

The farm wife shares her view on windows in the new sanctuary

by [Shari Wagner](#) in the [November 22, 2016](#) issue

Some members are voting for clear glass  
while others believe frosted would be nicer.  
I prefer a view of Ed Troyer's cows  
and a way to survey the sky. It gives me pause  
to think of everyone in the same room  
with no way to look out and no sunlight  
crossing the pews. Call the outside a distraction,  
but I'd rather pray with the Amish in a barn,  
the big door flung open and swallows with forked  
tails, darting in and out. I'm saying this softly  
because even Mennonites who favor clear glass  
might see some taint of worldliness, unsettling  
as the stained glass in the old sanctuary  
when it was Methodist. Sam Troyer, Ed's father,  
loaded those windows on a wagon headed  
for the dump, but he took a wrong turn.  
No one in LaGrange County has a prettier barn  
than Ed's—you should see the milking parlor,  
how lilies of the field hold the light.