

CHARLES J. CONNICK : DESIGNER AND WORKER IN STAINED AND
LEADED GLASS : NINE HARCOURT STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS

City or Town Passaic, State N.J. No. 2586
Date of May 13, 1945. Mothers' Completion Day.
Church First Presbyterian Church.
Donor and Address.....
Architect Harry Leslie Walker, Bronxville. Quality of \$6,000.00
Glass (\$66.30 per foot).
Denomination Presbyterian.
and Minister Rev. George Harold Talbott, D.D.
Footage 86' sight Sizes, full
Ventilators Set by
Position in Church Great East Balcony Window.
Height from floor 18 feet. Protec- Groove Stone
tion Glass Rabbet Wood
Points of compass
Quality of light East.
Inscription No memorial text. (10/30/44)
.....
Design wanted in October. Staging
Shipping address Blue-prints Received
.....
Bill to Templets
Photos of Cartoons Mailed
General Information NOTE: Mr. Connick has agreed to lighten the heavy chapel windows when our men are down there to set the glass. They are very heavily painted and need more clarity. (See note of July 27, 1944).
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To be a Woman's Window.
For Motherhood - Saint Elizabeth with the Child, and Blessed Virgin with Christ Child.
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For addresses of those to be notified as window progresses, see other side.

represents the Crown of Thorns enclosing the nails of the Crucifixion. Again the stars and crosses are introduced.

Passaic - Dr. Talbott's letter of October 26, 1944

Suggested changes in Woman's Window

"just a few questions about iconography that appear in my mind:

First - symbols for the Trinity at the top. As you know, we have two four leaf openings, and a smaller one between the two. One of the four leaf openings is to represent the father, one the son, and the small one the Holy Spirit. Being a strict Trinitarian, do you feel there is any incongruity in having a smaller design for the Holy Ghost than we have for the father and son? I am not raising this in any critical sense. There may be structural and artistic reasons sufficient to set my criticism at naught. I notice the opening in the window for the symbol of the Holy Ghost. It is indeed very small compared to the other two....

Second - Dr. Erdman and Dr. Butz and I, from a strict Biblical point of view, feel that if we had Hannah with the baby Samuel in her arms, where you now have Elizabeth and the baby, John the Baptist, and put Elizabeth over in the New Testament side where you now have the Virgin Mary as a young girl, it would be more exact according to Scripture. I know your great affinity for John the Baptist and Elizabeth but strictly speaking the story of Elizabeth and John the Baptist occurs in the New Testament and is generally thought of as a New Testament story although I am of course aware that John is considered the last prophet of the old dispensation.

Hannah was a wonderful mother who presented the baby Samuel to Eli the priest, and I suppose more Mother's Day sermons are preached around Hannah bringing the young Samuel to the Tabernacle than any single theme, and Samuel was the first of the Old Testament prophets. Moses is sometimes called the first prophet and the scripture says, referring to Christ, "that the Lord should raise up a prophet like unto Moses" but strictly speaking, Samuel was ~~the~~ one who devoted all his life to the prophetic office. There are many Old Testament scholars of high authority who consider that Samuel was the first of the regular Old Testament prophets.

Third - This then leaves Mary holding the baby Jesus opposite to Hannah holding Samuel and does away with the necessity of having two medallions of Mary the Virgin, which is rather hard to explain. In the bottom medallion, as I make it out, you have a family grouping of Zacharias and Elizabeth presenting John the Baptist at the temple, so that would appear to take care of that family group.

Fourth - Again, do you feel that you want a Scriptural text in the window and also a line stating that it was given by women in memory of women or something to that effect?

You know we did not put two full medallions of Christ in the window because it would appear unbalanced so would not the same apply to two Marys the Virgin.

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Oct.16,1944. With sketch, wrote Dr. Talbott: "I have taken the text from the 31st chapter of Proverbs, "A Woman that Revereth the Lord, she shall be Praised" (Prov.31:30 (Goodspeed's translation). On a tracing paper cover I am identifying the principal characters and symbols of the design.

January 13, 1945.

Dr. George H. Talbott,
First Presbyterian Church,
Passaic, New Jersey.

Dear Dr. Talbott:

We are now beginning the cartoons for the Woman's Window, and I am making a final review of the design itself so that I may be sure of your suggestions being carried out.

For example, in the tops of the two center lancets, now Hannah represents the Old Testament Mother with the Boy Samuel in her arms (left); and in place of Hannah in the lower group of women with Esther and Miriam, I should like to place the Egyptian Princess who mothered the young Moses. She is known under different names - perhaps the most familiar is Princess Thermuthis.

The Blessed Virgin, with the Child, has the right center lancet; and Saint Elizabeth with the child Saint John, balances the young Eve with the child Abel in her arms.

I have now decided that I would like to have small figures of attendant angels on either side of each of these mothers. They would be so small as to take their place as beautiful units to suggest quietly the blessedness of motherhood, and they are quite within the great traditions of Christian Art.

I had intended to have the bases of the two center lancets given to the two births - that of Saint John the Baptist and of Christ. Now I think a better plan would be to have those two bases, - the one on the left given to the Presentation of the Boy Samuel with the High Priest Eli; and the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple.

If this is done, the four bases will be developed as follows:

The first, on the left, "When Adam Delved and Eve Span;" second, on the right, with "The Boy Christ in the Carpenter Shop"; the left center, "The Presentation of Samuel"; and the right center, "The Presentation of Christ".

Please consider these as soon as you can

conveniently and let me know so that the cartoons may not be delayed.

Also please consider that when we have them carried a little further we should very much like to have you and others interested come and see them. They promise to turn out beautifully; although in their black and white they will give but little idea of the glorious window you are going to have.

So remind me to show you some examples of the actual glass I have in mind.

With all cordial greetings to you and all my friends there,

As ever yours,

CJC/rmh.

*Proceed accordingly
for this letter
See telegram 1/2/45*

P.S. . The right hand base medallion, in which I am now planning to use the Boy Christ in the Carpenter Shop with the Blessed Virgin and Saint Joseph, might also be used - if you prefer - to show the Boy Christ and the older boy, Saint John the Baptist, with the two mothers, Saint Elizabeth and the Blessed Virgin. I still have a slight preference for the Carpenter Shop as a balance for the two workers in the left base medallion, Adam and Eve, with the two boys in the background.