Christ Episcopal Church

912 South Beach Boulevard

Bay Saint Louis (Clermont Harbor), Mississippi

The destructive power of Hurricane Camille is responsible for the Christ Episcopal Church that our group toured in 2000. Once the storm abated, all that remained of the 1890 wooden frame building were part of the back wall, the front steps, and the sign announcing the times of services. (An 1860 church had been destroyed during the Civil War, and the parish dispersed for almost three decades.)

A new building, designed by William Argus of J. Buchanan Blitch Architects, New Orleans, was located next to the rectors and curates homes, which had survived the storm. Completed and dedicated almost twenty months to the day after Camille, it nestled under huge oak trees and looked out onto the Gulf of Mexico.

A freestanding bell tower and the steep-roofed building invited the faithful into a worship space of white walls, dark furnishings, and 14 brilliant slab glass windows made by the Lukhauf Studios of Memphis, Tennessee. Vivid colors and familiar Christian symbols representing events in the life of the church surrounded the worshiper and provided a feeling of continuity with the Christian tradition. A large window encompassing the rose window took the form of a Celtic cross and, reflecting its location along the Gulf, included the image of a pelican.

**Windows of Christ Episcopal Church**

Cathedral Window

altar

Mission of the Church Prophecy

Trinity Advent

Whitsunday (Pentecost) Christmas

Ascension Epiphany

Resurrection Ash Wednesday

Maundy Thursday

Good Friday

Easter

Anchor

*Toured September 2000*

*Epilogue: In August 2005, Christ Episcopal Church was again leveled by a hurricane, this time the infamous Katrina. Only the bell tower remained standing. The congregation again rallied, and a new Christ Episcopal Church now stands on South Beach Boulevard.*

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