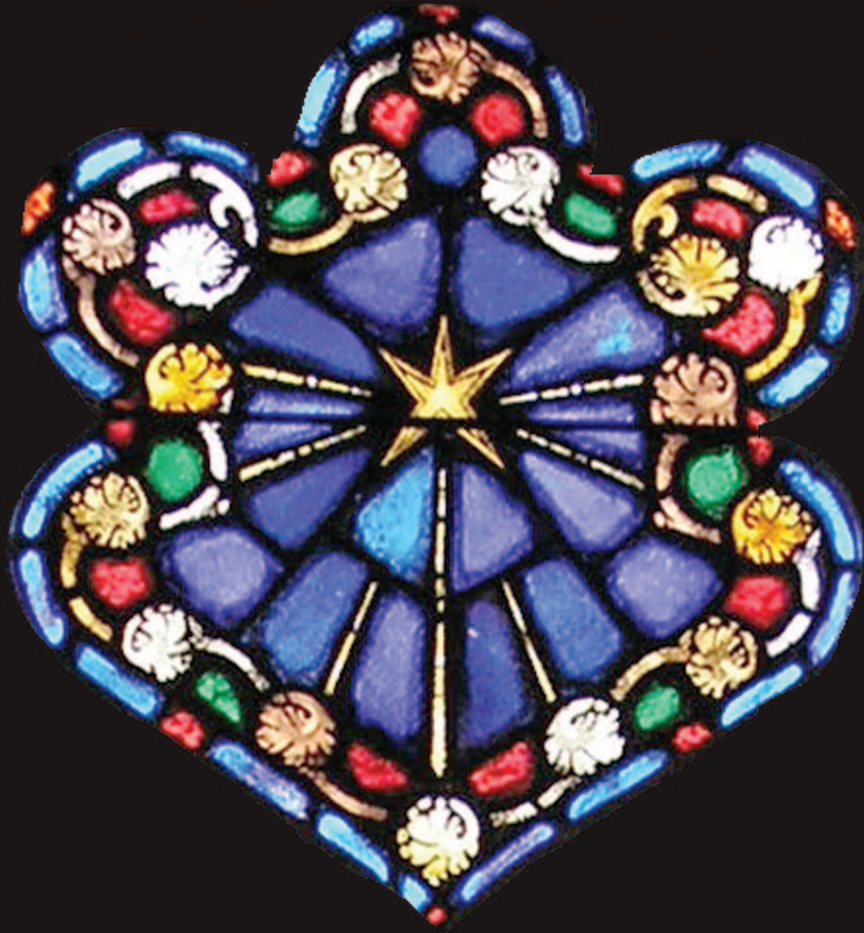


SERMONS IN GLASS



THE WINDOWS OF

*The Church of the Holy Nativity*



# SERMONS IN GLASS

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*The Church of the Holy Nativity*

Photos by John M. Greene

Research by Charlotte Gilcreast

Design and Descriptions by Linda A. Greene



# SERMONS IN GLASS

THE WINDOWS OF

*The Church of the Holy Nativity*



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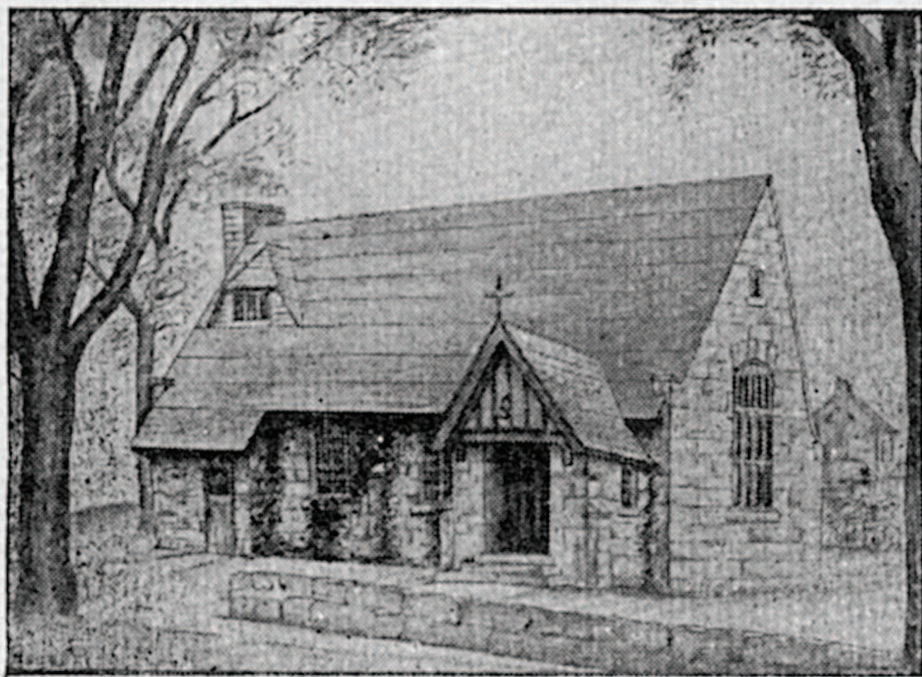
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The Church of the  
Holy Nativity

1915 - 1942



South Weymouth  
Massachusetts



THE FIRST MEETING OF THE HOLY NATIVITY congregation occurred on Christmas Day, 1915. The Gothic style building at the current location gloriously opened its doors on another major Christian Holiday, Easter Sunday, in 1920. It was crafted by architect John Vining of Weymouth of seamface granite to resemble a small village church in England.

In 1946, with a growing congregation, the church building was enlarged. Architect Frank Cleveland of Cram and Ferguson worked on the renovation which doubled capacity. The description of the enlarged interior at the time was "light, cheerful and comfortable, with an atmosphere helpful to worship".

In the ensuing years, the church made use of the beautiful light, and, with more contributions from generous parishioners, added the exquisite windows shown on the following pages.

In the words of the stained glass master, Joseph G. Reynolds: "The artist in stained glass is aware that color is one of God's greatest gifts to man. Color, joyful and uplifting is everywhere in nature—in the sunrise, the sunset, the rainbow, in blue sky, autumn foliage, distant hills. People everywhere and in every age have responded to it emotionally and spiritually. Man, primitive and civilized, has ever striven to express beauty in terms of color. The world's greatest windows have captured the glory of the sunset and the rainbow. Stained glass is indeed the glorification of color."

Enjoy, as he described it—"the sermon to be preached in glass".



THE SANCTUARY

THE NAVE



The Prodigal Son,  
Jesus, the Light of the World  
The Good Samaritan



The Crucifixion Window  
THE CHANCEL

# THE WINDOWS OF The Church

The Boy Christ The Last Supper  
THE SANCTUARY



The Nativity Window



The Prophet Amos,  
The Prophet Isaiah,  
John the Baptist



King David,  
Moses the Law Giver,  
Noah







Saint Cecilia, Patron Saint of Music  
NARTHEX  
Current Church Entry



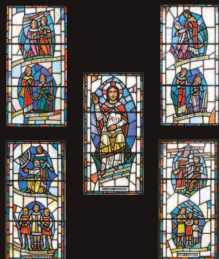
Jesus heals the Daughter of Jairus,  
Come unto me,  
Jesus heals blind Bartimaeus

# of the Holy Nativity



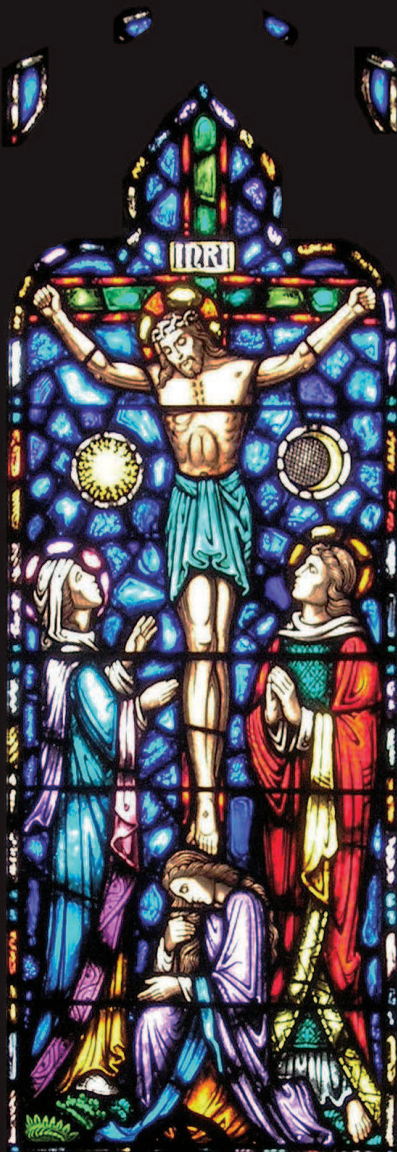
The Creation Window

The Beatitudes  
HEALING STATION  
Former Bapistry and Original Church Entrance



The Shepherd Boy,  
Jesus, the Good Shepherd,  
The Lost Sheep





## THE CRUCIFIXION

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

In the first panel Jesus is shown abandoned by his sleeping disciples and visited in Gethsemane by a comforting angel.

In the center panel, Jesus has been tried by both Pontius Pilate and Herod and, having been condemned to death, has been nailed to a cross. The passing of many hours before his mortal death is illustrated by the sun and moon symbols. "INRI" was inscribed on the cross above him, which is the Latin abbreviation for "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews".

The right hand panel shows the glory of the resurrection of Jesus, three days after his death and entombment.

*Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Coburn  
in loving memory of Albert Vinal Coburn*



1910 - IN LOVING MEMORY OF

RUTH CONANT WALSH - 1912

## THE NATIVITY

Luke and Matthew

In this multi-paneled window, the birth of Jesus is celebrated.

The left panel shows the arrival of the three Wise Men.

Above all, in the center panel at the top, is the guiding star of Bethlehem.

The right panel shows Joseph gazing down at Mary, the Virgin Mother, who reveals the baby Jesus. Joseph appears behind them holding a flowering walking stick of hawthorne. Known as the Glastonbury Thorne, this particular small tree blooms at Christmastime.

*Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Compton Walsh Sr.  
and Mr. and Mrs. Howard S. Knowlton  
in loving memory of Ruth Conant Walsh*



## **THE BOY JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**

Luke 2:42-51

Mary and Joseph journeyed home from Jerusalem after the celebration of Passover. Once home, they realized Jesus was not among their group. They returned to Jerusalem to find 12-year old Jesus in the Temple with the elders. When they admonished him, Jesus replied "Why do you seek Me? Did you not know I must be about My Father's business?"

*Gift of Dr. and Mrs. L. Burton Benjamin  
in loving memory of L. Burton Benjamin*

## **THE LAST SUPPER**

Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

The right panel illustrates the moment Judas left to betray Jesus, who then shared the bread and wine representing his body and blood with the loyal disciples who remained with him.

*Gift of Mrs. Ralph Ballou  
in loving memory of Ralph Douglas Ballou*

These two panels depict the Passover season, known to Christians as Easter. They also each feature columns in the artwork, which often symbolize a "noble life".





## THE PRODIGAL SON

Luke 15:11-32

When a prodigal (“wastefully extravagant”) son returned after spending his inheritance, his father organized a feast to celebrate. When the prodigal son’s hard-working, responsible older brother refused to participate, their father reminded him that the return of a dear one, thought lost, should always be celebrated.

*Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ralston  
in loving memory of George H. & Ma Rita H. Burnett*

## I AM THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

John 8:12, 9:5

In the setting of the lamp-lighting festival celebrating the Israelites’ deliverance, Jesus declared that he was “the light of the world”, the divine presence sent to save God’s people from their bondage, indeed to save the entire world.

*Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ralston  
in loving memory of Robert A. & Mary F. Ralston*

## THE GOOD SAMARITAN

Luke 10:29-37

A traveller was assailed and lay half dead aside the road. Left by a priest and then a Levite, he was finally helped by a Samaritan, a member of a tribe that would commonly despise a Jew.

These three windows take artistic license and show Jesus in the key role of each of the stories.

*Given by Calvin C. Shepherd & family*



## **THE PROPHET AMOS**

Amos

A shepherd and fig farmer, Amos warned of the dooms that sinners were bound to face such as locusts, drought and the ruination of a corrupt society.

*Gift of Mrs. William Hanson  
in loving memory of William W. Hanson*

## **THE PROPHET ISAIAH**

Isaiah

Isaiah, a member of a royal family, inspired his people during the time of threat from the Assyrian Empire. He described to his people the future glory of Zion, instilled fervent faith, and kept them on the path of following God.

*Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Hayden  
in loving memory of John and Elizabeth Butterworth*

## **JOHN THE BAPTIST**

John 1:29-33, Matthew 3:13-15, Luke 3:21

John was a prophet and relative of Jesus who not only foretold his coming but also baptized Jesus in faith. John wears the camel hair of an ascetic and holds a jewelled cross staff, prefiguring the crucifixion. The shell at the left side of this window symbolizes baptism.

*Gift of Luther C. Hayden  
in loving memory of Ethel B. Hayden*



## **KING DAVID**

Matthew, Luke, Books of Samuel, 1 Kings, 1 Chronicles

This panel shows David, a relative of the future Messiah anointed by God to be the future King of Israel, barefoot in reference to his journey up The Mount of Olives. There he mourned the pain of betrayal by both his son and his counselor Ahitophel.

*In loving memory of James F. Hudson*

## **MOSES THE LAW GIVER**

Isaiah

Moses led the persecuted Jews out of Egypt to Canaan, the land of milk and honey. En route in Sinai, Moses received the 10 Commandments from God. In this window, we see the numbers 3 and 7, which depict these Commandments: "You shall not misuse the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not hold anyone guiltless who misuses his name" and "You shall not commit adultery".

*Given by Mrs Frances Leslie  
in loving memory of James E Leslie*

## **NOAH**

Genesis

This window shows Noah and the Ark which had carried the world's animals and his family to solid ground. The dove that had indicated nearby land hovers above his gaze.

As a personalization, a baseball is shown at the bottom right and initials in tribute to a boy, to the left.

*In loving memory of William J. Murphy  
See page 31*



## THE BEATITUDES

Matthew 5:3-10

These Healing Station windows, created in the 1960's with white backgrounds and contemporary graphics, are similar in look to the Creation and St. Cecilia windows. Words from Matthew appear within the artwork, making this group unique.

And he opened his mouth and taught them

*Dedication: M. Agnes Holbrook*

Blessed are the poor in spirit  
Blessed are they that mourn

Blessed are they who hunger and thirst  
Blessed are the meek

*Dedication: Mary E. Holbrook*

Blessed are the pure in heart  
Blessed are the peacemakers

*Dedication: William Jason Holbrook*

Blessed are ye when men revile ye  
Blessed are they which are persecuted





## **SAINT CECILIA, PATRON SAINT OF MUSIC**

Feast Day, November 22

This Narthex window is singular in that it shows a personage or event not mentioned in the Bible.

Cecilia was a young and beautiful noble who converted scores to the Christian faith, including her husband Valerian and his brother Tiburtius. When Valerian and Tiburtius were killed for burying Christian martyrs, Cecilia gave them an illegal burial. As a result of her transaction, she was given the choice to renounce her Christian faith or be killed.

She chose her faith, and therefore was condemned to die. After a failed suffocation, three strikes were made to behead her and she was left to perish.

She prayed for three days and nights, until she finally succumbed. She is named as the Patron Saint of Music because she professed to hear heavenly music in her heart.

*Gladys Robinson and Albert Robinson*



## **THE SHEPHERD BOY**

Samuel 16:1-23

The youngest of Jesse's sons, David was called from his sheep to see Samuel, a man appointed by God to anoint the coming King.

As a shepherd, David had cared for and protected his sheep. As a king, David did the same with his people, defending them from harm and keeping them in the ways of the Lord.

## **THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

John 10:11-18

This window shows Christ carrying a shepherd's staff and lovingly caring for a young sheep. He is surrounded by white lilies, symbolizing life everlasting.

In the Bible, Jesus tells of a hired hand versus a good shepherd. The good shepherd is willing to lay down his life for his flock, just as Jesus was willing to lay down his for humanity.

## **THE LOST SHEEP**

Luke 10:29-37

When one sheep is lost, a shepherd will leave the flock to find it, and will rejoice at its return. So it is that a sinner who repents will be received and rejoiced in heaven. The dove above symbolizes the holy ghost.

*These three windows are a gift of the Women's Guild  
in loving memory of Bessie Tirrell Nevin*



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
ETHEL CONNOR CORRIGAN 1897-1951



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
JOSEPH D. SEWELL 1893-1943



IN LOVING MEMORY OF  
A CHRISTIAN SOLDIER

## **JESUS HOLDS THE DAUGHTER OF JAIRUS**

Mark 5:21, Matthew 9:18-26, Luke 8:40-56

Jesus is called to cure the twelve-year old daughter of Jairus. (In some versions of the story, she has already died.) On the way to Jairus' home, a woman with a twelve-year-old illness is cured by touching the robe of Jesus. When he finally arrives at Jairus' home, Jesus miraculously "awakens" Jairus' daughter.

*Gift of Mr. and Mrs. Hilton Corrigan  
in loving memory of Ethel Winifred Corrigan*

## **COME UNTO ME**

Matthew 11:28

With the words "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest..." Jesus invited his people to share their burden with him, so that he could make it light.

*Gift of Mrs. Joseph D. Sewall  
in loving memory of Joseph D. Sewell*

## **JESUS HEALS THE BLIND BARTIMAEUS**

Mark 10:46-52

While in Jericho, Jesus and his disciples were approached by a blind beggar named Bartimaeus. He asked for his sight to be restored, a wish Jesus granted because of his faith.

*Given by Louise Hudson  
in loving memory of A Christian Soldier,  
Lt. Colonel John E. Holtl*



## THE CREATION

Genesis

Like the Beatitudes and the St. Cecilia windows, these designs were conceived to admit the maximum amount of light through the extensive use of “silvery white quarries”.

The 4 lancets, or sets of vertical twos, were described by Wilbur Herbert Burnham, Designers and Craftsmen in Stained Glass in this manner:

The left lancet depicts the beginnings of the creation by representing a symbolic figure of God the Father and his creation of light or day and darkness or night.

Lancet No. 2 shows the dry land, earth, and the gathering of the waters called the seas.

Lancet No. 3 symbolizes the creation of birds and fowls of the air, great whales and living creatures that inhabit the waters.

Lancet No. 4 depicts living creatures of the earth and, finally, the creation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

Symbols in the tracery, flanked by adoring angels: Alpha and Omega (Advent), Six-pointed Star of the East (Christmas), Three crowns (Epiphany), Chalice (Lent), Crown of Thorns (Easter), Rising sun (Ascension), Holy Spirit (Whitsunday), Triangle (Trinity).

WILBUR HERBERT BURNHAM  
*Designers and Craftsmen in Stained Glass*  
 1126 BOYLSTON STREET  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02215

*H O Duggan*

May 4, 1965

AREA CODE 617  
 536-7298

WILBUR HERBERT BURNHAM  
 WILBUR H. BURNHAM, JR.

*Cornick.  
 9 Harcourt St.  
 Boston.*

The Rev. David M. Flanders  
 Church of the Holy Nativity  
 South Weymouth, Massachusetts

Reverend and dear Sir:

Since our pleasant meeting with you at the Church of the Holy Nativity the other day, we have been giving much thought to the large front window in which you are interested in developing a symbolic representation of The Creation. The subject is a most appealing one and represents a wonderful opportunity to design a series of subjects covering the seven days of the creation. I can visualize a distinctive and beautiful design which would not only be scintillating in color but would have great teaching value.

To make this window in full color would be a mistake, for it would darken the church materially. Rather, I would have the subjects in full rich color superimposed against a light background to admit the maximum amount of light into the church. This combination would eliminate any possibility of darkening the church.

To design, make, and install this window and to artistically and mechanically, the price would

May I suggest that it would be advisable to have builder look at the present sash to determine its condition to contain stained glass. Otherwise, our studio, I am sure it would be most helpful many different types of windows that we have done you a drawing of the new sash in the event the

Should we be entrusted with this important work do our best to make this a window which would be one of which we can all be proud.

Very sincerely,  
*Wilbur H. Burnham, Jr.*

WHB:ESH

Wilbur H.



WILBUR HERBERT BURNHAM  
*Designers and Craftsmen in Stained Glass*  
 1126 BOYLSTON STREET  
 BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02215

WILBUR HERBERT BURNHAM  
 WILBUR H. BURNHAM, JR.

AREA CODE 617  
 536-7298

November 1, 1965

The Rev. David M. Flanders  
 Church of the Holy Nativity  
 8 Nevin Road  
 South Weymouth, Massachusetts 02190

Reverend and dear Sir:

Under separate cover I am sending you my design for the Creation Window which I hope will meet with approval. In our opinion, the design will not only add great beauty to the church but will be distinctive and meaningful in its conception.

The left lancet depicts the beginnings of the creation by representing a symbolic figure of God the Father and his creation of light or day and darkness or night.

Lancet No. 2 shows the dry land, earth, and the gathering of the waters called the seas.

Lancet No. 3 symbolizes the creation of birds and fowls of the air, great whales and living creatures that inhabit the waters.

Lancet No. 4 depicts living creatures of the earth and, finally, the creation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden.

In the tracery, adoring angels and eight symbols of the church seasons are shown:

- |                              |                                 |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Advent - alpha and omega     | Easter - Crown of thorns        |
| Christmas - Star of the East | Ascension - rising sun          |
| Epiphany - 3 crowns          | Whitsunday - Holy Spirit        |
| Lent - chalice or host       | Trinity - symbol of the Trinity |

The overall pattern of the design is conceived to admit the maximum amount of light through the use of silvery white quarries, and with all subjects and symbols in rich primary and secondary colors to enrich the beauty of the window.

Very sincerely yours,

*Wilbur H. Burnham, Jr.*  
 WILBUR HERBERT BURNHAM

WHB:ESH





THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY NATIVITY  
SOUTH WEYMOUTH, MASS.



October 25, 1963

Mr. Carroll Whittemore  
16 Ashburton Place  
Boston 8, Massachusetts

Dear Mr. Whittemore:

I am returning the sketch of David for the window. Two things about it — firstly, in the two panels, the one of Moses and the one of Noah, the figures are both in a standing position and I would prefer to have King David in the same position; secondly, Moses and Noah are both powerful figures as is David and to have a harp in the picture is a somewhat less than accurate portrayal of the mightiest king that Israel ever had. There should be strength and power. As soon as this is completed we will be ready to sign the contracts on both the David and Noah windows.

I would also like to inquire as to how the sketches are coming for the Creation Window for the eight panels in the rear of the Church. We have several people who would like to give memorials and we are anxious to get going on these. I would appreciate hearing from you.

Sincerely,

David M. Flanders

DMP:ebw



IN LOVING MEMORY OF JAMES F. HUDSON



IN LOVING MEMORY OF JAMES G. LESLIE 1884-1935

# WHITEMORE ASSOCIATES, INC.

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Paraments  
MISS ELIZABETH H. LAW  
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*Carroll E. Whittemore* PRESIDENT

16 ASHBURTON PLACE, BOSTON 8, MASS.

Telephone CApitol 7-2150

February 17, 1964

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PRESTON W. SWEETSER

The Rev. David M. Flanders  
8 Nevin Road  
South Weymouth 90, Mass.

Dear Mr. Flanders:

First, may I acknowledge the receipt of the two contracts covering the two windows KING DAVID and NOAH AND THE ARK. Joe Serpentino, our Chief Glazier, came back with your approval as far as colors are concerned, so there will be no question about their matching up properly with the existing windows.

We have also received a payment of \$150.00 down on each of these two windows, and in addition \$65.01 which we understand is to be credited to the NOAH AND THE ARK window.

The special details as to the Baseball and the initials of the boy will be carried through on the NOAH AND THE ARK window.

Thank you very much for giving us the opportunity of making these two windows for you.

Sincerely,

*Carroll E. Whittemore*  
by *ew*

CEW/lvd



IN LOVING MEMORY OF WILLIAM J. MURPHY





