

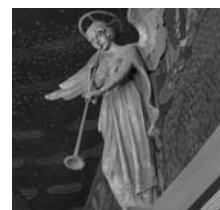


*Friends of Historic Second Church*

# THE HERALD

VOLUME II, NUMBER 1

WINTER/SPRING 2008



## HEALY AND MILLETT WINDOW EXEMPLARY PAINTED GLASS

One of America's best examples of painted glass has been in place at Second Presbyterian since 1905. Located on the north side of the church in the second bay from the chancel and organ screen, Healy and Millet's *Cast Thy Garments About Thee and Follow Me* is one of the church's most important windows. The painted portion, the head, hands and feet, of the Healy and Millet window are considered by many to be the best surviving examples of American painted stained glass. Healy and Millet are best known for their stained glass and mosaic collaborations with Louis Sullivan. Healy and Millet also influenced the work of Louis Comfort Tiffany by their mosaic techniques which they employed in their opalescent



Photos of window and of angel statuary at top of page courtesy of Martin Cheung

The Healy and Millet window, pictured at left, was commissioned in memory of Mary Catherine McKibben Sanger, the mother of Mrs. George Pullman. George Pullman is famous for his luxurious Pullman Palace cars.

glass windows. Healy and Millet are the only American art glass designers, besides Tiffany, who have their work displayed in a French museum (Musée d'Orsay).

### FRIENDS OF HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED BETWEEN SEPTEMBER AND DECEMBER 2007:

*Burne-Jones Circle* (\$1,000 - \$2,499):

Jerry & Jan Erickson  
Wilma Wicks

*Shaw Circle* (\$500 - \$999):

Wilda J. Dailey  
Luann Elvey

*Bartlett Circle* (\$250 - \$499):

Mr. & Mrs. John Berry  
Kathleen A. Carpenter  
Wilma J. Lilly  
Robert Schrader  
Dr. & Mrs. Ralph B. Wells

*Arts and Crafts Circle* (\$100 - \$249):

E. Carol Beck  
Trish Cassidy & Andrew Wycislak  
Oscar & Paula D'Angelo  
Chip Ferguson  
Felice Hutchings  
Jim & Darleen Jackson  
Anne S. Martin  
Kathryn R. Rautio  
Michael L. Shawgo  
Jack & Susan Tribbia

### 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.*

## THANKS TO OUR READERS

Friends of Historic Second Church would like to thank you, our newsletter readers, for your positive response to our first edition of *The Herald*. Many of you commented about how much you enjoyed receiving the newsletter, including one reader who has started a "collection" of them. Hopefully, readers will be pleased to see this new, expanded format of *The Herald*. As a result of the first newsletter, memberships in Friends of Historic Second Church arrived from all parts of Illinois as well as seven states. Our volunteer list continues to grow. If you haven't yet joined Friends or wish to volunteer, you are invited to complete the membership form folded into this edition. As always, please call 1-800-657-0687 to share your comments and suggestions or to discuss major projects.

**Calendar of Events****Feb. - May 2008**

**TOURS:** Public tours of Second Presbyterian Church are given on the first and third Saturday of each month at 11 a.m. and noon. Cost is \$5. Free public tours are given on the first and third Sunday of each month at 12:30 pm.

**TEA & LECTURE SERIES**

Experts in the areas of art, architecture, history and historic preservation explore topics while guests enjoy tea and scones. Tea at 1:00 pm; lecture at 1:30 pm. Cost is \$5.

**February 16:** Neal Vogel, "Windows of the Chicago Presbytery."

**March 1:** Bill Klopsch, "Preserving and Replicating Historic Stained Glass: Conservation vs. Restoration."

**April 5:** Jonathan Fine of Preservation Chicago, "Chicago's Most Endangered Historic Structures." Excursion to follow.

**May 31:** Tiffany expert Monica Obniski, "Women Designers who Advanced Tiffany's Career."

**Changes are Underway!**

For the first time since the 1920s, the rear elevation of Second Presbyterian Church may be clearly viewed from Wabash Ave. In a few more months, this view will probably not be visible again for generations.

**Q&A WITH PARTNERS FOR SACRED PLACES LEADER**

The Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago is among the nation's best kept secrets. With its well preserved Arts and Crafts nave, vibrantly rendered murals, and impressive collection of stained glass, it should garner more national attention. The building, however, appears to have made an impression on Partners for Sacred Places Executive Director A. Robert Jaeger, who responded to questions from Historic Preservation Consultant Jonathan Wotring.

**Q. What was your immediate impression of the historic nave?**

*A. I had visited Second Presbyterian many years ago, but had forgotten how stunning the space is! The rich, entirely intact array of decorative arts — clearly among the finest of its era in the region, perhaps the nation — took my breath away. Every artistic feature is of museum quality, and the overall effect is a superb example of what has been called the American Renaissance.*

**Q. Once you spent some time in the building, what are some of the special features that began to emerge?**

*A. The windows alone are a tour de force, and provide a case study on how several leading artists used opalescent and drapery glass to stunning effect. I also looked closely at the remarkable lighting fixtures, such as those to the side of the nave which incorporate bare bulbs and leaded glass. And of course the murals in the chancel are noteworthy.*

**Q. What is the most important message that Friends of Historic Second Church needs to get out to the general public regarding the historic art and architecture of Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago?**

*A. One suggestion is that the Friends find ways to sum up the significance of the church in a simple, focused way that can capture the public's attention. Could a marketing campaign promote visitation and financial support by calling this "The Art Nouveau Church," or the "Church of the American Renaissance"? (Of course this is an Arts and Crafts interior, but I think the general public is not familiar with this term.)*

**Q. I often think that Chicago is so focused on the important roles that architects like Louis Sullivan and Frank Lloyd Wright played in developing modern architecture, that our local art historians and even our local historic preservationists overlook sites like Second Presbyterian. How should Second Presbyterian be viewed in the context of local and national architectural history?**

*A. I think the church can piggyback on the trend — among galleries and museums — to discover and promote lesser-known American artists and architects. This is happening all the time, so maybe you can find a prominent dealer or curator that will "adopt" Howard Van Doren Shaw or Frederic Clay Bartlett as an artist that they will exhibit and promote, partnering with the church as the foremost venue for their work.*

**Q. One of our greatest obstacles is our exterior. It is beautiful, though very Calvinist in its restrained Gothic appearance, but is often just glimpsed at by both the public and historians alike. Yet, at second glance, once we explain that it's James Renwick's largest commission in the Midwest and only one of three surviving structures designed by him in the region, people begin to figure the exterior into the building's national significance. How do you think we can interpret and help celebrate the architectural significance of this elegant exterior?**

*A. No doubt the church is already considering ways to light the façade, and perhaps the windows (from inside). I would also encourage well-designed, colorful banners that suggest what is found inside. You might choose one particular feature — say a mural detail or a lighting fixture — as your logo or symbol, which can be consistently used on banners, signage, brochures and everything else to "brand" the church and promote visitation.*

## FIRST CORPORATE SPONSOR WELCOMED

Friends of Historic Second Church is pleased to recognize and thank its first corporate sponsor, the American Soccer Company. Rosa Cursage, president of this Wilmington, Calif., firm, generously donated 250 forest green T-shirts for use in creating the new *Tree of Life* T-shirt. This item is a premium at the \$1,000+ levels of membership in Friends (the Burne-Jones and Renwick circles). The T-shirt, however, is also available for purchase (see order form below). Available in sizes small, medium, large and extra large and made of 100 percent cotton, the shirts are priced at \$25 each. Many youth soccer programs have been beneficiaries of the generosity of the American Soccer Company whose "Score" uniforms are a familiar sight on playing fields across the country. The Cursage family is a true believer in corporate philanthropy, and Friends is proud to welcome them as its first corporate sponsor.



In addition to the *Tree of Life* T-shirt, greeting cards featuring the Burne-Jones' Santa Margarita window are also available for purchase. Packages of 10 cards with envelopes are priced at \$20 and are available in two styles: blank inside or with a Christmas greeting.



## MEL THEOBALD DONATES ARTISTIC TALENT

Creating an artistic image suitable for a T-shirt depicting a portion of Frederic Clay Bartlett's *Tree of Life* mural at Second Presbyterian Church is not a task that could be accomplished by just anyone. Friends was fortunate to have the beautiful photographs taken by Martin Cheung and the high-quality T-shirts donated by the American Soccer Company. However, putting it all together took the creative talents of new friend and volunteer Mel Theobald. Mel not only did the artwork to accomplish a stunning image of the tree, he also followed through on the production process to ensure that the end product was perfect. Mel is a man of many talents, including painting and graphic design. He is an expert on Russian art as well as photography, with his own showing of light-jet digital photographs presented recently at the Chicago Cultural Center. A hearty "thank you" goes out to Mel for putting his talent to work on Friends' behalf.

### ORDER FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	QUANTITY	PRICE EACH	TOTAL
T-Shirt - small		\$25.00	\$
T-shirt – medium		\$25.00	\$
T-shirt – large		\$25.00	\$
T-shirt – extra large		\$25.00	\$
10 cards – blank		\$20.00	\$
10 cards – Christmas		\$20.00	\$
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>			\$
Shipping*: \$2.50 per T-shirt			\$
\$2.00 per 10 pack of cards			
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>			\$

\*In lieu of shipping, items may also be picked up at the church during regular tour times or during afternoon tea and lectures. All proceeds benefit Friends of Historic Second Church.

Return this completed form with check made payable to "Friends of Historic Second Church" to: **Friends of Historic Second Church, 1936 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60616.**

## TOUR VISITED FIRST PRESBYTERIAN, SHAW SITE IN LAKE FOREST



Pictured above is one of several sculptures by Sylvia Shaw Judson that feature in the interior of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest.

In May of 2007, Friends docents made an excursion to Lake Forest, Ill., for a walking tour of Howard Van Doren Shaw's Market Square and the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest. Shaw, the architect who designed Second Presbyterian's Arts and Crafts interior and nave, designed many important buildings in Lake Forest. His most enduring contribution to the emerging American suburban landscape at the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century is Lake Forest's Market Square. Market Square represents one of the nation's earliest efforts to redesign and alter the existing plan of a community's central business district. Shaw borrowed

many of his concepts for Market Square from Daniel Burnham's urban plans and Frederic Law Olmsted's rural landscape designs. Market Square is the first central shopping district designed with the automobile in mind, leading the way for other upscale suburban communities in the nation to develop similar business districts. Another interesting feature of Market Square is its varied Arts and Crafts facades that take their inspiration from medieval structures in Europe, and which are harmoniously incorporated into the small square. The First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest is a daughter church of the Second Presbyterian Church of

Chicago. The stones used to build the church in Lake Forest were salvaged from the ruins of Second Presbyterian after the Great Fire of Chicago in 1871. Among the many interesting features of the Lake Forest church are small sculptures with a familiar appearance. They were sculpted by Sylvia Shaw Judson (1897-1978), daughter of Howard Van Doren Shaw. Judson's most famous work is popularly known as the Savannah Bird Girl and was featured on the cover of John Berendt's 1994 novel *Midnight in The Garden of Good and Evil*. The bronze statue was placed at a gravesite in Savannah's Bonaventure Cemetery in the 1940s.



*Friends of Historic  
Second Church*

1936 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: (800) 657-0687

E-mail: [historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com)

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