

# From the Archives

## Honoring Motherhood—in Glass

Following the passing of his beloved wife, Ella Morris Miller, longtime First Church member and community leader Orlando Albert Miller commissioned a stained-glass window to be installed on the east wall of the Chancel in her memory. Mrs. Miller had been a devoted member of First Church for 56 years.

To design and fabricate the double lancet window, the renowned Charles J. Connick and Associates Studio of Boston was selected. Over the course of its distinguished history, the Connick Studio created more than 15,000 stained-glass windows for over 5,000 churches and public buildings. Its notable installations include windows in St. Patrick's Cathedral and the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York City, Princeton University Chapel, the American Church in Paris, Heinz Memorial Chapel at the University of Pittsburgh, and the Cadet Chapel at West Point.

First Church is proud to house two other Connick windows: the *Friendship Window* in the East Transept—gifted by the Millers in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Francis C. Sessions, founding members of First Church—and the *Good Samaritan Windows* in the South Bay of the same transept.

For the memorial window, Connick chose the theme of motherhood to honor Ella Miller's life and contributions to her home, church, and community. He symbolized the ideal of Christian motherhood through traditional depictions of Mary, the mother of Jesus, and Anne, the mother of Mary.

To further enrich our understanding of the Miller Memorial Window, we include three additional items:

1. A striking image of the window, difficult for the average viewer to capture due to the height and width of the chancel.
2. The dedicatory description from the Sunday service bulletin dated May 16, 1937.
3. Two more images—one of the bulletin's front cover, and another of the order of service with related notes concerning Mrs. Miller, the window, and its designer.



1860 IN GLORY  
BELOVED MEMBER OP

ELLA MORRIS GILLET 1936  
THIS CHURCH SINCE 1880

*East Chancel Window—"The Spirit of Motherhood"*  
*Designed and built by Mr. Charles J. Connick*  
*—Presented by Mr. O. A. Miller*  
*In Memory of Mrs. Ella Morris Miller, 1860 - 1936*

In the great periods of Christian Art, Motherhood has been symbolized and honored through gracious figures universal in their significance. In this design, exalted characters intimately associated with Jesus have been chosen to typify Christian ideals of womanhood and motherhood.

The subjects treated in simple, delicate units are woven together with the vine and red rose, ancient symbols of Love and Kindness. A personal touch is given by the use of the flower motive and Mrs. Miller's favorite color lavender.

The great medallions, reading from the bottom are the Nativity of Mary the Mother of Jesus; Saint Ann teaching her daughter Mary, and the emphasized medallion at the top contains the standing figure of St. Ann holding her infant daughter.

In the right lancet, the first large medallion at the base is the Nativity of Christ; the second is The Holy Family of Nazareth; and the dominant medallion at the top of the lancet is Mary, the Mother of Jesus, holding the Infant in her arms.

Throughout the lancets and in the large tracery piece are angelic figures holding symbols of the Seven Acts of Mercy. An angel giving bread to children symbolizes "feeding the hungry;" a pitcher of water, "drink to the thirsty;" a small house, "sheltering the stranger;" a cloak, "clothing the naked;" a basket of flowers, "visiting the sick;" a bunch of keys, "visiting the imprisoned;" and a spade, "burying the dead."

Around the figure in the tracery are the words "Her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her" (Proverbs 31:28). The color scheme has been arranged to complement that of the chancel window; also to serve as an interesting and beautiful gradation from the east transept window. Its depth and richness is given a quality that may be called feminine through delicate details of quiet brilliance.

The inscription in the base reads

1860 In Memory of Ella Morris Miller 1936  
Beloved Member of this Church since 1880.

The Church of Washington Gladden  
Minister: 1882-1918

# First Congregational Church

Columbus, Ohio

Ministers

McIlyar Hamilton Lichliter

Jack Edward Elliot

Sunday, May Sixteenth

nineteen thirty-seven

## TRANSFIGURATION

(For Charles J. Connick: October 11, 1935)

Silenced by color I have sometimes felt  
As if its magic were a blasphemy  
Bequeathed to me by some ancestral Kelt  
Who made Druidic blue a deity  
And offered virgins to insentient things  
Flamboyantly. But once released by you,  
I felt your crystal radiance give wings  
To dead desires, and, with clairvoyance, knew  
That color is a spirit on the lips  
Of things, making them speak in spirit-tones  
As darkly murmurous as stars or ships  
On guil-illuminated seas. The dullest stones  
Beneath your splendor, hear an Orphic strain  
And carol, bird-like, through the scented rain.

— Earl Marlatt

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

11:00 A. M.

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The Organ Prelude "Andante" (Fifth Symphony) Franz Schubert

Hymn No. 192 "Lord of all being, throned afar" Holmes-Taylor  
(Without announcement, all rise with Choir)

The Invocation and the Lord's Prayer (All Standing)

The Anthem "How Lovely Are Thy Dwellings" J. T. Wolcott

How lovely are Thy dwellings, O Lord of Hosts, my soul longeth yea even fainteth for the courts of the Lord: my heart and my flesh crieth out for the living God. Even the sparrow hath found an house, and the swallow a nest for herself where she may lay her young, even Thine altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in Thy house; they will be still praising Thee. Blessed are they whose strength is in Thee, in whose heart are Thy ways.

Give ear, O Lord, unto my prayer, and attend to the voice of my supplication; in the day of my trouble I will call upon Thee, for Thou wilt answer me. Teach me Thy way, O Lord; I will walk in Thy truth; unite my heart to fear Thy name. I will praise Thee, O Lord, my God, with all my heart. And I will glorify Thy name for evermore. O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in Thee.

The Scripture Lesson

The Pastoral Prayer

The Organ Offertory "Ave Maria" Franz Schubert

Dedication of the Memorial Window

Hymn No. 168 "For the beauty of the earth" Pierpont-Kocher  
(Without announcement, all rise with Choir)

The Sermon "The Ultimate Beauty"  
"Ecce ancilla Domini!"

The Prayer

The Benediction

The Sevenfold Amen Sir John Stainer  
(Dismissal at the first notes of the echo organ)

The Organ Postlude "Andante con moto" Franz Schubert

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The flowers this morning are given in memory of Mary Lyon Sater, by the family.

The Trustees of the First Congregational Church gratefully acknowledge the indebtedness of the entire Church to Mr. O. A. Miller for the gift of the beautiful memorial window. This completes the Chancel, and perpetuates the memory of a devoted woman who embodied the very spirit of motherhood which Mr. Connick has wrought into the artistry of glass and color.

It is a pleasure to speak our own word of welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Connick who are Mr. Miller's guests today. The richness and beauty of the east transept window introduced us, as a Church, to Mr. Connick's craftsmanship. He combines a reverence for the great traditions of ecclesiastical art with a creative insight which keeps pictorial details subordinate to the general design and to the play of color. He has richly deserved the beautiful tribute which Professor Earl Marlatt of Boston University School of Theology has paid him in the little sonnet which appears on the first page of this Calendar.

The Junior Forum will meet this evening at the home of Miss Patricia Cooperrider, 227 Eighteenth Avenue, at seven-thirty o'clock. A most interesting musical program is to be presented by some of our talented members.

The Van Meter Circle will meet on Thursday, May 20, for an all-day sewing. Hours are 10:00 to 4:00 with luncheon at noon at twenty-five cents the plate. A good attendance is necessary in order to complete the work before the end of this season.

The Fireside Club will meet at the Perkins Observatory, which is a few miles this side of Delaware, on Friday evening, May 21, at 8:00 o'clock. Tickets are free but limited in number. Reservations must be made by calling the Church Office, AD. 3931.

The Guild Players will meet on Friday, May 21, at 2:00 P. M. in the Lounge. Mrs. Peter Epp, a native of Russia, will be the guest speaker for the afternoon. Her subject will be "Russian Drama." Mrs. Ralph W. Tyler, a member of the group, will read a translation of a Russian play. Members are invited to bring guests. Tea will be served at four o'clock.

The last Library Tea will be held in the Lounge on Monday afternoon, May 24, at 2:15. The address of the afternoon, "Books for Summer Reading," will be given by Mrs. L. S. Teeter whose radio book talks have been so popular. Details next week.

The Washington Gladden Class will hear Professor Harlan Hatcher speak on "An Age of Doubt and Despair" on Sunday, May 23, at 9:45 A. M. in the Parish Hall. This is the third in a series on Religion and Literature.

The North End Group of the Women's Guild will meet at the home of Mrs. H. S. Jacoby, 309 Walhalla Road, Friday afternoon, May 21, at 2 o'clock to finish reading the book "See These Banners Go."