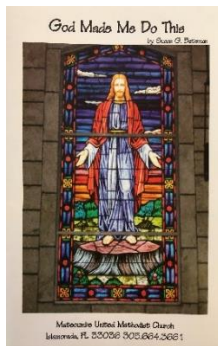


Our Stained-Glass Windows

There will be a time when the congregation no longer recalls the way the current church looked with the original gold glass windows that cast a dismal yellow shadow.



So many churches throughout history have used stained-glass windows as beautiful works of art as well as a means of telling biblical stories, depicting episodes from the Bible.

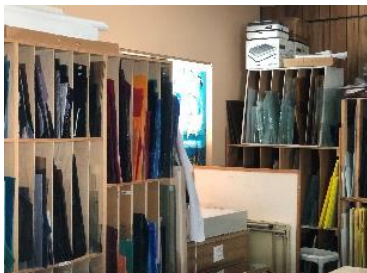


In 1999, God found a solution to the gloomy yellow windows at the Matecumbe United Methodist Church. God had a conversation with church member Susan Bateman! You must read her book, **“God Made Me Do This,”** about how her conversation with God led to an amazing church transformation.

Susan knew how to create stained-glass art. But she would need oodles of help to accomplish the mission she spoke to God about and the one that kept her up at night dreaming. Susan set about on a mission to find and train her helpers. And to find funding for the huge undertaking... replacing all that gold with vibrant stained-glass, featuring biblical imagery.

It didn't take long for church and community members to fall in love with the endeavor and offer their support, learning the techniques Susan taught them. Carol Wagner provided much extra help instilling enthusiasm as they moved forward together, finishing small windows first to test the endurance and interest of Susan's helpers, often called the “stained-glass groupies,” with Carol always asking “Now what can we do?”

Susan and Carol turned into quite a pair! And let's never forget the engineering genius of Susan's dad, Louis Gasink (1919-2019), who for years helped teach new stained-glass students and designed helpful techniques to make daunting jobs easier and more durable.



Soon a workshop for the dozens of stained-glass enthusiasts was created in Fellowship Hall. And year after year the workshop, the selection of tools and glass, and the number of helpers continue to grow.

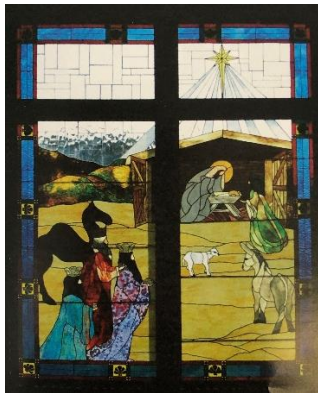
When the small windows proved to be a huge success, it was decided to proceed with the six big, 6' x 8', windows for the sanctuary. Susan, as the church "design diva," began visualizing the Biblical stories. Carol Wagner became shop manager and a stained-glass instructor. Judy Winstel handled the finances. There was no shortage of helpers to work on the windows week after week, year after year.

It took from 2003 to 2008 to complete the six large windows! And to quote Susan Bateman from her book...

"We have succeeded in creating what we started out to make. We've developed a fellowship and camaraderie among Christians who love to work together for the glory of God. The project has brought us a oneness in purpose and spirit. We've embraced new people in a wonderful fellowship."

And once more Carol Wagner asked "Now what can we do?" So the "stained glass groupies" replaced the light fixtures that hang in the sanctuary and have created new stained glass windows for Fellowship Hall designed with a "lighthouse theme."

The group continues to meet to learn, to teach, and to contribute to the church through their talents, energy and love. They welcome new "groupies" and love to teach their craft. The "groupies" and their art will be a huge part of the Matecumbe United Methodist Church story for generations to come.



2003 Christmas story



2004 - Easter story



2005 - casting the net



2006 - Feeding the 5000



007 - Jesus walked on water



2008 - John Baptizing Jesus

Lighthouse Themed Windows in Fellowship Hall



Oh God,

Let this be a time when your light radiates throughout the world. In as much as we can, let us be bright for you.

Shine your light through us as if we were pieces of our stained glass windows. Flow through us as the warm glow of colors seeps into our church.

Enable us to burn steadily with your fiery spirit and to push aside all forms of darkness. Fill us with your light as though we were lighthouses on the shore. Use us to guide others as a candle offers comfort and guidance in a storm.

Unite us as if we were Christmas bulbs all connected to one another. Turn us on to each other's colors of light. Help us to see ourselves as a bonded community of faith whose purpose is to spread the sparkling good news of your Son.

Be present with us God as we live and worship in our wait for the One who is truly the light of our world. Not our will but Yours, in Jesus' name we pray.

Amen

