



Friends of Historic Second Church



THE HERALD

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'PEACE' WINDOW PRESENTS DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS

One of the most striking and unusual windows in the church is the Peace Window, located in the third bay from the rear on the south side of the sanctuary. Installed late in 1903, it is one of nine windows in the church designed by the Tiffany Glass and Decorating Co., but it is distinctly different from the others. The design of the window is based on 13th century church windows that Tiffany admired during his trips through France.

However, in this instance, Tiffany greatly expanded the color range, and kept painted details to a minimum. It is strikingly similar to another Tiffany window known as the Medallion Window, created about 1892 by the firm as an exhibition piece and now on permanent display at the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art in Winter Park, Fla.



'Peace' medallion .

Our window features three large medallions. The top circular medallion, titled "Hope," shows an angel holding an overflowing basket of flowers or fruit. The large central medallion, in a pointed oval shape, depicts an angel with richly colored wings holding a banner displaying the word, "Peace," from which the window derives its name. She stands amidst laurel, with a star placed overhead. The bottom medallion, also circular, displays an



Photos this page courtesy Martin Cheung.

angel comforting a man kneeling before her, and is titled, "Consolation." Each of the medallions is encircled by a narrow band of polished round jewels in green tones. Beyond that, a much wider border surrounds and interconnects the medallions, and is richly colored with brilliant blues, yellows, and greens predominating. The whole is set against a background of blue with a trellis pattern of circles and squares. At the bottom, the memorial panels reads, "To the Glory of God and in Memory of Silas B. Cobb 1812 – 1890 and Maria Warren Cobb 1819 – 1888." This is the finest stained glass memorial panel in the church and is composed of acid-etched lettering on

flashed glass. The panel consists of two layers of glass, a very thin dark top layer, and a lighter base layer, to provide contrast. To create the piece, a stencil was created for the inscription and treated with a "resist." Then hydrofluoric acid was applied to etch away the remaining area (the background), leaving only the inscription. All of the capital letters are set into squares and treated in an elaborate manner with scrollwork and other decoration, reminiscent of medieval illuminated manuscripts. Ironically, in spite of the intricate process used to create the panel, it contains an error – Silas Cobb died in 1900, not 1890.

The window was given by Cobb's two surviving daughters, Maria (Mrs. William Walker) and Bertha (Mrs. Walter Denegre), both of whom were members of the congregation. Bertha's first husband William Armour died young. He was the son of prominent congregant George Armour, in whose memory the bell tower was completed in 1884. The Cobb family had a commanding presence on nearby Prairie Avenue. Silas and Maria Cobb built their home at 2101 S. Prairie in 1870. During the 1880s, as their daughters married, three additional homes were built: 2017 S. Prairie for William and Bertha Armour in 1881; 2027 S. Prairie for William and Maria Walker also in 1881; and 1811 S. Prairie for Joseph and Lenore Coleman in 1886. Only the Coleman house stands today, part of the landmark Prairie Avenue Historic District.

Continued

DISTINCTIVE 'PEACE' WINDOW CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Silas Bowman Cobb was truly a Chicago pioneer. Born in Vermont in 1812, Cobb traveled to Chicago by way of the Erie Canal and arrived at Fort Dearborn on May 29, 1833. At that time there were only 50 other white settlers in the



Silas Cobb

vicinity. In August, the population had increased to 250, and the hamlet was incorporated as a village. In that same year, the great council with the Native Americans provided for their removal and the immediate opening to settlement of 20 million acres of land in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. Cobb established himself in the saddle and harness business and thrived in the rapidly growing village. Within a few years, he began investing in land south of the Chicago River, in what would today be the heart of the "Loop." These purchases, which he later improved with large office blocks, formed the basis for the considerable fortune he would amass.

In 1840, Cobb married Maria Warren, daughter of the founder of Warrentonville, Ill. Two years later, they were present when Second Presbyterian Church was founded. For reasons unknown, Cobb maintained a close connection to the church for the next 58 years, but never officially joined as a member. (His wife joined in 1870). He was elected a trustee of the new congregation and served two years. Shortly after the first permanent structure was completed in September 1843 on the south side of Randolph east of Clark, the trustees discussed ways in which to increase attendance, with the popular view being to ask congregants to solicit their friends to attend. The 50th anniversary history

of the church, written in 1892, relates the following:

"At this juncture Mr. S. B. Cobb, one of the trustees, suggested that it would be better to enlarge the church by sawing it in two and inserting twenty feet. This plan would make personal solicitation unnecessary, and would, in Mr. Cobb's opinion, bring about the desired results. Some thought that it would be better to fill up such seats as were vacant, and that when these were all filled money might be profitably spent in enlarging the building. Mr. Cobb's counsels, however, prevailed, and the enlarged place of worship was filled as soon as it was ready for occupancy."

In 1855, Cobb was elected a director of the Chicago Gas Light and Coke Co., a position he held until he sold his interest in the enterprise in 1887. His executive ability was largely responsible for the establishment of cable roads in the city, those on State Street and Wabash Avenue being constructed under his advice and direction, while president of the Chicago City Railway. For many years, he was a controlling member of two major railroads that later became part of the Chicago & Northwestern Railroad, and he served as a long-time director of the National Bank of Illinois.

He gave back generously to his adopted city and was one of Chicago's largest benefactors. His most notable gift, in the amount of \$150,000, was made during the campaign to raise \$1 million for the establishment of the University of Chicago. His funds were used to construct the Cobb Lecture Hall in 1892, the first building on the campus and the one that established the now famous Gothic Revival style. In 1895, sculptor Lorado Taft completed a bust of Cobb which was placed in the lobby.

After his wife's death in 1888, Cobb moved into his daughter's home at 2027 S. Prairie Avenue. It was here that he passed away on April 5, 1900, just one month after fire destroyed his beloved Second Presbyterian Church.



Second Presbyterian Church's first building.

He was interred beside his wife at Graceland Cemetery in Chicago. His estate, estimated to be nearly \$6 million, was the largest ever filed up to that time in Cook County. Today, the beautiful Peace Window is a fitting tribute to this significant person in the history of our city. A man who both witnessed and contributed to the transformation of Chicago from a hamlet of 50 people to a bustling city of more than 2 million.

TOUR SCHEDULE JUNE THROUGH SEPTEMBER

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.

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.

FLW CURATOR SPEAKS AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN

On Thursday, May 6, 2010, Brian Reis, assistant curator of the Frank Lloyd Wright Preservation Trust, presented a lecture, *Frank Lloyd Wright and the Fine Art Interior*, as part of the Friends of Historic Second Church Terra-sponsored 2010 Evening Lecture Series. Reis captivated the crowd with his lecture alongside some interesting anecdotes about Chicago's most notorious architect.



Brian Reis lectures at Second Presbyterian.

Reis began his lecture by discussing the 1889 Oak Park home as a space of continual experimentation for Wright. He also examined some of the artists with whom Wright worked, including Richard Bock, Charles Corwin, Orlando Giannini and George Mann Niedecken, because during these early years, artists and sculptors were important collaborators for Wright.

Reis thoroughly dissected the Oak Park home before moving on to other Wright interiors, and finally ended with Wright's fullest realization of the Prairie home in the Robie House.

Reis reminded his audience that this year marks the centennial of the Robie House and that there will be celebrations during the summer and fall of 2010, so look out for programming!

DOCENT TRAINING ASSEMBLES NEW TALENT

Fifteen docent trainees completed the four-part training program conducted by Friends of Historic Second Church in April and May 2010. Trainees were immersed in information about the Arts and Crafts Movement, details about each of the stained glass windows and the types of glass used to create them, major artists who contributed their creative talents to the church design and decoration, preservation philosophy, and updates on the projects completed to date in the sanctuary and bell tower.



The profile of the class is wide ranging and interesting. Many of the trainees live in the neighborhood, one was married in the church a few years ago, and several are retired teachers. Many have experience as docents in other settings, including Glessner House Museum, the Field Museum, Loyola University Museum of Art, St James Chapel, Newberry Library, and for the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Beyond those who work as docents, an archivist, several lawyers, and a recent graduate of the Art Institute's Master's degree program in Historic Preservation round out this talented group. Extensive volunteer experience is a hallmark of the class. When asked why they wanted to give tours at historic Second Church, trainees cited their love of architecture, art, and history and their keen desire to share this beautiful site and its fascinating stories with others.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIPS AND GIFTS RECEIVED FROM JAN. 1 THROUGH MAY 31, 2010:

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

Brad Ballast
Chris Beukenkamp & Rebecca Coke
Dr. & Mrs. John M. Burns
Wilda Dailey
Jamie McMullin & Janelle Hoekstra

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

Connie Casey
Barbara Chasnoff & Tom Johnson
Anna Cooper-Stanton
Drs. Floyd & Shirley DuBois
Edwin Ferguson
Ann Fisher
Fourth Presbyterian Church
Carol J. Hall
Dale & Diane Hoekstra
Sue B. Ish
Bob & Sheila Joynt
William & Judith Locke
Anne S. Martin

Tiffany Circle (Under \$100):

Anonymous
Robert Blythe
Hattie Burton
Kathy Cummings
Helen Forester
Diane Gartung
Linda Jebavy
Alister MacDonald
Ann Martin
Raisa G. Montero
Mary Morton
Judy Neiswander
Ron & Beverly Offen
Karen Oliver
Natalie Sue Schmitt
Thelma Lee Schwartz

PRACTICAL HELP RECEIVED IN BROADENING SUPPORT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF 2ND PRESBYTERIAN

Members of Friends and church leadership took part in a recent "New Dollars/New Partners" training sponsored by Partners for Sacred Places. The training provided practical help to congregations with older and historic buildings on how to broaden and diversify the circles of donors and partners who can support the care and good use of such properties. Topics covered included: strategies for building support from congregational members and generating new sources of capital funds from the larger community; writing a strong case statement for funding support; organizing to carry out a capital campaign; and developing an action plan that will help the congregation meet its fundraising goals after the training is over. Participants included Rev. Gilchrist, Chris Beukencamp, Jerry Erickson, Ann Belletire, Rowena Rennie, Ruth Sharpe, Linda Miller, Carol Wilkerson and Bill Tyre.



Friends and Church members receive a certificate of completion for the Partners training course.

SIXTH GRADERS LEARN ABOUT ART AND PRESERVATION

On May 13, 2010 Friends opened the church doors to welcome a group of 50 sixth graders from St. Mary of the Woods School in northwest Chicago. Partners for Sacred Places arranged this day-long exploration of religious art, architecture and preservation. In addition to Second Presbyterian Church, the children visited Quinn Chapel and Holy Family Church.

The children prepared for the field trip with studies of Gothic architecture, Chicago and religious history. They came ready



Sixth graders from St. Mary of the Woods School visit Second Presbyterian Church.

to ask questions and eager to learn. Friends packed a lot of content into the one-hour tour. The visitors learned about Chicago and Church history, and about the Arts and Crafts Movement, stained glass and preservation. They were able to tour the balconies and see many of the different types of Tiffany glass used in our windows, and then see and handle tools used in the creation of stained glass. Friends summarized the information presented in a Bingo game featuring many of the artistic motifs that they had viewed during the program. To carry the concepts back to the



Sixth graders eagerly learn about Chicago and church history.

classroom, we gave them the materials to create their own paper stained glass window in a Gothic arch.

The numerous Friends docents and friends who helped make this tour possible are: Ann Belletire, Bonita Gilchrist, Darleen Jackson, Jim Jackson, Kim McNeece, Linda Miller, David Rakov, Lois Rakov, Joan Stinton, Ali Stuebner, and Bill Tyre. Special thanks to Jenny Wahlberg for creating the art project and sharing her stained glass tools and to Gianfranco Grande and Elizabeth Blasius of Partners for Sacred Places.



Friends of Historic Second Church

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP LEVELS AND BENEFITS

All members receive the newsletter *The Herald*.

Tiffany Circle: \$40 Individual; \$55 Family; \$25 Student/Senior (62 yrs.+)

Benefits include: 2 tickets to Art & Architectural Tour; 10 percent discount on merchandise, concerts and special events

Arts&Crafts Circle: \$100 - \$249

Benefits include: 2 Tickets to Art & Architectural Tour; 10 percent discount on merchandise, concerts and special events; recognition in newsletter and publications

Bartlett Circle: \$250 - \$499

Benefits include: 2 tickets to Art & Architectural Tour; 10 percent discount on merchandise, concerts and special events; photograph of church; recognition in newsletter and publications



Shaw Circle: \$500 - \$999

Benefits include: 4 tickets to Art & Architectural Tour; 20 percent discount on merchandise, concerts and special events; photograph of church; recognition in newsletter and publications

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

Benefits include: 4 tickets to Art & Architectural Tour; 20 percent discount on merchandise, concerts and special events; photograph of church; recognition in newsletter and publications; *Tree of Life* T-shirt

Renwick Circle: \$2,500 - \$4,999

Benefits include: 4 tickets to Art & Architectural Tour; 20 percent discount on merchandise, concerts and special events; recognition in newsletter and publications; 2 *Tree of Life* T-shirts; 11" x 14" color canvas image of church

I/We wish to become a member of Friends of Historic Second Church

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: _____

E-mail: _____

Enclosed is my check for \$_____ for membership at the following level:

___ **Tiffany Circle:** \$40 Individual; \$55 Family; \$25 Student/Senior (62 yrs.+)

___ **Arts&Crafts Circle:** \$100 - \$249

___ **Bartlett Circle:** \$250 - \$499

___ **Shaw Circle:** \$500 - \$999

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

___ **Renwick Circle:** \$2,500 - \$4,999

You may acknowledge my contribution in Friends' publications. ___ Yes ___ No

I prefer to receive my quarterly newsletter by e-mail. ___ Yes ___ No

I am interested in volunteering for Friends' activities. ___ Yes ___ No

Please return completed form with check made payable to: *Friends of Historic Second Church, 1936 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616*

Memberships and gifts are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. Friends of Historic Second Church is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization.



Friends of Historic Second Church

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Linda Miller and Ann Belletire

TWO LECTURES REMAIN IN 2010 EVENING LECTURE SERIES

With generous sponsorship provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art, Friends of Historic Second Church undertook an ambitious schedule of four diverse lectures for our 2010 Evening Lecture Series. Although the two lectures on the Tiffany mosaics at the Marquette Building and Frank Lloyd Wright's fine art interior have occurred, there are still two more opportunities to hear great lectures at Second Presbyterian.

On **Thursday, Sept. 23, 2010** (reception at 6 p.m., followed by the lecture at 7 p.m.), R. Craig Miller, senior curator of design arts at the Indianapolis Museum of Art (IMA), will present the annual Frederic Clay Bartlett Lecture on American Art. This year, Mr. Miller will introduce the audience to modern design with his lecture, *Saarinens / Girard / Kiley – Miller House: An American Icon*. The Miller House was recently acquired by the IMA and is one of the finest examples of mid-20th century American design. This will truly be a wonderful opportunity to get a glimpse of the house with an authority on design, as it won't be open to the public for many years.



The Saarinen/Girard/Kiley-designed Miller House.

The final lecture of the year will be presented by Elizabeth McGoey on **Thursday, Oct. 21, 2010** on *Decorative Taste, Religious Space: Contextualizing the Redecoration of the Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago*. McGoey, a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Indiana, Bloomington, wrote her M.A. thesis on Second Presbyterian Church, and will examine the eclectic choices made by Howard Van Doren Shaw and Frederic Clay Bartlett in conjunction with the Gilded Age milieu.

We hope you can join us for the final two riveting lectures in this series!