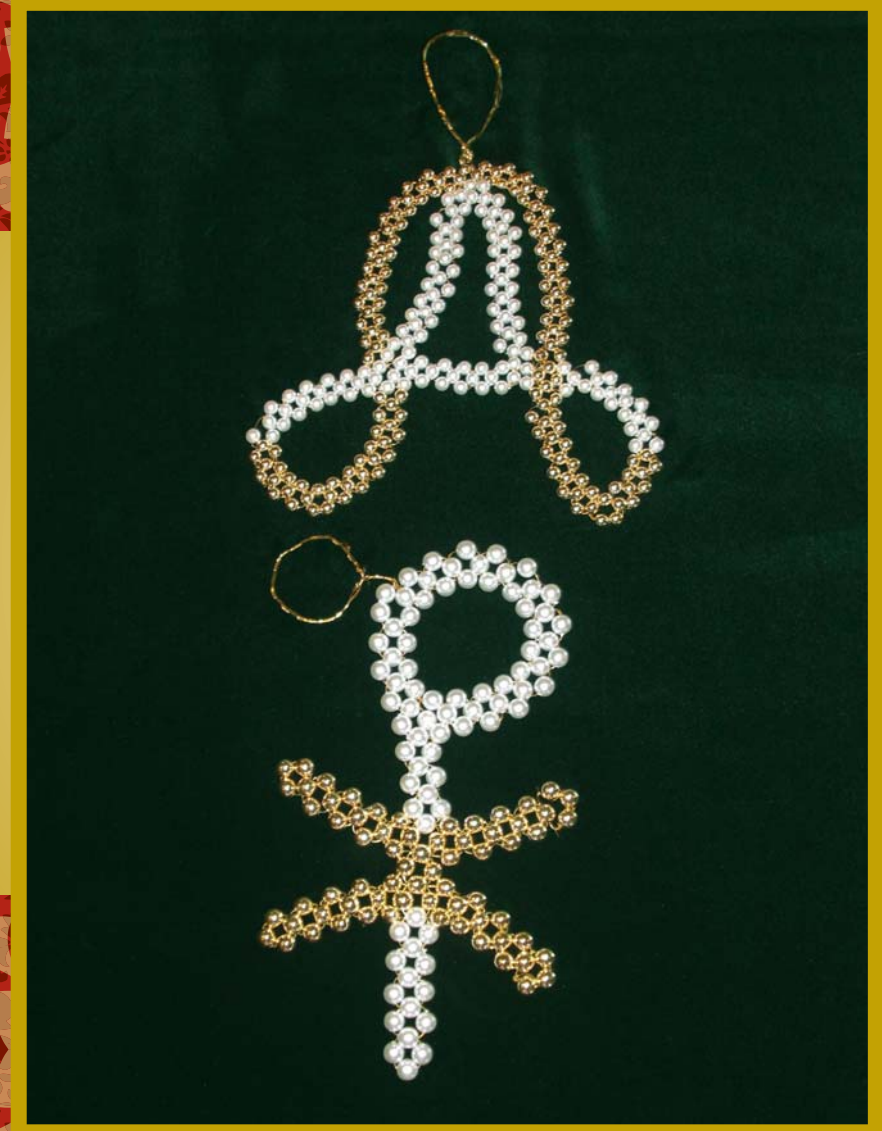


Chrismon Dedication Book



November 29, 2009

First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth

Dedication from Dr. Bruster



In this season when we celebrate the giving of the greatest gift—the gift of Jesus—we also celebrate the gifts and abilities God has given to people. I’m grateful especially to Kay Cosper who had the vision for this project and has worked to coordinate it and to shepherd it through. I’m grateful to all the others who have contributed generously in every way to make possible our beautiful Chrismon tree. Their names are listed elsewhere in this booklet.

Some of us who participated in making one or more Chrismons know how fun the project was. Some of our talented members and friends of the church made many Chrismons. Stories abound about the fellowship people enjoyed around this project and how it brought people together as they worked on giving this magnificent gift to the church.

Grace and Peace,

Tim Bruster



What is a Chrismon?

Christian symbols have been used for centuries to teach the world about the person, life or ministry of Jesus Christ and the life, ministry or history of the Christian church by a single emblem. The tradition of the Chrismon tree began with Lutheran Pastor George Pass in Danville, Va., in 1940 when he began crafting symbols about Jesus Christ and the meaning of Christmas for his church’s tree out of leftover scraps of Christmas wrapping paper and trimmings.

Mrs. Frances Kipps Spencer, a member of Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Va., further developed certain symbols that were appropriate for a church tree, registered the “Chrismon ” trademark in 1957, and gifted it to Ascension Lutheran Church. Chrismon combined the words “Christ” and “monogram.” Today, Chrismons proclaim our Lord Jesus Christ through the use of ancient Christian symbols that date back to the origin of the first century church. Other Christian symbols continue to be developed, but the basis of the true Chrismon Tree is these ancient symbols.

First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth Chrismon Tree continues this tradition of proclaiming Christ through ancient Chrismons and Christian symbols.

Barbara Moore	Linda Moore	Connie Moorse
Marty Morrison	Marilyn Nance	Sue O’Kelley
Julie Olson	Elizabeth Owen	Pamela Palmer
Chris Pearson	Betty Pinkerton	Carol Popp
Bernice Ramsbottom	Janis Rathburn	Sharon Renfro
Peggy Riggs	Rufty’s Chrismon Shop	Laura Rugg
Linda Rutledge	Deborah Sayers	Jean Scott
Dana Settle	Debbie Shrauner	Rex Shrauner
Margaret Shuping	Ann Springer	Terry Stanford
Carolyn Stephens	Anne Stoddard	Deborah Sturdivant
Kim Stutzman	Kristen Sumrell	Dr. Jim Terry
Carrie Todd	Sharon Tow	Nancy Tully
UMW Circles	Tiffany VanClerc	Maria Vaughan
Caren Walker	Pat Wall	Marsha Warren
Judy Watson	Marsha Williams	Sandy Williams
Lynda Winn	Claire Wood	Donna Worden-Harris
Work of Church’s Children		Kay Yount



A Special Thank You

A special thank you is extended to those who contributed their time and energy continuously to provide behind the scene support for the Chrismon Tree Project.

Gayle Ammerman	Malee Brown	Vance Duffy
Elaine Johnson	Leslie Laswell	Sue O’Kelley
Edger Shelton	Windle Watkins	Sandy Williams



List of Chrismon Contributors

Rev. Gena Anderson	Mary Andrews	Janet Ball
Dianne Ballard	Nancy Ballard	Carol Benson
Linda Billman	Kaytlin Blanchard	Linda Blanchard
Debbie Bowden	Dr. Tim Bruster	Kathryn Bryan
Charlene Burdorf	Jane Canull	Jennifer Chancellor
Patty Collins	Patti Colwell	Beth Cooper
Kay Cospers	Jim Cospers	Pam Cox
Martha Cranor	Pamela Davenport	Dana Dickson
Reda Dinsmore	Jeannine Eaton	Kay Estes
Megan Fahey	Judy Frame	Ranella Franklin
Pat Freeman	Rosemary Freeman	Gaye Fuller
Joan Gaspard	Charna Gray	Carolyn Grieser
Donna Guerra	Blair Hamburg	David Hamburg
Riley Hamburg	Ryan Hamburg	Nancy Hankamer
Caroline Harper	Mindy Harrell	Terri Helge
Lynn Herman	Vicki Heyer	Suzanne Hickman
Carol Hicks	Susan Hicks	Gay Hill
Cynthia Hooper	Liz Howard	Karen Hunn
Robert Hunn	Allison Hunt	Karen Hunt
Tulsa Johnson	Elaine Johnson	Sarah Jones
Shirley Kalling	Stephanie Kazenske	Bobbie Kilpatrick
Terry Klipsch	Connie Langston	Alex Lauderdale
Bridget Lauderdale	Kelly LaVelle	Rowan LaVelle
Bobbie Logan	Peter Lombard	JoLynn Lowry
Pam Lyon	Mary MacVaugh	Ann Maddox
Wayne Maddox	Dr. Mike Marshall	Debi Matthews
Beverly Maynard	Helen McCarley	Carol McCarthy
Tammy McCune	Bettye McDaniel	Rev. Phyllis McDougal
Jan McKean	Savannah McKean	Brice McRee
Aaron Mielke	Dixie Miller	Lory Mitchell



Dedication

What we lovingly craft with our own hands often reflects what is developing in our heart. So it is with the stately 15-foot Chrismon Tree that now graces the narthex of First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth during the season of Advent. What began as the dream of one, then a few, crystallized into a fellowship that has come to involve more than 100 — all with a desire to illuminate the light of Christ in the world.

The tree bears 650 “Christ monograms” or Chrismons and Christian symbols, all hand-crafted as a gift from and to the congregation. About 150 women, men and children of First United Methodist Church formed the Chrismons and Christian symbols by their own hands, while several special friends made along the way added their own faith-filled creations as a gift to our tree.

It is our prayer that the tree, with its representations of Christ’s life, will provide meaning to the celebration of His birth. The presence of many individuals and groups was needed during the hundreds of hours required to complete the project. An anonymous donor supplied the resources to purchase the tree and supplies, but it was the gift of time and service by many who lovingly crafted each adornment.

The tree stands as a witness of Christ’s life and what those who desire to share their Christian faith with others can accomplish. Today we dedicate this tree to the people who worship at First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth during this Advent season and in the years to come. Praise be to God.



Alpha & Omega —
The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, they are the symbols of divinity, the beginning and the end.



Anchor Cross —
The cross of hope, it rises from the crescent moon, which is a symbol of our Lord's mother.



Angel —
Messengers of God who announced the birth and resurrection of Christ.



Angel with Cross —
Represents the Archangel Uriel who watched over the tomb after Jesus died on the cross.



Ascension Butterfly —
The butterfly represents Christ's ascension into heaven. The life of Christ is often associated with the three stages of metamorphosis of the butterfly: birth, death and resurrection.



Beaded Bell —
The Christian should be encouraged when the bells are heard and move toward rededication and recommitment to the faith.



Beaded Fish —
Persecuted believers used this sign to secretly designate themselves as followers of Christ. The initials (IXOYC) for Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior, form the Greek word for fish.



Beaded Ribbon Cross —
The circle of beads represents the eternal presence of God. The two figure-eight ribbons symbolize infinity. God has and will always exist, with no beginning or end.

Some were drawn into the project unexpectedly. Peter Lombard said, "I started my first Chrismon by default. My wife Carolyn asked me to pick up a couple of kits for her from the Sunday afternoon Chrismon-making class. I ended up staying and starting on a kit. I have now finished three Chrismons."



When Karen and Allison Hunt signed up to make Chrismons on FUMC's Great Day of Service last spring, they were not sure what to expect. Though they had heard a little about the Chrismons, they didn't know how they were made. Once they started, it didn't take long to see the gold and pearl beads and pieces of wire transformed into stunning ornaments. At the end of the day, they took more kits to complete at home.



Margaret Shuping, part of the core team and one of the Sunday afternoon "teachers," says her favorite Chrismon is always the one she is currently working on. The church's pastoral staff dedicated two lunchtimes to Chrismon making with Dr. Tim Bruster completing the "I am the Vine" design. United Methodist Women chose the Chrismon project as part of their service day, and members of the Lydia Circle spent one evening creating about one dozen of the designs.

By the end of the first week of June, it was time to order the 15-foot, pre-lit Christmas tree that would grace the church's narthex during Advent. It had to be a sturdy tree with limbs substantial enough to support the heavy Chrismons. Judy Watson and Kay Cosper met with distributors at the Floral Market in Dallas and were able to secure a 49 percent discount on a \$2,100 specimen — tapping out the last of the generous donor's financial gift. As the tree made its six-week journey from China to New York and then on to Fort Worth, the team worked with Sandy Williams from the church staff and volunteer Vance Duffy whose engineering genius would secure the weight of the tree and ornaments. It would take power-lifting equipment to hang the Chrismons in the upper ranges of the tree and many volunteers to place the 650 pieces. Volunteering to sew the ornately fringed brocade tree skirt was Sue O'Kelley.

The long-awaited Chrismon tree will share the light of Christ at First United Methodist Church beginning the first Sunday of Advent, November 29, with the dedication during the morning worship services. It is a gift from and to the congregation. Joining the 650 Chrismons and Christian symbols on this tree will be Chrismon gifts from friends made along the way, Barbara and Melonie Rufty of Salisbury, N.C., and the Chrismon group from Shiloh UMC in Chesterfield, S.C.



So what began as the dream of one, then a few, crystallized into a fellowship that involved people of all ages and experience levels, all with a desire to illuminate the light of Christ in this one part of the world. The prevailing rule was “perfection is not expected” — only the desire to be part of a dream that will transcend multiple generations.

Beginning Sunday, March 15, several of the congregation’s more experienced crafters were available to assist those who were just beginning or needed guidance with a particular pattern. Surprisingly, many came each week for the fellowship and to see what new designs were available. While the work continued through September, the church featured a “Chrismon of the Week” each week in the church newspaper, worship bulletin, website and the electronic hallway monitors.

“My mother and I work on the Chrismons together each week,” Marty Morrison shared about this special time with her mother, Reda Dinsmore. “It has been a wonderful time for us; we have created a lot of special memories. Thank you FUMC, donors and directors for giving us the opportunity to create such beautiful crosses, stars, bells, angels and lanterns.” Together, they created 50 of the 650 symbols.

Linda Rutledge, who likes to study the scriptures behind each of the designs she has worked on, said, “Working on Chrismons each Sunday afternoon and helping others with their projects ... has increased my circle of friends and has been a place to share our love and concern for each other.”

Featured one week was the Beaded Ribbon Cross, which Wayne Maddox and his wife Ann worked on. “My wife and I have been involved in all aspects of the Chrismon tree project since its inception and I have been amazed at how quickly widespread support has grown in the congregation,” he said. “A whole new circle of friends has been created as an outgrowth of the work on this inspirational project. I am now working on my third Chrismon and I think all of us will miss getting together on Sunday afternoons when we are finished,” he said.

Five-year-old Sarah Jones worked on the Anchor Cross, one of several designs created especially for children. “You learn how to use beads and how to bend wires,” she said, “and you can read directions and have fun with Grandma. You can make anything about the Bible, and you can feel happy.”

Terry Klipsch: “Working on the gold and pearl beaded ‘monogram of Christ’ ornaments that depict the person, life and ministry of Jesus Christ has been a way for me to give my time and talents to the church. It is a privilege to be part of a new Christmas tradition here at First United Methodist Church.”



Butterfly —
The symbol of the resurrection. The three stages of the metamorphosis of the butterfly symbolize the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.



Calvary Cross —
Three steps to the cross: faith, hope and love.



Celtic Cross —
This ancient cross originates from the Celts (Ireland). The circle symbolizes eternity and/or unity.



Chi Rho —
Two Greek letters that are the first letters for the word “Christ.”



Christ in the Manger —
Symbolizes the nativity. Christ is born into the world. The “circle” is the symbol for the world.



Creator’s Star —
King David’s star, its six points represent the six days in which God created the Earth. The two equilateral triangles represent the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.



Cross & Chi Encircled —
The gold cross symbolizes the glory and majesty of God; the white chi symbolizes the purity and the perfection of our savior; the circle represents eternal life with Christ.



Cross Etoile —
The star cross. Stars formed by crosses represent the close relationship between the birth and death of our redeemer.



Cross with Scourge —
The whip/scourge is a symbol of the inhumane suffering of Christ. The stripes on the cross symbolize the wounds from the flogging before the crucifixion.



Crosses of Crucifixion —
The story of the crucifixion does not mention the use of nails, but we get this information from Thomas after the resurrection when he asked to feel the wounds made by the nails. “So the other disciples told him, ‘We have seen the Lord.’ But he said to them, ‘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)



Crown of the Apostles —
The twelve points represent the apostles, the sent one. “And when day came, he called his disciples and chose twelve of them, whom he also named apostles.” (Luke 6:13)



Crown of the 10 Commandments —
The crown of God, the ten points representing the 10 Commandments given by God to Moses.



Crown of Thorns —
Represents the crown of suffering.



Descending Dove —
Represents the presence of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the baptism.



Draped Cross —
This is a Latin cross draped with the robe of the King. Also known as the Easter cross.



Easter Crown Cross —
The Easter season reminds us of the cross and the suffering that Christ endured. The crown represents the writings of James concerning the suffering of the believer. “Blessed is anyone who endures temptation. Such a one has stood the test and will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.” (James 1:12)

Since then, Al Huggins has been sending pictures of the new designs he and the others from Shiloh UMC have been creating for their church’s Chrismon tree since. “We are still hard at work,” he shared in an e-mail in mid-October, “with approximately 400 ornaments finished.”



Rufty’s owners Barbara Rufty and her daughter Melonie Rufty Beaver invited “the Texas group” for a North Carolina-style barbeque lunch and a visit to St. John Lutheran Church where they are members. The group was amazed at the beauty of the church’s late Gothic Revival architecture and attention to fine details, which during the Advent season, always includes a large Chrismon tree at the Italian Botticino and Vermont Verdante marble altar area and a children’s tree in the narthex. A long-standing tradition at St. John’s is the presentation of a Chrismon to parents of every baby at the precious times of birth, Baptism, confirmation, each grade change and at marriage, thereby giving each child a collection of ornaments to begin their own Chrismon tree.

Just a short walk away in the charming Salisbury community was the historic First United Methodist Church, which was celebrating its 225 years of ministry and missions. The traditional sanctuary was lined with stately white columns and colorful banners along the walls that remind worshippers of Holy days and the events of Christendom.

On that Saturday afternoon, the group found Matthew Brown, Salisbury First UMC’s director of music ministry, who was happy to talk about their beautiful church and proudly shared pictures of the huge Chrismon trees that flank their altar area each year (<http://www.fumcsalisbury.org/photogallery.htm>).



The core team, smitten with what they had seen, was eager to begin their project at First UMC Fort Worth. The church’s Board of Trustees had already given their approval of the project and the financial arrangements

had been worked out with the business manager in January along with ordering the initial supplies for 52 Chrismons. It was now time to share the project with the whole church.

Team members began talking to Sunday school classes and special groups like the United Methodist Women and those involved in children’s ministries. Many caught the dream and were eager to try their hand at crafting the Chrismons and Christian symbols. Each Sunday, volunteers from the expanding team would be in the church’s Welcome Center distributing kits to be crafted and receiving those that were completed over the past week.

Our Chrismon Tree at First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth, Texas

Kay Cospers still recalls the Christ symbol decorations and twinkling lights on the Christmas tree in the sanctuary of Austin Avenue United Methodist Church in Waco. It was the church of her childhood where her mother, Betty Anderson, and a few others in the congregation crafted the felt and sequin Chrismons, or Christ symbols, that adorned Austin Avenue's special tree.

Today she is realizing a personal dream to create that magic for the people of First United Methodist Church of Fort Worth where she and her husband, Jim, have been members for more than 25 years. But rather than one woman's dream and the work of a few churchwomen, this Chrismon project has evolved into a fellowship of many at First UMC involving personal achievements and spanning several states.

Funds for the 650 Chrismon kits were secured from an anonymous donor. Kay recruited a few friends who had been part of the Women's Bible Study Class that former associate pastor Dr. Luther Henry urged them to begin in 1994. Kay called them her "core," comprised of Tammy Philpot-McCune, Margaret Shuping and Carolyn Stephens, and set them to work utilizing their specialized skills. They had had a taste of Kay's fondness for Chrismons when she spearheaded the Bible Study Class's creation of handcrafted Chrismons for the church's Advent wreaths in the mid-90s. A plan was developed and a timeline set so that the church's first Chrismon tree might be completed in time for the 2009 Advent season.

Since sustainability of the Chrismons over multiple generations was a priority, it was decided the Chrismons and Christian symbols would be crafted of the highest quality simulated crystal, gold and pearl beads on rustproof wire. Online research identified Rufty's in Salisbury, N.C., as the best source of supplies so three members of the core team, plus Ann and Wayne Maddox who joined the growing team, set off April 29-May 2 to meet the Rufty owners and personally check their stock. They found much more — friendships, guidance and support.

"The Texas Group," as they were called by Rufty's owners and their faith-filled clientele, joined the Chrismon classes that Friday and Saturday, learning the latest new designs and developing friendships with Chrismon crafters from different denominations.



A small group from Shiloh United Methodist Church in Chesterfield, S.C., was learning new Christian symbols to add to their church's Chrismon tree, but took the time to visit with the Texas group throughout the classes.



Epiphany Star —
To the gentiles, the star was the first manifestation of the Christ child. The star led the three wise men to the nativity.



Eternal Holy Spirit —
A circle with the Greek cross. The circle symbolizes eternal life with God. The clear beads in the Greek cross represent the purity of the Holy Spirit.



Fish with Cross —
The fish is a secret sign for early Christianity. It was a symbol of Christ, which was used to point to places of worship.



Fisherman's Sandals —
During his life on Earth, Jesus was a fisher of men. This is a symbol of the common man.



Four Gospels —
This is a Greek cross (four equal sides). The square is an ancient representation for the Earth. The design implies the four corners of the Earth, the four Gospels and the four evangelists.



God Is Love —
The heart symbolizes the love Christ has for man, shown by his death on the cross



Gold Star of Jacob —
The five-point star (Epiphany Star) announces the birth of Christ. A prophecy from the Old Testament (Numbers 24:17) told that "there shall come a star out of Jacob, a scepter shall rise out of Israel." Jacob fathered twelve sons, which became the tribes of Israel.



Greek Cross with Crosslets —
There are four Latin crosses joined at the center of the Greek cross. They represent the spreading of the gospel to the four corners of the world.



He Calms the Water —
A ship symbolizes the church as the “ark of salvation” that carries people to safety. It recalls the story of Noah and the flood, as well as Jesus’ calming the storm and saving the disciples.

He Watches Over Me —
“The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God.” (Psalms 12:2)



Heavenly Star —
This multi-pointed, sun-like star, is the center of our world as is our Lord. About 2,400 years ago, the prophet Malachi compared the Messiah to the sun (Malachi 4:2), the brightest thing in our world. The followers of Christ were referred to as the light of the world. (Matthew 5:14)

Holy Trinity —
The three circles suggest the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit (one God in three persons).



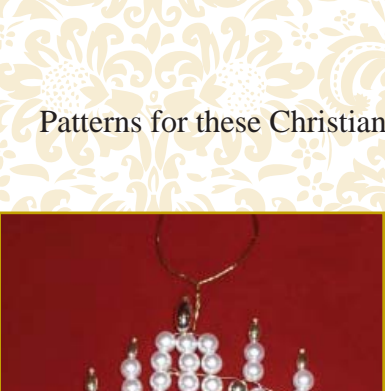
I.N.R.I. Cross —
The first letters of the Latin words on the sign over the cross: “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.”

I Am the Vine —
The vine’s wrapping and intertwining growth suggests Christ’s embracing love and intertwining presence in our lives. Jesus used metaphors and symbolism in teaching his disciples and the crowds who gathered to hear his words. “I am the vine, you are the branches,” he offered all who would follow. “Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing.” (John 15:5)



In the Shadow of the Cross —
The gold beads form a shadow, which symbolizes the sins of man.

Jerusalem Cross —
There are five crosses in this pattern. They suggest the five wounds of Christ as well as spreading of the gospel to the four corners of the world, as do the crosslets.



Unique Designs

Patterns for these Christian symbols are the unique designs of Kay and Jim Cosper and Laura Rugg.

Advent Candles and Wreath---
For the four Sundays preceding Christmas day, the Advent candles symbolize light, hope, joy and peace. The circular wreath symbolizes God’s unchanging love.

Jesus and the Children —
“Then little children were being brought to [Jesus] in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. ... ‘Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs.’ And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.” (Matthew 19:13-15)

Creche —
“And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.” (Luke 2:7)

Fishing Boat ---
(Three dimensional boat design inspired by Dr. Tim Bruster’s sermon) Jesus called out to them, “Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!”

Peace! Be still! ---
(Two dimensional boat design inspired by Dr. Tim Bruster’s sermon) — “He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm.” (Mark 4:39)

Harp —
The harp is a symbol for music, especially that rendered in praise of God. “Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come into his presence with singing” (Psalms 100:1-2)

Flowers of Faith

Since Jesus taught in terms familiar to his followers, he drew illustrations from plants of the area, including flowers. His disciples used flowers as a reference to Christ because of how a blossom's specific characteristics related to him. Flowers are a symbol in the Bible of the messianic promise. They also represent women who carry the seeds of life, the flower being the child. The life cycle of a flower symbolizes the life and death of both Christ and man. The promise of spring brings forth the rebirth of a new life.



Daisy with Bud — The daisy is a flower of simplicity that symbolizes the purity and innocence of the Christ child. Referred to in the Bible as one of the “lilies of the field,” it is cited to describe the Father's loving care of his children. Ablaze in springtime color on the Mediterranean hillsides, daisies and other wildflowers, such as the anemone, poppy and the chamomile, reflect the beauty of God's creation. They bloom from seeds for only a few short weeks. Their beauty quickly disappears, but will bloom again to be reborn the next spring. (Matthew 6:28-29, Isaiah 35:1-2, Psalms 103:1-2)



Lily of the Valley — The low growth of this flower suggests Christ's humility. The three stems represent the Holy Trinity. This flower blooms in the spring from a dormant rhizome bulb. The verse, “I am the Rose of Sharon and the Lily of the Valley ...,” which many Bible scholars attribute to the coming of the Messiah who rose from the dead to free us from our sins. (Song of Solomon 2:1)



Rose of Mary — A rose is a symbol of the Virgin Mary, the human birth or the humanity. The thorns symbolize the crown of thorns worn by Christ on the cross. The rose bloom rises from its root or a branch. It is believed to be the “Jesse Tree” in the Bible. It is said to bear one perfect flower from its branch. The flower is symbolic of Jesus who is a descendent of Jesse, David's father from whose royal lineage the Messiah was prophesied to be born. (Isaiah 11:1-10)



Lamp of Truth —
“I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.” (John 8:12)



Latin Cross —
The most common form of the cross. This cross is a reminder of Jesus' suffering, which provides the gift of eternal life.



Latin Cross and Thorny Crown —
The most common form of the cross. The gold beads represent the crown of suffering.



Morning Star —
The six-pointed star reminds us of the six days of creation (Exodus 20:1). Also called the “Star of David,” the two triangles that make up the star symbolize the Holy Trinity. “I am the root and the offspring of David, the bright Morning Star” (Revelation 22:16).



New Celtic Cross —
This is an ancient cross, found in Ireland (Celts). The circle symbolizes eternity and/or unity.



New Latin Cross —
This is the most common form of the cross. The lower arm of the Latin cross is twice the length of the other three, which are of equal length. The cross is a reminder of Jesus' suffering, which provides the gift of eternal life.



New Resurrection Cross —
The four-point etoile (star cross) rising behind this Latin cross symbolizes the new day, which promises the forgiveness of our sins. The four points represent four corners of Earth, the four gospels and four evangelists.



Regeneration Star —
The combination of two elements united to form Chi (X), superimposed on the cross.



Resurrection Cross —
The rising sun behind the cross symbolizes the new day, which promises the forgiveness of our sins.



Saint Andrew's Cross —
The apostle who was crucified on the “X” shaped cross because he wasn't deemed worthy of dying on the traditional cross of the crucifixion.



I Am the Light —
The candle symbolizes the word of God as it lights our way and shows us the truth.



Loop Cross —
The cross with the monogram of the first three letters of Jesus' name in Greek.



Shepherds Crook Cross —
The crook represents Jesus as the Good Shepherd who protects and attends to the needs of his flock.



Son of Righteousness —
Symbolizes that, like the sun, Christ the Son of God is the source of light and life to those who believe in Him. As the sun is the center of the universe, Jesus should be the center of a Christian life.



Nail Head Cross —
The most common form of the cross (Latin), along with nails that are a reminder of Jesus' suffering, which provides the gift of eternal life.



Pearl Anchor Cross —
The cross of hope, it rises from the crescent moon, which is a symbol of our Lord's mother.



Staff of the King —
This is the symbol for the crèche. The shepherd's crook represents the first visitors to see the Christ child. The chi topped with a crown symbolizes the King lying in a manger.



Star of Baptism —
The nine souls saved on the ark, represent the cleansing of the Earth as the baptism cleanses our hearts from sin. (Peter 3:20-21)



Shepherd's Crook —
Jesus said, “I am the good shepherd.” Shepherds are present at the nativity.



Trinity —
The three equal angles of the triangle represent the Holy Trinity — Father, Son, Holy Spirit. The Bible symbolizes the word of God, the cross symbolizes Jesus Christ, and the dove symbolizes the Holy Spirit.



Star of Bethlehem —
This star is a combination of a cross representing the crucifixion and the X, a stylized manger representing the birth. The chi (X) is also the first letter of the Greek word for Christ. A star is known to have led the wise-men to the nativity. (Matthew 2:2, 7, 9-10).



Star Cross —
The four points of the star represent the four corners of the Earth, four gospels and four evangelists (also called Cross Etoile).



Triple Cross —
The three crosses represent the three crosses on Golgotha.

The Work of Our Children (Sunday School Class Project)



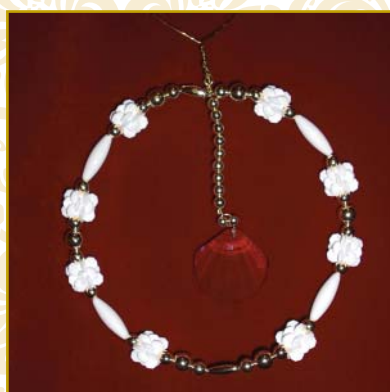
Angel with Rose —

The angel announces a savior will be born to Mary. The rose is a symbol of Mary.



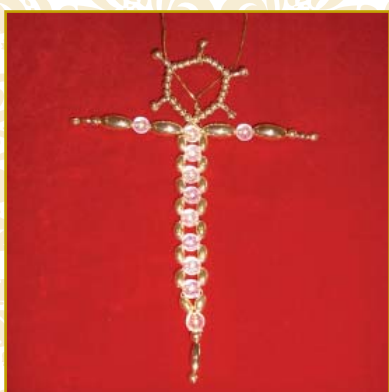
Butterfly —

The symbol of resurrection. The three stages of the metamorphosis of the butterfly symbolize the life, death and resurrection of Jesus.



Cross in Eternity —

The circle represents eternity; the cross reminds us of God's gift of eternal life and forgiveness.



Crown of Thorns Cross —

The Tau Cross is the oldest known form of the cross. The crown of thorns represents the suffering of Christ during the crucifixion.



Fish —

Early believers used this sign to secretly designate themselves as followers of Christ. The initials (IXOYC) for Jesus Christ, God's Son, Savior, is the Greek word for fish.



God's Promise —

The letter "T" is the first letter in the Greek word for God. The rose represents Mary who gave birth to Christ. The cross represents the crucifixion. The clear beads represent the Holy Spirit and the resurrection. God's promise to the believers was the gift of eternal life and the forgiveness of sins.



Golden Nail Head Cross —

The most common form of the cross (Latin), along with nails that are a reminder of Jesus' suffering, which provides the gift of eternal life.



Guardian Angel —

The circle represents the world. The angels watch over us and are the messengers from God to the world.



Tau Cross of Mary —

This is the oldest form of the cross. The shape suggests Moses' staff and evokes the messianic promise. The letter "T" is the first letter in the Greek word "Theos," which means God. The rose beads symbolize the mother Mary at the foot of the cross.



Tau Cross with Snake —

The oldest form of the cross. Just as Moses lifted a bronze serpent on a pole and saved Israel, Christ said that he must also be lifted up to save man from his sins.



Tau Cross with Triangle —

The triangle symbolizes the Holy Trinity. The sun is the center of the universe, around which all else revolves. This symbolizes that Christ is the center of the believer's life.



Temptation Cross —

This is the cross of passion. It represents the battle of dark vs. light and good vs. evil.



Three-D Cross —

Symbolizes the commitment of a Christian to the way of the cross. Represents God's gift of eternal life.



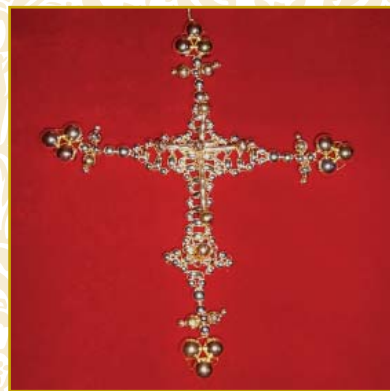
Treflee Cross with Alpha & Omega —

A combination of two symbols. The budding cross represents a young or immature believer and the alpha and omega stands for the beginning and end of Jesus' life.



Treflee Cross Embellished —

This cross is also called the budding cross (Cross of Baptism). The three balls at the end of each arm suggest the persons of the triune. The budding clover represents a young or new believer.



Treflee Cross with the Rose of Mary —

This cross represents the life and death of Jesus. The rose symbolizes Mary, Christ's human birth and his humanity. The three buds at the end of the cross suggest the "budding" of a young believer.



Trefoil Cross with Dove —
Also called the Budding Cross or the Cross of Baptism. The three-budded clover represents a young or new believer and is the symbol of the Trinity. The dove represents the Holy Spirit, which descended at the time of Jesus' baptism.



Tribune with Tau Cross —
The Tribune is a shamrock (three leaves) that symbolizes the Holy Trinity. The tau is thought to be the oldest form of the cross.



Victory Crown —
The crown symbolizes the Kingship of our Lord and His victory over our sin and death.



Victory Crowned Cross —
The crown represents the kingship of our Lord Jesus Christ, the ruler of all and his victory over sin and death.



Triune Cross —
The Latin cross with a triangle symbolizes the Holy Trinity, one God in three persons.



Trinity Cross —
Three Latin crosses in three colors represent the Holy Trinity: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.



Wounded Cross —
The gold crosses represent the wounds of Christ. The three nails represent the nails driven into his hands and feet.



Wreath with Candle —
The circular wreath symbolizes God's unchanging love. The candle is symbolic of Jesus as the Light of the World.



Triumphant Cross —
This Latin cross sits atop an orb (the world). This represents the victory of the gospel being spread around the world.



Unbroken Faith —
The circle represents the Eternal God and our enduring faith.



Unity Crown —
The seven points of this crown represent the unity of heaven (the triune God) and Earth (the four corners of the Earth).



Unity of the Father & Son —
The combination of gold beads (Father) and pearl beads (Son) are intertwined to complete a cross, which represents the unity of the Father and Son (One God).