



The Stained Glass Window

The stained glass window in the center of the cross in the front of our sanctuary was designed by Arthur Miller, from the memories of his family and the spiritual guidance of Rev. Glen Evans, to commemorate the life of Charles Edward Ransdell, Jr., one of the founding members of St. Mark's. The window was given by his family and friends as a memorial to the life he lived, the sacrifices he made, his faith in God, his love of life, his fellow man, his country, and his 20 years of service to St. Mark's. It was dedicated to God in 1987, one year after his death, in the sanctuary he helped plan but never saw built.

The window is a challenge to all who worship at St. Marks to live life as a sacrifice to God, as we are not masters of our minds and bodies, but God is.

The circle is to remind us that God's arms are a continuous circle around us, comforting and protecting, giving love and inward peace.

The cracks remind us that no matter how deep our pain, or how great our problems, God is always there to guide and comfort us through the valley of the shadow of death; we just need to accept Him.

The cross is a symbol of commitment for all Christians and represents Jesus' struggle with temptations as he walked on earth dealing with all the peoples and died on the cross to save us all.

The anchor should remind us that life is a sea that tempest tossed and we need to anchor our life to God through our deep love of Christ.

The dove reminds us that peace within is God's greatest gift to man.

The Easter lily is a reminder to Christians that Christ suffered before his resurrection and the tear drop that each lily sheds is a symbol of tears shed as Christ hung on the cross.

The red, white and blue colors remind us that we as Christians must love and serve our country.

Throughout life God is a protective God that will guide us through the valleys of darkness in our lives if we only believe in ourselves and trust Him. It is then that we will always find happiness and something to laugh about as Charles Ransdell did. He had confidence and faith that God was always with him throughout life. He had faith when he had sinned that for the asking; God forgave and made him a stronger person. He touched the lives of many children, youth and adults as he gave of himself. His faith was an inspiration to his family and all whose lives he touched.

In dedicating this window, Charles' family requested that a continuous light shine through it depicting eternal life. That it be an invitation to all who know God and do His Will. To all who would live and serve to make a Christian world. To all who seek comfort and find rest. To old and young, wise and unlearned, rich and poor, saint and sinner, this church opens wide its doors, and in the name of Jesus Christ bids welcome to our Father's house.