

Dorothy Moses Morrison Chapel



The Shafer Gallery and the Dorothy Moses Morrison Chapel will be closed during College observed holidays. Admission is free. Tours of the chapel will be available by appointment only. The chapel may be reserved for special public and private events. Call for further information.

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gallery.bartonccc.edu • shafer@bartonccc.edu

Contact the Great Bend Convention and Visitor's Bureau at (620) 792-2750 for other tourist attractions in the area.

Historical documentation prepared with the assistance of the Barton County Arts Council and the First Congregational United Church of Christ.

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245 NE 30 RD • Great Bend, KS 67530

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Joseph and Jane McMullen reared seven children, moving to Barton County from Pennsylvania in 1878. The elder McMullens engaged in farming in Liberty Township, before moving to Great Bend. The McMullen children purchased a stained glass window for the new Congregational Church in their parents' memory. Their sons became prominent citizens of Great Bend and vicinity, the family running the McMullen Laundry for many years.

The First Congregational Church in Great Bend, Kansas, was an outgrowth of Barton County's first Sunday school formed in 1872, organized in the living room of Mr. and Mrs. Amasa C. "A.C." Moses. The first building, a stone structure, collapsed prior to completion. It was replaced with a frame building which was dedicated in 1879. In 1891, this building partially burned, then was rebuilt and enlarged.

With an ever-increasing membership roll, the congregation soon deemed larger facilities a necessity. A brick building was designed by Great Bend architect B. H. Quinn. The new building was to be constructed at an estimated cost of \$20,000 and located on the same site as



Dorothy Moses Morrison

the partly burned church, the southeast corner of the intersection of Broadway and Stone; therefore, the frame building was sold and razed. Pastor W. E. Brehm announced that the final services in the old building would be held on Sunday, May 1, 1910. The new brick building was dedicated Sunday, March 26, 1911. When completed, the magnificent structure cost nearly \$30,000 and was to "cost considerably more than that figure" upon

installation of the new pipe organ, a gift from Charles V. Brinkman and family.

The Congregational Church members were so proud of their new home that following the third dedicatory service, they raised enough money to free the church entirely of debt. In a mere one hour and fifteen minutes, they had raised \$10,000. The new brick structure featured a large number of stained glass windows, many memorializing community members who had played important roles in the church, as well as the community. It is from among these windows that the gift of Mrs. Morrison originates.

The church continued to grow throughout the next several decades, deciding in 1959, to build a new structure; this one located at 21st and Polk streets. The stained

glass windows were removed from the old church and some of them sold, while others were stored for nearly 40 years.

In 1991, Dorothy Moses Morrison, great-granddaughter of A. C. and Naomi Moses, gifted five of the memorial stained glass windows to the Barton County Community College Foundation. Past and present members of the First Congregational Church were, and remain enthusiastic that the windows will now be a part of a beautiful Chapel.

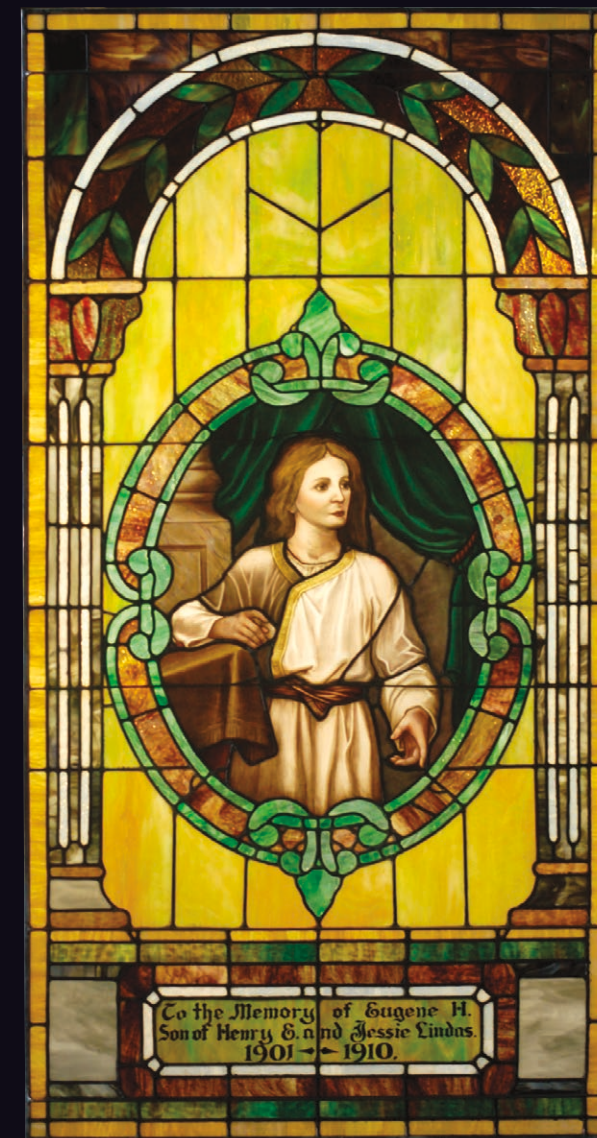
In 2000, Mrs. Morrison instructed her attorney and trustee, Glenn Opie, to proceed to have the windows restored to their neo-classical grandeur of 90 years ago and permanently install them in the College's Chapel. Shortly thereafter, Mrs. Morrison increased her commitment to endow the renovation of the chapel, and for her generosity, the College named the chapel in her honor, the Dorothy Moses Morrison Chapel.

Angel and Shepherds Diptych

Amasa C. and Naomi A. (Terry) Moses were the parents of seven sons, who grew to maturity in Great Bend. With the help of their father, these men contributed greatly to the growth of Great Bend in wheat milling and banking. Upon the decision to build a new church, the sons supported the creation of a stained glass diptych in memory of their parents because of their influence in starting the Congregational Church. The couple were charter members of the church. Additionally, A. C. was the first superintendent of the Sunday school.

Angel Pointing to Tomb, front cover

The sons of Mary A. Moses purchased a stained glass window in memory of their mother, who raised fourteen children. Moses' son, George, was Barton County's first sheriff, while another son, Edward, ran a successful mercantile business. A daughter, Laura, married C. P. Townsley, founder of the Inland Tribune, who also was a lawyer and judge. Another window, dedicated to the memory of Judge Townsley is displayed in the foyer of the present First Congregational United Church of Christ.



The small rectangular window depicting the young Christ is dedicated to the memory of Eugene H. Lindas. Lindas was the eight-year-old son of Dr. Henry and Jessie Lindas of Great Bend and the grandson of John Lindas, an early settler of Pawnee Rock, then of Larned, and proprietor of Lindas Lumber Company. In 1910, Eugene Lindas drowned while playing with friends in the Arkansas River, south of Great Bend. He was three months shy of his ninth birthday.