

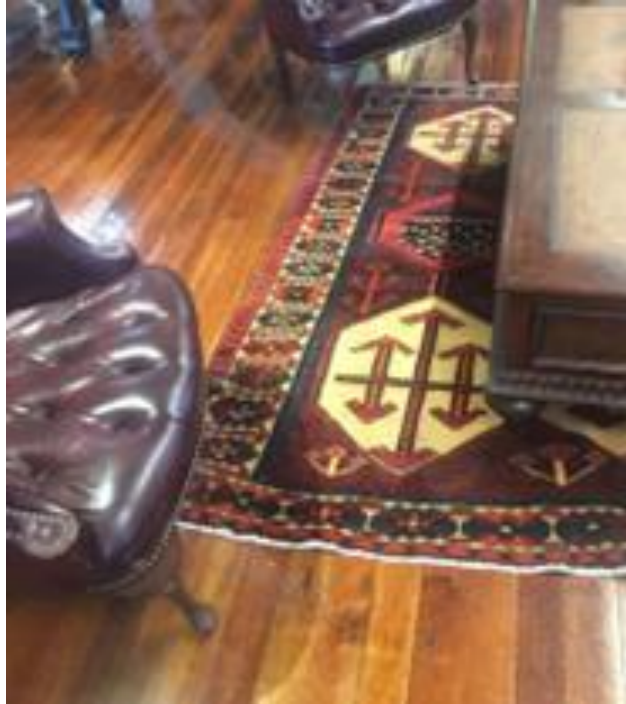
HOST STAND

This historic podium was once the center stage for powerful sermons, inspiring countless souls with messages like "What did you do with the life I gave you?" and "Rejoice!" Now, it welcomes guests and sets the tone for evenings of community and celebration. Though its use has evolved, its purpose of uniting people remains unchanged.

Originally part of the altar, this railing offered a space for quiet reflection. It now serves as the same thing minus the quiet and meditation part!

This beautiful Malayer-Sarouk rug, hand-knotted in Iran in the 1930s, is a stunning example of fine craftsmanship. Its hand-dyed wool and intricate knotting have stood the test of time, making it a beautiful and functional piece.





Sanctuary – Parlor Stove Station

- **PARLOR STOVE:** THE FIRST PARLOR STOVE WAS PATENTED IN 1845. THESE STOVES REFLECT THE VICTORIAN AGE BY EMULATING THE ARCHITECTURE OF GOTHIC CHURCHES AND ITALIAN VILLAS. THEY WERE DESIGNED TO PRODUCE HEAT AND PROVIDE A COOKING PLATFORM, SERVING AS BOTH FUNCTIONAL AND INTRICATE ART PIECES. HOWEVER, BY THE 1930S, THEY HAD FALLEN OUT OF FAVOR DUE TO THE ADVENT OF WHITE PORCELAIN KITCHEN STOVES. THIS STOVE WAS PURCHASED FROM A HOME IN THE CHICAGO AREA, WHERE IT HAD BEEN STORED UNUSED IN A GARAGE FOR DECADES. IF YOU LOOK THROUGH THE MICA-COVERED WINDOWS OF OUR STOVE, YOU MIGHT SEE THE GLOW OF EMBERS WITHIN—BUT IF YOU CLAIM TO FEEL HEAT, YOU MIGHT NEED A DOCTOR!
- **RUG:** THIS BEAUTIFULLY DETAILED ORIENTAL RUG FEATURES A KURDISH DESIGN AND WAS HAND-KNOTTED IN TURKEY IN THE 1960S. EACH FIBER IS A PIECE OF HAND-DYED YARN, WRAPPED AROUND A BASE AND THEN CUT OFF. THE RUG MAKER REPEATED THIS PROCESS HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TIMES, SWITCHING YARN COLORS TO CREATE INTRICATE PATTERNS. WHILE MODERN HAND-KNOTTED RUGS USE COMPUTERIZED PATTERNS, THIS RUG WAS CRAFTED BY FOLLOWING A PAPER PATTERN DUPLICATED IN YARN. AFTER THE KNOTS WERE ADDED, THE SURFACE WAS SHAVED TO EVEN THE NAP. CREATING THIS STUNNING RUG TOOK MONTHS, RESULTING IN A PIECE THAT TRANSCENDS TIME.
- **COFFEE TABLE:** BEST DESCRIBED AS BIG, SQUARE, AND HEAVY, THIS COFFEE TABLE COMES COMPLETE WITH SIDE DRAWERS, MAKING IT MORE LIKE A CHEST THAN A TABLE. IT OFFERS PLENTY OF SURFACE AREA FOR DRINKING, EATING, PLAYING GAMES, OR WORKING ON A COMPUTER. THIS PARTICULAR TABLE IS DESIGNED IN THE STYLE OF AN ENGLISH PUB, SO YOU MIGHT WANT TO STICK WITH THE FIRST OPTION LISTED—ENJOYING A DRINK!





Corner Memorial and Sake Maker:

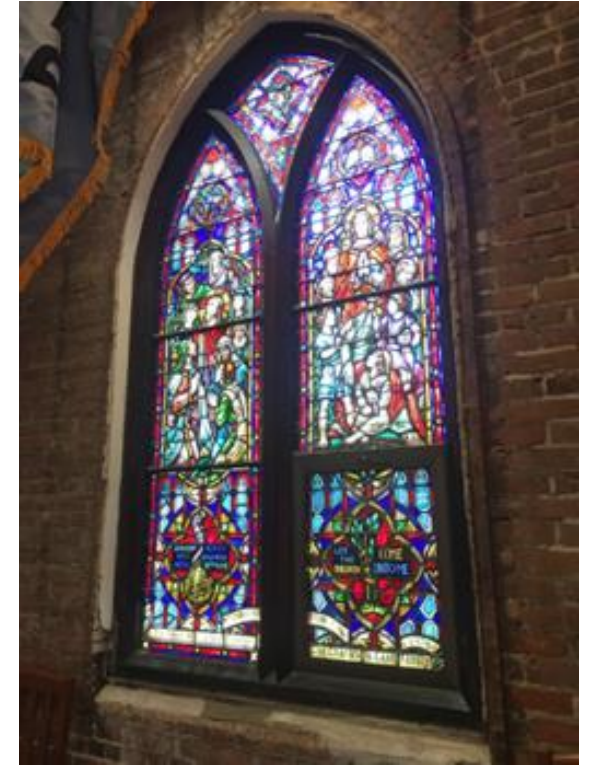
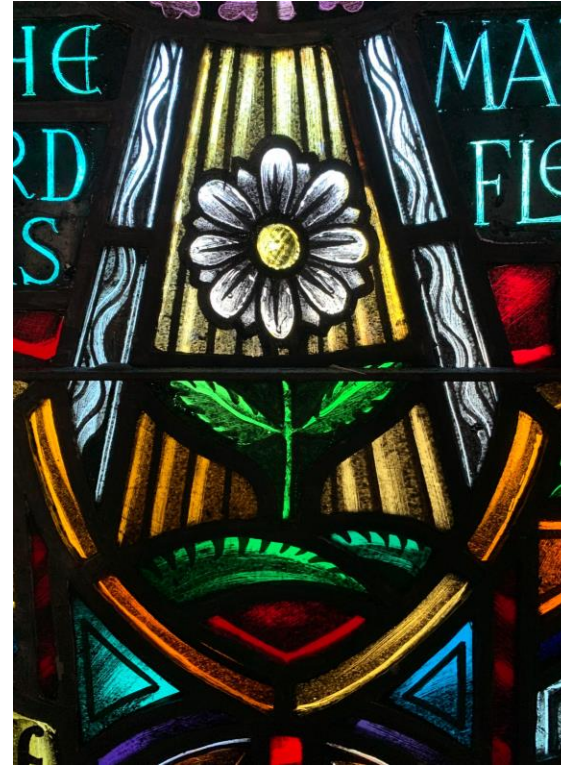
This beautifully carved wooden memorial, originally honoring Mr. & Mrs. Bernhard Jacobsen and William S. Jacobs family, now houses a unique sake maker. The cedar wood vessel, purchased in Hong Kong in the 1980s, adds a touch of history to this space. Sake, a Japanese rice wine, is made in this vintage red wooden maker, infusing the beverage with a subtle cedar aroma. While sake's history dates back to 2000 BC, beer, mentioned in Sumerian writings from 3500 BC, is even older. This was purchased by the owner's father while he was in Hong Kong in the 1980.



Red Throne Chairs: These chairs once graced the altar, where church leaders would sit, awaiting their turn at the lectern. As they sat, they likely pondered questions such as: How could Noah fish if he only had two worms? What was Peter's net income? Did Moses get a headache when God gave him two tablets? Did Adam have a date with Eve or just an apple? Did Adam say, "It's Christmas, Eve," on December 24? Was Moses a basket case? Did Noah use floodlights? Did Adam speak in palindromes, saying, "Madam, I'm Adam?" If only chairs could talk—or groan

Chesterfield Chairs: Found in the pastor's office and now polished and placed by the parlor stove, these Chesterfield chairs were designed by Lord Phillip Stanhope, the Fourth Earl of Chesterfield. Originally made with rolled tufted leather to prevent wrinkling men's suits, the arms were the same height as the back. Later models allowed for a higher back. There's no word on whether drinking was permitted while sitting in them, but we're going to go with a yes.





STAINED GLASS WINDOWS

The eleven stained-glass windows adorning the main building are priceless works of art. Commissioned and hand-crafted over fifty years ago under the direction of Rev. Bernard Miars, these windows were designed to complement the fresco (described later) by depicting the story of Jesus, from the Annunciation to Pentecost. The people who donated their time and resources to make them happen could not have imagined these windows would one day grace a microbrewery, restaurant and music venue.

Change is inevitable, and this renaissance protects these masterpieces from the neglect and abandonment they might have faced. Instead of being forgotten, they are showcased here, continuing to pictorially tell the story of Jesus. When the sun illuminates them in vivid, bold colors, it serves as a timeless reminder of the beauty of art.



The two glass-topped tables are crafted from the original 1926 pipe organ that once filled this space with beautiful music. We're not entirely sure which part of the organ they hail from, but let's imagine they were the mechanisms that held the bellows. In modern terms, these would be the air manifold, also known as the "multitudinous" (though we admit we're not entirely sure what that means either!).

TABLES & CHAIRS



The wooden parts on the ten low tables in the dining area are repurposed from the original church pews, which were commissioned in the early 1900s and sponsored by church members. Made of oak and custom-built for this building, the tabletops are the original seats turned upside down (curve side down), and the legs are the hand-carved pew end caps. Rest assured, we use industrial cleaners, so no need to worry about someone's rear end once graced your table!

The chairs on the main level come from Clinton High School. If you attended school in Clinton, you might just find your name carved into a chair. When the school decided to replace the chairs, GRB was happy to purchase them. While you couldn't enjoy a beer back then (wink, wink), you can now savor a fresh brew on one of these nostalgic seats. Just remember, no gum under the seats!



The eight tall tables in the sanctuary are all made from a single ash tree, which was born and raised in Clinton. This tree fell during the 2020 derecho—a swift, destructive windstorm. After making its way to a sawmill in Rock Island, we felt it longed to return home. So, we brought it back, adding a thick varnish to its surface and legs, preserving its live wood edge.

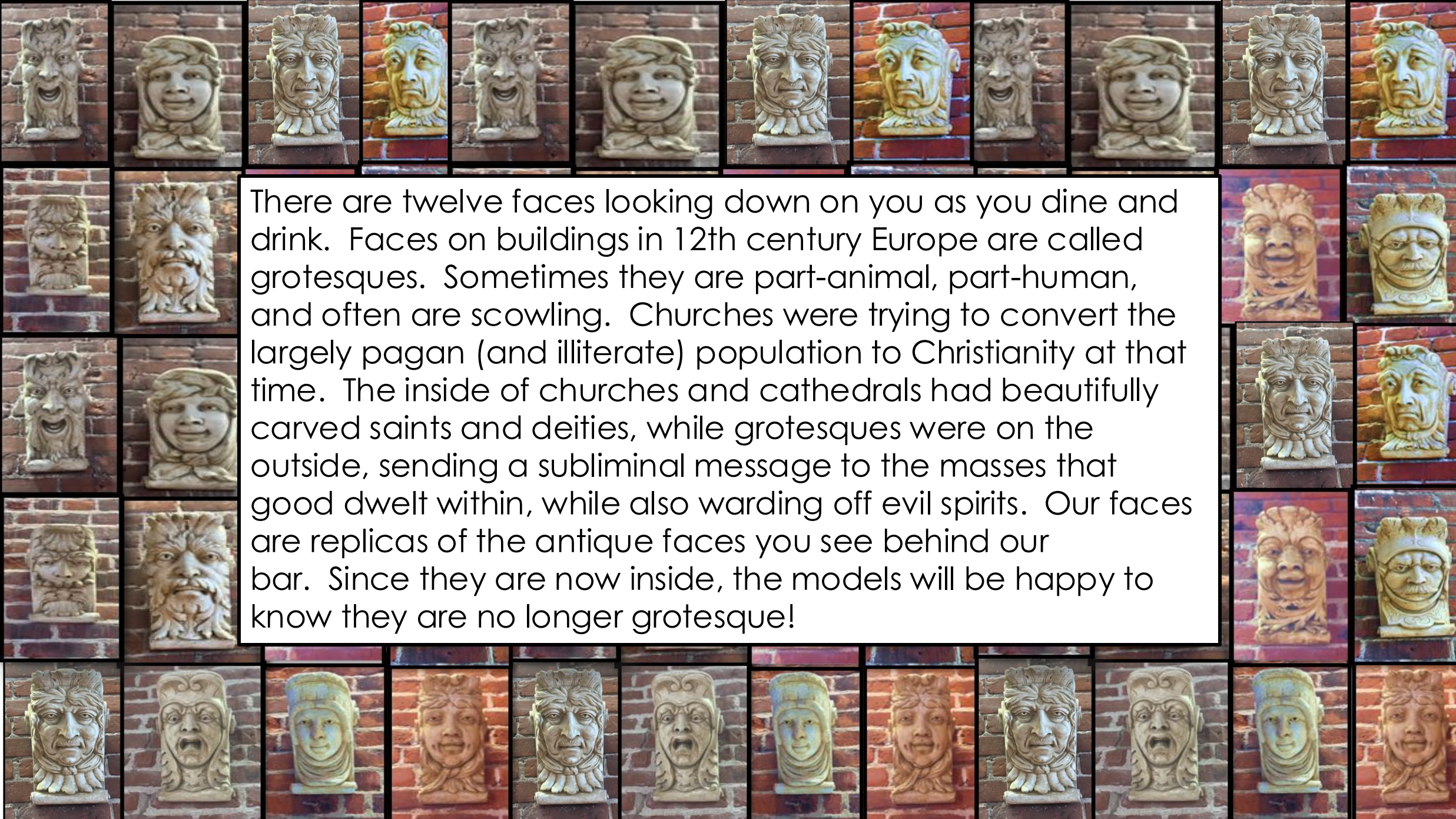


1/15/2025

Weekly hymns were displayed in these wooden holders so people would know what to sing

Just outside the sanitary water room is a memorial to church member Elizabeth Barrington, who no doubt served this church religiously





There are twelve faces looking down on you as you dine and drink. Faces on buildings in 12th century Europe are called grotesques. Sometimes they are part-animal, part-human, and often are scowling. Churches were trying to convert the largely pagan (and illiterate) population to Christianity at that time. The inside of churches and cathedrals had beautifully carved saints and deities, while grotesques were on the outside, sending a subliminal message to the masses that good dwelt within, while also warding off evil spirits. Our faces are replicas of the antique faces you see behind our bar. Since they are now inside, the models will be happy to know they are no longer grotesque!

The side pulpits are part of the original building & were used by professional & lay people alike. They were specifically designed to maximize the building's acoustics.



The steps and railings we encountered must have been replacements. The steps were made of particle board and the railings from a big box store. We replaced them with solid walnut from a tree that once stood in the Lyons District. We had it planked, kilned, carved, and stained. Just trying to step things up



The hanging pendant light fixtures in the main sanctuary are originals. Pendant lights are lights which hang down on chains. The advantage is that by lowering the fixtures, you get the light closer to where you need it, instead of the light being lost in the high ceilings. These lights are Gothic style and were probably made in the 1920's. Gothic lighting evolved from the rustic lighting of the Middle Ages as the use of more decorative lighting increased. As a nod to technology, our lights contain longer lasting, efficient bulbs, since we no longer have church elders to change them for us.

THE GAPER



In the 1600s, a time when giants like Isaac Newton and Rembrandt roamed the Earth, unique wooden and stone figures known as Gapers adorned the streets of Holland. These whimsical figures, with their wide-open mouths, were more than mere decorations; they were symbols of a bygone era, a time when medicine was a mysterious art.

Originally, Gapers were placed above apothecary shops to signal the presence of a chemist or herbalist. Painted in vibrant colors and sporting playful expressions, these figures were designed to attract customers in a world where most people were illiterate.

Depicting a variety of characters, from jesters to soldiers and exotic figures from distant lands, Gapers were often adorned with symbols of healing. A pill carved on the tongue, for example, signified the use of high-quality medicines.

As time passed, many Gapers were lost, victims of changing tastes and wartime destruction. Today, only a handful remain, treasured relics of a bygone era. These enigmatic figures, with their rich history and unique charm, continue to captivate visitors to Holland.

