

Buyers Guide to Stained Glass for Presbyterian Churches



This guide is intended to aid Presbyterian congregations and selection committees in their quest to find proper stained glass options for their churches and facilities. In order to blend the strong Christian tenets of faith of the Presbyterian Church while reflecting the personality of each specific congregation, Stained Glass, Inc. professionals have included helpful information and tips for finding exactly what you need for your Presbyterian church facility.

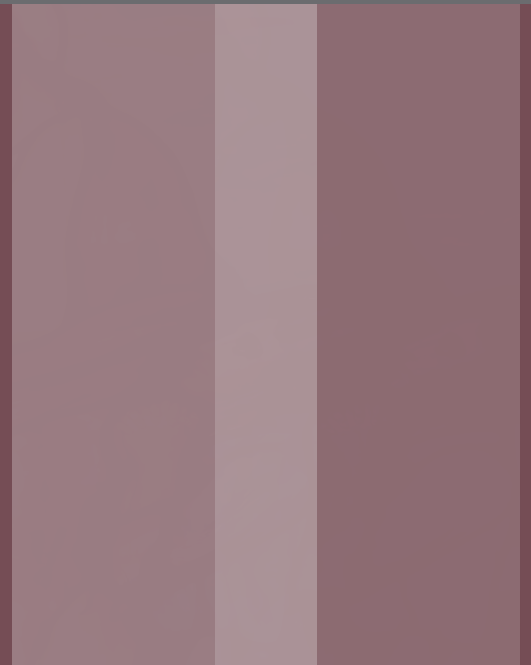
“Presbyterians affirm that God comes to us with grace and love in the person of Jesus Christ, who lived, died, and rose for us so that we might have eternal and abundant life in Him. As Christ’s disciples, called to ministry in His name, we seek to continue His mission of teaching the truth, feeding the hungry, healing the broken and welcoming strangers. God sends the Holy Spirit to dwell within us, giving us the energy, intelligence, imagination, and love to be Christ’s faithful disciples in the world...”

Website of the Presbyterian Church USA, www.pcusa.org/tries/

A Brief Guide to Stained Glass for Presbyterian Churches

Introduction to Presbyterian Stained Glass

Presbyterian churches across the world are home to some of the oldest and most beautiful stained glass art in existence. These pieces reflect the strong foundation of the church, rooted in the Protestant tenets of the Reformation and the teachings of John Calvin, dating back to the sixteenth century. Presbyterians are distinctive in that they hold fast to reformed theological concepts and they stress the active leadership of not only clergy, but both ministers and church members in their churches. Stained glass windows and art are rooted in Presbyterian doctrine, used early on as a teaching tool and adding inspiration and beauty in churches to this day.



Why Stained Glass in a Presbyterian Church?

Stained glass for church windows had its origins in the fourth and fifth centuries, and was used to educate a largely illiterate number of Christians, using color, light and design to illustrate teachings from the Bible. In later years, this “poor man’s Bible” became a staple in church décor, and set houses of worship apart from other architecture. In the Presbyterian Church, stained glass designs are a perfect reflection of the church’s tenets, feeding a congregation of those who are hungry for God’s teachings, healing the broken who are inspired and uplifted by the beauty of stained glass art and welcoming strangers who visit Presbyterian sanctuaries.

Styles and Design Featured in Presbyterian Stained Glass

Some of the most beautiful works of stained glass art, created by the great Louis Comfort Tiffany, are windows in Presbyterian Churches across the country. Perhaps most famous are the classic examples like the magnificent “The Angel of the Resurrection,” in First Presbyterian Church in Indianapolis, created in 1905, or the exquisite windows of First Presbyterian Church of Albany, New York. Tiffany style windows traditionally feature realistic, natural imagery and blends of color that highlight the portrait by catching and reflecting light in a wondrous work of art. At Stained Glass, Inc. in Greenville, Texas, Tiffany style windows are favorites in an extensive gallery of stained glass creations.

Presbyterian Stained Glass that Meets Your Church Needs

In Presbyterian churches, stained glass is used in varied ways, as windows, of course, but also as lovely and decorative door inserts, sidelights and transoms that combine holy depictions with magnificent color and light. The first Presbytery in the United States was established in Philadelphia in 1706, and many Presbyterian Churches represent important historical architecture in communities throughout the nation. For this reason, it is often important to congregations to protect the integrity of their church buildings with stained glass designs that reflect tradition and longstanding values. Collections of stained glass art such as events in the life of Christ, classic renderings of stories of the Bible and vintage designs are often found in churches from the last two centuries. On the other hand, contemporary Presbyterian church congregations may desire more modern designs that feature classic Christian symbolism, such as the Cross, palm branches to symbolize perseverance under threat of death, and the commonly used Christogram “HIS” centering fascinating stained glass design work.

“Art has long been part of worship, from stained glass windows, which preachers used centuries ago to teach the Bible to semi-literate worshipers, to Jesus Himself, who used a child as a visual prop when instructing His disciples how they needed to behave if they expected to enter heaven. ‘Consider the lilies’ may well have been delivered while Jesus and His disciples were walking alongside a field in full bloom. Suppose...you could have a different stained glass window every Sunday.”

– Rev. Howard Chapman, a Presbyterian pastor quoted in A Picture's Worth a Thousand Words, by Mike Chapman, November 2, 2012, Presbyterian News Service

Honoring Donors and Memorial Stained Glass



Louis C. Tiffany Angel – A lovely angel gazing heavenward and resting in a field of perfectly detailed blooms and foliage reflects color and light, inspiring worshipers and touching the heart. This piece has a complementary panel which, commissioned together, is titled “Two Angels Tiffany” and pairs “Louis C. Tiffany Angel” with another angel on bended knee, arm raised in praise.

Presbyterians take pride in the fact that their church policy and ministry is set by clergy and congregants together, and recognizing members of their flock who have passed away or donors who have given generously to beautify worship with gifts of stained glass is important to them. At Stained Glass, Inc., master artists custom design each commissioned work of stained glass art according to client specifications, for color, size, shape and to include names for memorials or donor recognition by embedding that text within the breathtaking design. This enduring honor ensures that generations to come will share in the generous heritage of this long-standing faith.

Tiffany Stained Glass Designs

The extensive gallery of Stained Glass, Inc. includes many reproductions of Louis Comfort Tiffany stained glass artwork, and artisans in the studios often are commissioned to create Tiffany styled original stained glass art, based on client requests, for Presbyterian Churches. Here are several religious Tiffany samples from the gallery:

White Lilies – A classic Christian symbol of purity and piety, these lilies are depicted in two meticulously crafted panels, featuring intense, deep and varied shades of green and blue to offset the white of the blossoms.





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In addition, there are many Tiffany styled reproductions that feature his enthralling landscapes, harmonious nature scenes and stunning depictions of delicate florals. These pieces are perfect for creating peaceful, calming accents for areas of prayerful worship and contemplation.

Life Events of Jesus Collection



Stained glass creations that portray Jesus' miracles, parables and life events are important centerpieces in the décor of Presbyterian churches new and old, and Stained Glass, Inc.'s online gallery features a wide array of styles in design, color, shape and size that dazzle the eye and inspire the souls of everyone who experiences them. Reflecting thousands of sparkling shades of light through color are windows that tell the stories of the birth and baptism of the Lord, His teachings and travels, the miracles of Jesus and the crucifixion, resurrection and ascension, plus many more sacred events. Old and New Testament teachings are rendered with the highest quality in color, artistry and meticulous design, inspiring and teaching the faithful.



How to Choose the Right Stained Glass for Your Presbyterian Church

For expert advice and input about making the right stained glass choices for your Presbyterian church, professionals at Stained Glass, Inc. are available by visiting our website. Stained Glass, Inc. windows and artwork are designed for unmatched beauty as well as superior quality, to enhance and refine every area of church, chapel or prayer room. Stained Glass, Inc. designs are versatile and easily installed, making it simple to change designs to correlate with holidays, special occasions or holy events. Imagine the ability to change the windows in your church's entry or sanctuary to depict the holy scenes from the Nativity at Christmas time, or the Resurrection at Easter, or to honor special church celebrations and sacred Bible stories. At Stained Glass, Inc., the magnificent designs are made to fit and are installed behind existing glass windows in just minutes. In order to ensure that your stained glass is right for your church, it's important to discuss your needs and specifications with the experts at Stained Glass, Inc.



Why Stained Glass Inc. For Your Presbyterian Church Needs?

Stained Glass, Inc. art is exemplary, offering:

- Artisans in the studios of Stained Glass, Inc. are masters in old world technique and cutting edge technology, ensuring top quality and flawless beauty every time
- Stained glass that is 200 times stronger than ordinary glass
- Easy to install panels that fit behind existing glass windows, versatile for changing to fit any occasion or religious observation
- Heat fused mineral pigments for intense, deep color that is reflected by shifting shades of light throughout the day
- Cost effective, energy efficient and environmentally friendly stained glass
- Custom designs for size, shape and color based on client preference