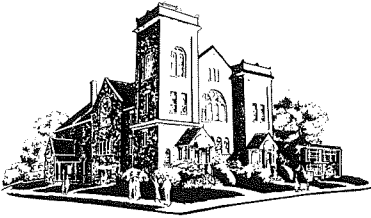


# Calvary United Church



290 Ridout Street South  
London, Ontario N6C 3Z1

Church: 434-5526  
434-5332

Ministers: The Rev. Frank J. Van Veen, M.A., M.Div., Th.M.  
The Rev. David Irvine, B.D., Minister of Visitation  
Mrs. Wendy Coad, Staff Associate, C.E.

Director of Music:  
Mr. Michael H. Farrow, B.A., A.Mus., A.R.C.T.

SERMON PREACHED ON APRIL 30th. 1995, by the REV. DAVID IRVINE, B.D.,  
On the occasion of the DEDICATION OF THE HUTCHINSON STAINED GLASS WINDOW.

Sermon Topic..... " WINDOWS "

Scripture Lesson.... The Acts of the Apostles...ch. 20, verses 1-12.

\* \* \* \* \*

As I was thinking of this special day at Calvary, I began to trace the references to Window and Windows in the Biblical Concordance....from the time of Noah, when he opened the window of the Ark and sent forth the raven, to Daniel, who had his windows open towards Jerusalem, saying his prayers to God in defiance of the edict of King Darius that all people should worship only the King...to St. Paul being let down in a basket through a window in the city wall of Damascus to escape from his enemies. But perhaps the most interesting words were those of the Captain of Israel's army, spoken to the prophet Elisha...."If the Lord Himself should make WINDOWS IN HEAVEN, how could this thing be ?" WINDOWS IN HEAVEN !! Elisha had said that there would be food on the morrow instead of famine, but the Captain found that hard to believe, unless the Lord Himself should make Windows in Heaven!! WINDOWS IN HEAVEN !!

I imagine that many people passing our Church this week and seeing the Sermon Title..?"WINDOWS".."might have wondered if we were going to have a Computer Lesson in Windows this morning ! As many of you know,"WINDOWS" is a very popular computer programme whereby you can imagine the Monitor Screen as the top of your desk, and you can have Information in one window, Statistics in another, Correspondence in another, etc.,etc., just like the different piles of papers on the top of your desk.....Thus endeth the First Lesson on Computer Windows !!

I was thinking more about the window in the room where St.Paul was teaching, and/or Preaching...and he talked and talked and prolonged his speech until midnight ! Windows in the Middle East were wide open. There was no such thing as a glass window, but windows could be closed with shutters or a door, but otherwise they were quite open.

There were many lights in the upper chamber...the room was hot...and young EUTYCHUS was sitting in the window. He sank into a deep sleep as Paul talked still longer....and being overcome with sleep he fell out of the window from the third story into the courtyard below. St. Paul went down to the young man and found that he was alive and not dead, as was supposed, so Paul went back up to the room and broke bread, and when he had eaten, he went on speaking until daybreak ! That must have been quite a sermon !

It reminds me again of that famous theological saying "that most of us can use a good sermon occasionally... for we either rise from it strengthened or awake from it refreshed." If a young man could fall asleep while St. Paul was speaking, why should I be surprised if the same thing should happen to me while I am speaking ?

Arnold Edinburgh wrote of the Window in Christ Church Anglican in Meaford, Ontario. The Rev. Harold Appleyard, the rector, went as a chaplain during World War 2, and wandering amongst the BOMBED OUT RUINS of Churches and Cathedrals in Southern England, he collected pieces of Stained Glass, and when he returned to Meaford they were skilfully pieced together and then dedicated as a Memorial Window , on Sunday, August 11th. 1946, There are pieces from Canterbury Cathedral, St. Paul's Cathedral, Exeter and Chichester Cathedrals and many other churches. There are pieces from France, Belgium and Holland. A beautiful Memorial Window to those who did not return from World War 2, and a tribute to the indomitable human spirit inspired by FAITH which believes in the ultimate triumph of Good over Evil.. which believes in the Resurrection and the Life.

Whenever I show friends and visitors from England into our sanctuary here at Calvary, they almost always proclaim..!"What a beautiful sanctuary and what beautiful stained glass windows".! I wonder what they would say this morning ? Think of the beautiful Window we have been given this morning !! " THE FOUR SEASONS " ...the Seasons of the Christian Faith !!

In the days of old when the PERSON...or the PARSON.... was one of the few who could read and write..... the Stained Glass Windows in the Church portrayed the Christian Faith in pictures for all those who could not read and write. Today, the windows still proclaim the Christian Faith. The Rev. Elliston Bridger was on the point of leaving Calvary and the Rev. Frank Van Veen had not yet arrived, so it was my privilege to meet with

Mrs. Florence Hutchinson, the Window Committee, Mr. Bill Mercer of Edwards Glass over the past couple of years and plan the details of the Window.. This window will always be very special to me for Mrs. Hutchinson and the Committee very kindly accepted my suggestions for the various panels of the Window...that they should portray the Four Seasons or Scenes of the Christian Faith.

The first panel of the window begins with the NATIVITY SCENE and portrays the humble birth of Jesus in the Cave/Stable...declaring our faith in the human Jesus, born of Mary in Bethlehem, and reminding us of the words of St. John 1:14....."The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."

The second panel of the window reminds us of the Empty Tomb and the glory of THE RESURRECTION following the Crucifixion...declaring our faith in Him who is the Resurrection and the Life and who offers us Life Eternal.

The third panel tells us of the ASCENSION OF JESUS...declaring that He who came from the Father returned to the Father and is now the RISEN ASCENDED LORD.

The fourth panel celebrates the GIFT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT at the season of PENTECOST. This was in fulfilment of the promise of Jesus that He would send the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and they would receive POWER from on High to witness for their Lord to the ends of the earth.

Thus this beautiful window portrays for us the FOUR SEASONS of the Christian Faith...the Four Basics of our Faith...the four Pillars of our Faith... the Four WINDOWS of our Faith and the very FOUNDATION of our Faith. It not only beautifies our Sanctuary...it proclaims GODSPELL... GOD'S STORY... How God "so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have eternal life: (St.John 3:16). Here is the Gospel...here is Good News ....Here is the Truth.... That God so loved YOU....and that life is not meant to be OKLAHOMA...or RWANDA.... Life is meant to be the worship of God who loves us and the service of our fellow human beings.

So, when the Church is hot....and the sermon is long...Do not fall asleep... Do not fall out of the window, metaphorically speaking....but gaze on this beautiful WINDOW and marvel what God has done for you in the BIRTH of our LORD...in the Death and Resurrection of our Lord...in His return to Heaven at the right hand of Power....and in the gift of His PRESENCE WITH US ALWAYS through the Holy Spirit...and let the love of God possess your heart and soul, and to Him be GLORY NOW AND EVERMORE.