

“Regional Train Depots”

--an exhibit by Linden Griffin

Linden has always appreciated and enjoyed history. One of his passions is painting trains, but always in a most realistic and historically accurate way.

For this series of paintings, he spent countless hours researching various history books of Kalamazoo, the archives of the Kalamazoo Gazette, and the work of people such as Willis Dunbar.

He has used old photographs and articles about each station, as well as local histories to get a feel for the surroundings as they looked at a particular moment in time. His extensive research insures that trains and cars are historically accurate for the time period he has painted.

There is no doubt that an accurate representation is important in sharing history.

Our displays in Blends always seek to have a spiritual dimension, and this is certainly no exception. Beyond the obvious opportunity for Linden to use his God-given artistic talents in expression of remembrances of the past, the entire theme of trains and stations is one ripe with symbol and meaning.

Where do you think these trains are headed? How long will the journey take? Where did they begin the journey? And what about your journeys? Where did each segment of your trip begin? How many stations have you waited at for the next train to come? What is your final destination, and how will you know when you have “arrived?” What is life on the tracks like for you? Who has journeyed with you and who has not? What do you see as you look at these paintings?

Part of remembering history is acknowledging its gift in the present. Our lives of faith are a journey, and there certainly is much in these works of art that speak to each of us in different ways. We are thankful for Lin in sharing these works.