

How PCUMC Became Known as the *Jewel Box Church*

By Bonnie Quirin, Church Historian, July 2021

The title - *Jewel Box Church*, was given by Pastor John Jenkins, who served the church from 1989 to 1999. He selected the name because of the amazing stained-glass windows that grace the sanctuary. Two of the windows were designed and made in Tucson, and 6 windows, comprising 18 sections were designed and made by Jean Burger. Jean was a local artist and designer who was a painter in oils, acrylics, and watercolor. She then worked as a silversmith and finally as the fashioner of graceful, elegant stained-glass pieces using the Tiffany (copper foil) method. Each section of the windows she created has a theme. Jean created these windows from 1988 -1992.

The windows were donated by various members of the congregation, and their name appears next to the section they donated. The magnificent window that adorns the front of the church, which is 6 panels, consists of 1200 individual pieces of glass and 17 pounds of solder, taking 90 hours to complete. Jean donated this window to the church. Several years ago, the wooden cross on the outside of the window was replaced with a hickory cross, which was made by a local carpenter.

Jean moved to Florida where she passed on June 22, 2021, at the age of 92. The windows are a present reminder of her work due to their exceptional beauty and the inspiration they provide to those that enter the sanctuary. If you are ever in the church in the afternoon when the sun is shining through them, they are even more magnificent!

Of her work, Jean said “the responsibility for creating a stained-glass window for the church is most challenging, but is also a way to be close to God. I really considered myself blessed to contribute to the beautification of the church. I think my artistry through the years has reached its greatest expression through stained glass.”

Our “Jewel Box” Windows:

