St. George Episcopal Church

4600 St. Charles Avenue

St. George Episcopal Church was formed when St. Marks and Emmanuel churches merged in 1874.The new congregation worshiped first in the frame structure that had housed St. Marks, and the cornerstone for the present church was laid in 1899. Southran R. Duval was the architect and Julius Koch the builder. Its architecture combines Norman Romanesque (as seen in the cruciform layout) and English Tudor (with its exposed wood beams). The original bell tower was removed by a hurricane in the 1950s, and the hammer-beam wooden arch roof is currently reinforced by tie rods to counteract ground subsidence.

Deep-colored wood abounds in the sanctuary and contrasts handsomely with the brightness of the stained glass windows. The imposing altar repeats the arch forms of the windows, and the altar mosaic was imported from Italy in the early 1900s. Around the year 2000 the plaster of paris molding was restored, and Mrs. Elizabeth Luke, a parishioner, repainted the gold leaf decorations and recreated parts of the arches.

The most elaborate windows are located in the short transepts. The dominant St. George window, facing St. Charles Avenue, may be unfinished, as a preliminary watercolor sketch indicates that two lancets were to be added. Some church historians speculate that the St. George section predates this building. All other windows were installed between 1900 and 1968, when the clerestory windows were added. Records from the Franz Mayer Studio of Munich indicate that this church ordered windows in five different years, although the studio signature appears only in the Wedding at Cana scene. Several other windows are typical of the early art nouveau style of Tiffany and LaFarge, incorporating opalescent glass and pronounced draping. Stained glass studios whose work is seen here include Willet of Philadelphia and (before 1953) Heaton, Butler and Bayne of Covent Garden, London.

In a repeat of history, one building of St. George Episcopal School, founded in 1969, is located on the site of the original Emmanuel Church. That is the building at the corner of General Pershing and Magazine streets.

The organ at St. Georges Church is relatively new, dating to 1968. Like its predecessor, it was built by the M. P. Möller Company of Hagerstown, Maryland. It contains 26 ranks of pipes in its pedal and three manual divisions; the mechanism is Möllers version of an electro-pneumatic action.

.*Visited*

*March 25, 1990*

*February 28, 1999*

*September 28, 2008*

*The Covid-19 epidemic of 2020 precluded a visit to the church to confirm the window identifications.*

**Windows**

Sanctuary

Annunciation Last Supper Resurrection

Nativity Ascension

Transepts

Angel (transom) Angel (transom)

Good Shepherd Resurrection

Feeding the Hungry and Clothing the Naked Faithful unto Death

Harpist (St. Cecilia?) Jesus Knocking at the Door

St. Paul Preaching at Athens

Nave

Pentecost Presentation of Jesus

Wedding at Cana (Mayer) Baptism of Jesus

St. Paul (over entrance from stairs) Sermon on the Mount

Clerestory

St. James Major St. Bartholomew

St. James Minor St. Jude

St. Andrew St. Thomas

St. Simon St. Peter

St. Philip St. John

St. Matthias St. Mark

St. Luke St. Matthew

Narthex

The Evangelists: Matthew, Mark, Luke, John

Back wall

Healing the Paralytic Crucifixion

St. George and the Dragon

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