

*Kneelers of
St. Patrick
Episcopal Church
Somerset, Ky.*

Petitpoint Needlework by:

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Background Work by:

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Pam Jump

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Pamphlet by:

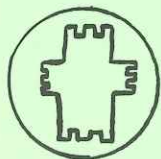
Marcy Conley

Rex Conley

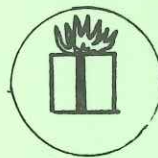
In 1976, all the people of St. Patrick's were invited to meet together and discuss "What St. Patrick's means to you." From this discussion, Martie Conaway chose symbols and designed our kneelers.

Background. The red velvet used on the sides, bottom and welting of the kneelers is to symbolize the bond of love which unites us through the Sacrament, and the love of Christ we receive to share with the rest of the world. The background on top is a neutral color because the step is more easily seen and, too, because the symbols stand out better than when a darker color is used. In addition to the center kneeler honoring the Trinity, there are four others: two to the right and two to the left. Each kneeler has two symbols, which have been traditional for centuries—with the exception of three: the fractional cross, the gift box and the Greek cross, which were all designed especially for St. Patrick's Church by Martie Conaway.

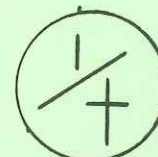
The Cross. The center symbol of the kneeler is a special cross, basically Greek in form—to represent Christ, the central figure of our life. This cross is a variation of the "embattled cross." The indentations suggest the battlements of a fortress. This also carries the idea of a tower of strength. If you count the small individual pieces at the end of the cross, you will find there are 12. These are all united by means of the cross symbolizing the unity achieved between the original 12 people who founded St. Patrick's Church. It speaks of the bringing together of 12 separate beings and incorporating them into the "Body of Christ." You'll note green was chosen for the cross to symbolize our growth.



The Star of David. The symbol of the Creator is the six-pointed star (one point for each day in the creation of the world). This is the only internationally recognized emblem of the Jewish nations. The symbol is colored blue for the love of God, the Father, and is placed to the left of the cross.



The Holy Spirit. Situated to the right of the cross is our emblem for the Holy Spirit. In order to convey the special quality of the Holy Spirit, we have used a wrapped gift, having in mind that the box would contain that particular gift that one might be needing most at the moment. Crowning the gift, rather than a bow, is a flame of seven tongues. These represent the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, ghostly strength, knowledge, true godliness and holy fear. To the left of the center pillow is:



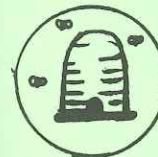
Cross-Fraction. This symbol shows a fractional number, using the cross (Christ) as our common denominator in helping us solve our problems. The numeral one represents the people of St. Patrick's, and the gold circle was added to represent our unity.



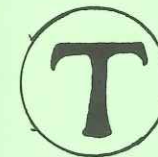
The Vine. The vine is one of the most vivid symbols in the Bible and is used to express the relationship between God and His people. The vine is also the emblem of Christ based on His own words expressing the new relationship between God and man through Him. "I am the true Vine, and my Father is the husbandman---I am the Vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit---for without Me ye could do nothing . . . Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples." (John 15: 1,5,8) This is the reason for including the fruit with the vine.



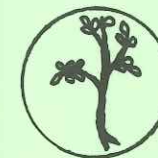
The Flaming Torch. The torch stands for Christian witness. The base of the torch, which holds the flame, has been compared to man as the "temple of the Holy Spirit." Notice the color of the torch base is black, to represent the state man would be in without the indwelling of the Holy Spirit.



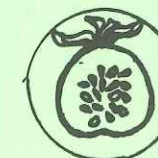
The Beehive. This beehive is used to symbolize a community of those who work together for the benefit of all. Frequently, the hive is represented as the church, while the colony of bees is the congregation; the honey, which never spoils, is the grace of God. To the right of the center pillow is:



Tau Cross. The "tau" cross is the earliest known form of the cross. It is named from its shape, like that of the letter T (or Tau in Greek). It is also referred to as the Old Testament cross. This symbol does homage to the Old Testament roots of our faith.



The Olive Branch. In the story of Noah, a single olive leaf became the symbol to him, of deliverance, hope, peace, goodwill and friendship. This symbol remains to this day.



The Pomegranate. This fruit is often used to express family, group or body of closely knit people. St. Gregory the Great first chose this symbol because of the inner unity of the countless seeds, which the fruit contains.



The Bell. The bell has long been the symbol for the call to worship and the sounding forth of the good news of the Gospel.