

History – Website Article for March 2022

In July of 2021 the theme for the church website's History section was the stained-glass windows, which were a very important addition to the church. What is being highlighted this month, as part of the exterior of the church, is the magnificent--*and I mean magnificent*-- window in the front of the church, featuring stained-glass panels mounted around a wooden cross. The window was created as a gift to the church by Jean Berger, the artist who designed and crafted 18 stained-glass windows in the sanctuary. She spent 90 hours designing and creating the front window alone. The frame of that window was donated by Bill Wolever in memory of his wife Marguerite. Bill asked only that a white rose be included in the window's design in memory of his wife.

The exterior wooden cross of the window deteriorated over time and was replaced in 2010 by a local woodworker who has lived in Patagonia since 1986. The original wood was replaced with hickory that has a historical background. It's truly exceptional!

The raised exterior area below the window was a flower bed, that is, until water seeped in through the wall, causing interior damage. After the repairs were made, the area was covered over, eliminating the flower bed. The wood doors on the front and side of the sanctuary are probably the originals.

The church sign mounted on the outside wall facing McKeown Avenue was donated by Don Pearson in memory of his wife, Eleanor, who was the choir director for many years. Also purchased was the smaller outdoor sign on the wall of the Thrift Shop.

The inlaid brick labyrinth in the courtyard in front of Thurber Hall was created by Harry Hower, a local master stonemason. He also installed a stone wall on the north side of the courtyard; a stone bench dedicated to long-time church organist, Bernice Pomeroy; and brick borders around the flower beds that surround the trees in the courtyard. The labyrinth, wall, and bench were dedicated in a ceremony on November 12, 2012. Since then, several plaques in memory of various church members have been placed on the exterior walls that border the courtyard. Prior to the installation of the labyrinth, the courtyard area was grass. You can imagine the difficulty in maintaining it, and the mess created

by heavy rains. Since the new courtyard's installation, it has become a favorite spot for walking the labyrinth or sitting on a bench to reflect.