



Friends of Historic Second Church

THE HERALD

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“BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD” WINDOW

Tiffany's *Behold the Lamb of God* window was installed in the third bay from the chancel and organ screen on the balcony's north side soon after the new sanctuary was completed in 1901. This window is one of three that were “re-creations” of Tiffany windows lost in the 1900 fire. No record has been found describing the design of the original window, which would have been set into Renwick's original wood tracery. As such, it is unlikely that the current design with its large figures is an exact reproduction of the original. So, it is probably a reworking of the original theme, taking advantage of the new large unobstructed opening. The three re-created windows are identifiable because each has a cross and laurel wreath in the border on either side of religious figures. These windows marked the beginning of Second Presbyterian's history of collecting windows. While these three windows are not in the Arts and Crafts design scheme of the sanctuary, they contribute an added dimension that makes this one of the most diverse collections of Tiffany windows found anywhere. In an article for *The House Beautiful* in 1904, Virginia Robie mentions that these windows were unrelated to the other decoration found in the sanctuary.

The memorial inscription reads: *And Looking Upon Jesus as He Walked He Saith Behold the Lamb of God, In Memory of Uri Balcom 1815-1893 and his wife Jane E. Beasley 1819-1894, by Mary A. Curtis, Curtis N.Y.* Uri Balcom was a prominent lumberman who resided nearby at 2027 S. Michigan Avenue. The Bible verse is from John 1:29 and refers to the first time Jesus was publicly proclaimed as the Messiah to the Jewish people by John the Baptist, fulfilling



Photo courtesy Martin Cheung.

the prophecy in Isaiah 40:30, “*The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*” John the Baptist is represented by the man holding a rough staff with a cross at the top, the most common way he has been represented throughout the history of Western art.

Visit www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org and give Friends of Historic Second Church any ideas you have for enhancing the website to achieve greater interactivity and to offer more in-depth information. Please call 1-800-657-0687 or email historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com with your suggestions.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED FROM JANUARY TO MAY 2008:

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

Fourth Presbyterian Church,
Rev. John Buchanan

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

John & Idania Burns
Bob & Sheila Joynt

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

Anonymous
Susan Augustine
David A. Ebert
Carol J. Hall
William B. Hinchliff
Sue Barnett Ish
Ann C. Martin
Miss Sprite

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.



Pictured is one of the church's candelabras, located in the sanctuary.

"And he made the candlestick of pure gold: of beaten work made he the candlestick; his shaft, and his branch, his bowls, his knobs, and his flowers, were of the same:

"And six branches going out of the sides thereof; three branches of the candlestick out of the one side thereof, and three branches of the candlestick out of the other side thereof:

"Three bowls made after the fashion of almonds in one branch, a knob and a flower; and three bowls made like almonds in another branch, a knob and a flower: so throughout the six branches going out of the candlestick.

"And in the candlestick were four bowls made like almonds, his knobs, and his flowers:

"And a knob under two branches of the same, and a knob under two branches of the same, and a knob under two branches of the same, according to the six branches going out of it.

"Their knobs and their branches were of the same: all of it was one beaten work of pure gold.

"And he made his seven lamps, and his snuffers, and his snuffdishes, of pure gold.

"Of a talent of pure gold he made it, and all the vessels thereof" (Exodus 37:17-24).

ARTIFACT FEATURE: SEVEN-BRANCHED CANDELABRA

One question frequently asked of our docents relates to the two, seven-branched candelabras flanking the chancel. Other than the four heralding angels that loom high over the organ screen, these candelabras are probably the most visible artifacts within Second Presbyterian's historic nave. Perhaps they stand out because they are so unusual and unexpected, but they are almost always commented on during tours. Visitors want to know what they represent and why they look like the Jewish menorah. They also want to know why they have only seven branches rather than the familiar eight found on the Jewish Chanukiya.

The answer is simple: The seven branched candelabras at Second Presbyterian are, in fact, menorahs. Not the more familiar eight-branched version used in homes for Chanukah, but an example of the type of menorah found in the Temple in Jerusalem.

The seven-branched menorah was one of the items the Romans took from Herod's Temple when it was destroyed in 70 A.D./C.E. by Vespasian during the reign of Titus, who had it paraded triumphantly in Rome. This event is depicted on the Arch of Titus in Rome. The more familiar eight-branched menorah is more properly termed the "chanukiya." The use of the chanukiya is reserved for the festival of Chanukah. The seven-

branched menorah was a ritual item found only in the Temple in Jerusalem. With the destruction of Herod's Temple, the central focus of Jewish worship shifted to the Synagogue where the seven branched menorah is still depicted in some form, though rarely as an actual three-dimensional candelabra, since replication of the Temple Menorah was strictly forbidden by rabbinical law codes subsequent to the Temple's destruction.

In Christian churches, Jewish symbols are often present to demonstrate the New Covenant or New Testament connection to the Old Covenant or Old Testament. They are often used to demonstrate how Christians believe the prophecies of the Old Testament were fulfilled in the New Testament. For example, the menorahs at Second Presbyterian clearly demonstrate the Jewish roots of Christianity, but are also symbolic of the Seven Churches of Asia Minor mentioned in the Book of Revelation. These seven churches have come to be used as metaphors for the politics of churches throughout history. One of the seven churches is condemned as wicked, two receive stern warnings, and two more are slightly reprimanded with some commendation, while only one is ultimately found to be beyond all reproach. These seven churches have ultimately become a symbol

of the frailty of the human condition.

At Second Presbyterian, the menorah was probably designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw, who would have been aware of the new Orientalism found in English Arts and Crafts designs, especially in those of C. R. Ashbee. We know that they were made by William H. Lau, who was at the same time working with Frank Lloyd Wright on the lighting fixtures for the 1901 Bradley House in Kankakee, Ill. The Bradley House was Frank Lloyd Wright's first mature Prairie School design. Lau is also known to have worked with other Arts and Crafts designers and Prairie School architects, including George Washington Maher.

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA MINOR

Ephesus – The desirable church that left its first love (*Revelation 2:1-7*).

Smyrna – The persecuted church that suffered poverty and martyrdom (*Revelation 2:8-11*). **Pergamum** – The worldly church that mixed doctrines and needed to repent (*Revelation 2:12-17*).

Thyatira – The false church that followed a seductive prophetess (*Revelation 2:18-29*). **Sardis** – The "dead" church that fell asleep (*Revelation 3:1-6*).

Philadelphia – The church of brotherly love that endures patiently (*Revelation 3:7-13*).

Laodicea – The "lukewarm" church with a faith that's neither hot nor cold (*Revelation 3:14-22*).

CORPORATE AND INDIVIDUAL SPONSORSHIPS SOUGHT

To make more funds available for achieving its key goals – preservation, restoration and education – Friends is seeking sponsors, either corporate or individual, to defray costs of four important organizational items:

1. Newsletter *The Herald*. The newsletter is printed and mailed three times a year reaching approximately 1,000 individuals, businesses and organizations with each edition. Cost/year = \$3,850
2. Printing Rack Cards. Currently 6,000 rack cards publicizing Friends' tours, lectures and other events are distributed yearly to area hotels, tourist sites, etc. Cost/year = \$675
3. Friends' website www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org. Upgrading the website (one time expense) = \$10,000; maintaining the site = \$4,000 per year.
4. Afternoon Tea and Lecture Series. One season of 3 - 5 lectures, including refreshments, speaker honoraria and publicity is \$2,000. Acquisition of needed presentation equipment (one time expense) = \$3,000.

All sponsors will be recognized in the newsletter, and noted on the rack cards, promotions and website. If you can help or would like to discuss sponsorship options, please call 1-800-657-0687 or email historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com.

Volunteers Needed! Friends of Historic Second Church is seeking volunteers to greet guests who wish to enter the church's historic nave to enjoy its art and artistry or to reflect in its "tranquil joy." These Front Door Hosts will greet visitors, provide them with materials about the church building and its decorative arts, and answer general questions. A brief training session will be provided for all volunteers to prepare them with responses to "Frequently Asked Questions." New volunteers will be teamed with experienced docents and work in pairs. Our goal is to be able to open the front church doors more frequently. This is a wonderful way to say "welcome" to people who want to see and enjoy the beauty of Historic Second Church. If you are interested, please call 1-800-657-0687.

MEMORIAL GIFTS TO FRIENDS OF HISTORIC 2ND CHURCH

A memorial gift is a wonderful way to remember a loved one. This spring Friends of Historic Second Church received a number of generous memorials. Docent Laurie Toth named the *Sta. Margarita* window restoration effort as the memorial fund to which she wished donations made for her recently deceased mother Margaret. This kind gesture resulted in the creation of a solid foundation for the funds needed to preserve and restore this rare English Arts and Crafts window designed by Edward Burne-Jones and executed in the William Morris Studios in London. Paul Waggoner was a long-time friend of Second

Presbyterian Church who worked tirelessly to make the church and its beautiful Arts and Crafts details, stained glass windows and Bartlett murals better known. In fact, Paul wrote an article for the Fall 1997 issue of *19th Century – Magazine of the Victorian Society in America* that named Second Presbyterian Church as "Chicago's Crown Jewel of the Arts and Crafts Movement." After Paul died in March 2008, a Celebration of Life service was held in his honor at the church. Several donations in Paul's name have been received by Friends as a tribute to his love of and efforts on behalf of Second Presbyterian's art and architecture.

Memorial Gift Donors:

Frank Ahern
James & Sheila Ahern
Thomas & Carole Ahern
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Rosemary Lux
Doris Nelson
Dana & Donna Peterson
Tina Strauss
William Tyre

CONSERVATION WATCH

The baptismal font at Second Presbyterian is one of the most cherished treasures in the historic nave. The current font, carved by F. A. Purdy, is a duplicate of the font destroyed in the fire which ravaged the nave in 1900. It is an intricate monolith of lilies carved from soft Italian limestone. Though carved from stone, the two species of lilies depicted in the font seem more like



Baptismal font in memory of Caroline Caton Williams 1875-76

delicate flowers in an overgrown meadow, gathered into a shock in order to be spared from the scythe. These delicate carvings, unfortunately, are the most threatened artifact within the church. Over time the porous stone has become as fragile as plaster so that even the hem of a garment brushing up against the stone petals has occasionally resulted in the loss of defining visual elements. To preserve this jewel, Friends is creating a design for protection of the font that will make it available for baptisms but keep it from further damage until a full-fledged restoration effort can be mounted.

HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH TO BE STOP ON TOUR

For the first time, Second Presbyterian Church will be a featured site on the *Walk Through Time*, Glessner House Museum's annual benefit walking tour. The tour will be held on Sunday June 8, 2008 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. and will feature interior tours of five private historic mansions in the neighborhood, the Glessner and Clarke house museums, and the church. A silent auction and reception will follow at 4 p.m. in the coach house of the museum. Tickets are \$50 per person and can be purchased by contacting the Glessner House Museum at 312-326-1480. For further information, visit www.glessnerhouse.org.



Calendar of Events

June – August 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 every Sunday after church in June, July and August at 12:15 p.m.; and the second Wednesday of each month from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. (including June 11, July 9 and Aug. 13).

EVENING LECTURE SERIES:

Lectures on art, art history or music at 7 p.m. in the church nave, followed by refreshments. Cost \$10.

July 14: Arts series *Frederic Clay Bartlett Lectures on American Artists and Collections*. William Tyre, Executive Director of Glessner House Museum, "Frederic Clay Bartlett: Artist and Collector."

Aug. 21: Music series *Eigenschank Lectures on American Music*. David Mannowitz, "The Music from Down River: The Evolution of Early American Music into Today's Popular Music."

Summer Reading List

The following books are recommended for readers interested in America's religious history:

Cane Ridge: America's Pentecost, by Paul K. Conkin (Madison, University of Wisconsin Press, 1990).

The American Religion: The Emergence of the Post-Christian Nation, by Harold Bloom (Simon & Schuster, 1992).

The following books have plots that intertwine with historic preservation:

Midnight in The Garden of Good and Evil, by John Berendt (Vintage Books a Division of Random House, 1999).

The City of Falling Angels, by John Berendt (The Penguin Press, 2005)



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