



Friends of Historic Second Church

THE HERALD



VOLUME V, NUMBER 2 SUMMER 2011

BURNE-JONES WINDOWS ARE INTERNATIONAL TREASURE

One of the true international art treasures at Second Presbyterian is a pair of stained-glass windows in the narthex designed by Edward Burne-Jones and executed by William Morris & Co. It is estimated that there are fewer than two dozen Morris windows in all of North America, with most located on the East Coast. William Morris (1834-1896), the acknowledged leader of the English Arts & Crafts movement, brought together an extraordinary collective of artists in the mid-19th century who shared his vision of creating beautiful objects – embroidery, painting, tableware, furniture, stained glass, and tiles – in the spirit of medieval workmen. Edward Burne-Jones (1833-1898), Morris' oldest friend and closest artistic collaborator, served as the firm's chief figure designer. Largely self-taught, he became one of the most successful British painters of the 19th century, known for works based on medieval and classical legends in a style characterized by elongated figures and brilliant color.

The pair of windows at the church came to Chicago through the efforts of Englishman Joseph Twyman, one of the chief proponents of William Morris in the United States. Twyman arrived in Chicago in 1870 and became a well-respected interior decorator and furniture designer. In 1902 he designed a William Morris Memorial Room at the Tobey Manufacturing Co., the leading local dealer for Arts & Crafts furnishings. The room featured many pieces personally owned by Twyman, including the two windows, which he



Photo courtesy Martin Cheung.

may have acquired as early as 1883 when he records seeing one of the windows during a visit to the Morris workshops at Merton Abbey. The room was described in great detail in an article which appeared in the February 1903 issue of *House Beautiful*, from which the image in this article is taken.

Franklin Darius Gray donated the windows to the church late in 1903.

Exactly how he became aware of the windows is unknown, although it is highly likely that Howard Van Doren Shaw, architect of the reconstruction of the church in 1900-1901, asked Gray to fund their purchase and installation. Shaw was a devotee of the English Arts & Crafts movement and knew Morris' work well, and no doubt knew Twyman and visited his Morris Memorial Room.

The two windows depict Saint Margaret and Saint Cecilia and are inscribed with the Latin version of their names, Sancta Margarita and Sancta Cecilia. Their beautiful elongated forms, brilliantly colored robes, and extraordinary painted detail, rank them among the finest of the stained-glass work produced by Burne-Jones and William Morris & Company. Several copies of both windows, with slight variations, can be found in various churches and museum collections.

Saint Margaret is surrounded by panes of grisaille glass featuring stylized floral motifs in monochromatic tones with highlights of yellow. Her gown is a brilliant red and she is depicted standing atop a dragon. Designed by 1882, the earliest example was installed in Saint Peter's Church in Bramley, Leeds, England. Saint Cecilia is set against a lush background of lemon foliage and fruit. Her gown is brilliant blue, and she is shown holding a small portable organ. The original design drawing for this window dates to 1874, with the first known window installed at Christ Church in Oxford England the following year.

Continued on page 2

FUNDRAISING GOAL REACHED FOR MORRIS WINDOWS

Friends' call for donations to the Morris Windows Project was met with overwhelming generosity and interest by members, and the public at large. Announced in March 2011, Friends needed to raise \$3,500 for the removal and replacement of the protective glazing currently obscuring the two east-facing windows designed by Edward Burne-Jones and made by William Morris and Company. Thanks to the phenomenal support shown for this project, Neal Vogel of Restoric LLC can begin work to remove the darkened plastic glazing, clean the exterior of the windows, and install low-glare glazing that will reveal the vibrant windows and their Gothic stone framework from the exterior. Work on the windows will start later this summer. Friends thanks these donors:

Anonymous
Diane Anderson
Brad Ballast
Ann Belletire
Rev. Karen Blatt
Edwin Ferguson
Katherine Henrici
Janina & Robert Herbst
Linda Jebavy
Thomas Kosel &
Rosemary Bell
Karen J. Oliver
David & Lois Rakov
Rowena Rennie
Bill Tyre

BURNE-JONES WINDOWS, Continued from page 1

As Presbyterian theology does not incorporate the use of saints, these windows were acquired and displayed for their artistic merit, rather than for the particular saints they depict. However, it is interesting to note briefly their stories. It is generally believed today that Saint Margaret, the patron saint of childbirth, never existed. Her story involves her refusal to renounce her Christian faith, at which point she was cruelly tortured, including being swallowed by Satan in the shape of a dragon, from which she escaped,



Above: The St. Cecilia window by Burne-Jones at Christ Church, Oxford, England.

hence the dragon depicted in the window. Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of musicians and church music, was another early Christian martyr, who was said to sing beautiful hymns to God as she lay dying.

The pair of windows, with their extraordinary painted details, provides a wonderful contrast to the numerous Tiffany

windows in the church, where painted detail was kept to a minimum. We are most fortunate for the series of efforts by Twyman, Gray, and most likely Shaw, in bringing these treasures to Chicago and the church for generations of visitors to enjoy. In the next issue of *The Herald*, we will look at the life and career of the donor, Franklin Darius Gray.



Above: Twyman's William Morris Memorial Room at The Tobey Manufacturing Co., in Chicago.

Friends is currently undertaking an important project to protect these valuable windows through the installation of new protective glazing on the exterior. *See box at left for more information.*

A FOND FAREWELL IN ORDER

Friends of Historic Second Church is sorry to say good bye to faithful docent Bonita Gilchrist. Mrs. Gilchrist always brought enthusiasm, in-depth knowledge and a deep love of the church to her tours. She gave generously of her time for after-church tours on Sunday mornings and regularly volunteered for lectures, concerts, and other special events. Reverend and Mrs. Gilchrist moved to Virginia Beach, Va. upon the minister's retirement from the church on June 1, 2011. Our thanks and best wishes are extended to Bonita and Rev. Gilchrist.

TOUR SCHEDULE

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

Every Saturday from 1 p.m. - 3 p.m., except holidays. Cost: \$5.

Every Sunday after church at approximately 12:05 p.m. Free.

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

TOUR PROGRAM WELCOMES THE WORLD

The tour program has expanded once again by making docent-led tours available *every* Saturday of the month beginning May 1, 2011. As a core mission of Friends, the tour program seeks to reach an ever broadening audience with which to share the beauty and history of the Second Presbyterian Church building. Guests are now greeted by an open door to the church and well-informed docents every Sunday after church at 12:05, every Wednesday from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., and every Saturday from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Friends began its tour program modestly in 2006 by responding to requests for group tours of the church sanctuary. Since that time the number of visitors has grown steadily from 1,090 guests in 2006 to 1,745 in 2010. While most of the tour groups are adults (frequently seniors), Friends has also developed wonderful children's tours focused on learning activities relevant and fun for different aged children. Given the enthusiasm shown by young tour guests (who were particularly interested in restoration tools and processes) Friends plans to expand its children's tour program.

Closer ties to the Glessner House Museum have also spurred tour growth since church tours are now dove-tailed with tours at Glessner and Clarke House a few blocks away. Spending an afternoon in the South Loop affords one the opportunity to get acquainted with several important historical sites. In October 2010, *Chicago Magazine* underscored this fact by selecting Second Presbyterian Church, Glessner House Museum and Clarke House as three of the top 40 buildings in Chicago. To see the article, visit www.chicagomag.com/Chicago-Magazine/October-2010/Top-40-Buildings-in-Chicago/.

Tour guests frequently arrive at the church with a dog-eared guide book in hand perhaps written in Spanish, French, Japanese, or another language. One particular Wednesday afternoon saw the arrival of visitors from Hungary, Bulgaria, Venezuela and Great Britain. In the past two years, docents have welcomed guests from thirty-one different countries! Chicagoans who have not yet spent



Above: The active adults group from The Community House in Hinsdale enjoyed a tour in March 2011.

time at Second Presbyterian are encouraged to come and see what foreign travelers seem to know—this is an important site in Chicago not to be missed.

If you belong to a group or if you have out-of-town guests that would like to arrange a tour, call 312-432-0399 or e-mail us at www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org.

NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Friends of Historic Second Church is pleased to welcome two new members to the Board of Directors. Jeff Case is a principle at Holabird & Root, Chicago, where he leads the firm's corporate design group. He also sits on the Advisory Board of the South Loop Historical Society. Also new to the board is Brad Ballast, managing director of community affairs for Harris Bank, Chicago. Brad manages the philanthropic relationships between Harris Bank and the nonprofit community, as well as most of the bank's charitable giving, nonprofit sponsorships, its tutoring and financial education initiatives, and the bank's various internal fundraising campaigns. Friends looks forward to carrying out its mission with Jeff's and Brad's expertise and guidance.

FRIENDS OF HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGES THE FOLLOWING MEMBERSHIPS AND GIFTS RECEIVED FROM MARCH 1, 2011 THROUGH MAY 30, 2011 :

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

Rev. Karen Blatt

Jamie Douglass

Diane Gartung

Dale & Diane Hoekstra

William & Judith
Locke

Anne S. Martin

Tiffany Circle (Under
\$100):

Robert Blythe

Floyd & Shirley DuBois

Kathleen Cummings

Robin Goldsmith

Linda Jebavy

Winifred M. Leaf

Beverly Offen

Belle Radcliffe

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.*

DAMAGED PARISH HOUSE WINDOW REPLACED

The top of a lancet window that was sucked out of its frame by high winds in October 2010 has been replaced with a faithful reproduction. It has been reinstalled in its location along a south-facing stairwell in the church's Parish House.

This lancet window (and all of the non-stained glass windows in the Parish House) was originally manufactured by the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. (PPGC). Established in 1883 by John B. Ford and John Pitcairn, this firm succeeded in domesticating the plate glass industry and quickly became the nation's largest manufacturer of high-quality, thick plate glass, with a specialization in extra large and wide sheets of glass.

Prior to the 1880s, the plate glass industry in the United States was dominated by importation from Belgium, England, France and Germany. Plate glass was rolled into shape rather than blown (unlike other types of glass), and then was ground and polished to create a surface devoid of imperfections.

The PPGC glassworks in Creighton, Penn., were heated and operated by natural gas, which aided in creating a high level of purity and durability in the glass. By the early 20th century the firm had 20 warehouses across the country, including in Boston, New York, Atlanta and Chicago. It is therefore not surprising that architect Howard Van Doren Shaw utilized their window glass during the reconstruction of the church in 1900-1901.

SELF-GUIDED TOUR BROCHURE NOW AVAILABLE

Despite an expanding schedule, docents cannot be at the church seven days a week at all hours. Guests can now, however, come any time the church is open and learn about the art and architecture by using the new *Self-Guided Tour Brochure* developed by Friends of Historic Second Church and funded by the Terra Foundation for American Art.

The colorful brochure (image of a portion at right) provides overviews of the history of the building, the four major artists associated with the church's art and architecture, and the Arts and Crafts interior along with a numbered map that walks a visitor around the church explaining the windows, murals, angels, baptismal font, organ screen and other highlights.



Brochure photos by Martin Cheung.

SAVE THESE DATES: ART NOUVEAU LECTURE AND CHAMBER MUSIC CONCERT

The Chapbook name is older than Chicago, but its famous namesake's covers and posters were designed here by the publishing duo of Stone and Kimball starting in 1893. That was the same year that what we now call Art Nouveau, Liberty Style or Jugendstil was introduced in London, Brussels, Paris and Munich. The new graphic forms, spearheaded by such brilliant artists as Will Bradley in Chicago, Aubrey Beardsley in London, and Toulouse-Lautrec and Alphonse Mucha in Paris, introduced a new Japanese-influenced way of seeing. See the images and learn the "why" at this lecture, the second of three in Friends' 2011 lecture series. This lecture will be presented by Rolf Achilles on Sept. 15. Rolf teaches at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, is involved in historic preservation in Illinois and elsewhere, talks frequently on Art Nouveau and its Chicago roots, and leads tours on Modernism and sacred architecture. He is also a member of the Architectural Restoration Committee for Friends of Historic Second Church. Reception at 6 p.m. followed by lecture at 7 p.m. Suggested donation is \$5.

Readers are encouraged to circle Sunday, Oct. 23 on their calendars to attend a concert at Second Presbyterian Church beginning at 3 p.m. The Chicago Chamber Musicians (CCM) have selected the church to host a *Sounds and Spaces* concert as part of this series featuring fascinating architectural spaces. Britten's *Phantasy* Quartet, Op. 2, and Mozart's *Divertimento* in E Flat Major, K. 563 will be performed at the event, which will include a tour and reception with the artists. Tickets are available by calling 312-225-5226, at chicagochambermusic.org, or at the door.



The CCM performed at Frank Lloyd Wright's Robie House in October 2010.



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

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

Benefits include: Two 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: Two 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: Four 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: Four 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: Four tickets to Art & Architectural Tour; 20 percent discount on merchandise, concerts and special events; recognition in newsletter and publications; Two *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

1936 S. Michigan Ave.
Chicago, IL 60616
Phone: 1-800-657-0687
E-mail: historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Linda Miller, *President*
A. Gerald Erickson, *Vice President*
Ann Belletire, *Secretary*
William Tyre, *Treasurer*
Bradford L. Ballast
Jeff Case
Gianfranco Grande
Monica Obniski
Rowena Rennie
Ruth Sharpe
Jane Tiffen
Katy Gallagher, *Historic Preservation Manager*
Friends of Historic Second Church is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.
Newsletter Editor: Barbara Dutton
Contributors: Bill Tyre, Monica Obniski, Katy Gallagher, Linda Miller and Ann Belletire.

FINISHES ANALYSIS FOR CHURCH INTERIOR UNDERWAY

Friends of Historic Second Church was recently awarded a \$10,000 grant by the National Trust for Historic Preservation from the Kohler Intervention Fund for the Midwest. This grant has been matched by an anonymous donor. The combined funds will be used to execute a finishes analysis of interior areas of the church including the sanctuary, narthex and adjoining vestibules, Oriel room, and potentially more.



The finishes analysis will reveal the original paint color of interior decorative elements including the angel brackets in the sanctuary.
Photo by Martin Cheung.

With four strong applicants considered for the work, the Friends Board sought guidance from the Architectural Restoration Committee, ultimately selecting Anthony Kartsonas, principal of Historic Surfaces LLC, Chicago. Having worked on more than 50 high-profile projects throughout the United States, including the Tiffany dome in the Chicago Cultural Center, the Driehaus Residence, Chicago, and the Palmer House Hilton Empire Room, Chicago, Kartsonas has extensive experience as an architectural conservator and historic finishes specialist. Kartsonas will begin work on the finishes analysis in September.

The finishes analysis will include documentation of the current and 1901 appearance of the rooms, including wood, plaster, painted surfaces and stencil motifs. The finishes analysis is the final addition to the preservation plan prepared in 2010 by Anne Sullivan of Sullivan | Preservation, Chicago. The preservation plan provides guidance for future preservation projects.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation dispenses small grants for local projects through the National Trust Preservation Funds grant program. The grants are awarded to nonprofit groups, educational institutions and public agencies. Preservation funds grants are being used nationally for such wide-ranging activities as consultant services for rehabilitating buildings, technical assistance for tourism that promotes historic resources, and educating children about their heritage. These grants are often the deciding factor on whether historic buildings or sites can be saved for future generations.