

The Light Shines Through
Assembly Mennonite Church, 50 years
A wall quilt

Why?

Last April, after doing a presentation for Assembly's Lunch Bunch about MCC Relief Sale Quilt Auctions and my personal quilting journey, Pastor Anna asked if I'd make a 50th anniversary quilt. I blithely said yes. After months of thinking about designs and fabrics, sizes and styles, I began wondering why I ever said yes since none of the many ideas I had seemed right. Then Bruce suggested making one similar to a wallhanging in a stained glass style that I had recently constructed. It was inspired by windows designed by the American architect Frank Lloyd Wright. This piece, "The Light Shines Through" is the result.

"The Light Shines Through"

The most direct connection with this year's celebration is the 50 squares, 25 in the top border and another 25 in the bottom border. These small squares represent the 50 years of Assembly's attempt to be God's light.

There is much symbolism associated with the word light. I can tell you what "the light shines through" means to me, but I would like each of you to ponder it's significance. From where comes the light? From whom comes light? Where does the light shine? Upon whom? Upon what? Is it a solo undertaking? A community endeavor? Are you, we, our community, Assembly a source for light or for the light to shine through?

And then there's the significance of another kind of light, light in the natural world. Without the light from the sun there would be no life as we know it. What is the relationship of "the light" to the sun's light, to the light in the vastness of the universe?

The quilting consists of many circles, circles that can represent love, life, joy, justice. What do you think about the interrelatedness of these and additional circles, of circles and light?

May light shine upon you, through you, beyond you, and beyond Assembly.

Helen Glick
January, 2024