Christ Church Cathedral Episcopal Church

2929 St. Charles Avenue

Christ Church became the first nonRoman Catholic congregation in the Louisiana Purchase when it was founded in 1805, but it had no church building until 1816. Located on the river side of the corner of Canal and Bourbon streets, the octagonal first church was designed by Henry Boneval Latrobe, son of the famed Benjamin Henry Latrobe. A second church, on the same site, was designed to resemble a Greek temple by the famed New Orleans architects James Dakin and James Gallier, Sr., and was consecrated in 1837. Around 1847 the church authorized the construction of a Gothic church at Canal and Dauphine streets, and Judah Touro bought the 1837 structure as a synagogue.

The church faced fiscal challenges during the Civil War and Reconstruction, but the rapid growth of the city and the decline in the downtown as a residential area led to the 1886 move from Canal Street to this Gothic-style building. Within five years, the church was designated the cathedral of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana. The present configuration is the result of a large expansion in the 1960s.

Over 75 windows adorn the church and chapel. Most were executed by the Willet Studios in Philadelphia and were installed between 1950 and 1970. The oldest window is the center window in the north (left) transept. Dedicated in 1873, it came from the third building and features the Good Shepherd, flanked by St. Peter and St. John. Alphonse Friedrick & Brother, a Brooklyn studio, designed and created the triptych. Several older windows include bulls eye elements and glass rondels, characteristics of American glass at the end of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century. Crosses with equal arms, plus trilobate figures, decorate transom windows.

The chapel, an intimate worship space designed by the firm of Sully and Toledano, was added in 1889. Alterations to the interior of the chapel in 1940, coordinated by architect Richard Koch, include appointments by well-known New Orleans artists such as sculptor Enrique Alférez, who carved the reredos and the credence table. The cabinetwork is by the Boverman Brothers studio, and W. W. Boyham of Boston executed the tempura-on-wood painting in the triptych reredos. The Bishops Garden contains a sculpture by New Orleanian Angela Gregory.

**Windows of Christ Church Cathedral**

(Numbers refer to the diagram in a separate document.)

**Chapel**

1. Ascension. Like the Pentecost window facing it, gold sculpted low relief in front of art glass.

2. Resurrection. Willet, 1960.

3. Crucifixion. Willet, 1960.

4. Trial before Pontius Pilate. Willet, 1969.

5. Last Supper. Willet, 1970.

6. Jesus in the carpenter shop. Willet, 1965.

7. Presentation in the temple. Willet, 1966.

8. Annunciation, Reigning Child Jesus, Visit with Elizabeth. Willet, 1963.

9. Flight into Egypt. Willet, 1965.

10. Marriage in Cana. Willet, 1969

11. Calling the disciples. Willet, 1970

12. Pentecost. Willet, 1960.

**Cathedral, Ground Level**

13. Three lancet windows; oldest in the cathedral. From the 1837 church. Central figures: St. Peter, Christ as the Good Shepherd, St. John.

14. Feeding the multitude. Willet, 1966.

15.Christ walking on the waters. Willet, 1963.

16. The Prodigal Son. Burnham, 1950s.

17. Sermon on the Mount. Willet, 1957.

18. Calling the disciples. Burnham of Boston, 1954.

19. Baptism of Christ. Burnham, 1954.

20. Nativity, Burnham, 1953.

21. Filler glass over door.

22. Child Jesus in the temple. Burnham, 1954.

23. Christ and the liittle children. Willet, 1963.

24. Triumphal entry. Willet, 1961.

25. Healing at Capernaum. Willet, 1959.

26. Woman at the well. Willet, 1968.

27. Gethsemane. Howard, 1951.

28. Peace be unto you. Willet, 1970.

29. Resurrection window. Three lancets. Maker and date unknown.

30. Transfiguration. Len R. Howard, Kent, Connecticut, 1950.

**Cathedral, Clerestory**

31. Seven flower windows above the altar. Possibly date to the construction of this church. Maker unknown.

32-37. Leaders of the Episcopal church. Left to right:

32. Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury. Willet, 1981.

33. Hugh Latimer, bishop. Willet, 1981.

34. Samuel Seabury, first bishop of the Episcopal Church in America. Willet, 1981.

35. Philander Chase, bishop, missionary to Ohio and Illinois, founding rector of Christ Church Cathedral.

36. Thomas Church Brownell, bishop, founder of Trinity College.

37. Francis Lister Hawks, priest, first president of the University of Louisiana (now Tulane University)

38. Archangel Michael. Howard Studio, 1951.

39. Archangel Raphael. Howard, 1951

40. Archangel Uriel. Howard, 1951..

41. Archangel Gabriel. Howard, 1951.

42. St. Joseph of Arimathea. Willet, 1961.

43. St. Alban. Willet, 1966.

44. St. Columba, Abbot of Iona. Willet, 1967.

45. St. Augustine, first Archbishop of Canterbury. Willet, 1961.

46. St. Dunstan, Archbishop of Canterbury. Willet, 1966.

47. St. Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury. Willet, 1968.

48. St. Cornelius, The Centurian. Willet, 1974.

49. St. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna. Willet 1973.

50. St. Martin of Tours. Willet, 1970.

51. St. John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople. Willet, 1970.

52. St. Clare of Assisi, founder of Poor Clare order. Willet, 1971.

53. St. Francis of Assisi, founder of Franciscan order. Willet, 1963.

54. St. Philip. Willet, 1959.\

55. St. Bartholomew. Willet, 1967.

56. St. James the Less. Willet, 1967.

57. St. Jude. Willet 1972.

58. St. Simon. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

59. St. Matthias. Willet, 1971.

60. (Over door to Bell Tower) Julian of Norwich, 1987. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

61. St. Mary. Willet, 1957.

62. St. Paul. Willet, 1957.

63. St. Peter. Payne Studio, Paterson, New Jersey, 1959.

64. St. Andrew. Payne, 1958.

65. St. Thomas. Payne, 1960.

66. St. Matthew. Payne, 1960.

67. St. James. Payne, 1958.

68. St. John. Payne, 1958.

**Bell Tower Windows**

69. Christ stilling the tempest. Willet, 1973.

70. (Over door to 6th St) Three seals of the Anglican church. Willet, 1969.

71. Oer waters of death walks life eternal. Frei, St. Louis, 1948.

72. Flowers

73. Filler glass

**The Organs of Christ Church Cathedral**

It is likely that Christ Church Cathedral is the second congregation in the city to use an organ.

The following is a time line of its organ history:

1820: First organ, containing three manuals and probably by W. Goodrich, was installed. Correspondence indicates that an organ was delivered to New Orleans that year, and it is assumed that this organ was designated for Christ Church.

1837: A three-manual, 18-rank organ by Henry Erben of New York was installed in the second Christ Church. It was later used in Ss. Peter and Paul Church, in the Bywater area.

1847: George Jardine of New York supplied an organ for the third building. In 1860 Jardine enlarged the instrument.

1887: Jardine again rebuilt and enlarged the organ for the present building.

1890: Jardine built a swell organ for the new chapel.

1922: A new three-manual organ was constructed by the P. Möller Company, incorporating 866 pipes from the Jardine predecessor. This was enlarged in 1982 and 19831986.

1994: Goulding & Wood built a new 94-rank organ using slider wind chests while retaining some of the earlier pipes, including some from the 1847 Jardine.

This is the largest organ in the region, providing broad tonal resources for the most demanding concert literature.

*Visited*

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