

The United Methodist Church of Berea



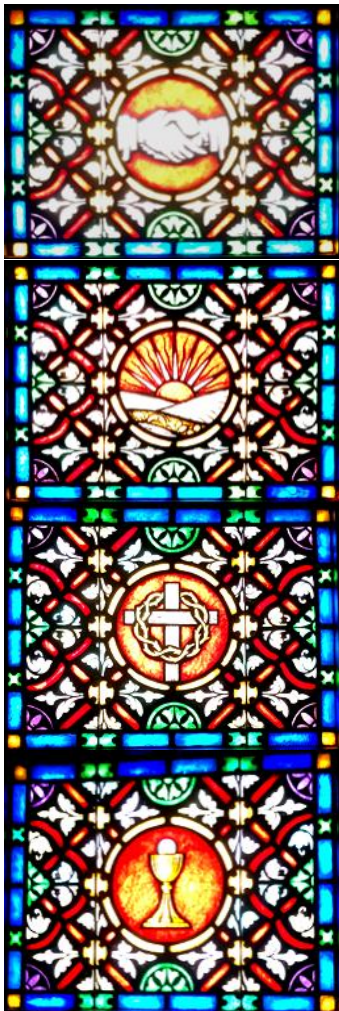
Frances Willard Memorial Window

Frances Willard Memorial Window in The Chapel was given by the Berea Women's Christian Temperance Union to the new Methodist Church at the corner of Spring and Seminary Streets in 1900 and was dedicated in June of that year. In 1960, the church was razed to make room for the present Chapel and Education Building. Dorothy McKelvey realized the historical significance of the window and rescued it from demolition, storing it in her basement. After Dorothy's death, her family gave the window to the Berea Historical Society. In turn, the window was given to the church. The family of Mirriem Segrist gave the money to restore the window. The Frances Willard window was rededicated April 14, 1996.



Stained Glass Windows

The Chancel Windows



Right Rear



Left Rear



VESTIBULE - John and Mary Baldwin

John and Mary Baldwin, newly married, arrived in Berea from Bradford, Connecticut in 1828. They were deeply religious and four years later, 1832, organized the first Sunday School in the area. Sunday School met on the second floor of their home for over 10 years. On January 16, 1843, the Methodist people were organized into a regular church. The old Stone church (on the south side of Berea) dedicated in 1857 was destroyed by fire in 1899. A painted window of this original building was in the church built on the present site the following year. It was torn down in 1960 to make room for the chapel and educational building. A single piece of this old window - the cross at the top - was saved. It has been incorporated into the base of the window in the vestibule.

WEST NAVE #4 - Phillip Otterbein & Martin Boehm

Philip Otterbien, who came from Germany to America to preach to German speaking immigrants, attended a meeting in a barn on Pentecost Sunday, 1776. He was greatly impressed by the sermon delivered by Mennonite, Martin Boehm. At the close of the service, Otterbien threw his arms around Boehm exclaiming, "Wir Sind Bruder!" (We are brothers!) this led to the beginning of the United Brethren Church, which merged with the Methodist Church in 1968.

WEST NAVE #5 - John Stuart

John Stuart, a black born free because of his white father, encountered many difficulties in his youth. After his conversion in 1815 by a Methodist Circuit Rider at a camp meeting in Marietta, Ohio, he became the first missionary to the Native Americans in Ohio, the first Methodist missionary. Another black, Jonathan Pointer, who knew the Native Americans' language, was his interpreter. Together they established the Wyandot Mission in Upper Sandusky, where they led many Indians to God.

WEST NAVE #6 - William and Margaret Nast

William and Margaret Nast planted the seeds for the interest and support of missions in our Berea Church. Dr. William Nast is generally considered the "father of German Methodism." Although he started as a missionary and circuit rider, he is better known as teacher, scholar and translator. He edited the first German religious paper, "Der Christliche Apologete", which was published weekly for over a hundred years. He was the first president of German Wallace College, founded here in Berea in 1864. William Nast Theological Seminary, associated with it, trained hundreds of ministers and missionaries. His wife, Margaret, was a pioneer in the Women's Foreign Missionary Movement. Two weeks after attending the organization of the Cincinnati Branch of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, she started a society in our Berea Church on April 17, 1870. This was one of the earliest in the country, just a year after it was first organized in Boston.

The Story of the Stained Glass Windows in our Church Sanctuary

From the Crusades until the present, stained glass windows in cathedrals and churches have given worshippers a vision of "the beauty of holiness" and of the good life that God has provided. Pure color in light, as revealed in stained glass, has the power of inspiring and of lifting the observer out of himself to higher and nobler thoughts.

At the time when the sanctuary was dedicated, the lovely Rose Window alone was stained glass. Due to lack of funds, the other windows were all clear glass. The Rose Window was given by the Stull Family in memory of Lucius Graydon Stull, who lost his life in World War II. Symbolic of the resurrection, it was designed in decorative grisaille style, like the unfolding petals of a rose, by John D. Weaver of the Pittsburgh Stained Glass Studios. He also designed the windows in the chancel and in the balcony.

Traditionally, stained glass tells a story. The life of Jesus is told in the symbols of the windows in our church chancel. On the right at the back, there is the star telling of His birth. Next is the descending dove representing His baptism. Then there are the lamp and the book symbolizing the ministry of the Word. At the right front are the praying hands, recalling the time Jesus devoted to prayer. In the front on the left are the chalice and wafer, portraying the Last Supper. Next are the cross and the crown of thorns, expressing His suffering and death. There follows the rising sun, depicting His resurrection. Finally, the clasped hands stand for the ongoing, universal fellowship that is His Church. These windows are in memory of the Reverend Albert L. Marting, the gift of his family and friends.

The windows in the transept were given by Margaret Feightner in memory of her husband, Roy Feightner. Their many colors show the glory of God's creation.

The window framed by the balcony organ was given by Ruth Szasz and Irene Verbiak in memory of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Cornelius Semenyok and of their brother, Alfred Semenyok. The descending dove (shown on cover) represents the Holy Spirit and the seven drops portray the gifts of the Spirit as St. Paul names them in Romans 12:6-9. This window is a reminder to worshippers to "be aglow with the Spirit" as they go out to serve.

When the family of the late Reverend Aubrey Kirby proposed installing a stained glass window in his memory, the Memorial Committee considered several themes. It seemed wise to have a plan for all twelve remaining clear glass windows in the narthex so that they would have continuity of design and meaning. The committee thought it appropriate to pick up the theme of the ongoing fellowship from the window in the chancel. To show this, they selected key figures in church history, beginning with St. Peter and St. Paul. The study material used by the older elementary children in our church school, "Renewed by God - The Story of the Church," proved very helpful in making the selection of which persons to include. The historical figures chosen relate the heritage of the Methodist Church, particularly of our own church here in Berea. They show our roots and how they developed.

On the following pages there are short explanations of the characters in each window.

WEST NAVE #1 - Susannah Wesley

Susannah Wesley represents the best in womanhood. She was a remarkable mother, not only teaching her children to read, but instilling in them the love of learning. She regularly set aside a special hour for each child to talk about things of the Spirit, and to give religious instruction. This was no easy task as ten of the nineteen children she bore survived infancy. This window has been given in appreciation of all who have devoted time and talents to giving religious instruction and training to the young.

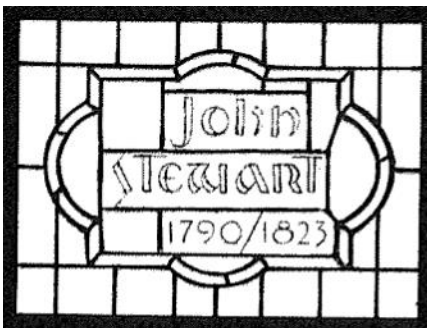
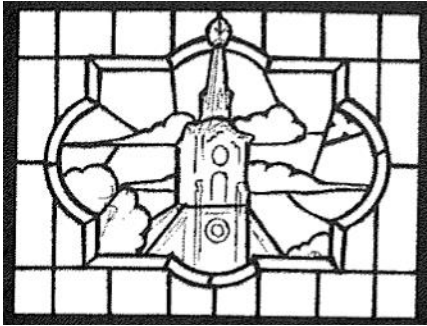
WEST NAVE #2 - John and Charles Wesley

John and Charles Wesley both had profoundly religious experiences. Both devoutly observed periods of devotion and prayer. Although John is widely recognized as an eloquent speaker and Charles is renowned for his more than 6,000 hymns, both were able preachers and hymn writers. Social reforms stimulated by their evangelism probably saved England from a bloody revolution. Their beliefs and practices resulted in the founding of a new protestant denomination, the Methodist Church. This window is given by his family and friends in loving memory of Reverend Aubrey Kirby.

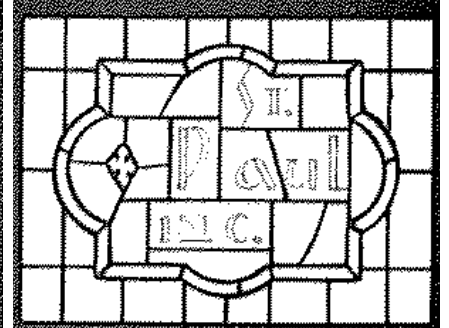
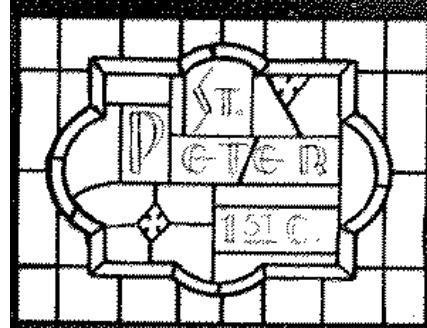
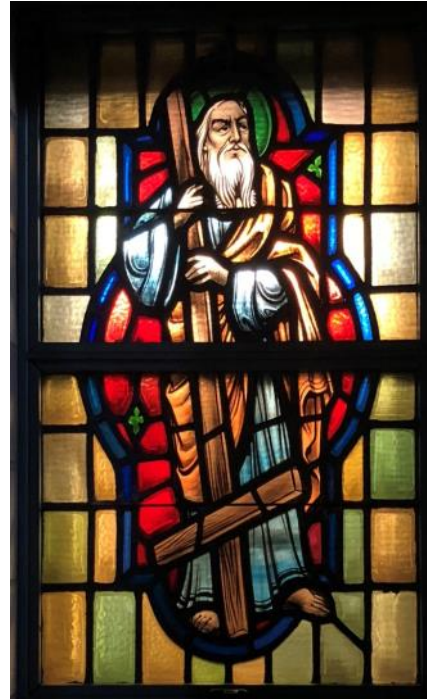
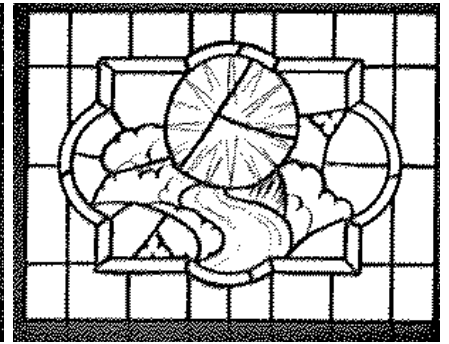
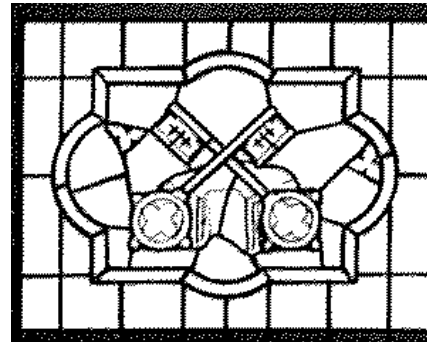
WEST NAVE #3 - Francis Asbury

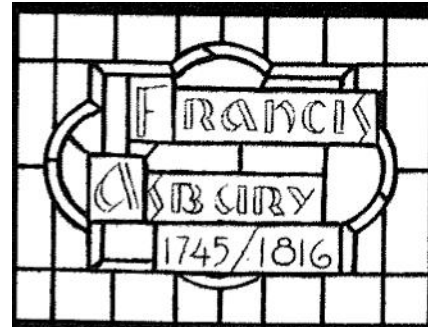
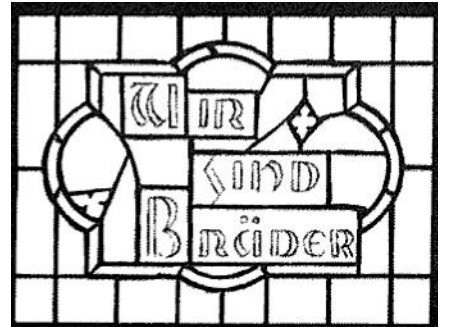
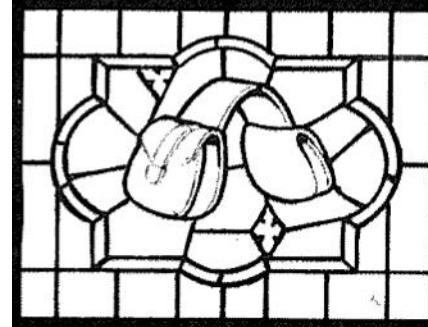
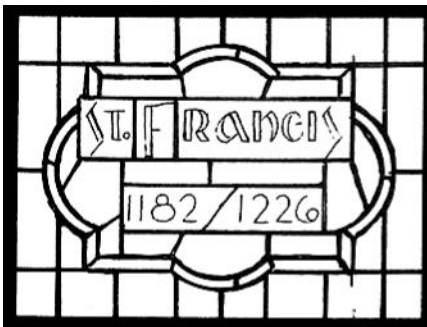
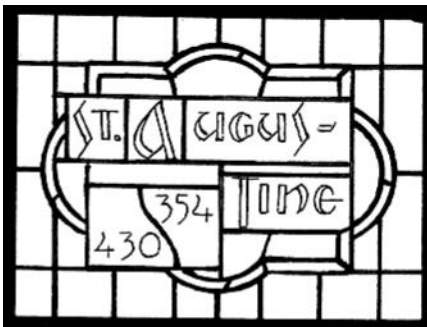
Francis Asbury was ordained the first American Bishop on Christmas Day in 1784 in Lovely Lane Chapel, Baltimore, Maryland. Crossing the Alleghenies more than sixty times as a hardy pioneer, without weapon to protect himself, he preached to colonists wherever he went. The church is greatly indebted to this Circuit Rider for spreading the Gospel.

West Nave

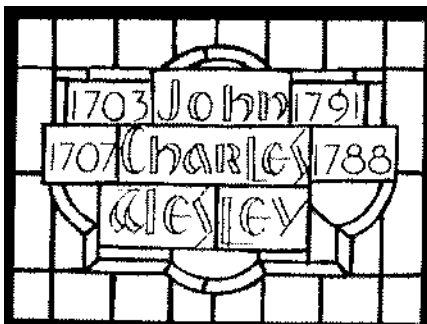
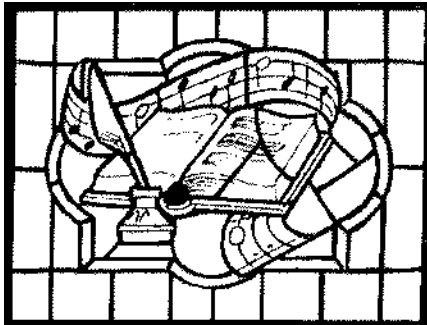
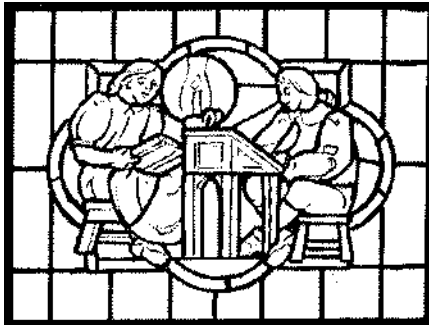


East Nave

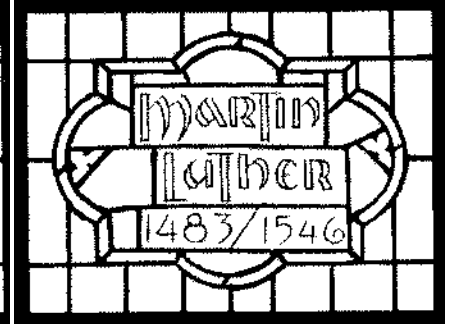
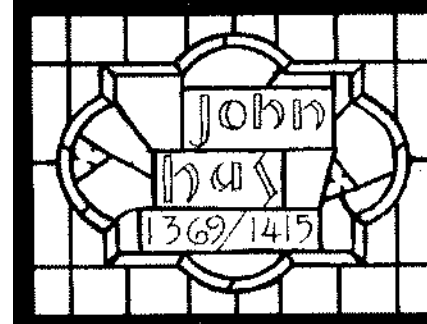
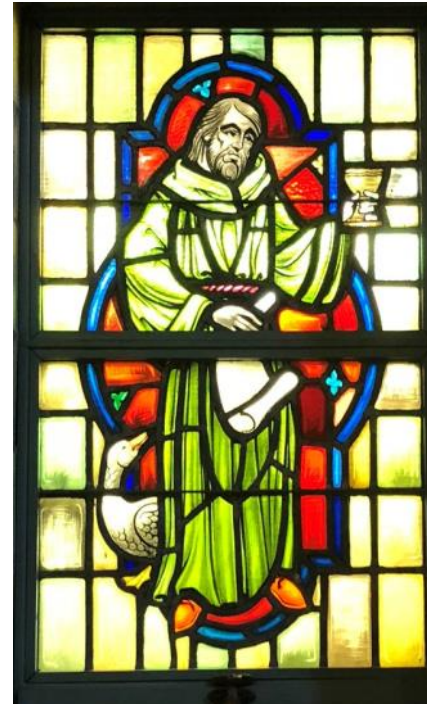
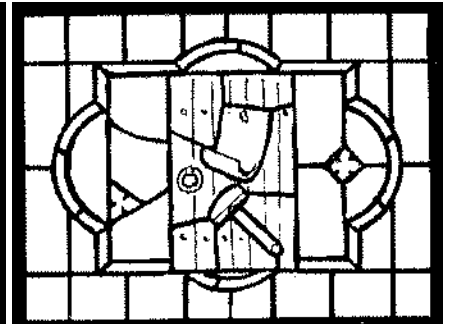
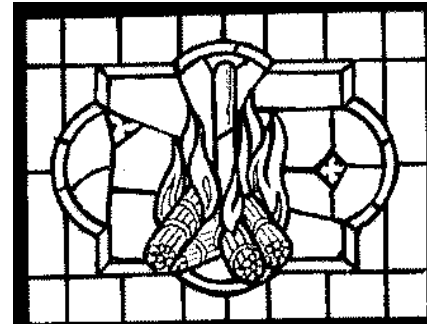




West Nave



East Nave



EAST NAVE#1 - Saint Peter

It was to Peter, upon his confession, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God," that Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build my church." During Jesus' lifetime, Peter was one of his closest disciples. Although at the time of the trial and crucifixion Peter denied Jesus, he quickly repented. After Jesus' death, Peter became the leader of the twelve apostles and the courageous protagonist of the early church.

EAST NAVE #2 - Saint Paul

Paul, who had been brought up in the strictest Jewish tradition, was among those who persecuted the Christians at first. On the Damascus road, he was blinded by a great light and heard the voice of Jesus speaking to him. Three days later, his sight was restored by Ananias, a Christian who had been directed to him in a vision. Paul became an ardent follower of Christ, preaching to Jews and to Gentiles. He made many missionary journeys, suffering shipwreck, persecution, imprisonment and martyrdom. The letters he wrote to his friends and to various churches comprise thirteen of the twenty-seven books of the New Testament.

EAST NAVE #3 - Saint Augustine

Saint Augustine, one of the great theologians of Christianity, was born in Tagaste, Africa, now Algeria. His mother, Monica, was a devout Christian, but his father was pagan. He received a good education at Carthage at the University, although he disappointed his parents by a life of worldly pleasure there went to Milan where St. Ambrose converted him to the faith of his boyhood. From that time on, he devoted his life and his possessions to the service of God. He is known for his writings, especially his "City of God," which influenced the Reformation several hundred years later.

EAST NAVE #4 - Saint Francis

Saint Francis is remembered as the most Christlike figure of the Middle Ages. It was even said that at his death, his body bore the stigmata - the marks of the nails and spear associated with Christ's death. He was the son of a wealthy Italian merchant named Berndone. After a year of incarceration as a prisoner of war and a serious illness, he renounced all worldly pleasure, sold his property and went about tending the poor and sick - even lepers. He also spent some time repairing tumbledown chapels around Assisi. Assuming the vow of poverty, he traveled and preached as Jesus had commanded His disciples. He is credited with making the first Creche to explain the story of Jesus' birth. He was the founder of the Franciscan monastic order.

EAST NAVE #5 - John Huss

John Huss, condemned by the Council of Constance, was burned at the stake because he dared to believe and to preach that man could obtain Christ's truth directly from the Bible without the intervention and explanation of the church, and because he condemned some of the clergy's evil practices. Huss, a Bohemian priest and university scholar, was greatly influenced by the writings of John Wycliffe, the first person to translate the Bible into English, and attempted to put his teachings into practice by the example of his life and his preaching. His followers were the first to give the cup as well as the bread to the laity in administering the sacrament of the Lord's Supper.

EAST NAVE #6 - Martin Luther

Martin Luther's powerful Reformation hymn, "A Mighty Fortress is our God" summarizes his life and work. Luther had no intention of starting a new church; he wanted to correct the things that were wrong with the church its practices at that time. It was with that purpose that he wrote his ninety-five opinions, known as theses, and nailed them on the door of the Castle Church of Wittenberg. His words, which were printed and spread all over Germany, caused quite a stir. They almost cost him his life, but he was hidden by his friends. His followers established their own church, the Lutheran Church.