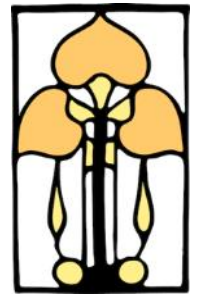


# FRIENDS of HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH

## THE HERALD

Volume XVI, Number 1

Spring 2022



TREE OF LIFE TO BE LARGEST PRESERVATION PROJECT UNDERTAKEN BY FRIENDS *by William Tyre*



*Tree of Life, Photo credit: James Caulfield*

The recent receipt of a \$256,364 Save America's Treasures grant for the Tree of Life project moves Friends closer to the start of its largest preservation project to date. Only \$80,000 remains to be raised for the project which is projected to cost \$547,500. Anticipated to begin in late 2022, the timing of the project completion will coincide with the sesquicentennial of the birth of muralist Frederic Clay Bartlett, to be commemorated with a symposium and other events. In this article, we will look at the Tree of Life mural and the surrounding artistic elements, envisioned by architect Howard Van Doren Shaw and executed by six highly-skilled artisans and craftsmen.

### Tree of Life mural

The Tree of Life, which dominates the front wall of the sanctuary, is the largest and last of the thirteen murals executed by artist Frederic Clay Bartlett. Completed in 1903, it was funded by a gift from church trustee Eugene S. Pike and replaced a temporary stenciled design painted onto the wall during the 1901 rebuilding of the sanctuary. The mural, which measures forty feet in width by thirty feet in height, is divided into three main sections:

- a lush, stylized forest representing the Garden of Eden and the Tree of Life
- a rainbow symbolizing the covenant between God and Noah following the flood

-a procession of sixteen angels representing the Book of Revelation, with a central grouping of five additional angels holding a banner which reads "SING FORTH THE HONOR OF HIS NAME MAKE HIS PRAISE GLORIOUS" taken from Psalm 66.

The angels are set beneath a starry sky painted onto the ceiling of the recessed arch.

The mural was painted directly onto the cured plaster and was enhanced with the use of parget – ornamental plaster applied to build up sections of the design such as halos and the edges of angel wings, and then accented with gold leaf. Pre-Raphaelite in style with its flat, two-dimensional figures outlined by dark lines, the mural also displays elements of the Symbolists and Impressionists, including stylized leaves on the trees and gold clouds in the sky. Bartlett was introduced to all of these styles during his six years studying in Europe just prior to starting his work at the church in 1901.

### Heralding angels

Four life size angels, with six-foot wing spans, stand atop the organ case and represent the archangels Michael, Gabriel, Uriel, and Raphael. Although made of plaster formed over a metal sub-structure, the figures are painted to mimic patinated bronze. The angels are designed in two different poses; all four are depicted holding a herald (or fanfare) trumpet.

The angels are the work of the firm of Beil & Mauch, formed in 1894 after the two artisans met while working on huge sculptural groups for the Administration Building at the World's Columbian Exposition. Carl Beil had

previously worked on the Bavarian castles of King Ludwig II before immigrating to the U.S. Austrian-born Maximilian Mauch was a major force in Chicago's art scene and was a co-founder of the Municipal Art League in 1901. The firm undertook significant work at the World's Fairs in Paris, Buffalo, and St. Louis as well as numerous commissions in Chicago, including the exuberant Francis Dewes house and the Iroquois Theater.

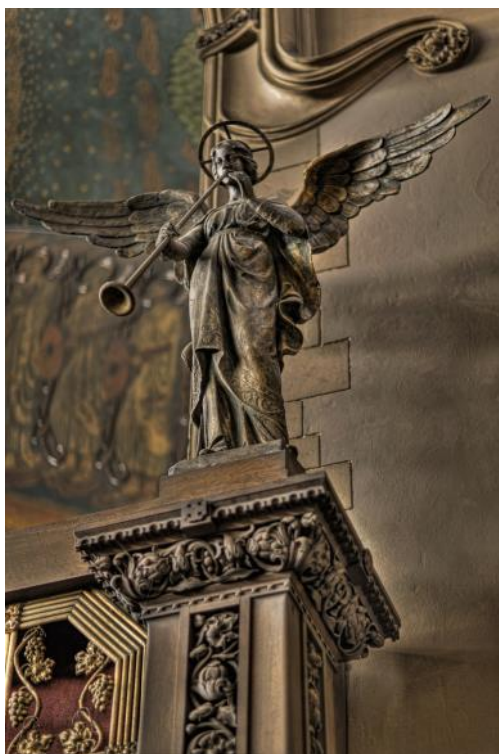
### Metal screens

Two large metal screens (with fabric behind) conceal the organ pipes. The screens are made of copper which were then plated with brass. A regular grid, with Tudor roses and pomegranates at the intersection of the horizontal and vertical elements, forms a trellis which is softened with repeating elements of a grapevine, one of the ubiquitous motifs Shaw used throughout the sanctuary. In 1899, a remarkably similar screen was installed in Holy Trinity Church Sloane Square in London – known as the “Cathedral of the Arts and Crafts Movement.” It is likely that Shaw saw that screen during his 1900 visit to England while planning his design for Second Church.

The screens were produced by James A. Miller & Bro. Miller was born in St. Charles, Illinois to Scottish immigrants and grew up in the roofing trade, specializing in metal roofs, cornices, and skylights. In the 1890s he began fabricating decorative objects from sheet copper, including urns and vases, for Frank Lloyd Wright.

### Light fixtures

Three distinctive styles of light fixtures are suspended over the musicians' balcony. The center three fixtures each comprise a pair of lights suspended from an oval leaded glass panel with a simple cross design. At either end, a



*Heralding Angel, Photo credit: James Caulfield*

candelabra consists of a brass arch supporting a horizontal bar holding four “candles,” the arch mimicking the rainbow in the mural above. The arch is surmounted by a crown, a motif which is referenced in several of the electric fixtures in the sanctuary.

These light fixtures were the work of Willy H. Lau, considered a pioneer designer in electric lighting. At exactly the same time he was working on the fixtures for Second Church, he was fabricating fixtures for the B. Harley Bradley house in Kankakee, Illinois, designed by Frank Lloyd Wright. Lau would go on to produce light fixtures for several other Prairie School architects including George Maher.

(Two fabric-lined brass filigree globes were purchased rather than fabricated; one started its life as a Japanese incense burner).

### Wood

The wood framework of the organ case consists of four massive square piers which serve as plinths for the heralding angels above. Elaborate carving of flowers, foliage, and fruit enliven the capitals and small panels set beneath. At

center, behind the musicians' balcony, a delicate screen combines slender balusters at top, crenelation (which provides both structural and visual support), and Japanese-inspired fretwork that relates to the metal screens to either side. A central arch, following the curve of the rainbow above, is centered with a beautifully carved angel holding a banner reading HOLY HOLY HOLY (see image page 3).

All the wood carving in the sanctuary was executed by the Edmunds Manufacturing Company. Abraham Edmunds was born in Wales and arrived in Chicago in 1869. He was regularly engaged by the city's leading architects for major buildings which include Louis Sullivan's Carson Pirie Scott State Street store, and the Field Museum and the Marshall Field & Co. flagship store, both by D. H. Burnham & Co.

### Plaster

The Tree of Life mural is surrounded by a substantial Tudor arch. At either end, an elegant volute gives the

**JOIN US UNDER THE STARRY  
SKY TO HEAR  
ABOUT THIS MAJOR  
ARTS & CRAFTS  
CONSERVATION PROJECT**

Become part of the new campaign,

***Tree of Life:  
Restoring an Arts & Crafts  
Masterpiece***

Lecture by William Tyre,  
Executive Director and  
Curator of Glessner House

March 5, 2022: 4:00 pm CST  
Online via Zoom: Free Event

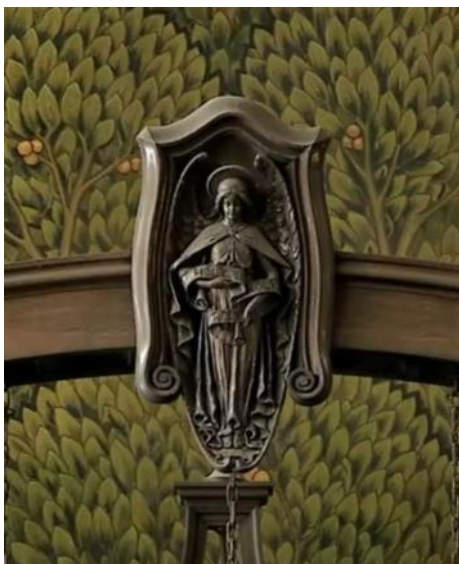
**RSVP:**

info@historicsecondchurch.org  
or call 1-800-657-0867

appearance that the arch has been pulled to the side to reveal the quoining beneath (made of plaster to

*Continued on page 3*

imitate stone) which is visible as it continues down to the top of the wood organ case. Nineteen decorative panels featuring the grapevine motif are found across the span of the arch, replacing, in an abstract manner, the expected joints between the stone units in a true structural arch.



*Angel in Front of Tree of Life, Photo credit: William Tyre*

August Zander undertook all the decorative plasterwork in the sanctuary. Like many others in the building trade, he came to Chicago just months after the Great Fire to help rebuild the city. Plasterers are rarely credited for their work, so not much is known of his other commissions, although he is documented as having provided the plasterwork in the Mississippi State Capitol.

### Preservation

Most of the preservation work will be undertaken by Parma Conservation, Ltd., a firm founded in 1998 with a focus on historic and artistic works. Parma previously undertook the work on the Bartlett mural around the St. Paul Preaching at Athens window and the lunettes in the narthex. Work on the Tree of Life mural will include consolidating plaster and paint, removing existing varnish and earlier repairs, cleaning, varnishing, and then inpainting as needed. The plaster arch

will be washed, scraped, and sanded. The heralding angels will be cleaned and inpainted as needed, and sections of missing trumpet and base will be recast. The metal screens will be cleaned, straightened and secured, and missing elements recreated. A new acoustic curtain will also be installed behind the screen. The wood elements will be cleaned, touched up, and waxed.

National Decorating Services, Inc., which first did work at Second Church in the 1920s, will repaint the proscenium walls and the plaster arch in their original colors, including a bronze tone for the decorative arch segments. Archistoric Products, which previously restored the under-balcony lights at the rear of the sanctuary, will restore the light fixtures, including rewiring and cleaning. B & Z Electric will install new wiring from the fixtures to the electric panel, replacing the current wiring which dates to 1901. One of the most complex parts of the project is the scaffolding, which needs to be constructed over and around the 2,600 organ pipes. Gilco Scaffolding Company, founded in 1938, and known for its innovative design work, will tackle this challenge.

The project is expected to take four months. Once this highly skilled team has completed its work, the magnificence of the Tree of Life and its surrounding elements will be fully revealed for the first time in over a century as originally conceived by Howard Van Doren Shaw and his talented craftsmen.

### SUPPORT FRIENDS WITH AMAZONSMILE

Friends has joined AmazonSmile, a website which allows non-profit organizations to receive donations from a 0.5% portion of sales made on the popular shopping website. To donate via AmazonSmile, visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/> and select Friends of Historic Second Church at the prompt.

### BLACK HEROS OF FIRE: THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN FIRE COMPANY IN CHICAGO

February 27, 2022  
2:00 pm to 3:00 pm  
1936 S. Michigan Ave  
Chicago, IL 60616



This year marks the 150th anniversary of the establishment of Engine Company 21, Chicago's first organized paid African American firefighting company. In recognition of Black History Month, this program will provide information and insight on the transition from slavery to freedom in the African American community and the political impact that affected change for African American firefighters, during the period of reconstruction in America. The presentation will be given by Dekalb Walcott, Jr., author of *Black Heroes of Fire*. Walcott is a retired Battalion Chief who served 31 years with the Chicago Fire Department and helped the city establish a smoke detector and carbon monoxide ordinance in the mid-1980s. He serves as the historian for the African American Firefighters and Paramedic League of Chicago. Co-sponsored by Glessner House, Quinn Chapel AME Church, Friends of Historic Second Church, and Second Presbyterian Church.

**Free admission,  
registration not required.**



*Author, Dekalb Walcott Jr.*

***Friends of Historic Second Church gratefully acknowledges the following memberships, donations, and contributions from October 28, 2021– January 20, 2022***

**\$10,000 - \$49,999**

Anonymous  
Curt & Betty Klooster  
Sandra Lancaster  
Joan Stinton

**\$5,000 - \$9,999**

Anonymous  
Allan E. Bulley, Jr.  
Karen Lamb

**\$3,000 - \$4,999**

Jeff & Linda Miller

**\$1,000 - \$2,999**

Michael & Ann Belletire  
*In honor of Robert Irving*  
John & Joan Blew  
Jerry & Jan Erickson  
Heather J. Haberaecker  
Law, Ware, Shedd, Murphy Foundation  
Raymond & Judy McCaskey  
Janelle Hoekstra & Jamie McMullin  
Tim & Sandra Rand  
David Marzahl & Anne Reusche

**\$500 - \$999**

Judy Bross  
*In memory of John Bross*  
Jim Peters & Pat Casler  
Madelon Clymo  
*In honor of Ann Belletire*  
Craig & Kelly Dean  
*In honor of Howard & Jane Tiffen*  
Margaret Grinnell  
Robert Irving  
Arthur Martin  
Jacqueline Quern  
Phyllis Robinson

**\$100 - \$499**

Robert Adamshick  
*In memory of Karen Oliver*  
Jerry Adelman  
*In honor of Barbi & Tom Donnelley*

Lisa Armstrong  
Lorraine & Randy Barba  
Deneen Marie Bryce  
*In honor of William Tyre*  
Richard Peloquin & Mary Bucaro  
Constance Casey  
Elizabeth Clarke  
Bill & Sue Crawford  
Nan M. Drummond  
*In honor of Mary McCarthy Martin*  
Mary Duff  
Jacquetta Ellinger  
Luann Elvey  
Chip Ferguson  
Barbara J. Floyd  
*In memory of Samuel A. Floyd, Jr.*  
Al Renslow & Karen Fontaine  
Tavia Frazier  
Glenn & Donna Gabanski  
Diane C. Gartung  
Coleman & Bonita Gilchrist  
*In memory of Ian Franklin Gilchrist*  
Elizabeth Greene  
Kevin Hall  
Holly Harms-Laspina  
Marilyn Helmholz  
*In memory of John Bross*  
Katherine M. Henrici  
Ernest Hodge  
Dale & Diane Hoekstra  
Karen & Tom Howell  
*In memory of John Bross*  
Darleen & Jim Jackson  
Barbara Chasnoff & J. Thomas Johnson  
Charles Katzenmeyer  
Virginia Kerr  
Deborah A. Lielasus  
Dr. William & Judy Lussie

Anne S. Martin  
*In honor of Ginny Noyes*  
Bonnie McGrath  
Dr. Robert D. & Lorel J. McMillan  
Stuart Miller  
David Neff  
*In memory of Karen Oliver*  
Jane McCahill & Bill O'Connor  
Darlene Pollard  
Donna Marie Primas  
Todd Protzman  
Davis  
David & Lois Rakov  
*In honor of Linda Miller & Ann Belletire for their tireless efforts*  
Suzan L. Rayner, MD  
Shelley & Elizabeth House Reither  
*In honor of Ann & Mike Belletire*  
Robert & Vicki Reynolds  
Marilyn & Stephen Scott  
Michael Shawgo  
Lilly Staar  
William & Ingrid Stafford  
Merrie Star  
*In memory of Leanne Star*  
Susana Steppan  
Elise Wagner & Robin Stout  
Michael Trier  
Allan Vagner  
Warren Vik  
John Vinci  
Stephen & Mary Kay Wysham

**Under \$100**

Diane Anderson  
Anonymous  
Steve & Kathy Belletire  
Cindy & Del Cahill  
Jack Danch  
Rochelle Davis  
*In memory of Lorraine Coles*

Jane Dewey  
Jim & Judy Elsass  
Philip J. Enge  
Jim Jepsen & Jackie Finch  
Suzanne Fraker  
*In memory of Esther Fraker*  
Dr. Bruce Gleason  
Anna Greenberg  
John Alsterda & Holly Greenhagen  
Louise Howe  
*In memory of Karen Oliver*  
Linda Jebavy  
Paul Kendall  
Christine M. Landem  
Linda Lilly  
*In honor of Ann Belletire*  
Shelly Low Arnold  
*In memory of Gloria E. Parker Low*  
Teresa R. Maher  
Debra N. Mancoff (2)  
*In honor of Dr. Michael Sarché's 80th Birthday & In memory of Kathleen Roy Cummings and her invaluable contribution to the knowledge and appreciation of the Arts and Crafts Movement in Chicago*  
David Mattoon  
Nancy Robinson  
*In memory of Helen Davis*  
Susan & Jeff Ruff  
Robert Schwendau  
Janet Smucker  
Marilyn A Steenwyk  
Dan & Linda Tretter  
Claudia Winkler

**REPLACING THE 1901 WIRING IN THE CHANDELIER**



One of the most pressing needs in Friends' restoration plans is to address the wiring in the sanctuary. It dates from 1901. We have examined the wiring on the first floor. Happily, we

found steel conduit that enables a fairly easy process of pulling out the old wiring and installing new wiring. The work of updating the first floor wiring and cleaning and repairing the light fixtures has begun.

Thanks to a grant from the Richard H. Driehaus Foundation we will conduct a study of the balcony chandelier wiring and the work needed to clean and repair the light fixture and the angel bracket that supports this large fixture. The work is multi-faceted. B & Z Electric will take down one chandelier and then examine the condition of the wiring, its route to the electric panel and whether or not the 1901 electrical contractors installed a conduit to contain the wires. They will replace the old wiring and also install new electric panels serving these light fixtures. Once the chandelier is down, we will send it to the Archhistoric Conservation studio for cleaning, repair and rewiring. Next, Parma Conservation will examine the condition of the plaster angel that serves as a bracket for the chandelier and take the needed steps to clean, repair and touch up the paint of the bracket. Finally, the fixture will be returned and reinstalled. The chandelier sits high above the balcony floor. Thus, fairly extensive scaffolding will be erected to reach all elements of the project.

This month-long project, which begins in early February, will provide the information needed to plan for the restoration of the remaining nine balcony chandeliers and their wiring.



**BECOME A MEMBER**

In its sixteen year history, Friends of Historic Second Church has never seen a more active and exciting year of preservation work than we will experience in 2022! Thanks to you, our faithful supporters, four wonderful projects will occur this year. The *St. Paul Preaching at Athens* Tiffany window, completely restored and transformed, will be re-installed in late Spring. A sanctuary crown chandelier feasibility study will be completed this Winter. Six under-balcony light fixtures will be cleaned and rewired. And the entire front of the church will be restored to its former glory with the *Tree of Life* preservation project this Fall that includes all the surrounding art works. Your membership and support make all this progress possible! Couple that with informative programs and specialized tours for a fun year as well. Please join or re-join today to keep this momentum going. You are leaving a legacy of the restoration of great art.

**MEMBERSHIP FORM**

All members receive the newsletter *The Herald* and are recognized as donors in the newsletter.

**Tiffany Circle:** \$40 Individual; \$55 Family; \$25 Student/Senior (62 yrs.+)

*Benefits include:* Free tours during regular tour hours, 25% discount on Friends' merchandise.

**Arts & Crafts Circle:** \$100 and above

*Benefits include:* Free tours during regular tour hours, 25% discount on Friends' merchandise, and invitations to special members-only tours and programs.

I/we wish to become a member of Friends of Historic Second Church or renew a current membership.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for membership at the following level:

**Tiffany Circle:** \$40 Individual; \$55 Family; \$25 Student/Senior (62 yrs.+)

**Arts & Crafts Circle:** \$100 and above

Yes  No You may acknowledge my contribution in Friends' publications.

Yes  No I prefer to receive my newsletter by e-mail.

Yes  No I am interested in volunteering for Friends' activities.

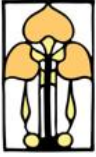
If you wish to discuss sponsoring a restoration project, contact Friends of Historic Second Church at 1-800-657-0687.

Please return completed form with check made payable to:

Friends of Historic Second Church 1936 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616.

Or renew online at [www.historicsecondchurch.org](http://www.historicsecondchurch.org).

Memberships and gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Friends of Historic Second Church is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.



**FRIENDS of  
HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH**

1936 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: 1-800-657-0687

E-mail: [info@historicsecondchurch.org](mailto:info@historicsecondchurch.org)

Web: [www.historicsecondchurch.org](http://www.historicsecondchurch.org)

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

- Linda Miller, *President*
- Nate Lielasus, *Vice President*
- Susan Baldwin Burian, *Secretary*
- Ann Belletire, *Treasurer*
- William Tyre, *Assistant Treasurer*
- Rowena Balogun
- Mary Bucaro
- Clifford Crawford
- Heather Haberaecker
- Karen Lamb
- Darlene Pollard
- Jim Peters
- Michael Shawgo
- Sharon Sylvester
- Jane Tiffen
- Rev. David Neff, *ex-officio*
- Heather Kendall *Administrative Manager*

Contributors: Ann Belletire, Heather Kendall, Linda Miller., and William Tyre

**Second Presbyterian  
Public Tour Schedule:**

Saturdays:  
11:00-1:00pm

Sundays: 12:15pm  
(after worship service)

Or call  
800-657-0687 to arrange a private tour

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Tiffany's Glass: The Story**  
**Wednesday, May 11, 2022**

**Online webinar—via Zoom**  
**5:00 pm to 6:00 pm CST**

**Price per device**  
**\$10 general admission/\$8 member**

Lindsay R. Parrott will present on different types of Tiffany stained glass

**Basement to Belfry**  
**Saturday, June 18, 2022**

**10 am to 12 pm**  
**\$20 general admission/\$16 member**

Led by Nate Lielasus, architect and docent in a behind the scenes tour. Note stairs and uneven flooring will be on tour.

To purchase tickets go [historicsecondchurch.org](http://historicsecondchurch.org).

\* All members must sign-in to our Neon database to receive member discounts. Member discount codes are no longer viable with check out. Try to create a login first and if you continue to have questions regarding setting up an account please email [info@historicsecondchurch.org](mailto:info@historicsecondchurch.org).

**PROUD TO PARTNER WITH:**



**Mission Statement**

*To preserve and restore the art and architecture of Chicago's landmark Second Presbyterian Church and to engage neighbors and the world in sharing our passion for its beauty and significance.*

*Friends of Historic Second Church is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.*