

From the Archives

Hanging Sculptures

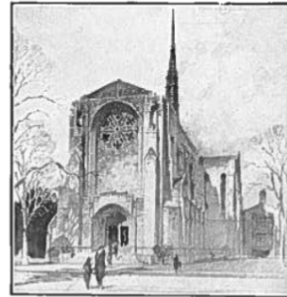
Church membership growth in the 1940s, 1950s, and 1960s had filled every available space in the Parish House and Parish Hall for Sunday School classes. To address the pressing need for additional space, the decision was made to construct an Education Wing, which was dedicated in 1963. Perhaps you've already observed the bas-relief sculptures adorning the exterior east wall of the wing—a generous gift from a First Church family. The October 18, 1964, *Church News* excerpt below carries the official announcement of this remarkable donation, including details about the artist and the award-winning sculptures.

First Church News

Columbus, Ohio, October 18, 1964

This Church welcomes into its communion all those who are seeking to live in accordance with the spirit and teachings of Jesus. We respect the honest convictions of all and seek to draw into a fellowship of love, of worship and of service those who, in the Spirit of Christ, would live to the good of man and to the glory of God.

The Church is open daily from eight to four for rest, meditation and prayer.



NEW SCULPTURE

Last month four pieces of sculpture were mounted on our new building, two over the west doors and two over the east. They are the gift of the children of Eleanor Hatton Woolman and are presented to First Church in her memory. William Thompson, formerly Assistant Professor of Art in the Ohio State University, is the sculptor. He has worked with the Art Committee of the church and with the architects of the building.

The bas-reliefs contain two figures each: The Fall, in which Eve and the Serpent are shown with the forbidden fruit; The Struggle, in which Jacob wrestles with the angel, an event suggesting the grappling of the Christian with truth; The Redemption, in which our Lord is baptized by St. John the Baptist, an action which provides the ground of Christian Baptism; and The Mission, in which St. Peter heals the cripple at the gate of Jerusalem.

Mr. Thompson has attempted to fashion a highly serious work of art without neglecting the element of joy and even of gaiety which typify the faith of children.

It is surely appropriate for us to express our gratitude to the members of Mrs. Woolman's family for their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Update: Two of the sculptures are in serious disrepair and were from the west side of the building.

To learn more about artist William J. Thompson and his work, click [here](#).