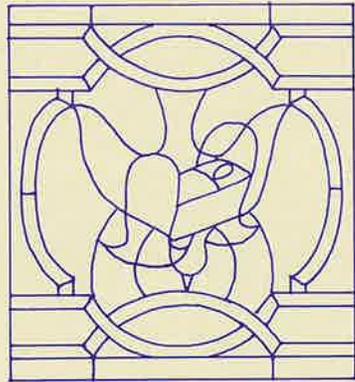


**Alexander
Memorial Windows**
Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church

**ALEXANDER MEMORIAL WINDOW SYMBOLS
MAXWELL STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

The Alexander Memorial Windows are located at the entrances on either side of the chancel area. The art work is the creation of Dori Hudson, a member of the congregation, whose designing was done in consultation with Perry S. Alexander II, Ellen Allen, John Boso, Alma Culton, Robert Hudson and Maureen Mauser. In their meetings, a number of ideas surfaced.

In consideration which symbols to choose for these windows in the front sanctuary doors, we were reminded that these doors are used at some of the most central times of our lives as Christians. We thus chose to depict four such times: Birth and Baptism; Youth and Profession of Faith; Adulthood and Marriage; and Death and Resurrection.



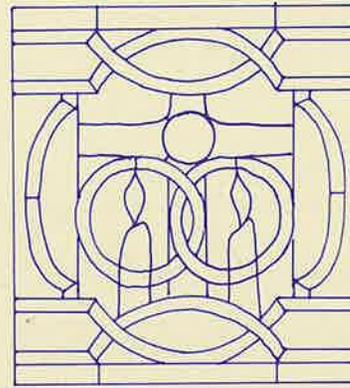
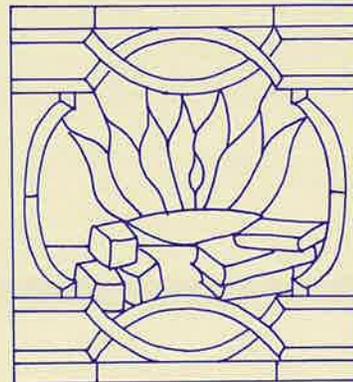
BIRTH AND BAPTISM

This window shows a baby in a cradle with a descending dove. The dove is the symbol of the presence of the Holy Spirit at our baptism. The dove is both in and around the child, and is carrying the cradle. This is a reminder to us that the Holy Spirit is both within and around us, supporting each of us as children of God. The presence of the dove with the child further symbolizes the grace of God, whose love surrounds us even before we are aware of it. In addition, the child represents not only our own

baptism, but the birth and baptism of our children. This is one of the most significant moments in our lives as parents, and a reminder of the promise of God which continues from generation to generation.

YOUTH AND PROFESSION OF FAITH

The symbols of the books and blocks represent the growth of a child through education and play. For children raised in a Christian home, the heart of this growth is the growing understanding of what it means to be a Christian, along with the deepening of personal faith. This deepening faith leads young people to join the church through Profession of Faith, a process known as confirmation or commissioning. The large flames in the window represent the flames of the Spirit at Pentecost. The oil lamp represents our own faith in God's presence in our lives. When we profess our faith, we thus join the small flame of our lamp to that greater flame of the Holy Spirit which gives light to the whole people of God.

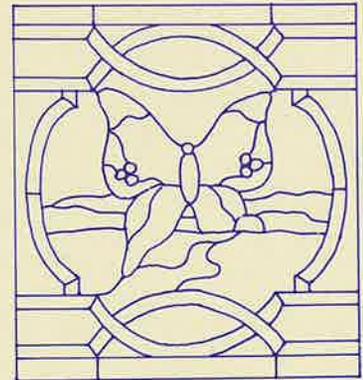


ADULTHOOD AND MARRIAGE

Although we recognize that not all persons marry, for those that do, the choice of a life partner is usually the most significant decision we make as Christian adults. It is therefore appropriate that the church provide occasions to celebrate the gift of Christian marriage. The two interlocking rings in the window represent the joining of the lives of two people into the one life they share in marriage. The rings are circular to depict the wedding rings exchanged in the marriage ceremony. The circles are also symbols of eternity, having no beginning and no end. As such, they remind us of the eternity of God's love for us, love which is reflected in the vows of marriage. The candles are the symbol for the establishment of a new home. The jewel in the center of the cross is round to signify unity and purple to denote kingship. The empty cross is both above and behind the rings, signifying the living Christ as both our Lord and our support in Christian marriage.

DEATH AND RESURRECTION

This window represents our belief that death is but a journey into new life in the Kingdom of Heaven. The scene in the foreground shows the road of life ending in death, represented by the sunset. Yet every sunset is a sunrise when seen from the other side of the world--and thus, the sunset of life depicted here, is also the sunrise of afterlife. The butterfly is the symbol for the resurrection of each person and is shown straddling the horizon of life and afterlife. The butterfly is white, the color of Christ. The wingtips are purple, representing the Kingdom of God, while the bottom wings are green, to show the creation of new life. The sign of the Trinity is represented by the three jewels in the wings. The colors are important here too, as green stands for God the Creator, purple represents Christ as King, and red represent the cleansing fire of the Holy Spirit.



In addition to reminding us of the significance of the sanctuary for all stages along life's way, the windows enhance the beauty of the place we worship. These additions are given to the glory of God as a memorial to Iva Neal and Stanley S. Alexander, by their family and is permanently recorded in the Memorial Book of Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church.