





*Several panes of glass were broken at Westbury United Methodist Church*

Hurricane Ike caused all of the windows to heave (uncontrollably) and to become even more loosened. The cement between the lead comes and the stained glass is now almost non-existent, meaning the stained glass is simply nestling unsecured in the lead comes. There are many broken pieces of stained glass. Several panels were found resting on the sanctuary floor.

Both Antioch Baptist and St. John's Downtown UMC need to have portions of their windows releaded, rebraced and reinstalled, and then have these windows protected against future storms.

To the west of downtown is the A-frame Westbury United Methodist Church with a massive balcony window. Although the protective covering was old and cloudy, few feared for Westbury's stained glass because the protective covering was Lexan, a nearly unbreakable polycarbonate plastic. Indeed the Lexan appeared to have made it through the storm effectively. But the inside stained glass didn't. Broken pieces of stained glass were found throughout the huge window. Numerous panels were left shattered.

How could this have happened? The pressures must have been somewhat like an accordion and what probably resulted was the flexible 3/16" Lexan was thrust in and out with the great wind pressures. So too the stained glass panels were forced to fluctuate. [Stained

glass is designed with some "give," but it could not sustain these enormous forces.] The balcony has been rendered completely unsafe.

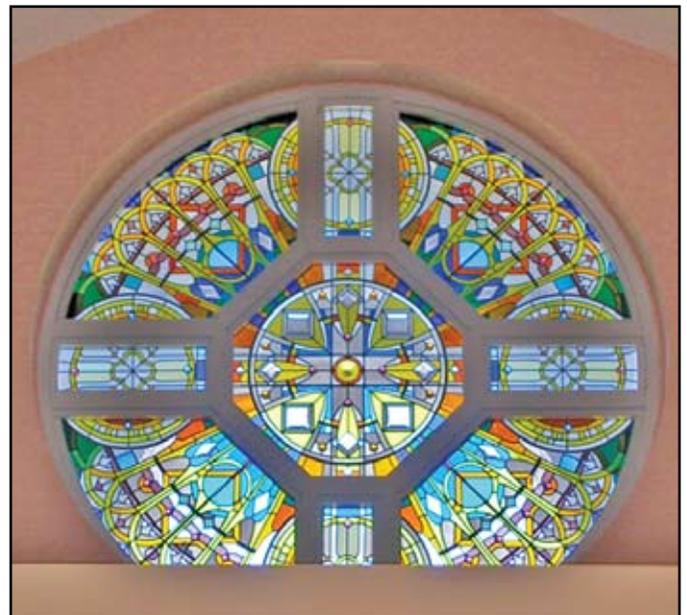
Avoiding this problem in Westbury's future will require a thicker and stronger Lexan XL protective covering: 1/4" vs. the current 3/16". The accordion effect will no longer be a factor.

St. Claire of Assisi Catholic Church has three fairly new rose windows. They were protected with a glass that covers only the stained glass portions of the round shape. The Hurricane Ike winds forced a significant amount of water through the perimeter of the windows. To avoid this problem in the future, a new protective covering spanning the entire perimeter is needed.

Overall the stained glass damage does not seem to be as significant as Hurricane Katrina, but Ike caused some priceless stained glass to come perilously close to complete oblivion. Leaving stained glass windows improperly protected along the American coastline is inviting disaster.

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This article is excerpted from *The Stained Glass Appraisal Guide*, by the late Dr. Gary Gray and Carrie Crow Thiele of American Consultation on Stained Glass. [www.AmericanStainedGlass.org](http://www.AmericanStainedGlass.org).



*The Hurricane Ike winds forced water through the stained glass perimeter of this rose window at St. Clare Catholic Parish.*