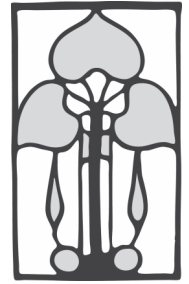


FRIENDS of HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH

THE HERALD

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LAKE FOREST: A SUBURB FOUNDED ON EDUCATION AND PRESBYTERIAN PRINCIPLES

by Nate Lielasus

Located thirty miles north of Chicago, landscaped Lake Forest can seem far removed from the hustle and bustle of Chicago. In fact, the bucolic suburb was born in the lecture room of Second Presbyterian's Spotted Church in downtown Chicago.

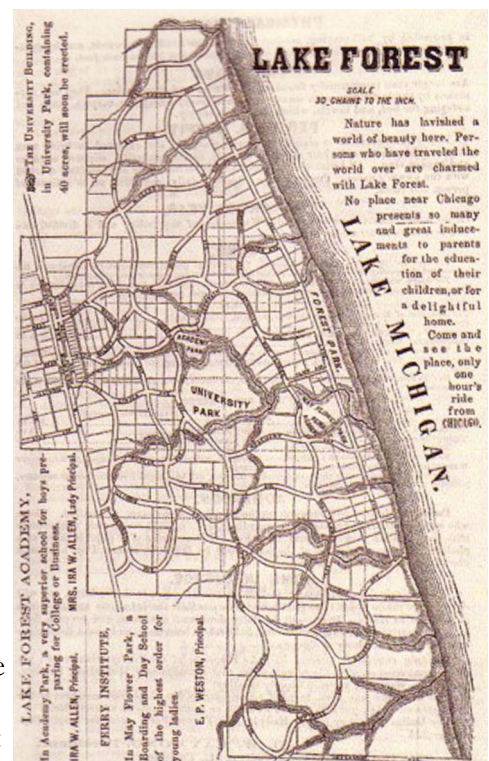
The Lake Forest Association was organized in 1856 by members of First and Second Presbyterian Churches of Chicago and Rev. Robert Patterson of Second Church with the intent of establishing a Presbyterian university and community near the city. The Methodists had founded Northwestern University in Evanston in 1851 and the Presbyterians were eager for a school of their own. A train line from Chicago to Milwaukee reached Waukegan in 1854 opening up land on the North Shore for development.

The Association acquired 1,200 acres of land between the train tracks to the West, Lake Michigan to the East, and deep ravines on the North and South. Landscape architect Almerin Hotchkiss designed a curvilinear network of streets that responded to natural elements of the site in the English Romantic or Aesthetic Style promoted by Andrew Jackson Downing.

Roads curved with the topography and wove around ravines and stands of trees adding to the picturesque quality of the site. Large lots – two to four acres each – helped preserve the comfortable country feel.

In the mid 1800s in the United States Romantic landscape design was mostly limited to the Rural or Garden Cemetery Movement, which advocated for burial grounds in park-like settings that took advantage of natural landscape features. Hotchkiss may have been inspired by Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, NY, one of the earliest Rural Cemeteries in America, and where Hotchkiss began his career as first superintendent. At the time he designed the plan for Lake Forest, Hotchkiss was superintendent of Bellefontaine Cemetery in St. Louis, the first Rural Cemetery west of the Mississippi and where Hotchkiss' spent over 46 years as designer and manager. Llewellyn Park in New Jersey designed by Andrew Jackson Davis in 1853 as America's first planned community, showed the possibility of applying Aesthetic Movement principals to affluent suburbs.

The Hotchkiss plan for Lake Forest was the first large scale planned residential development in the Chicago area. It predates both Olmsted's plan for Riverside of 1869, often credited for popularizing the movement, and his 1858 "Greensward Plan" for Central Park. The Hotchkiss plan included a site for a hotel, future school, and a church. Commercial development was relegated west of the train station at the edge of the Association's land holdings.



Map of Lake Forest prepared by Almerin Hotchkiss
Credit: Historic Campus Architecture Project

The hotel, built in 1858 by the Association, was the first public building in Lake Forest. It was located in what is now Triangle Park. Asher Carter designed and constructed the building. Carter had relocated to Chicago from James Renwick Jr.'s architecture office in New York in 1849 to oversee construction of the Spotted Church, the home of Second Presbyterian at the time of the founding of Lake Forest. The Lake Forest Hotel played an important role in the development of Lake Forest, providing accommodation for people coming to the community and meeting rooms for the many tasks involved in developing the community. The first school founded by the Presbyterian's in the community, Lake Forest Academy, and the Lake Forest Presbyterian Church were both organized in the hotel.

Lake Forest Academy first offered classes in the hotel in 1858 while waiting for construction of a permanent home, completed the following year by Asher Carter. Proceeds from the sale of half the lots in the community went to fund the school and construction of its building. Many congregants of Second Presbyterian purchased lots, accounting for the largest percentage of lot sales in the suburb. Congregants of First Presbyterian and other Chicago churches bought many of the remaining lots. Hotchkiss had identified a location for the school at the intersection of University (now Sheridan Road) and Deerpath, the central East-West street and originally a deer

path and later portage to the lake. Lake Forest Academy was a boy's preparatory school but a university soon followed. Originally named Lind University after early supporter Sylvester Lind, in 1875 the school was renamed Lake Forest University. Rev. Robert Patterson served as first president.

The Lake Forest Presbyterian Church was founded in 1859, originally holding services in the Chapel of Lake Forest Academy. In 1862, its first frame building was constructed in the Gothic style popularized regionally by the Spotted Church in Chicago. In 1886 the current building, designed by Cobb and Frost, was constructed at the northwest corner of Deerpath and University, across from Lake Forest University. The stones used in the construction of the church came from the rubble of the Spotted Church, which had been left a shell after the Great Chicago Fire. Rev. Robert Patterson dedicated the Spotted Church in Chicago and was present when First Presbyterian of Lake Forest, built from the same spotted stones, was dedicated on June 1, 1888.

After the initial founding, people with ties to Second Presbyterian continued to have a role in shaping Lake Forest, both physically and culturally. Howard Van Doren Shaw, a life-long congregant who was baptized in the church, provided an innovative plan for a reorganized shopping district on Western Avenue across from the train station. Market Square was one of the first planned commercial districts in the United States and

provided a model for later developments across the country. Shaw also designed many country estates in Lake Forest including his own summer retreat, Ragdale, built in 1897.

In 1861 Lake Forest was established as a town and the Lake Forest Association became inactive but the influence of Second Presbyterian Church on Lake Forest was lasting. Leadership for the development of the community and many early settlers came from the church. All aspects of the young town from the early institutions to the layout of streets can be traced back to efforts and decisions made by congregants of Second Presbyterian. In a few short years the Lake Forest Association had accomplished its objective of founding a well-planned suburban community removed from the congestion and pollution of Chicago and centered on religion and education.

SATURDAY TOUR HOURS EXTENDED

Friends of Historic Second Church will be open two hours earlier on Saturdays as of August 6. Docents will be available for tours from 11:00am until 3:00pm.

Second Presbyterian Public Tour Schedule:

Wednesdays
1:00-3:00pm

Saturdays
11:00-3:00pm

Sundays (after worship service)
12:15pm

TAX CHANGE ENCOURAGES GIVING

Congress has approved legislation that provides tax incentives for seniors over 70 ½ to donate to their favorite nonprofit without triggering any federal income taxes. Under the Qualified Charitable Distribution provision, a person can make a distribution from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) directly to a charity rather than withdrawing the money and paying taxes on it. The change will make it easier for seniors to plan their giving over the course of a year and to avoid paying taxes on charitable giving. We hope our supporters who are seniors will keep Friends in mind as they plan their minimum distributions this year. Please consult your financial advisor for rules and further information.

FRIENDS 2016 EVENING LECTURE SERIES

On Wednesday, September 7, Architectural historian Kathleen Cummings will explore Chicago's taste for Tiffany in the late nineteenth century. The talk will begin to reveal how the taste for these windows – often described as having the “richness of a silk Persian rug” - relates to other projects of the 1890s such as the remarkable Chicago installations - the Chapel at the World's Columbian Exposition, Fullerton Hall and the Field Memorial Room at the Art Institute, and the Chicago Public Library.

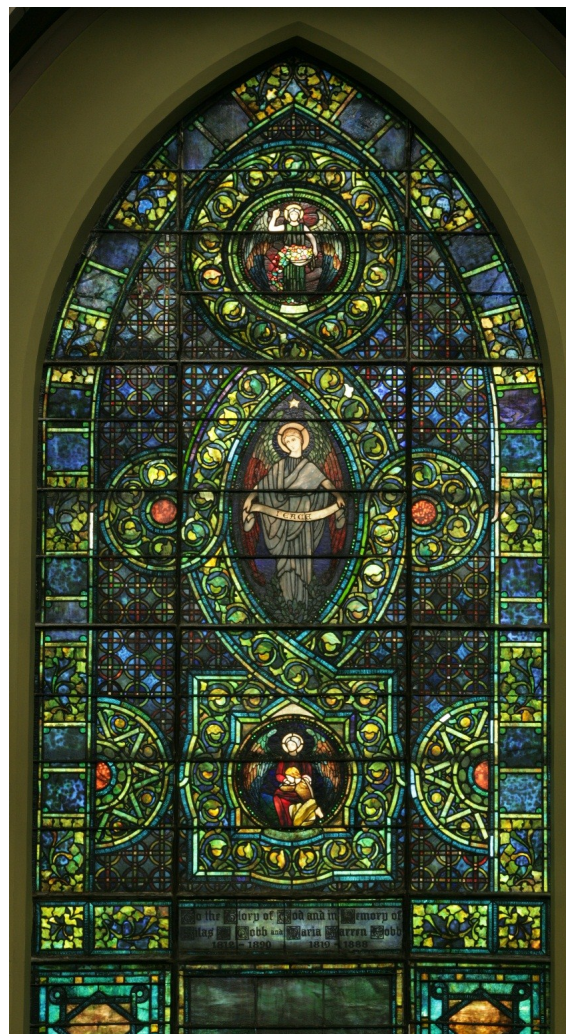
All lectures are \$10, are held at Second Presbyterian Church, and begin at 7:00pm, preceded by a reception with light refreshments and free tours at 6:00pm.

RESTORE A TREASURED CHICAGO JEWEL

Friends of Historic Second Church is pleased to announce its first capital campaign. The “Restore a Treasured Chicago Jewel” campaign will raise \$500,000 to address our priority interior restoration needs. The funds raised will be used for three areas: 1) restoration of the large “Peace Window” by Tiffany Studios, 2) stabilizing and repair of one of the pre-Raphaelite murals by Frederic Clay Bartlett, and 3) refurbishing and repainting of the ornamental plaster throughout the lower portion of the sanctuary.

The most prominent element of the campaign is the Tiffany “Peace Window” which was installed in 1903 as a memorial to Silas and Maria Cobb. Today this beautiful window is marred by the accumulated dirt of more than a century, significant corrosion, bowing and deterioration. The window will be removed to a stained glass studio where it will be expertly cleaned and repaired. Once reinstallation is completed, the plaster and masonry surrounding the window will be repaired and a new protective covering will be installed on the exterior.

With over \$300,000 already raised or pledged, our plan is to culminate the campaign in June 2017 to coincide with the 175th anniversary of the founding of the church. We hope you agree with us that now is the time to undertake this preservation. We ask you to join us in restoring this treasured Chicago jewel. Contributions can be made online at www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org or by mailing your check to Friends of Historic Second Church, 1936 S. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616 with “campaign” in the memo line. Thank you.



Peace Window, Photo by Martin Cheung

BELL TOWER PROJECT UPDATE

Work on the bell tower has continued according to plan throughout the spring and summer. General contractor Bulley and Andrews Masonry Restoration, under the supervision of Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc., has undertaken repairs to the masonry and other elements of the tower. Work has included retooling, patching, pinning, and replacing stone units as well as extensive repointing. A representative from the Commission on Chicago Landmarks has been on site and has approved the work completed and the materials selected for the stone and mortar replacements. New window sashes have been fabricated for the six large windows at the top of the tower and extensive restoration has been undertaken on the elaborate wood tracery surrounding the windows. It was discovered during the project that significant work was needed on the original stenciled glass panels set within the quatrefoils at the top of each window. The additional cost of this work, \$7,180, is being covered by a gift from Friends of Historic Second Church.

The scaffolding is currently being dismantled and will be completely removed in time for the dedication of the work at the Sunday service on August 28th. Following the service, Sharon Bladholm from Opal Glass Studio will be displaying some of the original stenciled panes and images of the fully restored windows



Photo credit: William Tyre

SUPPORT FRIENDS WITH AMAZONSMILE

Friends has joined AmazonSmile, a website which allows non-profit organizations to receive donations from a 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. Friends will receive 0.5% in donations from purchases made through AmazonSmile.

***Friends of Historic
Second Church
gratefully acknowledges
the following
memberships,
donations, and
contributions from
March 21, 2016-
July 31, 2016.***

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous
The Service Club of Chicago

\$1,000-\$2,499

John & Judy Bross
Susan Baldwin Burian

\$500-\$999

Robert Irving
Dr. Michael & Linda
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Thelma Schwartz
Lois Strate-meier
Sharon Sylvester
Richard Uebele

SPECIAL MEMBERS-ONLY TOUR

Each year Friends offers a special invitation to members at the Arts and Crafts level, \$100 and above. This year's special event is a walking tour of the community of Marktown, a former industrial town designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw in 1917 to house workers of the Indiana Harbor Works of the Mark Manufacturing Company. Architect Nate Lielasus, vice-president of the Board of Directors of Friends, will lead the tour on Sunday September 25 at 1:30 pm. Readers are encouraged to take advantage of this rare opportunity since several of Marktown's buildings have already been demolished and it is under continuing threat from the ongoing expansion of the BP Whiting Refinery. Send in your Arts and Crafts membership donation today to ensure an invitation to this special tour.

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.+)

____ **Art & 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.

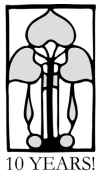
____ Yes ____ No I am interested in volunteering for Friends' activities.

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.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org.



FRIENDS of HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH

1936 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: 1-800-657-0687

E-mail: historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com

Web: www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org

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Graphic Designer: Lisa Napoles

Contributors: Ann Belletire, Linda Miller, Lisa Napoles, and William Tyre.

PROTECT THE FONT

The baptismal font at Second Presbyterian Church is one of the most iconic artistic elements of the sanctuary with its delicate beauty and intricate carving (http://www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org/images/Winter_2013_newsletter.pdf). However, it is in ongoing peril due to its fragility and location. The limestone details of the lilies and lilies of the valley are easily broken off if the font is bumped into or leaned upon. Its location at the front of the sanctuary, while traditional for a Presbyterian church, puts it in harm's way when there are weddings and concerts and during the monthly communion service. The font already displays substantial damage with many small design elements broken off over the years. A thorough discussion about how to best protect the font from further damage and yet not detract from its beauty has led to a practical yet stylish solution. A single C-shaped rail will be attached to four posts rising from the platform to surround the font thereby preventing people from getting too close to it while still affording access for baptisms. Rocio's Custom Metalwork will craft the barrier using traditional materials.

Total cost of this needed preservation project is \$2,800. Thanks to a special memorial fund started by William and Judy Lussie to honor Judy's mother Mary Gene Yee (nee Moy) (<http://www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org/images/stories/newsletters/v3no3autumn09.pdf>), Friends already has \$1,060 earmarked for the font. Readers are asked to ensure protection of the font by making a donation today to the Yee Memorial Fund.

Mission Statement

The mission of Friends of Historic Second Church is to preserve and restore the art and architecture of Chicago's Landmark Second Presbyterian Church, educate a worldwide audience about its historical and cultural significance, and share those resources with the community.

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