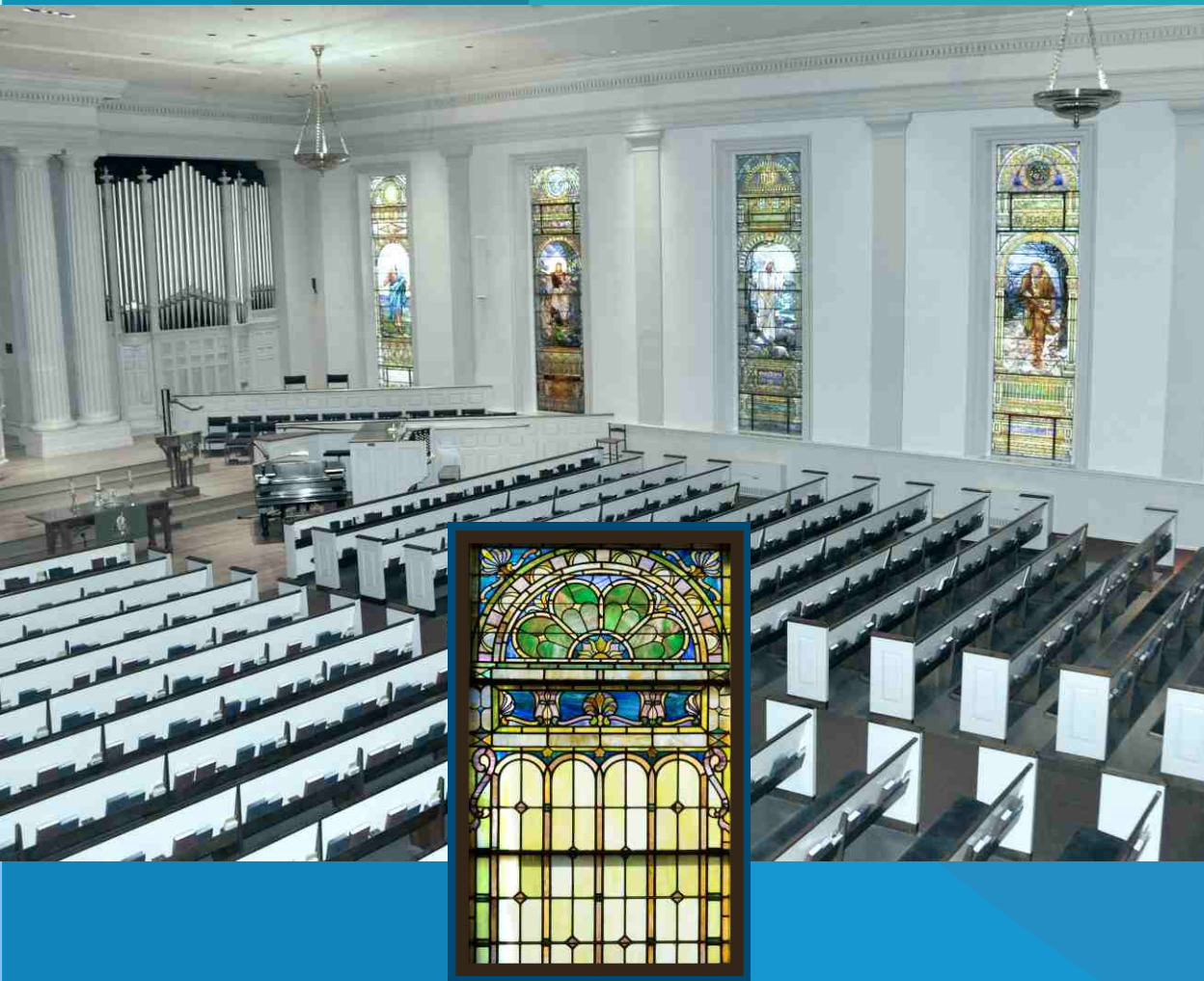



The Treasured *Windows*

First Presbyterian Church Lancaster, Pennsylvania







The stained-glass windows of First Presbyterian Church are treasures that add to the beauty of the sanctuary, create an atmosphere for worship and memorialize former members of the congregation. Nine of the twelve windows were made by the Tiffany Studios of New York City. Three, including two outside the sanctuary, were made in the Nicola Goodwin D'Ascenzo Studios of Philadelphia after the Tiffany Company went out of business. One-by-one, from 1909-1965, stained-glass windows original to the present church when it was built in 1850 were replaced with those by Tiffany and D'Ascenzo. The early windows were geometric in design. One remains on the west side of the sanctuary balcony.

The History of Stained Glass

The technique of coloring glass dates to ancient civilizations in Egypt and Mesopotamia before the birth of Christ. Glass makers experimented with their art through the ages. Their developments led to the making of stained glass which appeared in Europe in pictorial form in the 9th century. The art reached the height of its perfection and popularity when stained-glass windows with Biblical themes became an integral part of the great Gothic cathedrals of Europe. At the time of the Reformation and partially due to its influence, stained glass as an art form began to decline. A revival occurred

during the 19th century. Louis Comfort Tiffany was influential in this revival in the United States.

Tiffany Studios

Louis Comfort Tiffany (1845-1933), son of the founder of the Tiffany and Company Jewelry Store, was born in New York City. He was a painter as a young man and studied under American artists George Inness and Samuel Colman before going to Paris to continue his study. After returning home, he experimented with media other than paints, including the use of stained glass for decorative art objects. He developed the opalescent glass known as Tiffany favrile for which he became famous. This was used in making windows, vases, lamps and other decorative art pieces in the art nouveau style. His work is valued by collectors today.

Nicola D'Ascenzo Studio

Nicola D'Ascenzo (1871-1954) was born in Italy and came to live in the United States at age eleven. Although Italian by birth, he was considered an American artist because he received most of his formal training in this country. After opening a studio in Philadelphia he was commissioned to do decorative murals and windows for mansions, public buildings and commercial establishments as well as churches. Among the outstanding examples of his stained glass windows are those in the National Cathedral, Washington, D.C., the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley

Forge and the Riverside Church in New York City. When James A. Hauser, Vice President of the Willet Stained Glass Studio of Philadelphia, evaluated the First Presbyterian Church windows in 2000, he stated in his condition report that the D'Ascenzo windows were fabricated almost exclusively with opalescent glasses rather than using the studio's usual techniques. He wrote

that, to him, it appeared that D'Ascenzo was trying to emulate the style of the Tiffany windows.

Individually and collectively the stained glass windows have become part of the rich heritage of First Presbyterian Church. They are treasured for their beauty, history, and craftsmanship and continue to illuminate and inspire worship today.

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“The Risen Christ”

WINDOW 1
in the Sanctuary

Made by Tiffany Studios of New York City, and purchased in 1909, this was the first picture window to be installed in the Sanctuary and depicts the risen Christ with open arms inviting the world to himself.

The window was commissioned by the Ladies' Aid Society of the church and presented as a memorial to the Rev. James Y. Mitchell, pastor of the church from 1876 until 1907.

*Come unto me, all ye that labor
and are heavy laden,
and I will give you rest.*

*Take my yoke upon you,
and learn of me; for I am meek and
lowly in heart: and ye shall
find rest unto your souls.*

*For my yoke is easy,
and my burden is light.*

MATTHEW 11:28-30



“Jesus with the Children”

WINDOW 2
in the Sanctuary

The window portrays Jesus blessing the little children, two girls and a boy.

At the extreme top is a crown with palm leaves suggesting triumphal entry.

Made by Tiffany Studios of New York City, and installed in 1919, it was given in memory of the children of Mr. & Mrs. Charles Baker.



*Let the little
children come to me;
do not stop them; for it
is to such as these that
the kingdom of God
belongs.*

MARK 10:14

“Jesus the Good Shepherd”

WINDOW 3
in the Sanctuary

The window depicts Christ
as the shepherd in green pastures
beside the still waters.

Made by Tiffany Studios of
New York City,
it was presented in 1920
by Miss Sue Williamson as
a memorial to her father,
Henry F. Williamson, and her sister,
Lillian Williamson Ghriskey.

*I am the good
shepherd. The good
shepherd lays down his
life for the sheep.*

JOHN 10:11



“The Sower”

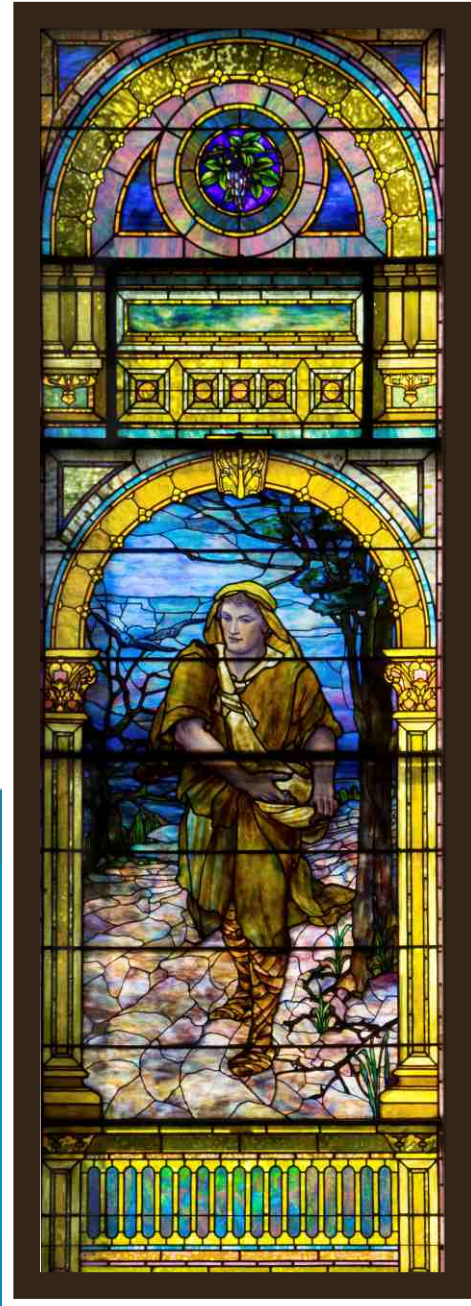
WINDOW 4
in the Sanctuary

This window depicts a sower scattering seeds. At the top of the window a cluster of grapes suggests a good harvest. Conveyed is the message of Jesus' order to his disciples, “Go ye into all the world and spread the gospel.”

Made by Tiffany Studios of New York City, and installed in 1921, it was given to the church by William Shand and Agnes Shand Hostetter, in memory of their parents, James and Annie W. Shand.

*Other seeds fell on good soil
and brought forth grain,
some a hundred fold, some
sixty, some thirty. Let anyone
with ears listen.*

MATTHEW 13:8-9



“Peter’s Deliverance”

WINDOW 5
in the Sanctuary

In this window, the angel of
the Lord looks on as
Peter casts off his prison chains.

Made by Tiffany Studios of
New York City, and installed in 1923,
this window was given by
Annie Watt Davis in
memory of her parents,
Peter and Lizzie Learmonth Watt.

*Suddenly an angel of
the Lord appeared
and a light shone in the
cell. He tapped Peter
on the side and woke
him saying, “Get up
quickly” and the
chains fell off his wrists.*

ACTS 2:7



“The Angel”

WINDOW 6
in the Sanctuary

This window portrays an angel with outstretched welcoming arms. In both the Old and New Testaments an angel represents the medium by which God manifests himself to us and expresses concern for us.

Made by Tiffany Studios of New York City, and installed in 1913, it was given in memory of Hugh Stanley Gara and Sara Buck Gara by their daughter, Elizabeth B. Gara.

*Are not all angels
spirits in the divine
service, sent to serve for
the sake of those who
are to inherit salvation?*

HEBREWS 1:4



“The Pilgrim”

WINDOW 7
in the Sanctuary

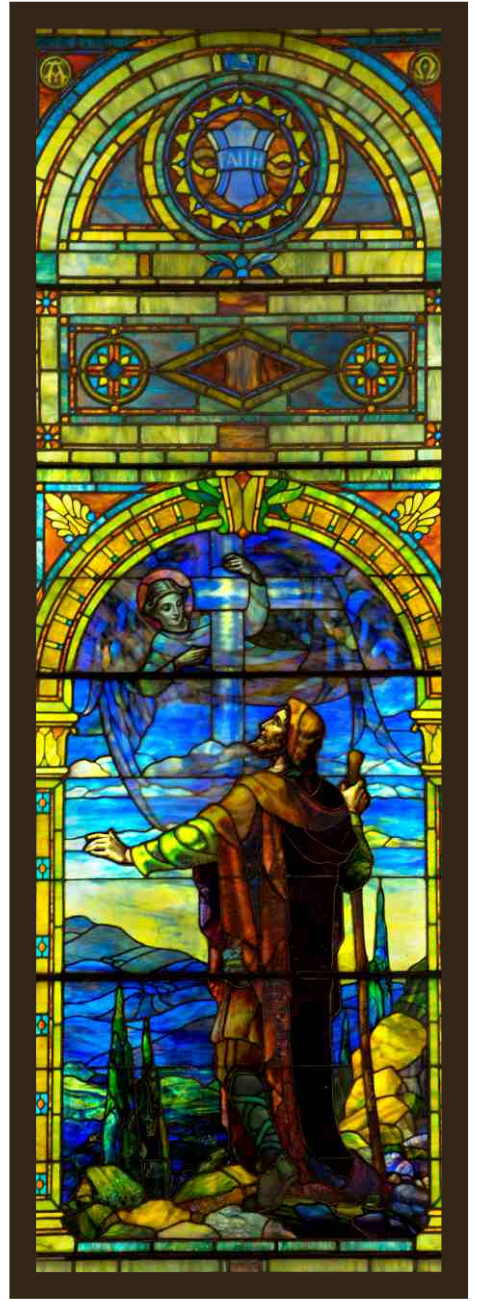
This window shows a figure,
a pilgrim, on life's rocky road looking
toward the cross being borne by an angel.

It represents the promise
of salvation for all mankind.
The shield at the top and the Greek letters
Alpha and Omega at the sides symbolize
the sustaining power of faith.

This window was made by the
Nicola Goodwin D'Ascenzo Studios
of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and installed
in 1937. It was given through
bequest from Susan Carpenter Frazer, to
memorialize her parents,
Reah and Abiann Steele Frazer
and their children.

*Let us lay aside every weight,
and the sin which doth so early
beset us, and let us run with
patience the race that is set
before us, looking unto Jesus
the author and finisher of faith.*

HEBREWS 12:1-2



"The Garden"

WINDOW 8
in the Sanctuary

This window - a replica of a fresco by Fra Angelico, a 15th century monk - portrays Christ in the garden with Mary Magdalene who has not yet recognized him as the risen Christ.

Commissioned in 1916 and made by Tiffany Studios of New York City, it was given by Elizabeth Hensel Nauman to memorialize her grandmother, Anne Elizabeth Klieffer Flinn, and her parents, Emily Flinn Hensel and William Uhler Hensel.



*Two angels said to Mary,
"Woman, why are you weeping?"
She said to them,
"They have taken away my Lord,
and I do not know where
they have laid him."
When she had said this
she turned around and saw Jesus
standing there, but she did
not know that it was Jesus.*

JOHN 20:13-14

“The Teacher”

WINDOW 9
in the Sanctuary

This window portrays Jesus with a shepherd's crook at sunset with two stars visible. At the top is the dove of peace.

Made by Tiffany Studios of New York City, and installed in 1924, it was dedicated to the memory of James H. Wickersham by his wife, Jesse Hough Wickersham and their children, John Wickersham and Dorothy Wickersham Heitshu.

*I am the way and the
truth, and the life. No
one comes to the
Father except through
me. If you know me,
you will know my
Father also.*

JOHN 14:6-7



“The Nativity”

WINDOW 10
in the Sanctuary

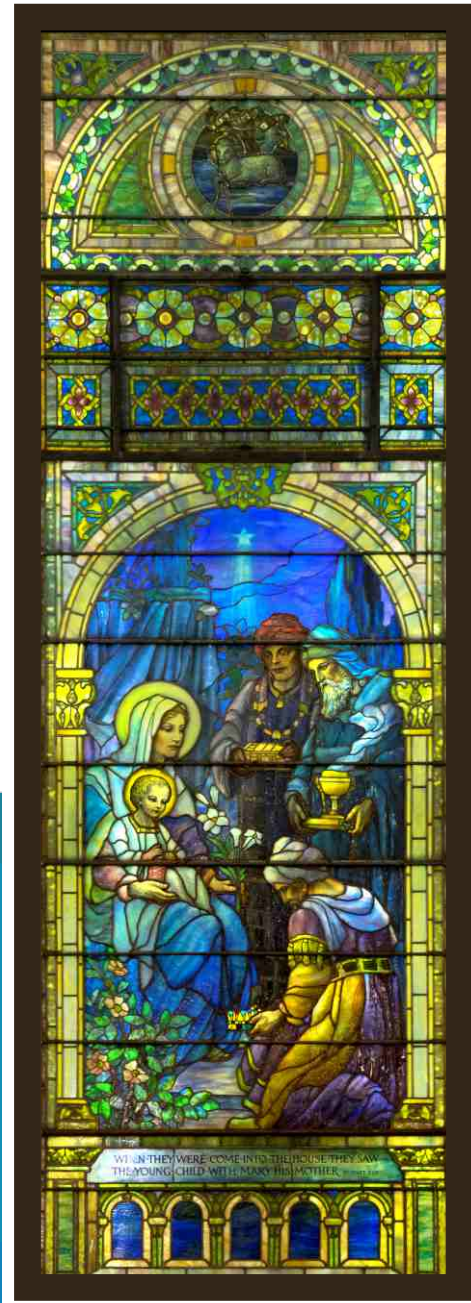
This window portrays the
nativity with Mary holding
the Christ Child.

Nearby are the wise men
presenting their gifts.

The last of the windows done by
the Tiffany Studios of New York City,
it was installed in 1929, and given
by Mary Slaymaker Kepler in memory of
her parents, Aaron C. Kepler and Mary
Matilda Slaymaker Kepler,
and her brothers William,
Aaron and George.

*On entering the
home, the wise men saw
the child with Mary his mother;
and they knelt down
and paid him homage.
Then opening their treasure
chests, they offered him
gifts of gold,
frankincense and myrrh.*

MATTHEW 2:11



“The Woman at the Well”

WINDOW 11
in the Narthex

One of three windows done by the D'Ascenzo Studios, this window is located in the west wall of the narthex. It pictures Jesus at the well in Samaria. Installed in 1941 through a bequest from Harry M. Musser, it also memorializes him.



Jesus said to the woman of Samaria, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

JOHN 4:13-14

“Jesus Blessing the World”

WINDOW 12
in the Education Wing

As the title suggests, this window depicts Jesus giving his blessing to the world. It is located to the rear of the hallway in the Education Building.

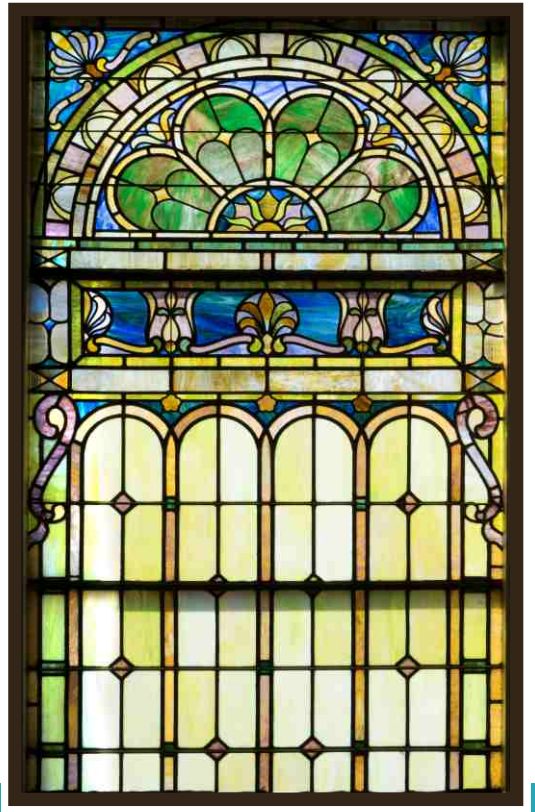
The third window to be created by the D'Ascenzo Studios, it is also the last of the stained glass windows to be installed at First Presbyterian Church.

A distinguishing feature of the three D'Ascenzo windows is the use of deep red in the design. This last window was given in 1965 by William Slaymaker Kinzer to the memory of his mother, Edith Iola Slaymaker Kinzer, an uncle, Peter Slaymaker and aunts,

*Go therefore and
make disciples of all
nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father and of the
Son and of the Holy Spirit,
and teaching
them to obey everything
that I have
commanded you.*

MATTHEW 28:19-20

The last remaining window original to the present church when it was built in 1850. It is located on the west side of the sanctuary balcony.





Donna Wilcox PHOTOGRAPHY

First Presbyterian Church
140 East Orange Street
Lancaster, Pennsylvania 17602

717.394.6854

info@fpclive.org

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