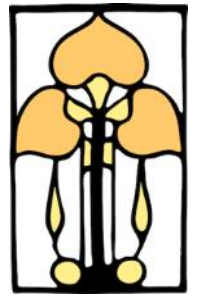


# FRIENDS of HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH

## THE HERALD

Volume XVI, Number 3

Fall 2022



### THE AMAZING TRANSFORMATION OF THE *TREE OF LIFE* MURAL by Heather Kendall and Linda Miller



*This set of photos shows the transformation timeline of the build out of the scaffolding. The first photo far left is day one of the build out. The second photo left shows Gilco Scaffolding Company using a pulley system to deliver materials. The third photo is half way finished. The fourth center photo shows Angel an employee of Gilco carrying pipe. Finally, the fifth photo is of the build-out which is three quarters of the way finished, the sixth photo shows the top of the pulley system with a bar being lifted, and the seventh photo far right is the total build out of the scaffolding.*

There are amazing things happening in the sanctuary of Historic Second Church! Many of you will remember or will have donated to the *Tree of Life* and Surrounding Chancel Artwork Conservation Project. (See the Spring 2022 edition of *The Herald*.) That conservation work is now underway. The beauty of these artworks has been partially obscured by the dirt of 100+ years. Friends' goal for this project is to clean all the art on the west wall of the sanctuary and repair any problem areas so that they last for another 100 years. In this article we will share with you some of the surprises that have been uncovered during the first month of the four-month conservation work.

The first step in the project was to erect the 65-foot high scaffolding to enable the conservators to reach the mural, the west walls, the light fixtures, the wooden arches, and the metal organ screen. It took

Gilco Scaffolding three full weeks to erect the scaffolding. It is an engineering marvel in its own right.

Once the scaffolding was in place, the conservators from Parma Conservation began the cleaning and repair of Frederic Clay Bartlett's *Tree of Life* mural. This was their first opportunity to see the mural up close. Elizabeth Kendall, the President of Parma Conservation remarked that she was surprised to find the mural in such excellent condition after more than a century. There was no under-lying plaster damage. We are now finishing week five of that conservation work. What is being revealed is astounding! The lacquer on the mural had darkened over the years. There is evidence that portions of the mural had received an inartful touch-up paint job at some point. The result of the darkened lacquer, the 100 years of dirt and the touch-up painting has been to obscure the true beauty and colors of Bartlett's original creation.

The underlying colors are much more vivid than what we are accustomed to seeing. These pictures reveal the progress on the mural over the last few weeks.

Painters from National Decorating Services

spent two and a half weeks cleaning the walls and the decorative plaster arch atop the pulpit. Again, the wall was in remarkably good shape and needed only minor repair. But



*Aaron Peppers from National Decorating Company painting the arch.*

the dirt was extensive. There was so much dirt that the painters had to wash the wall three times before they were able to paint it. We've included a picture of the paint work on the arch.





*These photos show the evolution of the same angel receiving what we might call a “face lift” by Parma Conservation’s Peter Schoenmann. Peter found that Frederic Clay Bartlett’s original angel face had been repainted in an earlier restoration. He created a tracing from the angel directly opposite of the one in the above photos. A clear plastic material for the drawing was made to help produce a reverse stencil technique; ensuring that both faces were the same as Frederic Clay Bartlett had intended.*

Cleaning, repairing and rewiring of the seven light fixtures over the pulpit is also a piece of the *Tree of Life* Conservation Project. That too revealed some surprises. When B & Z Electric removed the light



*B&Z Electric*

fixtures, they discovered that the old 1901 cloth-covered wiring was not enclosed in a steel conduit, as exists in other areas of the sanctuary. Rather, the old wiring was simply lying directly on the wooden arch. We are pleased to report that new steel conduit has been installed, the old wiring removed and new wiring installed.

The light fixtures themselves have been removed to the Archistoric Studio for cleaning, repair and rewiring of the fixtures. They will be reinstalled at the end of the project.



*New Conduit*

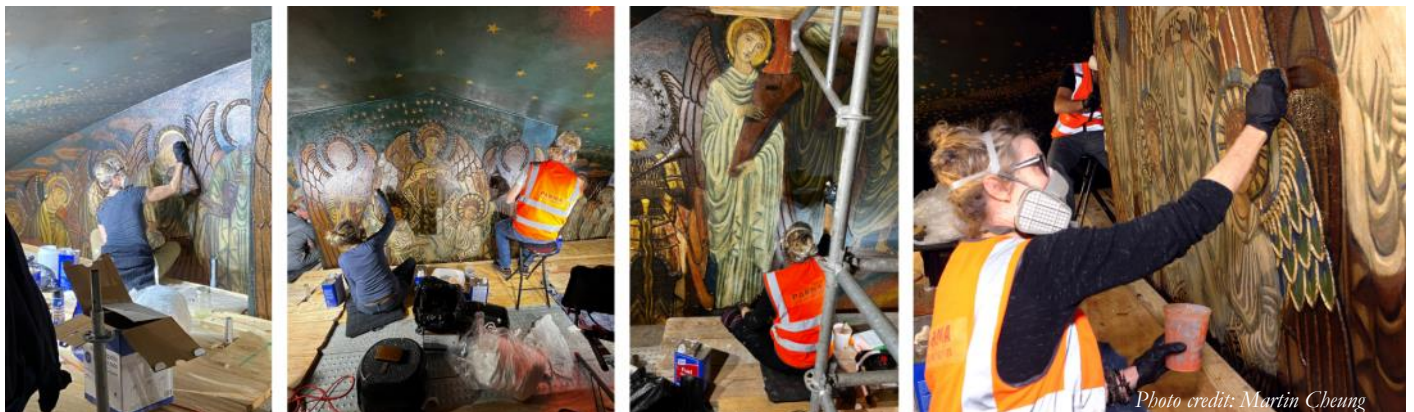
Next steps include the cleaning and repair of the four life-sized heralding angels, the cleaning and polishing of the pulpit woodwork, the cleaning and repair of the metal organ screens, the installation of new acoustic curtains behind the choir loft and the placement of specially designed lighting to illuminate the mural.

The work is tentatively set to be completed in December. Stop by while



*Parma Conservation began cleaning part of the brass organ screen. The right half of the bar is cleaned.*

the work is still in process and see for yourself the amazing transformation occurring at Historic Second Church.



*Photo credit: Martin Cheung*

*Elizabeth Kendall and Peter Schoenmann of Parma Conservation are seen above working on the mural removing a layer of varnish and an additional layer of paint added after Frederic Clay Bartlett had finished his original *Tree of Life*. The supplies used were very long strands of cotton and a mixture of ethanol and acetone. In an amazing transformation in the third photo pictured from the left you can see that the dirt, varnish, and paint disappear and what is left is the white robes of the angel.*



**Friends of Historic Second Church gratefully acknowledges the following memberships, donations, and contributions from May 31, 2022—November 7, 2022.**

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <b>\$10,000 - \$49,999</b>   | Clifford & Barbara Crawford   | Steve & Laura Wasilowski  |
| Law, Ware, Shedd, Murphy Foundation  | Todd Davis  | Maria Wicks   |
| MFieldV Chicago Portfolio Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation         | Craig & Kelly Dean  | Dawn Zimmer   |
| <b>\$3,000 to \$5,999</b>  | Helen Elkiss  | <b>Under \$100</b>  |
| Ada Schupp Foundation  | Jerry & Jan Erickson  | Anonymous (4)   |
| National Trust for Historic Preservation - The Cynthia Woods Mitchell Fund | Chip Ferguson   | D. June Barton  |
| <b>\$1,000 - \$2,999</b>   | Phillip & Aviva Greenland   | Scott Cowan   |
| Jeff & Annette Adams   | Richard & Marilyn Helmholtz   | Rochelle Davis  |
| Anonymous  | Katherine M. Henrici  | Leilani Garrett   |
| Susan Baldwin  | Dale & Diane Hoekstra   | Dr. Bruce Gleason   |
| Burian   | Jim & Darleen Jackson   | Bill & Robin Grams  |
| Heather J. Haberaecker   | Betsy Jenkins   | Bobbie Harper   |
| Robert Irving  | Grace Kennings-Kwiatkowska  | Savanna Helm  |
| Geraldine Jackson  | Kathie Korn   | Bob & Caroline Jacobsen   |
| Karen Lamb   | Linda Kristensen  | Robert & Sheila Joynt   |
| Landmarks Illinois - The Barbara and Thomas Donnelley Preservation Fund    | Deborah Lielasus  | Paul J. Kendall   |
| Janelle Hoekstra & James McMullin  | Dr. William & Judy Lussie   | Chris & Jane Kerbaugh   |
| Stuart Miller  | Bonnie McGrath  | Vana Kikos  |
| The Robert Thomas Bobbins Foundation                                       | Gail McEnroe  | Michael L. Kirk   |
| <i>In honor of Marshall Field V</i>  | <i>In honor of the nice docent, Marilyn Scott and the church's congregation</i> | Dr. Sharon Kobak  |
| <b>\$500 - \$999</b>   | Priscilla Mims  | Elizabeth Kurth   |
| Michael & Linda Kowalik  | Mary E. Morton  | <i>In honor of Kathi Ullrich</i>                                      |
| John Cramer & Nate Lielasus  | Robin Nordhues  | Christine M. Landem   |
| <b>\$100 - \$499</b>   | Roberta Deering & Gregory Ptucha  | Linda Lilly   |
| Jerry Adelman  | Dean R. Rapp  | Richard Mach  |
| Anonymous (2)  | Phyllis Robinson  | Debra N Mancoff   |
| John & Joan Blew   | Marilyn & Stephen Scott   | <i>In honor of Paul Gehl and Robert Carlson on their Anniversary.</i> |
| Deneen Marie Bryce   | Ruth Sharpe   | James & Candace Moloney   |
|  | Ray Hofmann & Tori Simms  | Barbara Norrish   |
|  | Nicole M. Simon   | Marlene K. Rebori   |
|  | Marilyn A. Steenwyk   | Ruth Rabinovitch  |
|  | Sharon Sylvester  | Vicki L. Sauter   |
|  | Karen Titus   | Robert Schwendau  |
|  | Michael Trier   | William Simmons   |
|  | Allan Vagner  | Susana Steppan  |
|  | Jean G. Walker  | Joan Stinton  |
|  |   | Albert Walavich   |
|  |   | Claudia Winkler   |



**Major Individual Donors 2006-2022**

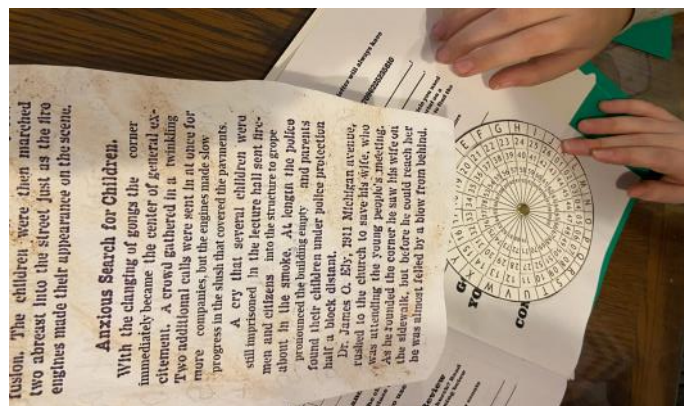
- |                                      |                             |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>\$100,000+</b>                    | <b>\$20,000 - \$49,999</b>  |
| Anonymous:                           | Annette & Jeff Adams        |
| In memory of William & Rose Trunk    | Ann & Mike Belletire        |
| Anonymous                            | Mary Bucaro & Rick Peloquin |
| James D. & Mae B. Hinchliff Memorial | Jerry & Jan Erickson        |
| <b>\$50,000 - \$99,999</b>           | Karen V. Lamb               |
| Anonymous                            | Sandra Lancaster            |
| William Hinchliff                    | Ruth Sharpe                 |
| Linda & Jeffrey Miller               | William Tyre                |
| Jane & Howard Tiffen                 |                             |
| Christian Vinyard                    |                             |

**TAX INCENTIVE MAKES GIVING EASY**

Federal legislation provides tax incentives for seniors over 70 1/2 to donate to their favorite non-profit without triggering any federal income taxes. A person can make a Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an individual retirement account (IRA) directly to a charity rather than withdrawing the money and paying taxes on it. Seniors can plan their giving over the course of a year and avoid paying taxes on charitable giving. We hope our supporters who are seniors will keep Friends in mind as they plan their required minimum distributions for 2022. Please consult your financial advisor for rules and further information.

**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.



Don't forget that we have slots open for our Girl Scout Detective Badge Workshop beginning in 2023! To find out more go to our website at [www.historicsecondchurch.org](http://www.historicsecondchurch.org)

### INSTALLATION OF ST. PAUL TIFFANY WINDOW



*Tom Venturella and Jim Murphy of Venturealla Studio pose in front of Tiffany's St. Paul Preaching at Athens Window during the unveiling donor event held in November 2022.*

There was great excitement during the week of October 24<sup>th</sup> when Venturella Studio, Bulley Andrews Masonry Restoration, Ralph Simpson and Wiss, Janney, Elstner staff all assembled to reinstall the restored 1895 Tiffany window, *St. Paul Preaching at Athens*. Prior to its conservation the window was marred by dirt and degraded painting. Portions of the window were completely obscured by the dirt. Tom Venturella and Jim Murphy worked their magic over the last year: cleaning, repairing and in some cases repainting portions of the painted glass that were beyond a simple touch up. The restored window is now in place. The walls surrounding the window were replastered and repainted. Finally, the scaffolding was removed on November 10, just in time for the celebratory event for St. Paul. The transformation is stunning! Plan to visit and see for yourself the St. Paul window as Tiffany originally envisioned it.



*Before and after of Section B. Photo on the left taken in March 2021 at the removal of the window and photo on the right taken in October 2022 at the re-installation of the window.*



*Before and after of Section J. Photo on the left taken in March 2021 at the removal of the window and photo on the right taken in October 2022 at the re-installation of the window.*

### NEW BOARD MEMBER



Friends is pleased to welcome another new board member this Autumn, Colleen B. Norton.

Colleen is the Marketing Manager at Altair Advisers where she supports the execution of Altair's communication, public relations, and business development initiatives. Prior to joining Altair, Colleen was the Member Relations Manager at The Chicago Club where she oversaw the organization's communications and relationship management division. Prior to The Chicago Club, she was the Member Relations Director for ClubCorp where she managed its city club portfolio reinventions within the Midwest and Southwest regions, with her signature project being The Metropolitan in Chicago's Willis Tower. Colleen is highly involved within the community. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for Friends of Historic Second Church. She also supports Big Shoulders Fund, where she

currently serves on the Chairman's Advisory Council and Annual Ball, and previously served on the Tax Credit Scholarship Task Force and Development Committee. She is an active member of the University Club of Chicago where she currently serves on the Membership Committee. She is also a sustaining member of The Junior League of Chicago, where she served as Vice President of Fundraising, overseeing their Annual Fund, Grant Writing and Corporate Sponsorship Committees. She was also their Annual Gala Chairwoman. She attended DePaul University where she received a B.A. in Art & Art History.

**BE A PART OF HISTORY! MAKE A GIFT TO FRIENDS 2022 ANNUAL APPEAL**

Friends has been on a roll in 2022. The St. Paul Preaching at Athens window has been re-installed. The Tree of Life mural and surrounding artworks are in the midst of their months-long conservation. Light fixtures have been cleaned and the old 1901 wiring replaced. Our doors are open again to visitors. Our programs are now live and online.

You can help Friends keep up the pace of restoration and continue to welcome visitors and offer educational programming.

Please consider sending a gift to Friends 2022 Annual Appeal. By donating you will become a participant in the restoration of Chicago’s only National Historic Landmark church.

Thank you.

**ANNUAL APPEAL FORM**

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

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

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

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

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

Enclosed is my gift to the 2022 Friends Annual Appeal in the amount of:

\$50    \$100    \$250    \$500    \$1,000    \$2,500    Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My donation is in memory of: \_\_\_\_\_

My donation is in honor of: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No You may acknowledge my contribution in Friends’ publications.

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No Please send me information about membership.

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

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

Nicholas Luther

Colleen B. Norton

Jim Peters

Darlene Pollard

Michael Shawgo

Sharon Sylvester

Jane Tiffen

Rev. David Neff, *ex-officio*

Heather Kendall *Administrative Manager*

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

**DOCENT TRAINING 2022**

Four docent trainees successfully completed the five-segment training program in the fall. Friends looks forward to welcoming Mary Kay Wysham, Dan Erie, June Barton and Laura Ross as certified docents once they have completed their shadowing activities and have presented their own certification tour. Special thanks go to John Cramer, Coordinator of the Training Program, who organized all the materials and scheduled the trainers including Nate Lielasus, Bill Tyre, Heather Kendall and himself. Trainees from 2021 who have become full-fledged certified docents include Mary Lou Seidel, Paul Kendall and Teresa Maher. Friends welcomes the new trainees from 2022 and the new docents from 2021.



*Architect and Board Member, Nate Lielasus gives the new docent trainees a tour of the Gothic exterior of the church on their second week of training  
Photo credit: Jim Peters*

**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN  
PUBLIC TOUR  
SCHEDULE:**

Saturdays:  
11:00-3:00 pm

Sundays: 12:15 pm  
(after worship service)

Or call  
1-800-657-0687 to arrange a  
private tour

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

**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.*