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### News Clipping - The Windows

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## **John R. Dover, Jr. Memorial Chapel Gardner-Webb College Boiling Springs, North Carolina**

Lifting its tall spire near the college's main entrance, the John R. Dover, Jr. Memorial Chapel is the focal point of the campus. Named in honor of the late Shelby textile industrialist who until his death in 1963 lead the Dover Textile Group, the building seats 336 in the Chapel area, houses eight offices and three classrooms in the ground floor and provides a Baptist Student Union area given by Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Hendrix, Sr. of Trinity, North Carolina.

Graceful and inspiring in design the Chapel salutes those who by spirit, courage and support have made Gardner-Webb College a living, Christian institution.

### **THE WINDOWS**

Following is an explanation of the scenes and symbols in the windows: Across the bottom of the three lancets are symbolized praise, prayer, and the word of God. The first two are derived from the Psalms. Many of these, most notably the one hundred and fiftieth, exhort man to praise God with musical instruments. Thus for the symbol for praise an archaic trumpet and harp and music notes are used. Psalm 141:2 reads: "Let my prayer be set forth before thee as incense." So a censor is used for the prayers of the faithful rising to God. The open book is the Gospel, the word of God.

The three lancet window has been conceived as denoting the Trinity. The first lancet on the left begins the story at the bottom with the creation of the world. The hand of God the Father extends toward Adam who sits in the Garden of Eden. Sun, moon, stars and planets are in the sky.

In the medallion above the fall from grace is symbolized by a serpent twined round a tree from which hangs an apple.

Next above is Isaiah at the moment when the seraphim purifies his lips with a burning coal from the altar of sacrifice, enabling him to prophesy. His vision of the Messiah is in a vignette beside him.

Above are his prophecies of the peaceable Kingdom; the lion and the lamb lying down together and the peace symbol derived from the semaphore signal for nuclear disarmament which has grown popular recently.

At the top of the first lancet is the Incarnation of the Christ Child. Under the star of Bethlehem is Jesus in the manger bed, guarded by Mary and Joseph, whose staff bursts into bloom as did Aaron's rod.

The story of God, the Son, resumes in the center lancet with the baptism of Jesus by John in the River Jordan. John's staff terminates in a cross lacking one cross arm to show that the Crucifixion had not yet occurred. Over Jesus' head the dove of the Holy Spirit descends.

The medallion next above contains a symbol of service: Jesus washing Peter's feet.

At the center is the Last Supper. Christ stands holding the chalice and bread. His twelve Apostles are seated around the table. Judas may be seen on the right, about to leave with a bag of money.

In the medallion above, Passion symbols denote His Crucifixion; the cross is encircled with the crown of thorns and nails. To the left of the cross is a ladder and on the right the reed and hyssop. The latter symbolizes the purging of sins of the world, resulting from the Saviour's death on the cross.

At the top of the window Christ bursts from the empty tomb as the seeds burst from the splitting pomegranate, the symbol below His feet.

His type, the Lamb of God, stands at the apex of the window, bearing aloft the banner of the victory of life over sin and death just like the one the Christ holds.

In the lancet to the right is seen the work of the Holy Spirit guiding the Church which begins with the faithful few who gathered together in the upper room to celebrate Pentecost. Suddenly there was a sound like a rushing wind and tongues of flame seemed to settle over each countenance. Peter is shown in the midst of the group. It was his sermon on this occasion that resulted in the mass conversion of three thousand people.

Next above the Holy Spirit is shown as a dove hovering over the scene.

Between the door and the Holy Spirit dove is a decorative version of the conflict between good and evil, the war between Michael and the angels against the dragon and his angels who were cast out of Heaven toward earth, as described in the twelfth chapter of Revelation.

The next medallion contains a door upon which is a form of a Chi Rho (XP) ancient monogram for Christ for He said, "I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved." (John 10:9.)

At the top of the window under the crown and palms seen in the apex, symbolizing eternal reward, Christ in glory is seated on a throne. He judges the souls of the departed and consigns them to blessing or damnation, symbolized by rays of light on His right hand and flames and lightning on His left.