



PRESBY-NOTES

August 2023

It is the mission of First Presbyterian Church of Beatrice to know Christ, to make Christ known and to exhibit Christ's love through worship, education, and service.

PASTOR'S PEN

Apostles John, Peter featured in stained glass

Recently a visitor to worship reminded me of what was right in front of my eyes. I have spent the entire summer talking about the disciples but was oblivious to the two disciples in the magnificent stained glass window I look at every Sunday. David Spence was in town attending his class reunion and came to the church he grew up in for worship. He pointed out to a member that there were disciples in the stained glass. Kristin Jurgens took him to examine it more closely and they found a description taped by the back of the window written by Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn for PresbyNotes in 1986. Rev. Shelbourn said I could share it again as we end our study of the disciples.

I have been studying the chancel window at First Church and offer these few observations which may enhance your enjoyment of this splendid piece of art.

Although the ribbon inscription is from Psalm 144:15: "Happy is that people whose God is the Lord", the window obviously depicts something more related to the New Testament because of the prominent cross. On the end of each beam of the cross are superimposed letters A (alpha) and O (omega), symbolizing the beginning and the end. At the intersec-



tion of vertical and horizontal beams are the superimposed letters, His (iota, eta, sigma) the first three letters in the Greek spelling of "Jesus".

My best guess as to what is depicted in the window is that this is the Ascension. The man on the left, obviously quite young, would represent the disciple John, who was the youngest apostle by tradition (see John 20:4 and 21:23). The other would be Peter. According to John 21, Jesus last conversation was with John and Peter.

Jesus himself is not depicted, but represented by the cross and His, but the clouds are mentioned in the account of the ascension in Acts 1:9. The two winged angels would represent the heavens to which Jesus ascended, but notice that there are two white-clad figures whom we might assume to be angels but the artist has not used wings for them except by inference. These two would be the "two men in white robes" of Acts 1:10 who told the disciples, "Why do you stand looking into heaven? This same Jesus...will come again..."

The lilies, a symbol for Christ and the Resurrection, might symbolize Christ's continuing presence with us, for although he is not physically present as when he walked in Galilee, we have his promise that, "Lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20. The lilies remind us of Jesus' words in the Sermon on the Mount, when he reminded us that God knows our needs, so we should not paralyze ourselves with anxiety, "but seek first God's Kingdom and his righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well." (Matthew 6:20-33)

Rev. Jimmy Shelbourn
April 1986



Samantha Daake	1
Dorothy Rockemann	1
Jesse Bolli	5
Case Fossler	6
Derick Cook	11
Lynn Carothers	12
Connie Dake	13
Que Martin	13
Bryce Milke	14
Adeline Bolli	22
Norma Jean McNamee	28
Connie Harmon	29

PRAYERS: Gayle Eskra; Hal Thaut; Maria Ojeda; Connie Dake; Diane Mayer; Bob Hancock; Judy Prebyl; Barb Harrison; Norma Jean McNamee and Vance Dake.

Also: Shannon Fanning; Vera Lyons; Elmer Cook; Linnel Rials; Skylar Nicola; Elizabeth Shotkoski-Jurgens; Pat Morris; Steve Arneal; Lori Eckert; Jake Frana; Timothy Briskey; Mike Willet; Stan Martin (Gene Martin's brother); Nancy Chalupa; Hope Johns (Maxine Arneal's great granddaughter); Imogene Johnson (Connie Dake's sister); Norma Mitschler (Frank's sister); Adam Ideus (Stephanie Ideus' brother); Kent Ruigh (Kristin Jurgens' cousin).

Come to Worship, Stay for the Picnic

Join us on Sunday, Aug. 20,

at 10:30 a.m.

and enjoy worship with the

Homestead Harmonizers,

followed by a picnic lunch

Thank You!



A BIG THANK YOU to all that helped move the Little Pantry downstairs! A BIGGER THANK YOU TO NEIL MCCONNELL for ordering the shelving, putting the shelves together and making sure they were secure! It is unbelievable how much easier it is for us to fulfill our mission!

Julie Hay, Renee Jones, Rita McGuire and Fran Martin

The little pantry has just gotten a new inside paint job donated by Rita McGuire and her husband! Thank you for donating your time!