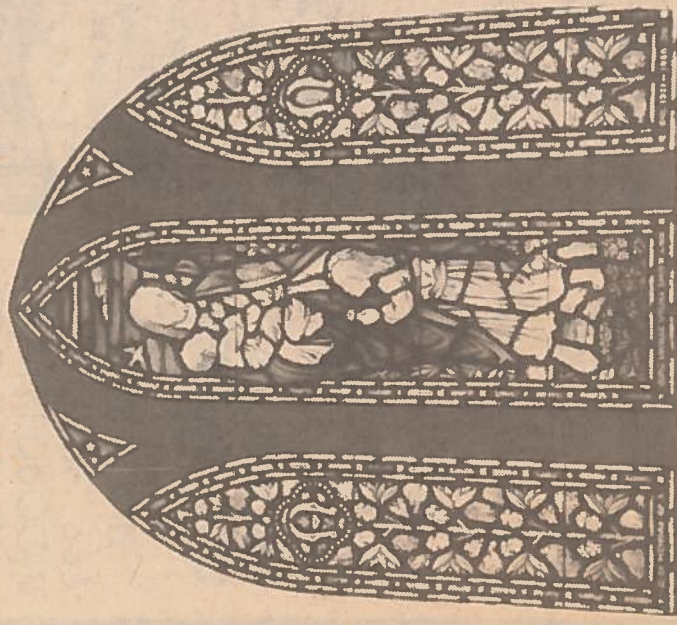


Bethinking of Old Orleans

C.W.Lattin • County Historian



Stained Glass Windows

"I assure you, unless you are converted and become like little children, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever, then, humbles himself like this little child, he excels in the kingdom of heaven."

Matt. 18:3-4

The triptych shown here is the fourth in a series on stained glass windows in Orleans County Churches. It is located in the United Methodist Church of Lyndonville, being situated in an alcove above the altar. The center panel portrays Jesus with little children which sets a mood of pastoral care, showing his human qualities. In one arm He holds a baby and at His feet, is a child offering him a daisy, symbol of innocence as He touches her head ("... then little children were brought to Him so that He might lay His hands on them and pray..." Matthew 19:13). In the background a descending dove symbolizes the baptism of Jesus and also the Holy Spirit. In this window Jesus wears a white robe symbolic of light, faith, joy and religious purity, over which is draped a red mantle suggesting divine love. The children are dressed in blue which typifies heavenly love and truth. A sapphire sky likewise suggests heaven. Throughout the three parts of this window red and blue predominate.

The two side panels are of particular interest. The left one carries the Alpha motif while the right side carries the Omega motif. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet ("I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End" -- Revelations 22:13).

As to the flowering plant or shrub which takes up the rest of the space in these sidelights, there is some speculation. Some think it is dogwood but I tend to believe it is a stylized version of the Christmas Rose. It's not really a rose. *Helleborus niger*

climates, the leathery palmate leaves remain ever-green all year. The flowers have five petals which appear to be white with a faint hint of pink.

The Christmas Rose has become a symbol of the nativity and is legendary in nature possibly dating to Mediaeval times. "As the shepherds and the Magi approached the manger with their gifts, a very young shepherdess named Madelon knelt in the shadows weeping. Suddenly an angel appeared and asked Madelon, 'why do you weep?' Madelon replied, 'The Wise Men have given gifts of gold to the Holy Babe. The Shepherds have given Him a white dove and fruit and honey. But I have nothing to give, not even a tiny flower, for it is winter.' The Angel smiled... a bright glow appeared... and it became a fragrant pure white rose. With great joy Madelon took the rose to the Manger. The Holy Babe touched the petals with its tiny fingers and they were transformed to a delicate pink."

In the border at the base of the window, the following inscription appears: "In Memory of Lucille Wilma Smith 1921-1938". Lucille was a daughter of William and Mary Smith of Lyndonville. At age seventeen she died of typhoid while on a trip to Florida. In 1953, under the pastoral leadership of Rev. Raymond Draffin, the interior of the Lyndonville United Methodist Church was remodeled. At that time William Smith purchased this very symbolic window in memory of his deceased daughter. It was created at the Pike Stained Glass Studio in Rochester.

The First Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church of Yates was incorporated on March 27, 1827. In 1862 it was reincorporated as the First M.E. Church of Lyndonville and in 1867 they built their present brick church on Main Street in Lyndonville. Naturally, since that time many improvements and additions have taken place.

Jesus said, "Allow the little ones and do not stop them from coming to me, for of this kind the kingdom of heaven is composed."