



Friends of Historic Second Church

THE HERALD

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NOTES ON THE HISTORIC “PASTORAL” WINDOW

The stunning landscape window pictured at right was the last of nine windows in the sanctuary to be commissioned from the Tiffany Studios, and is the only one to carry the studio marking. The designer is believed to be Agnes Northrup. It was installed about 1917 in memory of Charles D. Ettinger, a native of Ohio born in 1838. He became connected with the newly formed Murphy Varnish Company in 1871, serving as director and secretary, as well as being one of the major stockholders. In 1884 he moved to Chicago with his wife Clara and their only child Anna, and they united with Second Presbyterian the following year. The family resided on Michigan Avenue near 39th Street, and later at 4620 S. Drexel Boulevard. Ettinger developed an extensive farm at Midlothian, where he raised thoroughbred livestock. He died in September 1916 at the age of 78, one year after his unmarried daughter Anna. His wife Clara, who commissioned the window, died in July 1919.



ANGELIC ARCHITECTURE

The angels pictured above are two of four archangel statues gracing Second Presbyterian Church. All four of the trumpeting angel statues — representing Gabriel, Uriel, Michael and Raphael — are the same angel in slightly different positions, explains Historic Preservation Consultant Jonathan Wotring. “These cast-plaster statues were made and designed by Beil and Mauch and painted to appear as gilded bronze,” he notes. Beil and Mauch were among the sculptors who produced the plaster statuary for the Worlds Columbian Exposition of 1893. “The statues will need to be cleaned,” Wotring observes, “but the plaster seems to be stable.”

CALENDAR OF EVENTS SEPT.-DEC. 2007

TOURS: Public tours of Second Presbyterian Church are given on the first and third Saturday of each month at 11:00 am and 12:00 noon, and on the second and fourth Wednesday at 12:00 noon and 1:00 pm. Cost is \$5. Free public tours are also given on the first Sunday of each month at 12:30 p.m.

AFTERNOON TEA AND LECTURE

Experts in the areas of art, architecture, history and historic preservation explore topics while guests enjoy tea & scones. 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$5.

September 15: Historian Bill Tyre, “Chicago’s Historic Prairie Avenue,” traveling from its golden age through decline and recent rebirth.

October 20: Bob Yapp, PBS television host, on “Preservation is Social Justice.” A step-by-step strategy for taking your neighborhood back, utilizing historic preservation, economic diversity and activism as tools for success.

November 17: Eiliesh Tuffy from Landmarks Illinois, “Separation Anxiety,” exploring the various roles of Partners for Sacred Spaces, including its current efforts in Chicago.

CHICAGO PHOTOGRAPHER MARTIN CHEUNG VOLUNTEERS TIME AND TALENT TO ‘FRIENDS’ FOUNDATION EFFORT

Martin Cheung is a busy man — he is a professional photographer as well as a full-time employee at Helix Camera Shop, a dad, and an active member of his church. But when asked how much it would cost to get professional photographs taken of the inside and outside of an historic church, he wanted to know, “Which church?” When he heard it was Second Presbyterian Church, he volunteered to do the work for free.

Martin spent most of a hot day last summer photographing the inside of the church, capturing both large views and fine details. He gave these beautiful images to Friends of Historic Second Church to use in

whatever manner would be useful to the organization. His photos will appear regularly in this newsletter. One special church image will be given away each year as a premium to members of Friends at the Bartlett Circle Level (\$250) and above, and others will be framed and sold to raise funds needed for the restoration work. A detail from the Bartlett “Tree of Life” mural is being used to create a Tree of Life t-shirt. Indeed, the potential uses are vast.

It turns out Martin has a strong family link to Second Presbyterian Church. According to church records, his mother Celia and three of her sisters were received into the membership of the

church in 1946, and several of his aunts (last name Moy) were married there. His mother was an active member for many years.

“It was a pleasure to help preserve a historical landmark,” remarks Cheung. “It has always been on my heart to document and photograph the Second Church since there was so much history between the church and my family.”

Friends of Historic Second Church offers a special thanks to Martin and his entire family for his generosity and for honoring his family history in this special way.

You Are Invited To Join The Effort

Friends of Historic Second Church is a *member* organization. That means for as little as \$40 per year (\$25 for seniors and students), you can be a part of the exciting preservation and restoration work that is taking place at Second Presbyterian Church.

This “crown jewel” of art and architecture beautifully displays a warm patina of age dating to the rebuilding of the sanctuary in 1901. However, it is sorely in need of preservation and restoration work. The arch murals by Frederic Clay

Bartlett are so faded from more than 100 years of dirt and grime that most are barely visible. Many of the stained glass windows contain cracked glass, deteriorated leading, and failing structural frames. The trumpeting angels beg to be cleaned and restored to their former glory.

The church building and the artistic treasures contained within it are too important to the history of the South Loop and the City of Chicago, and to art lovers worldwide to allow the restoration work to be put off any longer. Your

membership can and will make a difference. Please review the “Annual Membership Levels and Benefits” flyer included in this newsletter.

When you join, you’ll receive Friends’ quarterly newsletter *The Herald*, which will keep you abreast of restoration progress as well as upcoming events and educational opportunities. Be a part of history by completing the enclosed membership application. Memberships at all levels are welcomed.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED BETWEEN MAY AND AUGUST 2007:
<i>Renwick Circle</i> (\$2,500 - \$4,999): Donald W. West
<i>Burne-Jones Circle</i> (\$1,000 - \$2,499): Ann Belletire Linda Miller Ruth Sharpe William Tyre
<i>Shaw Circle</i> (\$500 - \$999): Jerry & Jan Erickson Monica Obniski Nancy G. Lischer
<i>Bartlett Circle</i> (\$250 - \$499): Cliff & Barbara Crawford
<i>Arts and Crafts Circle</i> (\$100 - \$249): Sharon Murawski

BELL TOWER STENCILED WINDOW RESTORED

Friends of Historic Second Church recently completed the restoration of one of Second Presbyterian Church’s bell tower windows. Friends’ ability to finance this important project was due largely to a donation from The Town and Country Arts Club (members pictured below with window).

While the windows of Second Presbyterian Church have been celebrated nationwide and have occasionally received international attention in European guidebooks, those within the bell tower have not been mentioned in available literature. Yet, the bell tower windows are significant. The simple geometric designs present in the glass are stenciled onto the surface and the paint is then fired, a process called vitrification. These simple painted designs were once the predominate style of window in churches and other public buildings before the Chicago Fire. This simple style of stained glass was also typical in the immediate post-fire building frenzy of the 1870s.

Things changed in the 1880s and 1890s as wealthy patrons of Chicago’s major churches discovered art glass designers like Tiffany or La Farge. In the large immigrant churches, the choice was F.X. Zettler and other designers of the German Studios. In short, the simple geometric designs and symbols found in early church windows were replaced by elaborate memorial windows as donations allowed. This same process occurred at Second Presbyterian, resulting in its nationally significant collection of stained glass. The tower windows are important because they have survived as an example from an important period of Chicago’s history. They easily could have succumbed to the fire of 1900 or been removed when most of the glazing was replaced between 1900 and 1926.

Thanks to modern scanning technology, combined with centuries-old stained glass craftsmanship, Bill Klopsch Stained Glass Designers and Artisans, Skokie, Ill., was able to replicate missing portions of the window. Gentle conservation cleaning and special techniques to match original color and texture were used. The result is a beautifully restored window which conforms to the original design intent. Friends offers special thanks to the Town and Country Art Club for its financial assistance.





*Friends of Historic
Second Church*

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Photos of pastoral window and trumpeting angels courtesy of Martin Cheung.

MISSION STATEMENT

THE MISSION OF FRIENDS OF HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH IS TO PRESERVE AND RESTORE THE INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED ART AND ARCHITECTURE OF CHICAGO’S LANDMARK SECOND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AND TO EDUCATE A WORLDWIDE AUDIENCE ABOUT ITS HISTORICAL AND CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE..

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