

THE STORY OF THE MEMORIAL STAINED-GLASS WINDOWS

Much of the information included in this summary is from the publication "*History of The Memorial Stained-Glass Windows*", written by Mildred (Milly) B. Sanborn Shaw in 1995, Historian of the Sanbornton Congregational Church, UCC. Mrs. Shaw's publication more than adequately describes in detail the lives of the people memorialized, the meanings of the symbols within the glass, the designer of the windows, and so on. The 30-page compiled history by Mildred B. Shaw is available for sale by submitting a request online at <http://www.uccsanbornton.org/contact.html>.

The photographs contained herein do not adequately show the true beauty of the windows that have adorned the church since 1903. One must view them for themselves (especially when the sun strikes them) to truly appreciate their amazing beauty.

The Beginning...

On Feb 2, 1903, a meeting notice was presented with regards to seeing what action would be taken relative to "acceptance and putting in of memorial windows for our house of worship". Later that month, on the 18th, at the Annual meeting, a committee was formed to look into the matter of the windows. On April 22, a report was presented by the committee. The report was accepted and adopted, with a vote of the windows themselves being accepted as well. The committee was further authorized to order and put in the windows, with assistance from the executive committee, if direction was so needed.

The twelve Memorial stained-glass windows were all made by the Spence, Bell Company of Boston and were installed in time for Sunday service on May 24, 1903. The windows memorialize two early ministers, active members of the church, the Sunday school organized in 1819, and the Christian Endeavor Society organized in 1891. These stained-glass windows reflect well the many families who made the history of this church from 1771 to the present. It was said that the Woodman and Boutwell Memorial windows were the costliest of all the windows, priced at \$150 each. The Emery window, damaged in the hurricane of 1938, was completely restored in 2016, at a cost of \$10,000. The windows were covered outside by protective Lexan in 1987, at a cost of \$5,085, and new protective Lexan was installed on the windows in 2017, as part of an LCHIP grant.

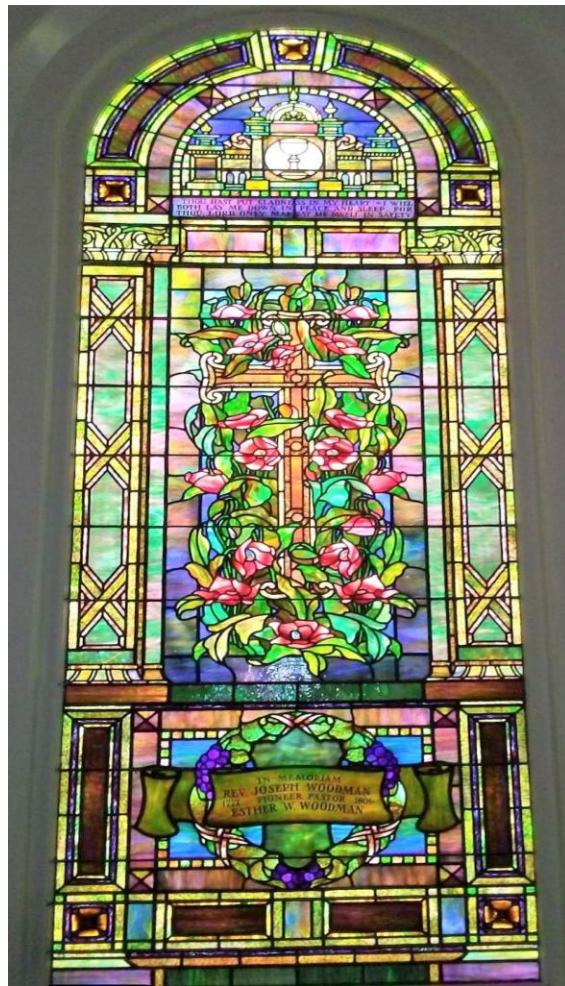
How the stained-glass windows were made...

Our windows are made from so-called "modern" glass (not blown glass). Molten glass is passed through corrugated rollers which not only give a rippled surface, but ultimately increases the amount of light in the window. Chemicals and gasses are used in the molten glass to make the textures, colors and sheens. Cames or lead lines (double-grooved strips of lead) hold the glass sections in place and are made to fit into the specific design of the window. After a joining, fitting and filling process (to make the window airtight) the window, now ready to install, requires a framework of iron bars to hold them in place. How the Spence, Bell Company was chosen to design and construct the stained-glass windows is unknown, but their work has been admired and complimented in our church for many years.

The people memorialized in the stained-glass windows...

On entering the church, one's eyes immediately turn to the decorative memorial windows; four in the narthex, six in the nave and two in the chancel. Each window has its own unique religious symbolism, along with the names of the donors and people memorialized.

The first window is in memory of **Rev. Joseph Woodman**. He was ordained first pastor Sanbornton Congregational Church and minister of the town on November 13, 1771, the same day that the church was organized. He was highly respected and served as chaplain in the Revolutionary War in 1777. He served as our pastor until 1806. He died in 1807.



This window is at the east end of the church in the chancel area, left of the alter. It is known as the Sacrificial window. It has a cross adorned with (some say) red roses, a symbol of martyrdom. Others say the flowers are red poppies, in reference to the Passion of Christ because of the inference of sleep and death printed above the cross ("Thou hast put gladness in my heart. I will both lay me down in peace and sleep. For the Lord only maketh me dwell in safety." Psalm 4, Verse 7). Also depicted above is the Kingdom of Heaven, with a chalice (the symbol of Christian faith), the cup used at Holy Communion. Below the decorated cross is a wreath of grapes, also signifying Communion. Within the wreath are the words "In Memoriam,

Rev. Joseph Woodman, 1771 Pioneer Pastor 1806, Esther W. Woodman".

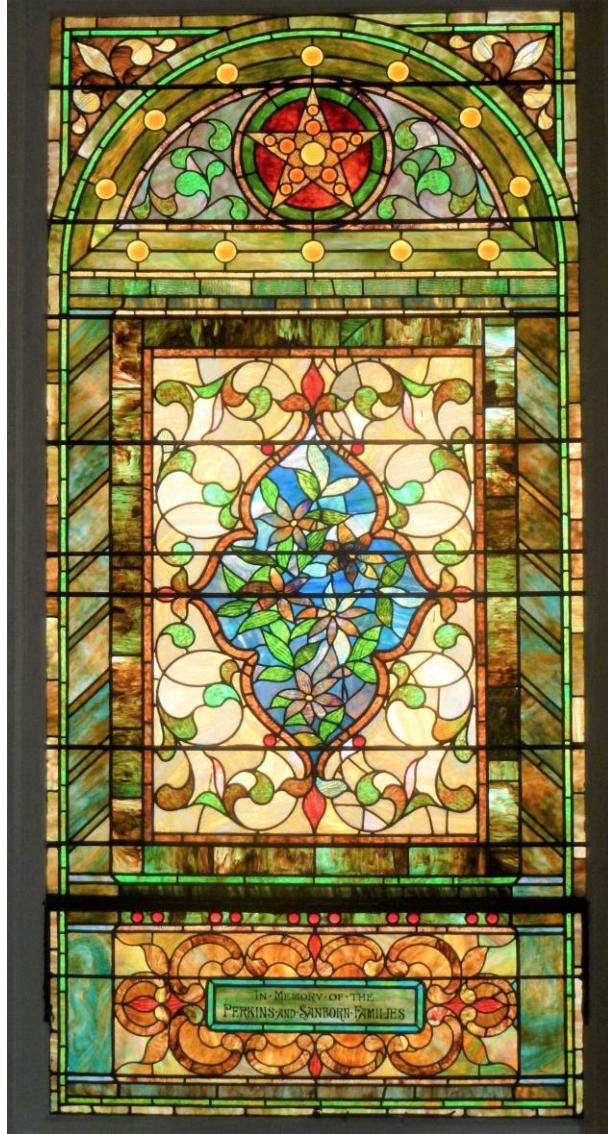
On the right side of the chancel is the **Rev. James and Mary P. Boutwell** memorial window. Reverend Boutwell was the third pastor of the Congregational Church. He married Mary P. Abbott in 1837 and served as pastor of our church from 1852 to 1865. It is said he was much loved by his parishioners, as he "dwelled upon the doctrine of Grace". Sixty members were added to the Sanbornton Congregational Church during his ministry.



The cross on this window is adorned with white lilies, which symbolizes the Purity of Christ. The lily also symbolizes Easter and immortality. Lilies have also been attributed to the virgin saints, the virtue of chastity. Above the lilies, the open Bible symbolizes the Word of God, and below them is the wreath of grapes, signifying the Holy Communion.

Imprinted on this window are the words, "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord. They may rest from their labors and their works do follow them." (Revelations 14, Verse 13) and "In memory of Rev. James Boutwell, third pastor of this church, and his wife, Mary P. Abbott Boutwell".

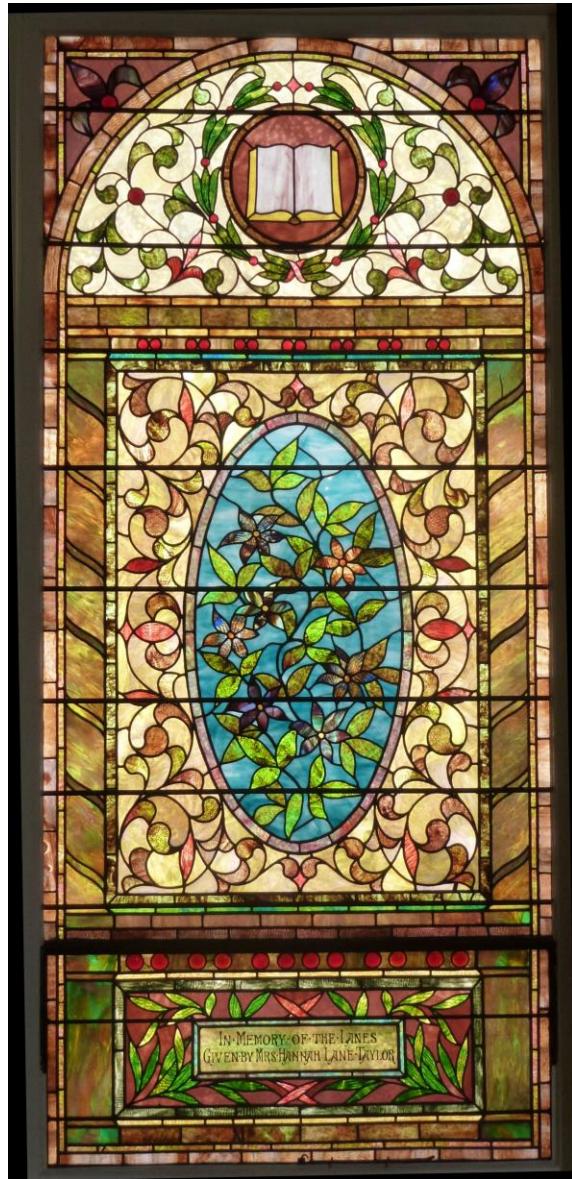
Also inscribed on this window is the name of the maker, Spence, Bell Company, Boston. In the nave are six memorial windows; three on each side. The first window on the left is in memory of the **Perkins and Sanborn** families, a gift from Mrs. John Perkins (Carolyn W. Sanborn Perkins). Both the Perkins and Sanborn families were well known, established residents of the town of Sanbornton, from its earliest roots. The *History of Sanbornton, NH*, written by Moses T. Runnels, gives an exhaustive account of the lives of these prominent Sanbornton families.



This window shows the Epiphany Star and the star of Jacob, indicating the manifestation of Jesus to the Gentiles. It is adorned with the fleur de lis, a popular symbol of Mary and also of royalty. A clematis and vine are also shown in the decoration. The vine is one of the most referenced symbols in the Bible, expressing the relationship between God and his people.

Imprinted on the window is "In memory of the Perkins and Sanborn families".

The middle window on the left in the nave is the **Lane** memorial window. The Lanes were another prominent family of early Sanbornton. It is said they were of strong Christian character. They became professors, deacons, teachers, town clerks, map makers and printers. Charles Lane even became a US Marshall for the state of NH, while his brother Joseph became an inn keeper, owning the well-known Lane Tavern. It is Joseph's daughter, Hannah, who donated this memorial window.



This window is decorated with clematis vines, fleur de lis and olive branches. Since olive trees provide shelter and opportunity for rest, and olive oil is used for ointments, the olive branch is a symbol for peace, harmony and healing - if it is myrtle, it is a symbol of love. Above the vines and branches, the open Bible symbolizes the Word of God.

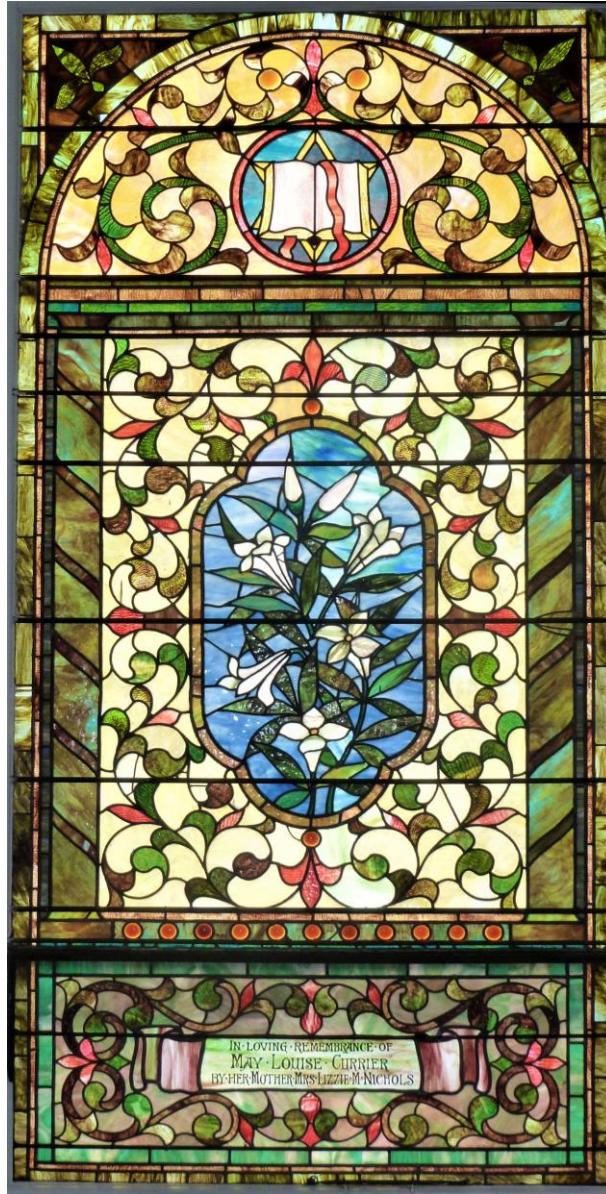
Printed on this window is "In Memory Of The Lanes, Given By Mrs. Hannah Lane Taylor".

The third window on the left memorializes **Jeremiah Burley Osgood and Samuel and Martha A. Thompson**. Jeremiah Osgood was a smart and prosperous farmer who was well respected in Sanbornton. Samuel and Martha A. Thompson lived across the road from the Osgood's (on Calef Hill Road). They also had a farm and both were considered good friends, with a loyalty to their church. Samuel was the town's representative to the General Court, as well as president of the Sanbornton Farmer's Club. Mrs. Laura Ellen Brown (granddaughter to the Thompsons) was the donor of this window.



This window is very decorative with fleur de lis and a modified cross Botonee, with trefoil ends, is adorned with clematis vine. The cross and the crown above it symbolize the reward of the faithful in the life after death to those who believe in the crucified Savior. The bottom portion of the window has palm leaves behind the scroll. Branches of the palm tree were regarded as sacred and were carried by the Jews as a sign of victory. "In Memoriam, J. Burley Osgood, Samuel M. Thompson and Martha A. Thompson" are printed on this window.

On the right, near the entrance, is the **May Louise Currier** memorial window. She was the daughter of James and Lizzie (Paine) Nichols and the wife of J. Sherman Currier. Joining in 1892, the family was very active in the church. May Louise Currier died in 1899 at the young age of 29. It was her mother, Lizzie, who made this memorial window her gift to the church.



This decorative window displays Easter Lilies, the symbol of purity. There is also an ivy vine, representative of death and immortality. The ivy is always green, which indicates fidelity and eternal life. It also clings to its support, a symbol of attachment and undying affection. Above the lilies is the open Bible (the Word of God) on a six-pointed star, the Star of David, the shape of David's shield. It is sometimes called the Creator's Star, the six points being the six days of creation.

Imprinted on this window is "In loving remembrance of May Louise Currier, by her mother, Mrs. Lizzie M. Nichols".

The middle window on the right is in memory of **Jonathan M. Taylor and Huldah Lane Taylor**. Jonathan was a superior blacksmith, farmer, town clerk, General Court representative, county commissioner and pillar of the Sanbornton Congregational Church. He was a leader in the Democratic party, a justice of the peace and a prominent citizen. His wife, Huldah, was the daughter of Joseph H. and Polly Lane. Jonathan and Huldah's daughter Carrie donated this memorial window.



The Taylor memorial window portrays the crown and cross that symbolizes the reward of the faithful in the life after death to those who believe in the crucified Savior. There is fleur de lis shown, a symbol for Mary and an emblem of royalty. Beautiful lilies are depicted, which are indicative of Easter, immorality and purity.

Printed on this window are the words "In Memoriam, Jonathan M. Taylor and Huldah L. Taylor".

The third window on the right is in memory of **Deacon Joseph Emery and Judith L. Emery**. Joseph was an enterprising farmer and a deacon of the Congregational Church, where he and his wife Judith (another daughter of Joseph H. and Polly Lane) were active members.



This window is decorated with a crown (a mark of victory or distinction) surrounded by a white lily (indicating purity) wreath. Fleur de lis (symbol of royalty) and vines are shown around the window edges. The vineyard is considered the protected place where children of God flourish under the tender care of God. In the center of the window within a modified cross are clematis flowers on vines.

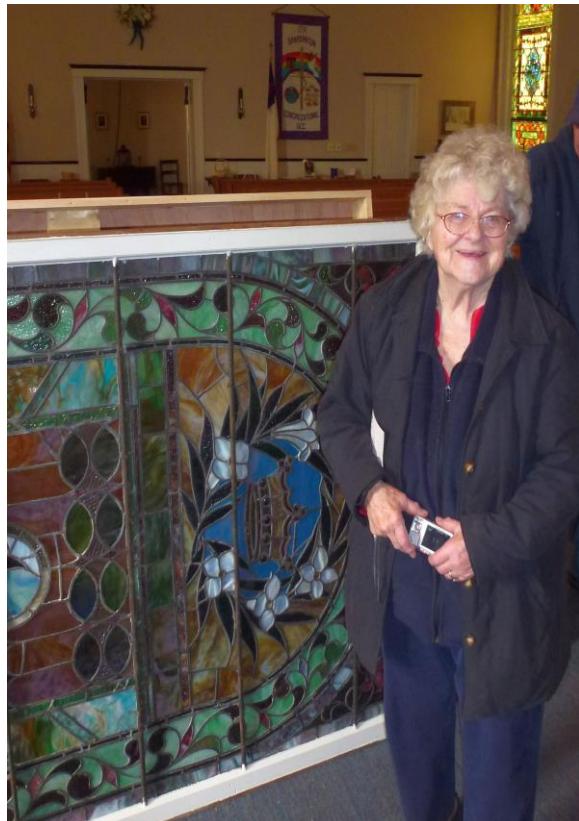
It was reported by Catherine Currier that the force of the winds of the hurricane of 1938 blew out the panes of glass from the Emery window. It is believed that the light brown panes are the replaced ones.

Printed on this window is "In Memoriam, Dea. Joseph Emery and his wife Judith L. Emery".

In April of 2013, the Emery window was bowed and starting to sag, so the decision was made to have it professionally repaired. Don Cline of Cline Conservators in Andover, NH was chosen for the restoration process, with Granite State Glass assisting.



Dwayne Miller and Ken Oakes of Granite State Glass removed a nine-foot tall stained glass window from Sanbornton Congregational Church-UCC last week, under the guidance of Don Cline of Andover, who will be restoring the 106-year-old glass artwork after it was found to be sagging and in need of repair.



Sanbornton Congregational's famed "Emery Window" gets a long overdue face lift

BY DONNA RHODES
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SANBORNTON — Installed in 1903, one of the many beautiful stained glass windows at Sanbornton Congregational Church-UCC is in need of a bit of a face lift, and last week, Don Cline of Cline Conservators in Andover arrived to pick up his latest project to restore to its original splendor.

"You can see where it's sagging and bowed. There's also a couple of glass pieces that don't match," Cline pointed out. "They were replaced after the 1938 hurricane, and I'll fix that so it all matches again."

The cause of the sagging is the lead that holds the ornate artwork together. Cline said the science of metallurgy in the early 1900's was quite inferior to earlier practices of the art. Medieval lead contained many other metal alloys they were not even aware of at the time, which made it much stronger. By 1903, those al-

loys had been detected and removed to create a purer form of lead, but it does not hold up to the test of time without the alloys to give it strength.

"As a restorer, I see this all the time, but this one is really not in too bad of a condition yet," he said.

With the help of Ken Oakes and Dwayne Miller from Granite State Glass, they carefully pried the massive 108-inch structure from its casing and packed it into a specially built wood box to transport it to Cline's studio.

There, he will first make a rubbing of the window before disassembling it so he will know exactly how each piece fits together when he re-leads the artwork.

"The whole process will take about six to eight weeks. I can get it apart quickly; it's putting it all back together that takes so long," said Cline.

Looking on as the window was removed was Milly Shaw, who knows a thing or

two about each of the 10 stained glass windows in the church sanctuary.

In 1995, Shaw wrote a book, "The History of the Memorial Stained Glass Windows of Sanbornton Congregational Church-UCC," in celebration of the church's 225th anniversary. The unique book contains photos of all ten of the brightly colored windows and explains the history and

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significance of each.

According to Shaw's research, the window being repaired was created by George Spence of Boston and cost the church approximately \$100 in 1903. It was installed in memory of Deacon Joseph Emery and his wife Judith, as noted on a panel near the bottom of the ornate floral scene.

"The front two windows are arched on top, and they cost more," Shaw said.

While purchasing the windows was a massive financial undertaking at the beginning of the 1900's, repairing one is even more daunting today. The project is expected to cost approximately \$10,000 for just the one window.

"We did get two very generous private donations toward the repair but we'll be doing some fundraising, too," said church member Marilyn Ladew.

Trustee Brendan Morrison of the Property and Fi-



Local historian Milly Shaw stands beside the "Emery Window," a memorial stained glass window in the Sanbornton Congregational Church-UCC, which was removed for restoration last week. In 1995, Shaw wrote a book on the history of the stained glass windows for the church's 225th anniversary.

nance Committee said he also hopes to have Shaw's book about the windows republished and sold to help defray costs for the restoration.

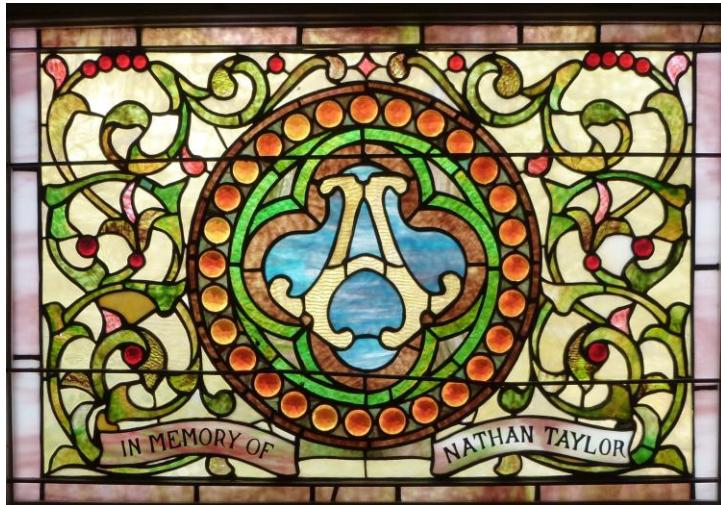
"It's a great book, and certainly an appropriate way to raise money to restore the window," he said.

Sanbornton Congregational Church-UCC was originally established in 1771, and was located beside the Tower Hill Cemetery. In 1834,

a new church building was constructed in its present location between Town Hall and the library, using granite and other pieces from the original structure. Since that time it has become a landmark in Sanbornton and an integral part of the town's rich history.

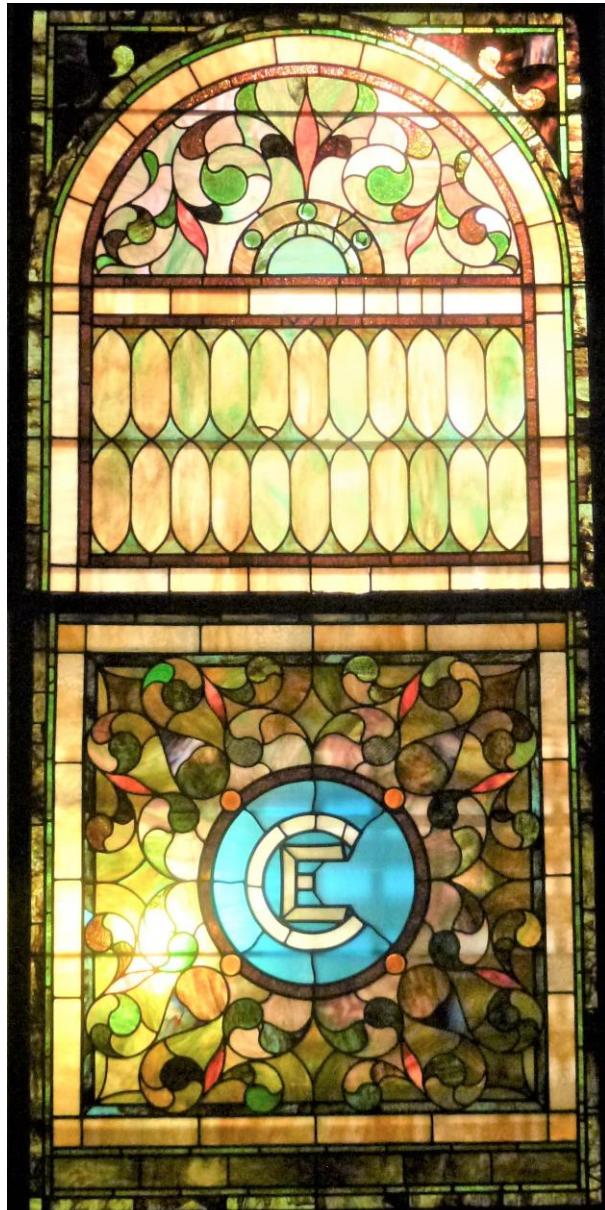
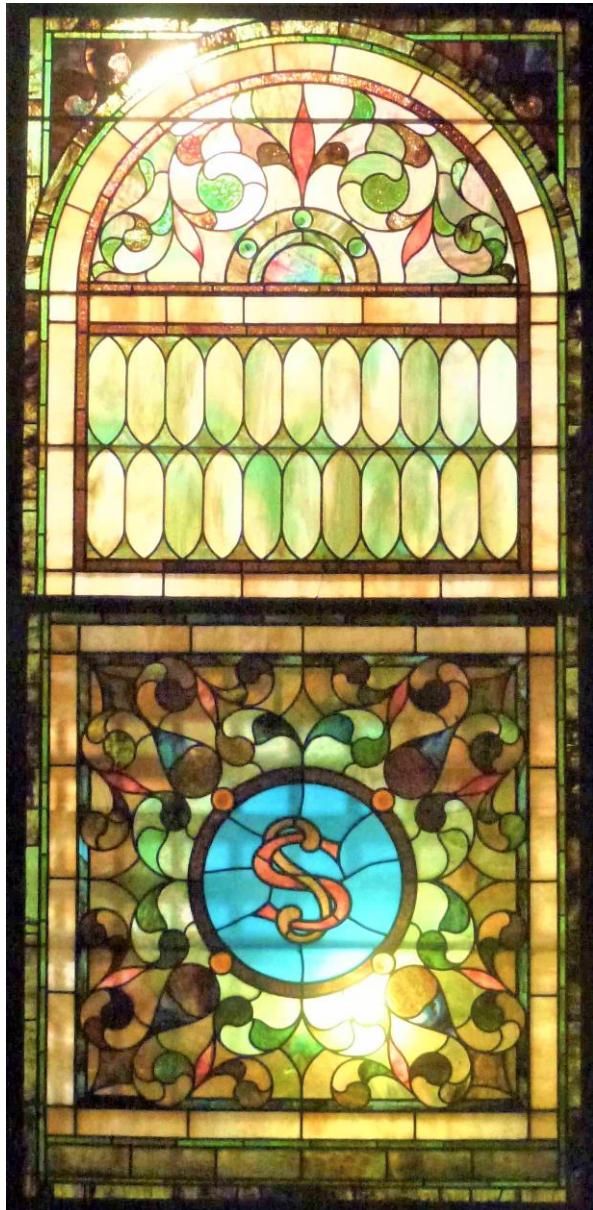
Anyone willing to make a donation to the project should contact the church office at 286-3018.

There are four memorial windows in the narthex. The two windows at the church entrance doors memorialize **Nathan Taylor** and his wife **Abigail E. Taylor**. Nathan was a lieutenant in the Revolutionary War, a very worthy farmer, and a justice of the peace. He served in the State Legislature, Council and Senate. He was a prominent member of the church, giving liberally to the charities of the day. His wife, Abigail Elkins was the second child of his father's second wife. They had six children.



These memorial windows show the Alpha ("In memory of Nathan Taylor") and a modified heart shaped Omega ("In memory of Abigail E. Taylor"), the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which signify that Jesus is the beginning and the end of all things. The letters are surrounded by vines and fleur de lis depicted with jewel-like pieces of glass which look like precious stones when light shines through them.

Over the stairways in the narthex are decorative double hung memorial windows. The window on the left shows the entwined letters S. This window was donated by members of the **Sunday School** in 1903. Records show that the Congregational Sunday School was first organized in 1819, with John S. Lane as the superintendent or "conductor".



Over the stairway to the right is the memorial window which shows the letters C and E. Members of the **Christian Endeavor Society** donated this window. The Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor was organized on June 28, 1891 with Harry E. Jacobs as president. Then a Junior Society of Christian Endeavor was organized in 1898 with Carrie P. Taylor as its first president. This society was later phased out and replaced with the Pilgrim Fellowship. In 1903, J. Sherman Currier was the Christian Endeavor Society president. The purpose of these societies was to lead young people to commit themselves to Jesus Christ as Lord and train them for active Christian service in the church as well as in their lives.