



Friends of Historic Second Church

THE HERALD

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“BESIDE THE STILL WATERS” WINDOW

One of the most striking windows in Second Presbyterian's important collection of windows is McCully and Miles' *Beside the Still Waters* landscape, located in the second bay from the chancel on the south nave wall. Though based on Tiffany's pioneer landscape designs, *Beside the Still Waters* is much more grounded in the Arts and Crafts aesthetic as a simple almost monochromatic depiction of a lush forest. When compared to Tiffany's *Pastoral* on the opposite side of the nave, *Beside the Still Waters* is bold in its simplicity and use of rich emerald hues. Both landscape scenes, even though they are depictions in glass, evolved from the work of the Hudson River Valley painters of the mid-19th century. The lead coming used in the matrix that holds the glass together in *Beside the Still Waters* is visible to the naked eye when viewed from the opposite side of the nave, whereas the lead coming in Tiffany's *Pastoral* disappears when viewed from a distance. *Beside the Still Waters* looks much like an Asian woodcut or a solidly constructed piece of furniture, while Tiffany's *Pastoral* is a representational piece of art with depth and perspective. The McCully and Miles window is also the only window with a matching triptych window directly beneath it on the ground level. The memorial inscription reads: "Beside The Still Waters – In memory of Hugh McBirney 1910; In memory of Isabelle M. McBirney 1911." The lower triptych is a memorial to the grandson of Hugh and Isabelle McBirney and simply reads: "Hugh McBirney 1900-

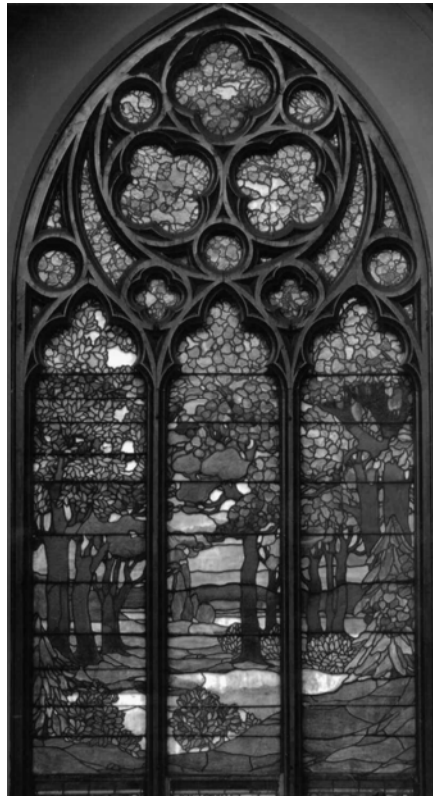


Photo courtesy Martin Cheung.

1916." McBirney was one of the founders and president of McBirney & Johnston Company, which later became known as NL industries and the parent of Dutch Boy paints. Howard Van Doren Shaw, the architect of Second Presbyterian's current Arts and Crafts nave, designed Hugh McBirney Jr.'s country home, The House of the Four Winds (1908), in Lake Forest, Ill.

McCully and Miles were famous for their high-end residential work and were also favored by Presbyterians in the late 19th and early 20th century. Their most visible work is the gallery

window of the First Presbyterian Church of Lake Forest. The window is located on the front facade of the 1888 Shingle Style church and may be viewed from the intersection of Deerpath and Sheridan Road. This window depicts a cross within a crown with a floral and abstract mosaic background of leaded, opalescent glass. Window designs by McCully and Miles have been identified as far east as the Detroit area.

Recently, Kathy Rowley, the great granddaughter of John McCully, was conducting Internet research about her ancestor's stained glass business. After finding the photo of *Beside the Still Waters* on the church's website, she made a visit from California to Second Presbyterian specifically to view the window. Kathy is searching for other McCully windows in the Midwest and would appreciate any leads. John McCully's artistic legacy continues to live through the family. His granddaughter Elvira McCully Huhn was an accomplished watercolorist who worked at The Art Institute of Chicago, and Kathy is a graphic designer with a background in art history.

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.



REINSTALLATION OF BELL TOWER WINDOW

On June 18th, Bill Klopsch and John Schulien of Bill Klopsch Stained Glass Designers and Artisans in Skokie re-installed one of Second Presbyterian's earliest windows. Klopsch's studio restored this window using a combination of scanning technology, Photoshop imaging, silk screening and traditional stained glass craftsmanship. The restored window was placed back into its original location in the south lancet of Second Presbyterian's bell tower. The tall narrow window with two 1' x 4' sashes took approximately three hours to re-install due to limited accessibility and lighting.

The window's design was from a period in Chicago's history that pre-dates the introduction of elaborate opalescent figural windows

and mass produced Munich School windows. These early windows were stenciled, painted windows, usually with simple, repetitive geometric designs. The restored lancet window at Second Presbyterian contains a repetitive jewel shaped pattern with a stenciled, silver arabesque design, bordered by cobalt blue and ruby red glass. The simple geometry with red and blue glass, though a naive 19th century interpretation, mimics the visual impact of medieval glass found in European churches.

On the day of the re-installation, photographer Martin Cheung took photos of the process and the bell tower space. Martin volunteered his photographic services to Friends of Historic Second Church and has taken



Photos courtesy Martin Cheung.

extensive photos of Second Presbyterian's historic art and architecture, freely providing his photographs for use in our efforts to preserve and promote the building.

EXPANDING PROGRAMS

"Front Door Host" is a new volunteer position at Historic Second Church. Hosts are making the church more accessible to visitors by opening the front doors, welcoming guests and giving them basic information about the art and architecture of the church. Five new hosts completed the one-and-a-half-hour training and immediately expanded the Open House schedule by adding Wednesday afternoons to the times the church is open. This new schedule will continue from September through December with free tours from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons (except December 24 and 31).

Volunteer Opportunities

Call (800)-657-0687 or e-mail historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com if you would like to volunteer for one of the following positions.

Docent: A new four-part training series will start September 23rd. Each session is 1 ½ hours long. Volunteer commitment is approximately 4 to 6 hours per month.

Front Door Host: Training is 1 ½ hours and commitment is approximately four hours of service per month.

Friends of Historic Second Church has a growing list of recipients for our newsletter *The Herald*. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and sharing it with friends. However, if you do not wish to receive the newsletter (published three times yearly), please contact us and we will remove your name from the mailing list.

AN AFTERNOON WITH TIFFANY'S WOMEN DESIGNERS

On Saturday, May 31st Monica Obniski presented the lecture, *Women Designers of Tiffany's Studios* as part of the Tea and Lecture Series sponsored by Friends of Historic Second Church. Guests enjoyed delicious home-baked scones with their tea while listening to the afternoon lecture. Obniski chronicled the various women who helped Louis Comfort Tiffany, from his early partnerships with Candace Wheeler through Meta Overbeck, who was head of the Tiffany & Company art jewelry department, and many women in between.

Throughout the design process and production of leaded-glass windows, lamps, *Favrile* glass vases, ceramics, furniture, mosaics, enamelware, metalwork, jewelry, textiles, and interior design by Tiffany's diverse firms, there were women who supported him in these various endeavors through their remarkable designs and skillful labor. Of particular interest to those familiar with Second Presbyterian Church was Obniski's discussion of the "Pastoral" window, perhaps designed by Agnes Northrop. It is difficult to assign authorship for many objects manufactured by Louis Tiffany's various firms due to his unflinching control of production. During her lecture, Obniski was able to demonstrate the varied and expansive output of Tiffany's enterprises, none of which would have been nearly as successful without the strength of his women designers.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIPS RECEIVED FROM JUNE TO AUGUST 2008:

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

Christian Vinyard

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

Dale & Diane
Hoekstra

Kathy L. Rowley

DOCENT RECOGNITION AND ENRICHMENT

Friends of Historic Second Church started a new tradition on June 26, 2008 with the first annual Docent Recognition event. Glessner House provided the setting for the celebration created to honor the dedicated docents who lead tours at Second Presbyterian Church. Fifteen docents, who have completed the training and are active in the tour program, were each honored with a small gift and special thanks from the Board of Directors. Several letters of appreciation from tour company directors and individuals who had toured were read. The letters praised the docents for their thorough knowledge of the site and their cordial hospitality. Special recognition was given to docent Laurie Toth for designating the Santa Margarita window fund as the recipient of memorials to her recently deceased mother. Volunteer Diane Anderson prepared a delicious array of appetizers and desserts.

Docent enrichment events provide docents with the opportunity to increase their knowledge

about the art and artists connected to Historic Second Church. A field trip in July to Ragdale in Lake Forest, Ill., afforded an expanded appreciation for the life and work of Howard Van Doren Shaw, architect for the 1900-01 rebuilding of Second Presbyterian Church. Shaw designed and built Ragdale as a summer home for his family in 1897. The Arts and Crafts style home features furniture designed by Shaw and includes several screened-in rooms with views of the beautiful grounds. Shaw's daughter Sylvia Shaw Judson was a sculptor whose works included *Bird Girl*, the statue featured on the cover of *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*. Judson's daughter Alice Judson Ryerson Hayes, who wrote short stories and poems, created the Ragdale artist colony on the family estate in 1976. Up to 200 writers and artists use the estate each year as a retreat where they can work free from the interruptions of their daily lives.



Docents
recognized
by Friends
of Historic
Second
Church.

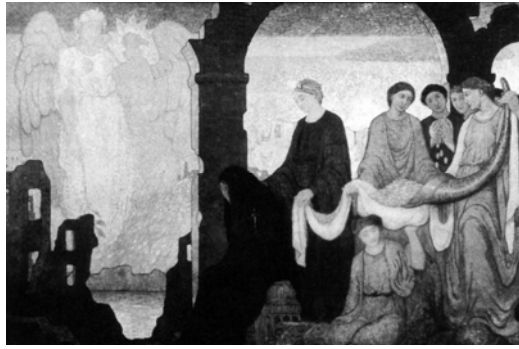
TOUR SCHEDULE

A FREE, DOCENT-LED WALKING TOUR OF ROSEHILL CEMETERY AND RAVENSWOOD/EDGEWATER NEIGHBORHOOD IS SCHEDULED FOR SEPT. 27, 2008. MEET AT ROSEHILL CEMETERY GATES, 5800 NORTH RAVENSWOOD, AT 9:30 A.M. THIS TOUR WILL ENTAIL EXTENSIVE WALKING.

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 WILL BE GIVEN EVERY SUNDAY AFTER CHURCH FROM SEPT. THROUGH DEC. AT 12:15 P.M.; AND EVERY WEDNESDAY FROM 1 P.M. - 3 P.M., EXCEPT DEC. 24TH & 31ST.

TYRE LECTURE DRAWS CROWD

On July 14th, the first lecture in a new series entitled *Frederic Clay Bartlett Lectures on American Artists and Collections* was presented by William Tyre, Executive Director of the Glessner House Museum. A crowd of 74 came to hear about the colorful and entertaining life of artist Frederic Clay Bartlett. While basking in the muted glory of the Bartlett murals of the church (which are in desperate need of conservation), the audience was treated to a lively and extensively researched presentation by Mr. Tyre, who revealed the many layers of this important man's life from his birth in 1873 until his death in 1953.



Bartlett's *Havoc of the Great Chicago Fire and Aid of the Sister Cities*, Chicago City Hall Council Chambers, 1911 (Destroyed by fire, 1957).

Although Bartlett was responsible for many great commissions, which include murals at the Council Chambers at City Hall, the University Club, and the University of Chicago, perhaps his most important gift to Chicago's cultural treasury was the carefully chosen collection of Post-Impressionist paintings that he gifted in 1926 to the Art Institute of Chicago. After the lecture, guests were treated to a refreshing buffet of ice cream, cookies, and punch. It was a most enjoyable and successful event, held in a uniquely significant environment, and if future lectures are of the same calibre, this series is certain to become one of the best Chicago has to offer.

Calendar of Events

September – December 2008

AFTERNOON TEA & LECTURE:

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

Oct. 4: Heather Plazing-Manning, Society of Architectural Historians, "*Egyptian Revival: Art, Architecture and Collectibles.*"

Nov. 1: Architect Anne Sullivan, Thornton Tomasetti Inc., "*Timber Frame Construction Techniques of Colonial New England.*"

Dec. 6: Heather Becker, CEO of Chicago Conservation Center, "*Mural Conservation and Chicago Murals.*"

EVENING LECTURE SERIES:

Lecture at 7 p.m. followed by reception. Cost is \$10.

Frederic Clay Bartlett Lectures on American Artists and Collections,

Nov. 20: Mel Theobald, photography lecture on "*Illinois Landscapes.*"



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Second Church*

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