



Friends of Historic Second Church

THE HERALD



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'ANGEL AT THE OPEN TOMB' WINDOW EXAMINED

Our examination of the windows in the sanctuary continues with a look at the Tiffany window located on the south side in the second bay from the rear. Known as "The Angel at the Open Tomb," it depicts the seminal moment in the history of Christianity when Christ's resurrection is first revealed to his followers.

The window is a memorial to Charles H. Fargo, and was given by his three sons. Fargo was born in Tyringham, Mass., in 1824 and came to Chicago in 1856 where he established himself in the boot and shoe manufacturing business. Although he had virtually no resources when first arriving in Chicago, he built up a house which eventually did a business of more than \$1.5 million per year. His family consisted of sons Charles, Frank, and Edward, who were all connected with him in the business. His wife Evaline died in 1871 and he never remarried. In later years, he lived with his son Charles, who moved to 1840 S. Calumet Avenue in 1891. Late that year, Fargo contracted pneumonia and traveled to Leesburg, Fla., to recuperate. It was there that he died on March 29, 1892. He was interred at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago, and left an estate valued at \$600,000 (more than \$16.5 million in today's dollars).

Within a year or two of their father's passing, Fargo's three sons commissioned Tiffany Glass Co. to design a window in his memory. That window was consumed in the fire that destroyed the sanctuary in March 1900.



Photo courtesy Martin Cheung.

The design of that first window remains unknown, although it was set within the original wood tracery of the window opening as designed by James Renwick, indicating that it was somewhat different from what is seen today. The current window was installed in late 1901 along with replacement memorials for the Balcoms and Kelloggs. All three of these windows bear a distinctive matching border with laurel-topped crosses set to either side of the main panel.

The scene depicted represents Easter morning when Mary and Mary

Magdalene went to visit the tomb of the crucified Christ. Upon discovering that the stone had been rolled away from the opening of the tomb, the women were greeted by an angel who said "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here: for He is risen, as He said." (*Matthew 28:5*)

The overall scene depicts the angel figure at left and the open tomb at right. The landscape is lush, with a field of lilies in the foreground and hills beyond. From an artistic standpoint, the window contains fine examples of the various types of glass developed by Tiffany. The angel figure displays milky white drapery glass and beautifully executed feather glass, with fine ridges giving a three-dimensional quality. The field of Easter lilies demonstrates the use of plated glass. Here the main outline of the blooms is done with visible coming, whereas the details of the individual petals are delineated with coming in a back layer of glass. Although considerably darkened over the years, the window deserves a close inspection when visiting the balcony, where its true beauty is revealed.

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.

SUPPORT THE FONT CLEANING

Friends has been working with the Chicago Conservation Center (CCC) to determine the best way to clean the iconic baptismal font (See story at right.). The font is covered with a thick layer of particulate dirt and grime, with soiling embedded within the porous and textured surface of the limestone. It is extremely fragile and easily damaged, containing many large and small breaks, so moving it off-site is not desirable. Through test cleaning of a 6- x 8-inch back section, conservator Gabrielle Tieu was able to achieve satisfactory results by a combination of dry and aqueous techniques, a method that can be used right in the church sanctuary. The cleaning cost is estimated to be between \$7,676 and \$9,175.

Please consider a gift today to the Mary Gene Yee (nee Moy) Memorial Fund to clean and preserve one of the church's most beloved objects. The fund was established in 2009 by Judy and William Lussie to honor Judy's mother Mary Gene Yee who was a member of the church for many years.

WHO WAS CAROLINE CATON WILLIAMS?

If you have ever looked closely at the baptismal font at Second Presbyterian, you might have noticed the name Caroline Caton Williams, along with the dates 1875-1876, inscribed in the sash that encircles the bundle of delicately carved lilies and lilies-of-the-valley. You might then have wondered, "Who was Caroline Caton Williams and what was her tie to the church?"

Caroline was the infant daughter of Norman Williams, a prominent Chicago attorney originally from Vermont, and Caroline Caton, daughter of John Dean Caton, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois. Norman Williams was active in the formation of the Pullman Palace Car Co., the Western Electric Co., and the Chicago Telephone Co., periodically serving as a board member and legal advisor. He was, for a time,

the director and president of the Chicago Orphan Asylum, where he served with his good friend and fellow Second Presbyterian member and trustee John Crerar.



Photo courtesy Martin Cheung.

Caroline Caton Williams was a society lady and sister-in-law to Delia Caton, who became the second Mrs. Marshall Field and who gave the *Christ Blessing the Little Children* memorial window to First Presbyterian in honor of her parents, Mr. & Mrs.

Franklin F. Spencer. (The window was reinstalled at Second in 1927).

Young Caroline Caton Williams died on May 25, 1876 and was interred at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago until 1899, when her body was exhumed and relocated to the Williams family plot at River Street Cemetery in Woodstock, Vt. As a memorial to Caroline, the family had the font carved in Italy from a single piece of limestone, and installed in the church sometime between 1876 and 1888. The font appears in pre-1900 fire photographs, but it is unclear whether the existing font is the original or if it was destroyed in the fire. A 1901 entry in the *Trustees' Minutes* indicates a \$300 payment to contractor F. A. Purdy for "baptismal font," but whether that was for repairs or replacement remains uncertain.

DOCENT TRAINING SESSIONS SCHEDULED

Tours of the stunning art and architecture of Second Presbyterian Church are vital to the mission of Friends of Historic Second Church to "educate a worldwide audience about its historical and cultural significance." The backbone of the tour program is the well-informed corps of docents who graciously share their time and knowledge with thousands of tour guests. A new round of docent training is scheduled for late spring with 1½ hour sessions beginning at 6:30 p.m. on the following Wednesday evenings: April 28th, May 5th, May 12th and May 19th.

A partial list of training topics includes the Arts and Crafts movement, the stained glass windows (both American and English), the murals, Gothic revival architecture, architects James Renwick and Howard Van Doren Shaw, artists Frederic Clay Bartlett and Louis Comfort Tiffany, and preservation philosophy and techniques. Trainees will also learn about and see the preservation progress already accomplished at the church. Friends invites your participation in the docent training. There is a \$10 materials fee for all participants. Those interested in learning about art and architecture but who do not wish to become docents are also invited to enroll. Please complete the application form on the newsletter insert and return as indicated on the form.

TOUR SCHEDULE**JANUARY THROUGH JUNE**

Public tours of Second Presbyterian Church are given at the following times:

First and third Saturday of the month from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cost \$5

Every Sunday after church at 12:15 p.m. Free.

Every Wednesday from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. Free.

FRIENDS OPENS OFFICE

During the week between Christmas and New Years, Friends Board members and supporters spent many hours readying the third floor Arts and Crafts room of the church for use as an office for Friends' new Historic Preservation Manager. Led by Board President Don West, a volunteer crew scraped, spackled, repaired windows, scrubbed walls and floors and then painted the room. Thanks to Rowena Rennie, Kim McNeece, Barbara Crawford, Ruth Sharpe, and Gary Schuetz for all their hard work. With a portion of the funds received from the Service Club of Chicago in 2009, Friends was able to purchase the furniture, laptop and printer to equip the office. Friends extends our thanks yet again to the Service Club.

SECOND PRESBYTERIAN GOES TO PARIS

Imagine the surprise of Friends' members David and Lois Rakov when they visited the Tiffany exhibit at the Musee du Luxembourg in Paris. There in the Beaux Arts editions exhibition booklet were two of the Martin Cheung photographs of Second Presbyterian Church, depicting the sanctuary and the Tiffany Pastoral window. The article encouraged Tiffany enthusiasts to visit the church where "nine Tiffany windows...rival in beauty those of Burne-Jones." The photos were included in a section on Tiffany in America. The exhibit will be shown in Montreal from February through May and moves to Richmond, Va., from May through August. Visit www.museeduluxembourg.fr for further information.

FRIENDS HIRES PRESERVATION MANAGER

Ali Stuebner recently accepted the position of Friends' part-time Historic Preservation Manager. Ali holds a master's degree in Historic Preservation from the University of Maryland and a B.A. in History from Marquette University. In the past, Ali has worked with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Landmarks Illinois on several preservation projects concerning threatened historic buildings. She looks forward to using her skills and knowledge of the field to assist in the preservation of the beautiful, historically significant Second Presbyterian Church building.

**WORKSHOP ON STAINED GLASS SET**

Partners for Sacred Places offers useful workshops that are free and open to the public. One of their upcoming workshops will take place at Second Presbyterian Church. On Feb. 4th from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Rolf Achilles, curator of the Smith Stained Glass Museum, will present a workshop titled, "Stained Glass Windows of Our Sacred Places." Reservations may be made by e-mail to Chicago@sacredplaces.org. Partners for Sacred Places is a national, non-sectarian, non-profit organization devoted to helping congregations and their communities sustain and actively use older and historic sacred places. Friends of Historic Second Church and several members of the church congregation are currently enrolled in Partners' *New Dollars/New Partners* training program.

**FRIENDS OF HISTORIC
SECOND CHURCH
GRATEFULLY
ACKNOWLEDGES THE
FOLLOWING
MEMBERSHIPS AND
GIFTS RECEIVED FROM
SEPT. 15 THROUGH
DEC. 31, 2009:**

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

Howard & Jane Tiffen

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

Luann Elvey
Maria Wicks

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

Mr. & Mrs. John Berry
Robert Schrade

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

Anonymous
Gail Atkins
Mr. & Mrs. Richard Brune
Trish Cassidy & Andrew Wycislak
Patricia A. Fortine
Gloria J. Matthews Harris
Katherine M. Henrici
William B. Hinchliff
Jim & Darleen Jackson
Doug Major
David C. Sharpe
John Vinci

Tiffany Circle (Under \$100):

E. Carol Beck
Steve & Kathy Belletire
Celia Cheung
Rochelle M. Davis
Louise D. Howe
Bob Jacobsen
Wilma J. Lilly
Nancy G. Lischer
Hosea L. Martin
Hilda Robinson
Elena Rose
Jane Tuma
Claudia Winkler

2010 FRIENDS LECTURE SERIES SPONSORED BY TERRA FOUNDATION

Friends of Historic Second Church is thrilled to announce that the Terra Foundation for American Art will graciously sponsor Friends' 2010 Lecture series. This year, in addition to the *Frederic Clay Bartlett Lecture on American Art*, there will be three evening lectures.

Art historian and freelance writer Ruth Nelson will present a lecture on **Feb. 25th**, titled, "Money Was No Object: The Tiffany Mosaic of Chicago's Marquette Building." On **May 6th**, Brian Reis, assistant curator of the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust, will lecture on Frank Lloyd Wright's work. Finally, Art Historian Elizabeth McGoey, who wrote her M.A. thesis on Second Presbyterian's interior, will contextualize the church within the broader social, cultural and religious framework of late 19th and early 20th centuries Chicago and the United States in an **Oct. 21st** lecture.

On **Sept. 23rd**, R. Craig Miller, senior curator of design arts at the Indianapolis Museum of Art, will present this year's annual *Frederic Clay Bartlett Lecture on American Art*. Mr. Miller will discuss the museum's recent acquisition of the Miller House, examining the house, interiors, and landscape design. Eero Saarinen designed this Mid-Century Modern landmark in Columbus, Ind., with interiors by Alexander Girard and landscape design by Daniel Urban Kiley.

All lectures will begin at 7 p.m. The admission fee for an evening lecture is \$5 and for the annual Bartlett lecture on American Art it is \$10. Please consult Friends' website, www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org, for exact dates and lecture titles. By providing your e-mail address to historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com, you will receive a reminder about the lectures closer to the presentation dates.

In addition to support for the lectures themselves, Friends will use some of the grant funds to develop a marketing plan for the lectures, and the creation and production of a self-guided brochure about the church's history, architecture and interior decoration. This gift enhances Friends' efforts to realize the mission of educating a worldwide audience about the significance of the art and architecture contained in Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago.



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Second Church*

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