

## The North Windows:

First one note about art and symbolism. The artist creates something; a song, a book, a story, a building, a painting, a sculpture or a stained-glass window. The artist has a concept and an idea of the meaning of each element in that piece of art. But once that piece of art is created and shared, the viewer has as much influence in pulling meanings from it as the artist has in conveying meanings. In other words, art is in the eye of the beholder as much as in the eye of the creator. So, let's talk about our symbolism in our sanctuary knowing that its architects and artists may have had one thing in mind, but we are encouraged to draw alternative and additional meanings and inspirations from the work.



**North Transept Window:** Central figure of this window is David playing his Harp, with a trumpeter on one side of him and a Singer on the other. David's symbol, the harp, stands for Joy, Song and Praise. (73 of the 150 Psalms are attributed to David).

**Transepts:** The two transepts are right angles from the Nave and extend beyond the Nave and Chancel thus making the floor plan resemble the cross. The windows in the transepts celebrate the importance of music in Christian worship and to Union's strong focus on music.

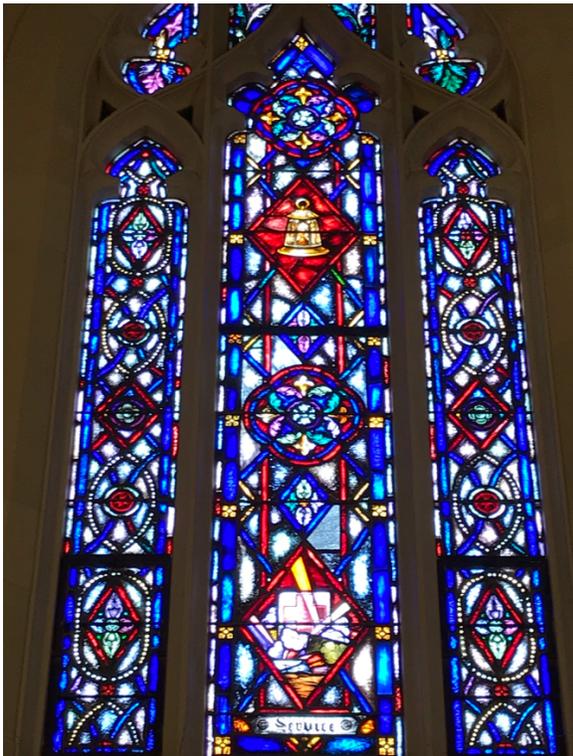
As most of you enter and depart the sanctuary from the Northern Transept door, you should realize that you are being heralded by a musically themed window as you enter and leave worship.



**Truth Window:** In its upper part are the Bible and Flaming Torch of Freedom. The Bible has always stood for God's Truth. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." The Torch is a symbol of both Liberty and Enlightenment. Light is also associated with God's wisdom, so the torch represents wisdom illuminating from scripture.

Below is the S.D. Hastings' family Coat of Arms, with the motto "In Truth there is Victory."

*Ed's comment: Now the Hastings paid for this window and we are all grateful; that is the truth. As I point out to our children, we need to remember the theme of this window is truth, not humility. ☺*

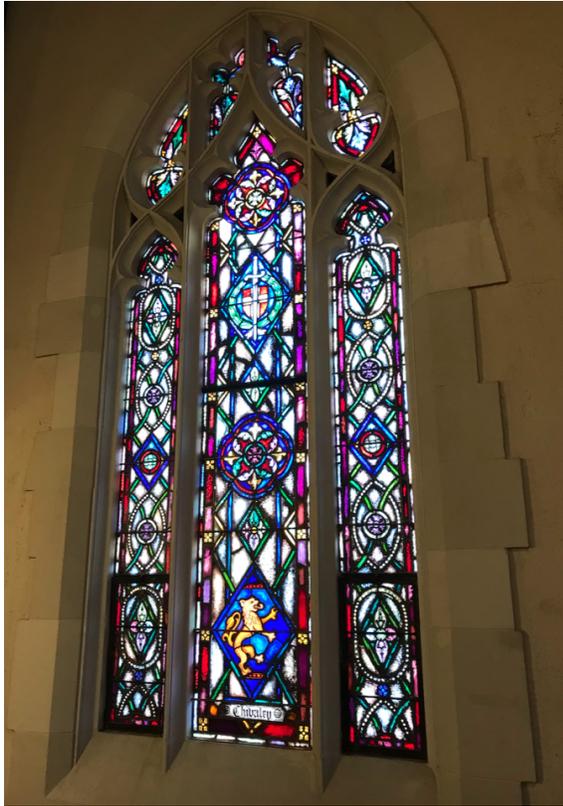


**Service Window:** The upper part of the window is the Lighted Lantern, a symbol of Piety and the search for Truth.

Matthew 5:14-18

'You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.'

Below we see the field of battle with the cannon firing across it, search lights shining and the emblem of the Red Cross. The organization has been an example of service during peace and war.



**Chivalry Window:** In the upper part of the window is the Sword (Sword for Arms of Mercy), Shield (Shield of Faith) and Laurel Wreath (for Victory).

In its lower half is the Lion rearing upon its hind legs. The Lion was much used on coats of arms in the time of knights and chivalry. In Christian symbolism, the Lion often stands for Christ. In the secular world, it is often associated with the King and ruling class.

*Ed's comment: We can look to this window as a display of power: power of the sword, power of physical strength, power of military might, power of politics, power of popularity and power of money. But this window looks across the sanctuary at the window of Love and because of Love's example, power adopts chivalry. This window reminds us to use power to help those that cannot help themselves: the strong helping the weak, the rich helping the poor, the popular helping the unpopular and those in power helping those with no voice, which is the meaning of Chivalry.*



**Mercy:** Above is a pair of Clasped Hands, symbolizing Friendship and Mercy.

Below we have the rainbow above the home and green fields, indicating God's words after the Flood (Genesis 9:13-15) when he set His bow in the clouds and promised never again to destroy all flesh in a flood.

*Ed's comment: Note that this window is next to the window of Chivalry with its symbols of power and victory. Together they remind us, as victors we must show Mercy. I like the example of the U.S. after WWII, instead of taking from our devastated enemies what little they had left, we showed mercy and gave them money and support through the Marshall plan.*

*Also as an open and affirming church, it is good to have the rainbow symbol in one of our windows.*