THE PREACHING WINDOWS
OF THE TREMONT STREET METHODIST CHURCH
BOSTON, MASS

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It was in the mid summer of 1940 after the mortgage debt
of $40,000 with the State Street Trust Company had been liquidated,
and the Tremont Street Church had been redecorated inside and outside,
that the pastor was standing in the sanctuary with Mrs. Arthur Page
Sharp admiring the changes that had been wrought that the pastor told
Mrs. Sharp his "day-dream. Said he, "now, Mrs. Sharp, I have a final
dream for beautifying our Church." Mrs. Sharp responded, "You are always
a dreamer; What is your latest?" "I think of having these windows, not
fit for a garage, replaced by beautiful memorial leaded glass ones to
memorialize those who have loved this church and done so much for it
in the past." Mrs. Sharp replied "That is a fine dream but seemingly
impossible."

That same evening Mrs. Sharp phoned the pastor and said,
"I have told your dream to Miss Clementina Butler, who is with me,
and she is almost wild with enthusiasm. She says the eleven windows
in the sanctuary should become memorials to the eleven branches of
the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society all the way across our coun-
try, and she believes each branch will gladly pay for a window. Thus
began the far reaching realization of that day dream.

Miss Butler and Mrs. Reimer, the pastor's wife, became
the co-laborers in securing the acceptance and the funds for these
beautiful "preaching windows" which have done so much to transform
this famous and beloved church. So hearty and unanimous was the re-
sponse that the cash was in hand for each window before it was placed.

After considerable searching, Mr. William H.H. Johnson, one of
the famous artists of church memorial windows was secured to draw the designs, and his firm made and installed, not only the windows for the sanctuary but finally the 33 for the entire church. It was a time of hard labors for Miss Butler and Mrs. Reimer, but it was also a time of joy and triumph with no hitch nor obstruction in all the proceedings.

These windows, every one, is a gem of religious art. They are all similar, but each is unique with its special medallion, and an appropriate verse of Scripture. Rightly now the church may be called "The Church with the preaching windows." The worshiper can now gaze upon any window, read and be inspired by a message of assurance and faith.

THE SANCTUARY WINDOWS

In the sanctuary the windows memorializing the eleven branches are as follows:

(1.) The New England Branch medallion: The Open Bible and the lighted Greek lamp. The message, Our Christian Commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature."

(2.) The New York Branch medallion: The cross surmounted by the palm branches. The message: The victory of our faith, "And this is the victory even our faith."

(3.) The Philadelphia branch medallion: The Baptismal Font and the Communion Chalice. The message, Follow Christ in the Sacraments, "Baptize all the nations?" "This do in remembrance of me."

(4.) The Baltimore Branch medallion: The dove with the olive branch and the full blown rose: The message, Peace and good will toward all men. "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you."

(5.) The Cincinnati Branch medallion: The crossed golden trumpets, and the words on the olive branch, "Praise ye the Lord." Message: The praise and worship of God, "Praise waiteth for thee, O God, in Zion."

(6.) The Northwestern Branch medallion: The anchor across the open Bible and the fortress surrounded by Martin Luther's words, "A mighty fortress is our God." Message: Our divine refuge and defense. "God is our refuge and
strength, a very present help in trouble".

(7.) The Des Moines Branch medallion: The seven golden candlesticks, and the rose of Sharon surmounting a Greek cross. Message: The beauty of our religion? "Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us."

(8.) The Minneapolis Branch medallions: The Rock of Ages, and the Bible on the pulpit backed by the cross. Message: Our divine shelter, "And He shall be a covert from the tempest, and the shadow of a great rock in a weary land."

(9.) The Topeka Branch Medallions: The open Bible with Alpha and Omega on its pages, and a golden cross set high upon a rock. Message: Immortality and eternity as the goal of our faith, "I am alpha and omega the beginning and the end, the first and the last."

(10.) The Pacific Branch medallions: The golden dove descending from the sun, and the cross surrounded by the bejeweled crown. Message: Holiness of life unto the Lord, "Be ye therefore holy for I am holy."

(11.) The Columbia River Branch medallions: The sheaf of wheat with the words, "I am the Bread of Life" and the open Bible surmounted by the two edged sword. Message, Christ our divine sustainer, "Take the sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God."

The small window which is the twelfth in the sanctuary is reserved for the W.F.M.S. and its marvelous record up to the time of the union of the Methodist Church North and South. The medallion is the seal of the society, and the record reads upon the window.

THE WOMAN'S FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY

in seventy-one years, through its devoted workers in the eleven Branches, raised more than sixty-two million dollars and sent sixteen hundred and ninety-two devoted women to serve Christ in the foreign mission fields of the Methodist Church.

The small clover shaped window toward the street in the balcony became a challenge and an opportunity. It was the one window for nightly illumination. After some searching, the pastor found in the Public Library a copy of Hoffman's "The Blessing Christ." The Christ stands among the lilies with outstretched hands toward the multitude. This Mr. Johnson copied in appropriate colors and adapted to the small window. So well was it done that the Church became known especially by Catholic children as "The Church with the Jesus Window." It was paid for by two women each with a Catholic background.

THE WINDOWS IN THE CHAPEL

While the sanctuary windows were being made and installed, the official board was informed of the fine succession of ministers and other devoted laborers in the past of Tremont Street church, and it was suggested that the relatives and friends of these would be happy to place memorials in the Chapel and the entrances. The vote was unanimous for this additional movement to complete the beautification.

As with the sanctuary so also those solicited for these memorials responded favorably with their gifts. A committee with the pastor chose the ones to be honored by all the windows. Those in the Chapel are as follows:

(1.) Dr. Henry White Warren (later bishop) the largest window in front. Under Dr. Warren the church was built in the years 1860-1862. The medallion, the boy Jesus in the Temple by Hoffman. This is a reminder of the religious education function of the chapel.

(2.) On the right of the Warren window is one to Miss Isabella Thoburn who founded the first college for women in the Orient. The medallion is the Greek lamp on the Bible.

(3.) On the left in front is the memorial to Dr. Clara Swain, who was the first woman doctor for women in eastern Asia. For her the medallion is the coiled serpent on the rod of Moses.

(4.) The first window on the right side is for Dr. William E. Huntington (late...
(later President of Boston University) Because of his ever genial spirit the medallion selected for this window is the clasped hands of friendship, and the Scripture is "I have called you friends."

(5.) Dr. William Nast Brodbeck was a great preacher and a very effective evangelist. During his ministry of five years about 700 members were added to the church. His medallion is The descending dove, and his Scripture "Led by the Spirit, filled with the Spirit."

(6.) Dr. Henry L. Wriston was pastor about 1900. He was an indefatigable pastor and much beloved. His medallion is The burning torch, and his Scripture, "The Lord is my light and my salvation."

(7.) Dr. Leopold A Nies was a great preacher and leader for righteousness. His civic leadership in the community is still remembered. His medallion is the Golden bejeweled crown. The verse selected is "The righteous shall shine as the stars."

(8.) The Official Board insisted upon retaining the last window and using it as they desired. They made of it a memorial to the then pastor, Rev. Azariah F. Reimer, whose term of service was for eighteen years. The medallion chosen is the cross with the palms of victory. The Scripture is "And this is the victory even our faith."

(9.) Dr. John D. Pickles was pastor at the turn of the century. He is still remembered as a great preacher, and a beloved pastor. His window is in the Primary Room on the second floor. His medallion is The Greek Cross above the Bible. "Preacher of the Word of God" is the bit of Scripture.

IN THE FOUNDERS' ROOM

(1.) Mrs. Oren S. Baker was the first President of the W.F.M.S. in 1867. Her husband was a Bishop of the Church. For her medallion the flying dove above the cross, and the Scripture "Unto the uttermost part of the earth."
(2.) For twenty four years Mrs. William Fairfield Warren was the Secretary of the New England Branch of the W. F. M. S. For the medallion of her window there is the white sheet of paper and across it the quill pen. Her Scripture is "Write for these things are true and faithful."

(3.) Most fittingly the two front windows of the Founders' Room are used as commemorations of Dr. and Mrs. William Butler, and their daughter, the devoted and beloved Clementina Butler. The first of these is given to Dr. and Mrs. Butler "The Founders of two Missions, India and Mexico." The medallion for the Butlers is a fine reproduction of world famous Taj Mahal of Agra.

(4.) For Clementina Butler the medallion is the seal of Mexico, the Eagle destroying the serpent. For her citation, "Co-laborer in India and in Mexico."

In the Church Kitchen is a window to Mrs. Edwin L. Farr who was President of the Church Ladies Aid for twenty five years. A Proper medallion on her window is the old fashioned bee hive.

In the Side entrance are two memorials. The one is to the much loved Mrs. Charlotte O. Paul, who was for twenty five years the Superintendent of a great Chinese Sunday School. The window is a gift from "Her Boys." The medallion is of The Good Shepherd carrying the lamb. In Chinese on a red background are the words "God is Love."

Beside the Mother Paul window is one for Dr. Arthur Page Sharp, who was a great helper of Tremont St. Church. A full blown red rose is his medallion, and the Scripture "Let the beauty of the Lord be upon us."

In the front entrance are two small memorials. One to Mr. and Mrs. David Reid, of Hope Mission, and for long earnest workers in the Church. An Easter Lily is the medallion, and the verse "Ye are our witnesses." The other window is for Miss Anna Foss and Mrs. Ida Chase. A cross and a crown is their medallion.
IN THE PRIMARY ROOM

When the memorials were being placed certain older Deaconess nurses reminded us that both the Deaconess Association of New England and The Deaconess Hospital had their beginnings in Tremont Street Church. Two windows remained unused in the Primary Room. These were chosen by the Deaconesses, and they furnished the money and the designs.

For the Deaconess Association it was decided to honor Dr. and Mrs. T. Corwin Watkins who for twenty four years served as Secretary and General Helper. For their window the medallion is the Alpha and Omega. "Co-founders of the Deaconess work in Boston."

The Deaconess nurses chose as their medallion the seal of the Hospital. Miss Mary E. Lunn is especially honored as the leader of the nurses who, in connection with the Church in 1889 secured two large houses on Massachusetts Ave. near Shawmut Ave. for their work. So well did these deeply Christian women succeed that in less than a decade the Hospital bought the land for the Hospital on Riverway. Now the Hospital's fame is spread around the whole world as second to none in Christian nursing and scientific healing of the sick. For their Scripture they chose, "Not to be ministered unto but to minister."

Tremont Street Church, throughout its existence has been unique in its many sided ministries, especially true to Christ's measure, "Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these ye did it unto me." With its 33 windows now more than ever it proclaims its honorable history, and can be known among the 40,000 of the Methodist Denomination as "The Church with the Preaching Windows."