

## **REFLECTIONS ON THE STAINED GLASS IN THIS COLUMBARIUM**

Presbyterians believe that through God's grace we are forgiven, and when we die our baptism is complete. This columbarium is a place where our remains may be placed and where others may visit to reflect and pray.

When this site was updated to provide for additional future remains, consideration was given on how to beautify the room by changing the clear windows to stained glass ones. I agreed to undertake the work on the windows, and after a month of reflecting on the stained glass already present throughout the church, I met with various people and presented them with my ideas.

I planned to create four windows which would continue many of our church's previous windows' designs. I also desired to accentuate the light already present by bringing bright patterns of colors into the room.

Each window panel has a framed edge design and a central circle pattern, also in our current glass. Three of the circles contain Biblical flowers: the lily, the rose, and the anemone ("lilies of the field"). The fourth window contains a Celtic cross, central to Presbyterian thought. The remaining, surrounding portion of the designs is identical in all four windows but varying in color. There are approximately forty variations of each of the colors, whether purple, red, green, or blue.

In removing a wall mirror, we discovered another window, and so I created a design to fit in a fifth stained glass panel. After consideration and discussion, the fifth panel incorporates all four colors, representing our diversity. The circle contains a dove carrying a three-leafed olive branch, representing God's covenant and grace for each of us through the Trinity.

The intent and hope is to have a room bathed in color, in which the living may respectfully and prayerfully contemplate the lives and memories of those interred.

Respectfully, Charles Stoughton