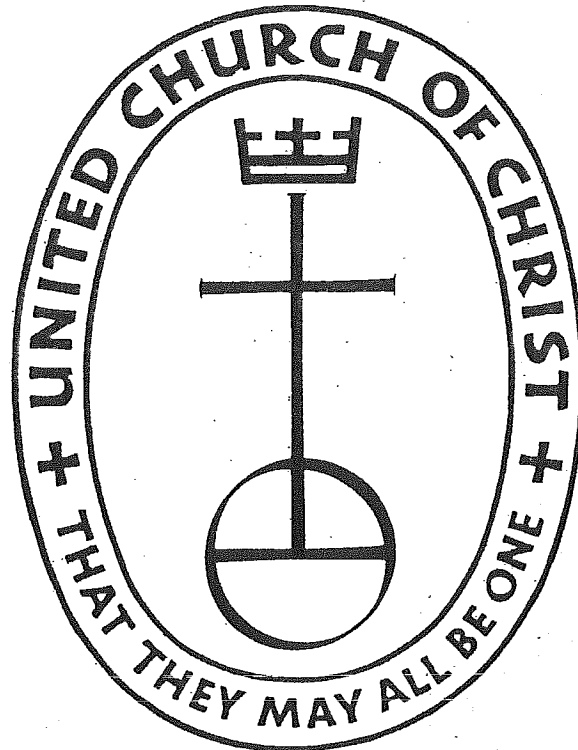


Sanctuary Art Work

Eight Panels in Clay



Mission Hills United Church of Christ

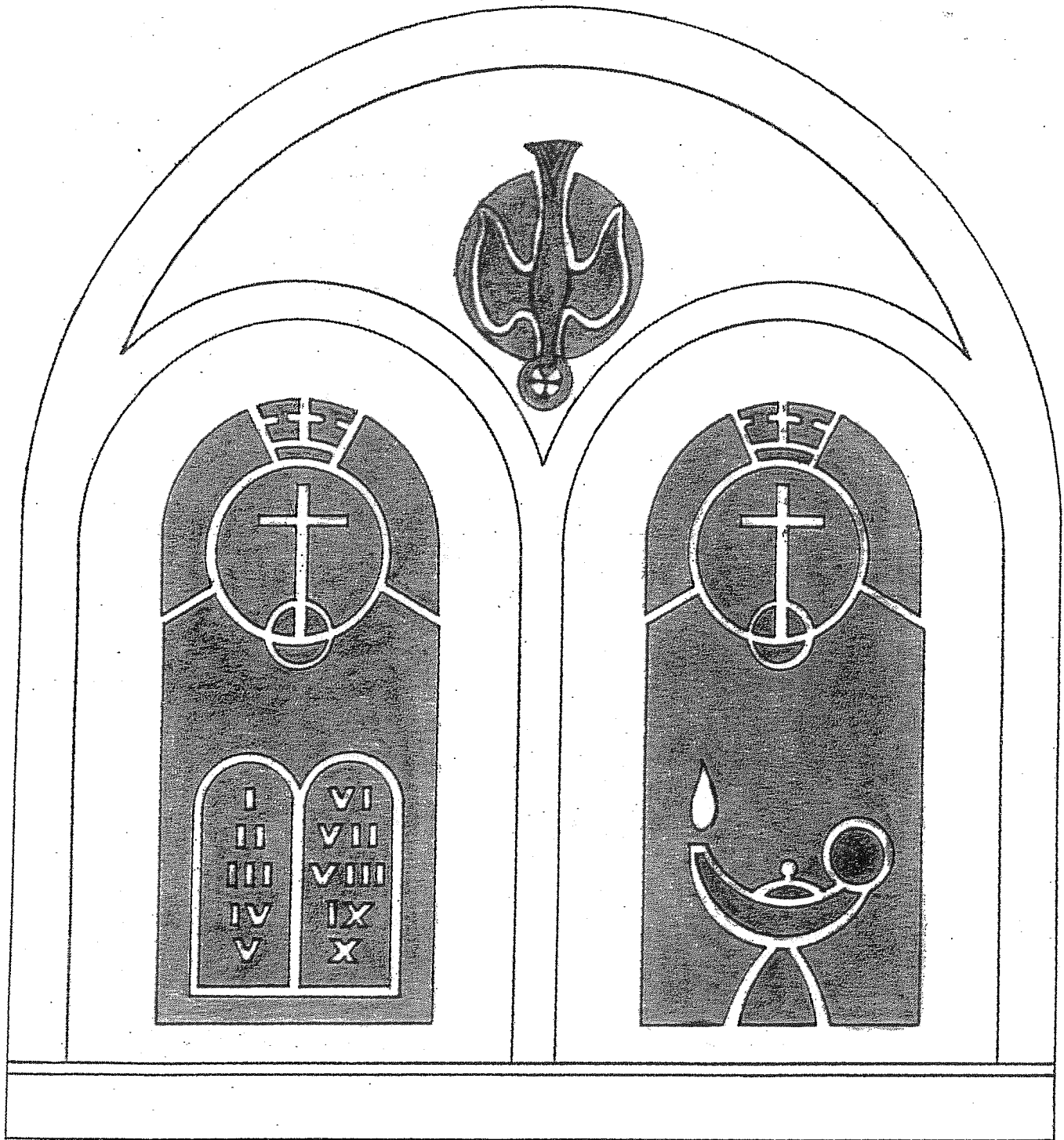
4070 Jackdaw Street, San Diego, CA 92103

Scott Landis – Pastor

In May 1987, Mission Hills United Church of Christ approved a three-year plan for the renovation of its facility located at Fort Stockton Drive and Jackdaw Street in the Uptown area of San Diego. Underwritten by contributions from the church membership and a limited matching grant from the church's endowment reserves, expenditures totaled one-half million dollars when completed. In 1989, a generous bequest from the estate of Gail Butterfield provided the funds needed to complete the renovation of the sanctuary ahead of schedule.

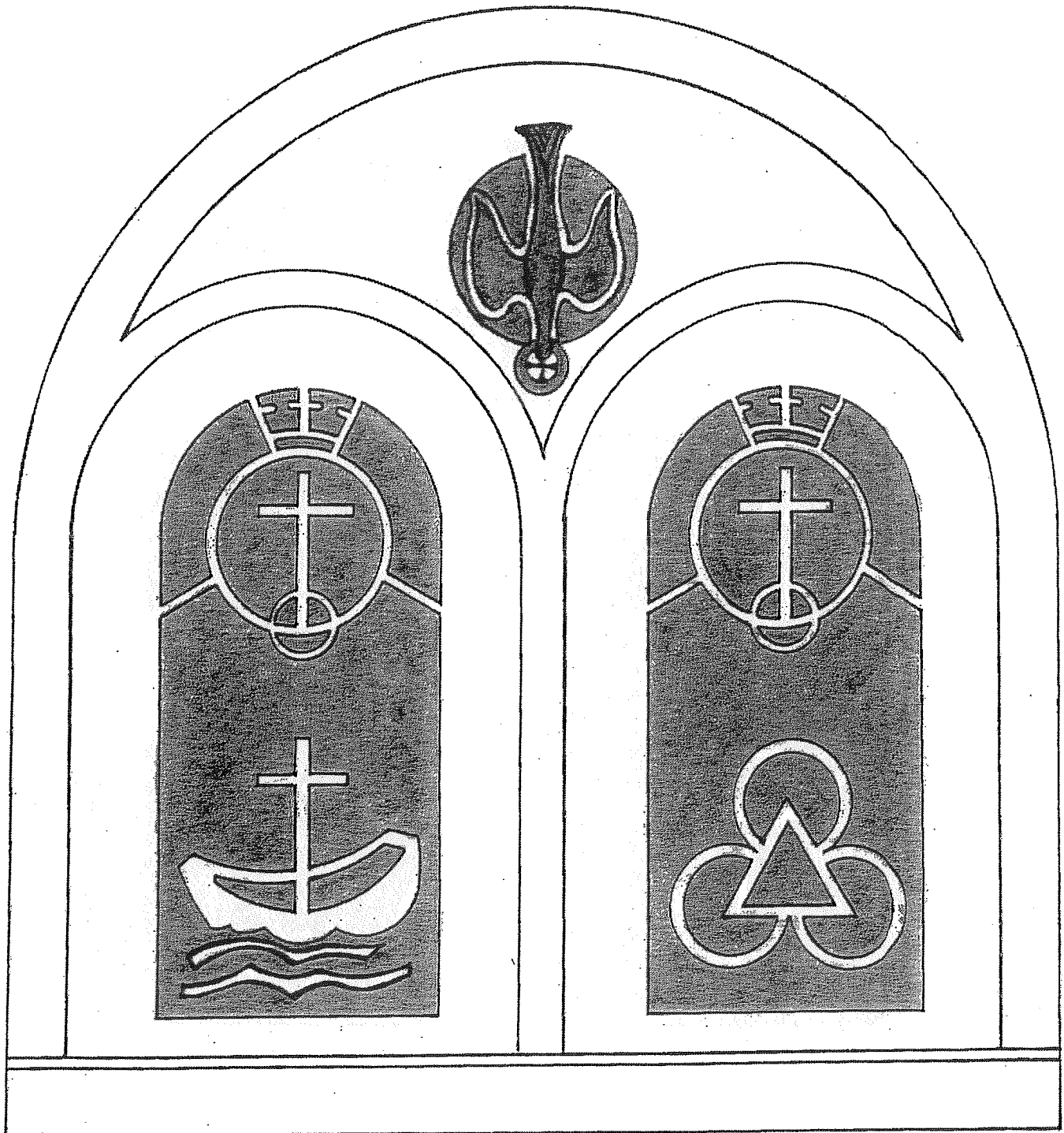
In gratitude, the sanctuary art work designed by San Diego artist, Gerald Thiebolt was dedicated to the glory of God and in loving memory of Jack and Gail Butterfield, longtime and faithful members of the congregation, on Sunday, June 24, 1990.

The artwork is located on the west wall of the sanctuary in four recessed areas designed to correspond with the exterior windows. Each of the interior "windows" is divided into three sections.



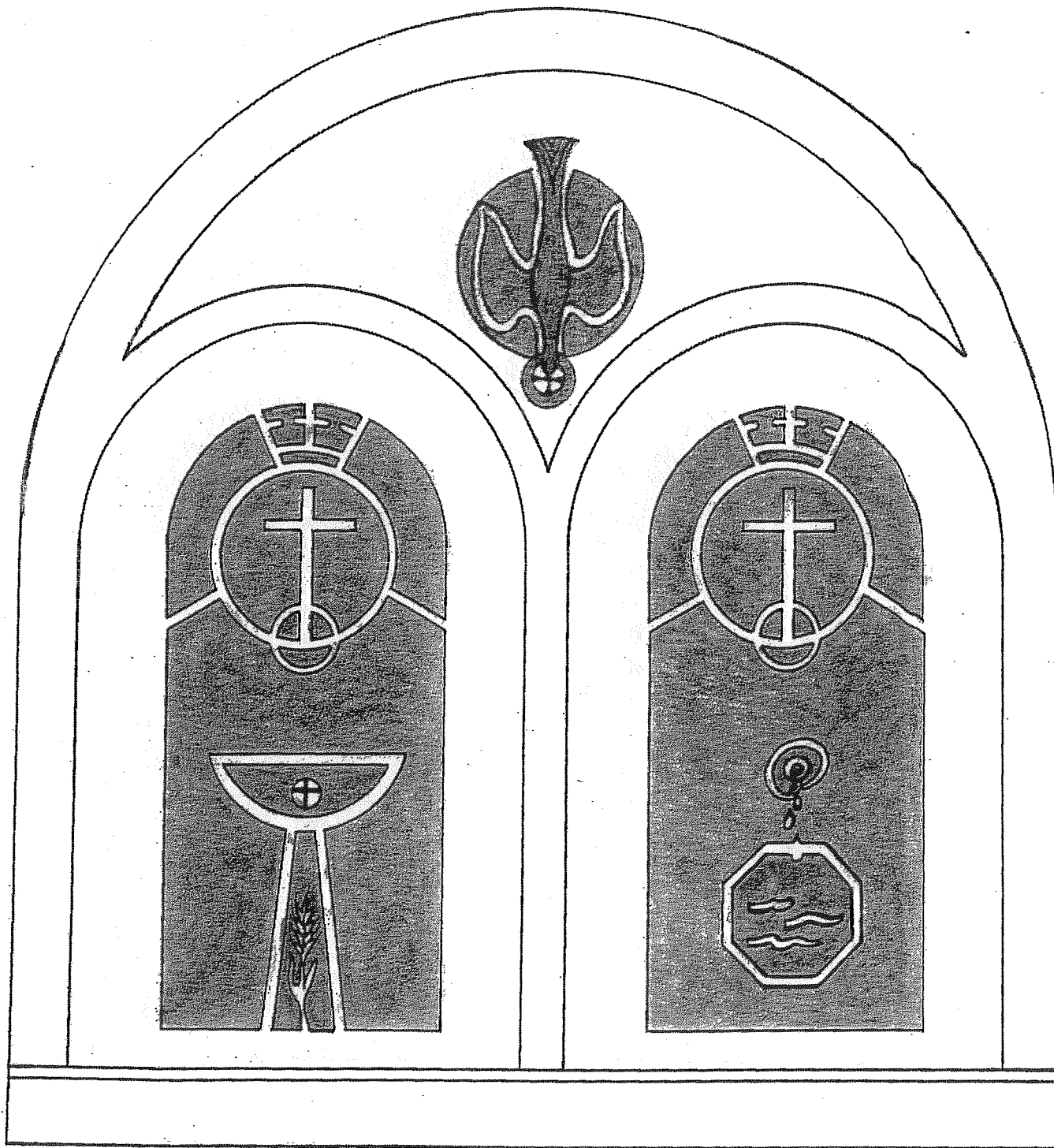
The first window represents the Word of God. The left panel contains the tablets of the Ten Commandments. In the right panel is found the lamp with an eternal flame, recalling the writing of the Psalmist: "Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path."

In the top section of each is a descending dove representing the Holy Spirit which gave birth to the Church on Pentecost. In each of the lower two sections are symbols of the window's theme, beneath the symbol of the United Church of Christ. This symbol, surmounted by the crown and all of it atop the orb, signifies the kingship of the Risen Christ over all the world.



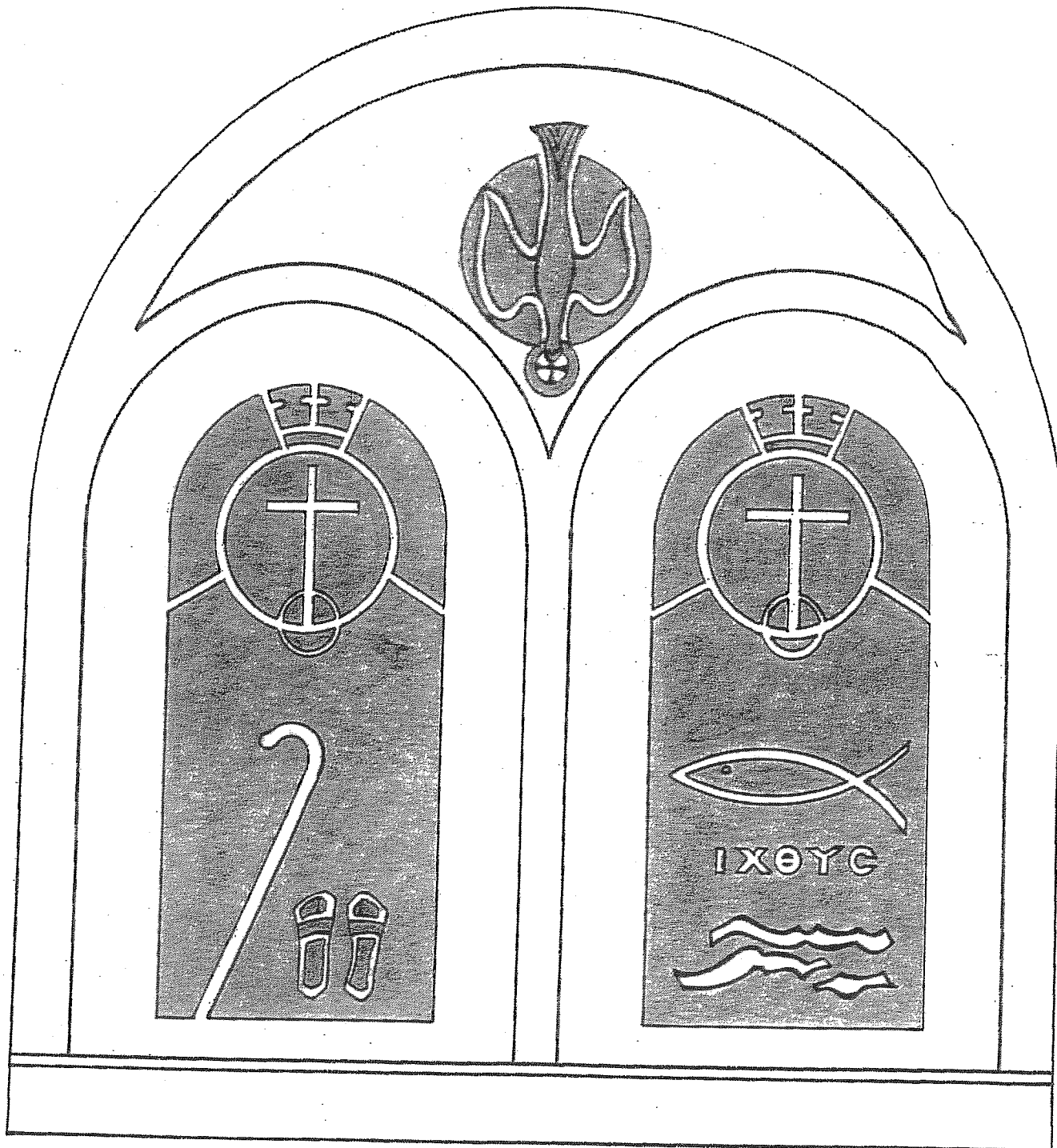
The second window represents the Church. The left panel contains a ship, an ancient Christian symbol for the Church. In the right panel is found a symbol for the Trinity, a triangle and three circles representing the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The orb, representing the world, is divided into three parts to signify the command of Jesus: "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in Judea and in Samaria and to the end of the earth."



The third window represents the two Sacraments recognized by Protestant churches. The left panel contains wheat and a chalice, the symbols of Holy Communion. In the right panel is found a shell with water representing Holy Baptism.

The ecumenical commitment of the church is represented in each window by the dove of the Holy Spirit and the symbol of the United Church of Christ recalling the prayer of Jesus, "that they may all be one."



The fourth window represents Christian discipleship. The left panel contains the staff and sandals to remind us of our spiritual pilgrimage. In the right panel are found a fish, an ancient symbol used to identify Christians, and the Greek letters "ΙΧΘΥC," an abbreviation for "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior."

Mission Hills-First Congregational Church, United Church of Christ, is the result of the historic merger in 1974 of two congregations. First Congregational Church was founded in 1886 in what is now downtown San Diego. Mission Hills Congregational Church was founded in 1911 at our present location. Today we are one congregation serving the community.

The gratitude of the congregation is expressed to those who contributed to this worthy project and to the members of the Property Improvement Committee: Louis Payne (Chair), Jeanne Dunham, Dr. Roger Goodson, Betsy McIntyre, Chan Neill, Bruce Ramet, Jean Rudd, Melanie Rundle, Alan St. John, David Snodgrass, Allan Watson, Howard Wiggins, Dr. Paul Zeigler, Anne Sarsfield (Director of Christian Education), and the Rev. Edward W. Schadt (Pastor).

About the "Windows":

The windows consist of eight panels which were designed and sculpted by Gerald L. Thiebolt in 1989. They were made of stoneware clay and fired to 2200°F in a reduction atmosphere. This atmosphere produced the rich brown color.

The artist has degrees in architecture and art and is currently working and teaching at Clay Associates in San Diego.