

# FRIENDS of HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH

# THE HERALD

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# PASTORL WINDOW CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL by William Tyre

February 24, 2018 will mark the 100th anniversary of the unveiling of the Pastoral Window, the last window from Tiffany Studios to be commissioned for Second Presbyterian Church. Considered a tour de force for both its design and the variety of glass used, the window is a perennial favorite with visitors. In this article we will examine the design of the window in detail, discuss the man in whose memory it was given, and place the window in the context of other similar windows being made by Tiffany Studios after 1900.

ON SUNDAY MORNING AT 11 A. M., the Second Presbyterian church will unveil the new Tiffany window in memory of the late Charles D. Ettinger. Members of the Ohio Society specially invited. At 7:45 P. M. the choir presents a beautiful Musical Service. DR. WISHART preaches morning and evening.

# Landscape Windows

This window, set within Renwick's original 1874 wood tracery, occupies the first bay on the north side of the sanctuary. The theme is the "River of Life," a popular theme used by Tiffany in the first decades of the 20th century for memorial windows, the central body of water extending into the distance symbolic of the passage of one's life. Landscape windows were not widely used in religious settings in the late 19th century, but by the early 1900s, became increasingly popular first with the Congregationalists, Unitarians and

Universalists, and then the Presbyterians and Episcopalians. The shift represented a desire to make the windows more relevant in a modern world and resulted from a broadening in religious expression pulling away from the more traditional theme of original sin, for example, to more optimistic ideas of goodness, hope, and the presence of God as represented in the beauty of nature. Additionally, Tiffany's continued development of new types of glass allowed for more realistic depictions of everything from flowers and water to the effects of light in casting shadows and depicting the setting sun, all without using a single drop of paint.

#### Agnes Northrop

The design of the window is attributed to Agnes Fairchild Northrop (1857-1953), one of Tiffany's most talented designers and one of the few women to create windows for the firm. Extensive research undertaken by Alice Cooney Frelinghuysen, Curator of American Decorative Arts at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, confirms that nearly all the floral and landscape windows produced by Tiffany Studios were the work of Northrop. Northrop came to the Tiffany firm in 1884 and remained until the Studios closed a half century later. She allowed the client to dictate the flowers and trees to be depicted, and often went out into nature to photograph plants, to make their depiction in glass as realistic as possible. Many examples of landscape windows similar to the Pastoral Window exist in churches, mausoleums, and museum and

private collections. A window known as Magnolias and Irises, dating to about 1908, in the collection of the Metropolitan Museum, has a similar field of irises in the foreground. The Driehaus Museum also has a framed landscape study by Northrop on display in one of the first-floor parlors.

#### The Pastoral Window



Photo Credit: Martin Cheung

The composition for the window is typical of Northrop's designs - a central scene, in this case, a receding river - framed by trees and foliage. At the center of the window, mountains in rich shades of blue are set into a back layer of glass, enhancing the illusion of the

mountains being set back at a distance from the viewer. Although plating is used extensively in the window, this effect works especially well in giving the scene a realistic three-dimensional depth. The finest glass in the composition include pieces of streaky glass which Tiffany would have referred to as "sunset glass" as the pieces depict the rich colors seen at sunset ranging from yellow and orange to blue and purple. This is especially prominent in the sky over the mountains and in the series of quatrefoils at the top of the window. Streaky glass is also used in depicting the river in the foreground, the variations in color even depicting the reflection of the flowers along the riverbank. Various other types of glass are used in the foreground including finely rippled glass depicting a trickling waterfall, and confetti glass used to depict dense foliage in shadow. Mottled glass is used to good effect to depict the dappled sunlight coming through the canopy of trees above. The brilliantly hued irises and other flowers are represented with many small pieces of glass assembled with copper foiling, and contrast with the large panes of glass used to depict the sky, again helping to contrast foreground and background. The lower panels, which are not meant to be part of the overall design, are composed of a dense glass that transmits almost no light. A frame of small emerald green cabochons is set within each panel, the central panel containing an acid-etched memorial panel which also bears the name "Tiffany Studios" at lower right.

# Charles D. Ettinger

The window was given by Clara Ettinger in memory of her husband Charles D. Ettinger. Permission was granted for the placement of the window in May 1917, indicating it took approximately nine months



to design, fabricate, and install. Charles Ettinger was born in Wadsworth, Ohio in 1838 and spent his entire career associated with the Murphy Varnish Company, serving as an officer and vice president for many years. He and his wife arrived in Chicago in 1884, and they joined Second Presbyterian the following year. Maintaining close ties to his native Ohio, he was a major stockholder and incorporator of several companies in that state, and for a number of years served as vice president of four companies simultaneously, overseeing more than 2,200 employees. In 1909, he retired from active business and purchased a large tract of farmland at Midlothian, Illinois where he established a gentleman's farm called Maple Farm, which specialized in raising thoroughbred livestock and poultry. His love of the countryside may well explain his widow's choice for the window design. He died at his farm on September 4, 1916.

#### Conclusion

The Pastoral Window is an extraordinarily important window, both at Second Presbyterian and within the output of Tiffany Studios and Agnes Northrop. Containing some of the most spectacular glass in the church, the rich coloring and textures help visitors to better understand the important developments Tiffany

made in developing and manipulating the medium of glass to achieve increasingly realistic effects.

#### **BASEMENT TO BELFRY**

Saturday March 3, 2018 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Architect Nate Lielasus will provide a Basement to Belfry tour of the church. During this popular tour at Second Presbyterian, guests will be given a behind the scenes look at areas of the church not typically visited on regular tours, from the basement dirt floor to the charred roof timbers. The tour will focus on original architectural features from the 1874 construction and evidence of changes during Shaw's reconstruction.



Please note there are stairs, uneven ground, and several small spaces.

Ticket price: \$20

To reserve a space please go to our events page at: www.2ndprebyterianfriends.org /visit/events

# 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.

Friends of Historic
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#### **SUCCESS!**

The Board of Directors of Friends of Historic Second Church is pleased to announce the successful completion of the "Restore a Treasured Chicago Jewel" campaign. Thanks to all 177 donors for their generous gifts to restore the 1903 Tiffany Peace window, a Frederic Clay Bartlett mural, plaster repair and painting. How did we do



it? Gifts ranged from the large to the small. Many donors made multi-year pledges. Many others gave more than one gift. We are enormously grateful to all of you. We hope you have been following the pictures of



**Before Cleaning** 

the progress being made on the Peace window at Venturella Studio in the New York. Tom Venturella has been sending periodic pictures and commentary as he tackles each new segment of the window. Take a look at our website www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org or on Facebook.

**After Cleaning** 

In June the Peace window will return to Chicago. Dates are yet to be determined. Please join us as the window is unveiled and we are dazzled by its restored beauty.

#### FRIENDS 2018 UPCOMING EVENTS

## Friends Celebrates Chicago History "Chicago's Motor Row"

Wednesday June 20, 2018 Presentation by Dennis McClendon, Chicago Historian

Starting in the early 1900s, Chicago's "Motor Row" was home to dozens of snazzy car dealerships. At its peak, over 100 different makes of automobiles were sold in the showrooms on Michigan Avenue near Cermak. The buildings were built to grab attention with their creative architectural design. A number of these buildings still stand paying tribute to when automobiles first came to Chicago.

#### Rediscovering Chicago's Legendary Artist Edgar Miller

Tuesday September 25, 2018

Presentation by Zac Bleicher, Executive Director, Edgar Miller Legacy

This lecture will hone in on a "best of" history of Miller's broad and deep oeuvre and also discuss the preservation efforts to keep Miller's incredibly unique history intact and vibrant for future generations to appreciate and learn from.

A partner program of the Terra Foundation's Art Design Chicago; cosponsored by Glessner House Museum.

#### TITANTIC IN MUSIC AND STORY

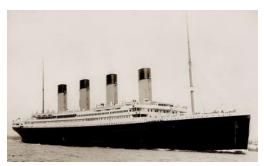
Sunday April 15, 2018

Doors open at 2:00 pm for tours prior to the concert.

Concert: 3:00 pm—5:00 pm

Commemorating the 106th anniversary of the sinking of RMS Titanic on April 15, 1912, this program will feature John W. W. Sherer, organist and director of music at Fourth Presbyterian Church of Chicago. Sherer, who has been hailed by critics as "a terrific musician, a pronounced virtuoso who plays with assurance, authority and superb energy," will perform music from 1912, music heard aboard Titanic, and music written to honor those lost, while telling riveting and heartbreaking stories behind the fateful voyage and the 1,500 victims.

A reception following will feature selected items from the last menu served to first class passengers. Period attire welcome and a ship's wheel will be installed for photo opportunities.



Co-sponsored by Glessner House Museum, Friends of Historic Second Church, and the Greater Chicago Chapter of the Victorian Society in America.

Ticket price: \$25

To reserve a space please go to: https://www.glessnerhouse.org/tickets/ titanic-in-music-and-story

For a special discount enter **FRIENDS** to save 20% on tickets at time of purchase only.

#### BECOME A MEMBER

Now is the time to join or renew your annual membership in Friends of Historic Second Church for 2018. Members are always the first to know and be invited to all programs and events as well as to learn exciting updates on the restoration of the Peace Window which will be returning to its original home of 115 years in June of this year. As a member, you help fund restoration projects as well as lectures, special tours and events, this newsletter and more. The new, and already popular, Basement to Belfry tour is recurring on March 3--back by popular demand. You will hear music and stories from the Titanic on April 15, and we will all celebrate Chicago history with a special lecture about Chicago's Motor Row on June 20. Be a part of it all by becoming a member and supporting the restoration of Chicago's only National Historic Landmark Church. Complete the form below or go online to www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org to join.

#### **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
YesNo You may acknowledge my contribution in Friends' publicationsYesNo I prefer to receive my newsletter by e-mailYesNo 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.



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

#### 2018 DOCENT TRAINING

A wonderful way to learn about the world-class art and architecture of Second Presbyterian Church is to join the upcoming Docent Training Class of 2018. Trainees who certify will become official docents for Friends of Historic Second Church, sharing their love of history, art and architecture with guests from around the world or down the street. Training sessions will occur at 6:30 pm on Thursdays, April 19, 26 and May 3; and on Saturday, May 12 from 9:00 am – noon.

A partial list of topics to be examined includes: the Arts and Crafts movement; architects James Renwick, Jr. and Howard Van Doren Shaw; Gothic Revival architecture; artists Frederic Clay Bartlett and Louis Comfort Tiffany; the church's stained glass windows (both American and English); preservation philosophy and techniques; and a review of completed restoration projects. Please visit <a href="www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org">www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org</a> and click "Become a Docent" under "Get Involved" to download the application form. Completed applications may be emailed to <a href="https://historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com">historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com</a>. Call (800) 657-0687 for additional information. There is a materials fee of \$10 (which can be waived for students).

The volunteer commitment for active docents is two hours per month. Docents enjoy free docent enrichment events that allow access and tours of interesting spaces and places. Casual social events occur on a regular basis.

#### **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.

### Second Presbyterian Public Tour Schedule:

Wednesdays: 1:00-3:00pm

Saturdays: 11:00-3:00pm

Sundays: 12:15pm (after worship service)

Or call 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.