

Bethinking of Old Orleans

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STAINED GLASS WINDOWS



"Truly I assure you, he who does not enter the sheepfold through the door but climbs up from elsewhere is a thief and a robber, but he who enters through the door is the shepherd of the sheep, to him the doorkeeper opens and the sheep listen to his voice; he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has led out all that belong to him, he walks ahead of them and the sheep follow him for they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger but will run away from him, because they do not recognize the voice of strangers".....I am the good Shepherd and I know my own. My own in turn know Me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and I lay down My life on behalf of the sheep."

John 10: 1-5, 14-15

This large stained glass window of the Good Shepherd is located in the Albion United Methodist Church. In the center Romanesque frame Jesus is depicted holding a lamb in one arm, which he has rescued. "The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures." The two Romanesque lancets either side of this also depict sheep. To the far left we see a ram drinking from a river of Paradise, ever flowing and refreshing the pastures of the church on earth, "He leads me beside still waters; He restoreth my soul." Immediately next to the ram is a front view of a sheep, following beside Jesus. "He leads me in paths of righteousness for His name's sake." I think the illustrator of this particular sheep surely must have had a sense of humor as this one is portrayed as being knockkneed with its tongue sticking out. In the lancet to the right of Jesus an ewe looks to him for guidance with a feeling of assuredness. "Yea though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me." In this window Jesus is shown holding a staff which is symbolic, in that a shepherd uses the crook of the staff to catch or draw in the stray sheep. "Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me." The lamb and the other sheep, particularly the one with its tongue sticking out, are used here to symbolize the sinner which is contrary to the normal use of sheep representing innocence or the Lamb of God. However in pictures where Christ is shown as the rescuing Shepherd, the sheep are used to symbolize sinners. The entire scene takes place in an ethereal or romanticised landscape which represents Paradise. The window in all its visual characteristics is an evangelical interpretation of various Biblical passages including the Twenty-third Psalm and represents pastoral care.

Jesus is shown wearing a red tunic denoting divine love over which is a blue mantle representing heavenly truth (true blue). The landscape and trees offer a rich blend of purples, blues, greens, browns and rusts. The sky blends from a golden yellow to blue in the apex. Most of the scenic part of the window is made of fused colored glass with blends of various colors in each piece. However, the sheep and face of Jesus are painted pieces of glass. In essence, this is a Tiffany Style window which simply copied the glass techniques made popular by Louis Comfort Tiffany (1848-1933) Many art glass manufacturers made cheaper versions of the famed Tiffany windows which became popular in the 1890's, and during the early part of this century. To date the origin of this window is unknown. The outer border of lighter colored glass is composed mostly of ivory and green colored pieces. The far left lancet contains the Alpha symbol and the far right lancet contains the Omega symbol. The Alpha and Omega being the first and Last letters of the Greek alphabet symbolizing the beginning and the end.

In the base of the window it is noted: "Presented by Rev. Henry Clay Woods Pastor 1911-17." In 1914 the Albion Methodist Church undertook a \$30,000 remodeling project of their 1860 ediface. It was during this time that the "Good Shepherd" window was designed for the church and installed in early 1915. Henry Clay Woods was an energetic pastor who served the Albion Methodist Church at the end of his career. During his long and eventful life he rendered remarkable service devoted to building and repairing churches and cementing different factions together thus accomplishing harmonious results. When he died in August 1917 the "Orleans American" noted "The Grand Old Man and the Peacemaker of Albion Suddenly Passes Away." He was born in Rushford in 1848 and received his education at Rushford Academy and Lima Seminary. He served in the Civil War but was discharged because of illness. He was Pastor in a number of churches in the Methodist Episcopal Conference in Western New York following the beginning of his career in 1867. During this time he preached over 5,000 sermons, presided over 2700 prayer meetings and collected more than \$400,000 for church work. He was in great demand for marriages, baptisms and officiating at numerous funerals. During his pastorate at Albion he added 394 members to the church rolls. Indeed, the "Good Shepherd" theme was appropriately selected by its donor for its pastoral care imagery.