Figures on the Screen

In the center of the chancel screen is an 11 foot tall figure of **Christ** outlined in metal. An intertwining vine symbolizes the branching of the church and the far reaching effect of Christ's ministry on earth. The vine leads your eye to the New Testament disciples whose ministries bore fruit. These disciples are symbolized by the colored glass discs.

To Christ's immediate right is **John**. John holds a cup to remind us of the passage in Luke 20 when John and James ask Jesus for a favored position in heaven. Jesus responds by asking "Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"

Holding the key, to the far right of Jesus, is **Simon Peter**. Simon and his brother Andrew were both fisherman in Galilee when Jesus called them to follow him. Simon's

faith was so firm that Jesus gave him the name Peter, meaning rock.

And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. (Matthew 16:18-19) Philip stands to Christ's immediate left holding a loaf of bread recalling the miracle of the feeding of the 5,000. In John 6 Philip questions Jesus about how they could possibly feed such a large crowd. Philip's faith is no doubt strengthened through this miracle.

Paul, with his eyes closed, stands next to Philip. He holds a scroll representing his letters to the early churches. Paul, originally Saul, was born in Tarsus in what is now southern Turkey. He was a persecutor of early Christians until his eyes were opened. Paul made three great missionary journeys throughout Greece and Turkey spreading the Good News of Christ.



About The Artist

Our Chancel Screen was designed and created by Cleveland artist Willard Wetmore Combes in October 1964. Combes was the head of the department of Illustration at the Cleveland School of Art.

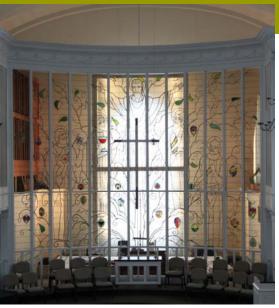


Willard Combes in 1956

an editorial cartoonist for the Cleveland Press, and a teacher at Western Reserve University School of Architecture. He spent his free time painting portraits and murals, and creating stained glass windows in several churches. Mr. Combes died in 1984.

Working closely with the building architect, Otto Spieth; the church pastor, Reverend William Hogg; and the building committee Mr. Combes created a unique, inspirational, and functional design, based on the verse: I am the vine and you are the branches. Whoever remains in me, and I in him, will bear much fruit, for you can do nothing without me." John 15:5

There is much to look at on the chancel screen. The metal vines and the glass discs all express a story. The screen is intended to unfold in meaning to worshippers throughout the years.



The Chancel Screen

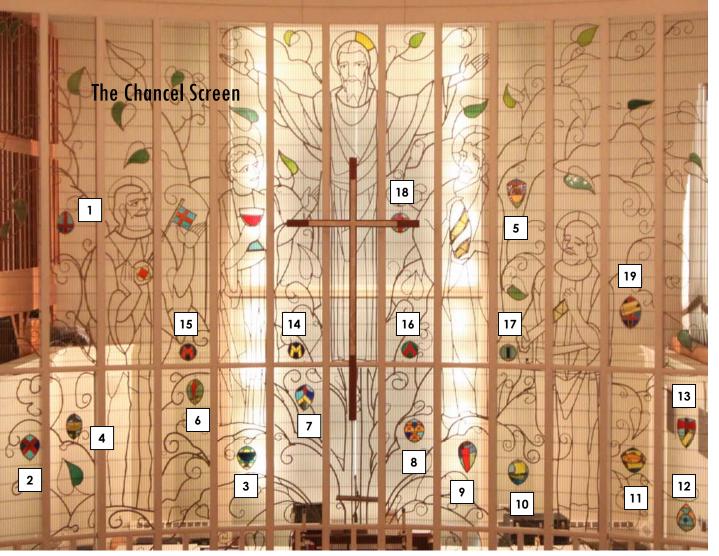
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BRECKSVILLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

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1. Simon Peter is probably the best known of the twelve because of stepping out onto the crashing waves of the water and denying Jesus three times. He was the chief spokesman for the twelve on the Day of Pentecost and became a special minister to the Jews (Galatians 2:8).

2. Andrew heard John the Baptist speaking about Jesus in John 1:40 and told his brother Simon Peter "We have found the Messiah" and brought Peter to Jesus. These two brothers, both fishermen, were first called to be "fishers of men" (Matthew 4:18).

3. John, also a fisherman, was the brother of James and the disciple "whom Jesus loved" (John 13:23). John was the only disciple at the foot of the cross when Jesus died and was instructed by him to take care of his mother, Mary, in his absence (John 19:25-27).

4. James was the brother of John and son of Zebedee. They were fisherman along the Sea of Galilee when Jesus invited them to put down their nets and follow him. Known as the "sons of thunder" (Mark 3:17), both brothers had fiery tempers.

5. Philip worried that they could not possibly get enough food to feed the 5,000 followers that had shown up to hear Jesus teach in John 6. The symbol on the chancel screen is one of the baskets that leftover fish and bread was collected into.

6. We know very little about **Bartholomew**. He is mentioned 4 times (Matthew 10:3, Mark 3:18, Luke 6:14 and Acts 1:13) as one of the twelve.

7. Thomas was not in the upper room when the resurrected Christ first appeared to the apostles. Thomas is known as the doubter for saying "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side I will not believe. (John 20:25)

8. Matthew is symbolized by money bags because of his occupation as tax collector before leaving to follow Christ. Tax collectors were hated and regarded as very dishonest, yet Jesus chose him as one of His men. It took Jesus Christ to see the potential in the tax collector of Capernaum.

9. James the Lesser is mentioned ten times in the New Testament, but we know very little about him. "The Lesser" means that he was younger than James, brother of John.

10. Thaddeus was called "Trinomious" which means "a man with three names." In Mark 3:18 he is called Thaddeus. In Mathew 10:3 he is called Lebbeus. His surname was Thaddeus. In Luke 6:16 and Acts 1:13 he is called Jude the brother of James. He was a brother of James the Younger and lived in Galilee.

11. Simon the Zealot lived in Galilee. The New Testament gives us practically nothing on him personally except that it says he was a Zealot. The Zealots hated the Romans. Simon clearly grew into a man of faith. He abandoned his hatred for love of Jesus and love for the rest of the disciples (even Matthew, the Roman tax collector!).

12. Judas Iscariot betrayed Jesus for thirty pieces of silver. It is said that Judas came from Judah near Jericho. He was a Judean and the rest of the disciples were Galileans. He was the treasurer of the group. His symbol on the chancel screen is a money bag symbolizing the thirty pieces of silver.

ginning of his ministry. After Pentecost the remaining eleven disciples chose Matthias to take the place of Judas and help spread the good word of Jesus.

13. Matthias followed Christ from the be-

Glass discs are also present symbolizing the 4 Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.

14. The yellow "M" stands for Matthew.
The gospel of Matthew is the most topical of the four gospels, often grouping things thematically rather than chronologically.

15. The red "M" symbolizes Mark. Mark focuses much on the miracles of Jesus. According to tradition Mark gathered the information about Jesus from Peter's

the information about Jesus from Peter's preaching.

16. The inverted red "V" represents **Luke**, the only New Testament writer who was a Gentile. Luke is also credited with writ-

ing the book of Acts. Luke's gospel tells the story of Jesus from his birth to his ascension into heaven. The book of Acts tells how the good news of Jesus spread from its Jewish roots to the Gentile world.

17. John is symbolized by the green circle with the blue stripe through the center. John writes to give us a clear picture of Jesus the divine who came to reveal God

of Jesus the divine who came to reveal God and bring eternal life to those who believe.

The red cross with the blue background represents **Christ (18)** and the scroll with the sword represents **Paul (19)**.