sunday school superintendent for many years and was active **until his death in 1931. John Jr.'s** wife, Louella, taught Sunday school and remained active until her death in 1959.

## NORTH-EAST WINDOW

**“In memory of our mother and father.  
Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord.”**

This window was given in memory of William and Mary Isabella Johnson by their loving children. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson are the great-grandparents of Charles Larnier Edmiston and Florence Arledge King and the great-great-grandparents of Charles L. (Charlie) Edmiston, Jr.. This family has been actively involved in our community and church for over 100 years.





# Heritage in Stained Glass

## WEST-NORTH WINDOW

Sally Murray had fond memories of growing up in Crockett and being a member of First Methodist. After graduation from Crockett High School, Sally attended college and then went to work for Exxon Corporation in Houston, Texas. Sally continued throughout the years to support First Methodist with financial gifts. She enjoyed receiving the church newsletter as it kept her informed about ongoing activities at First Methodist. This beautiful stained glass window was given by Sally in loving memory of her mother, Mary Jeter Murray.



# Heritage in Stained Glass

## SANCTUARY



BACK WEST DOOR

## SANCTUARY—FOYER



WEST DOOR



NORTH DOOR

Seven windows in the sanctuary have this design.





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## EDUCATION ANNEX

### FIRST FLOOR

There are four windows on the north wall with this design.

### SECOND FLOOR

NORTH WALL CLOSET



# Heritage in Stained Glass

EDUCATION ANNEX

SECOND FLOOR



MIDDLE WINDOW



There are four windows on the North wall with the same design. One of the windows, however, has been covered with sheetrock. Of the three visible windows, the middle window has a replacement piece in the bottom section of the window.



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FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

## FLEUR-DE-LIS

The Fleur-de-Lis design or Flower of the Lily is seen in many of the windows.





FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
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