

From the Archives

Treasures in Glass

Upon entering the nave of the church, one is immediately captivated by the breathtaking stained-glass windows that bathe the walls, furnishings, and floors in ever-changing jewel-like colors throughout the day. From the soft morning light to the waning rays of evening sun, these windows illuminate the space with marvelous displays of color. However, few may be aware that the creation of these treasures involved an extensive and intricate process.

On the dedication day of our present building, December 6, 1931, worshippers were greeted by four stained glass windows that morning: the dominating Jeffrey Window in the Chancel; the Rose Window, positioned at the opposite end of the nave; the Friendship Window in the East Transept; and the Gladden Window in the West Transept. At that time, all other windows within the nave were crafted from what is known as “cathedral glass,” gentle, light shades of colored glass in diamond shapes. The Miller Memorial window was added to the East Wall of the Chancel in 1937, but it wasn’t until 1988 that all of the other windows in the nave and transepts were in place. There is much more to learn about all of these highly regarded works of art, but that is for another time.

For those eager to delve deeper into information on these stained-glass treasures, a newly released booklet, “A Legacy in Stained Glass,” published by the First Church Art Committee, is available at each entrance to the sanctuary. We encourage you to use this beautiful resource for your own personal gallery walk, exploring the windows mentioned above.

