



*Friends of Historic Second Church*

## THE HERALD

Volume VIII, Number 3

Fall/Winter 2014



### HISTORY UNDERFOOT *by Nate Lielasus*

Visitors to Second Presbyterian are often amazed that they can reach out and touch the splendid stained glass windows by Tiffany and others. Less often do they marvel at the threadbare carpet, tattered in places, beneath their feet. After more than a hundred years of being tread upon, the carpet has seen better days. But even today some patches, miraculously spared from wear, seem brand new. In these places, the bold patterns and deep colors reveal why the carpet is such a significant part of Howard Van Doren Shaw's masterful reconstruction of the church.

The surviving sections of carpeting down the aisles of the sanctuary feature rich expanses of red, green, blue, yellow and black with motifs reminiscent of the Egyptian and Medieval designs in Owen Jones Grammar of Ornament. Large patterned bands of red fleurs-de-lis on a green field with a border of yellow and blue color blocks alternate with bands of strange truncated plant forms. Red stripes with golden zigzags and crosses separate the bands and a similar red stripe makes up the carpet border.

The wealth of the Prairie Avenue merchants and industrialists paid for the new sanctuary space, which benefitted from the finest materials and craftsmanship. The

rebuilders chose one of the finest carpets available for the floors - a Brussels weave, first among carpets of this period and often considered the most luxurious carpet of the 18th and 19th centuries. Brussels was the first carpet made by machine in Europe and, though machine made, they were expensive to make due to the quantity of material that went into the carpet and the labor required by the complex weaving process. Brussels carpets are noted for their smooth surface with fine ridges and their resistance to wear.

The carpet is a five-frame Brussels carpet, meaning a Brussels carpet with five colors. Brussels are a warp-pile carpet with a grid structure composed of cotton warp chains and weft. Brussels carpets require the Jacquard process, invented in 1849 by Joseph Jacquard, in which the pattern to be woven on the carpet was contained on a series of templates, allowing the selective raising of threads. This process of control, which used punch cards to dictate outcomes, later became the basis for early computer programming. In the warp direction, three-ply worsted wool threads, each dyed a single color, are raised to the surface in piles to create a pattern on the



*Photo by Nate Lielasus*

face of the carpet. Most of the colored threads are hidden within the carpet adding to the "body Brussels." In a five-frame Brussels, there are four dormant threads buried in the carpet for every one expressed creating a plush fabric.

Originally, there was a patterned green accent carpet between the pews that can still be seen in the rear balcony and behind the last row of pews on the main floor. This carpet is a Tapestry weave, which is similar to a Brussels weave. In fact, Tapestry carpets are in essence a single-frame Brussels. The multiple colors and pattern are an effect of the

threads being dyed different colors along their lengths by using a Whytock device. Each thread has an encoded pattern that is expressed when the carpet is woven. There are no hidden threads adding body to the carpet. While the dyeing process is more complex in a Tapestry carpet, the savings in material and labor make it a less expensive carpet overall.

The annual report of the treasurer to the church trustees lists payments to Marshall Field & Co for carpet during the church's reconstruction. The 1901 payment was for \$5,024.08, nearly as much as the \$5,181.73 Howard Shaw was paid for his services, though the final bill from Marshall Field & Co also included pew cushions.

Marshall Field & Co., the venerable department store that began in 1852 as P. Palmer, Dry Goods and Carpets, was beginning its own transformation in 1901. Not only was the business incorporated as Marshall Field & Co, but four buildings, including the Central Music Hall (Dankmar Adler, 1879), were cleared along State Street south of Randolph for the first phase of construction of the Beaux

Arts department store by Daniel H. Burnham & Co. that stands today. The northern section was opened in October of 1902, while the southern portion was not completed until 1907.

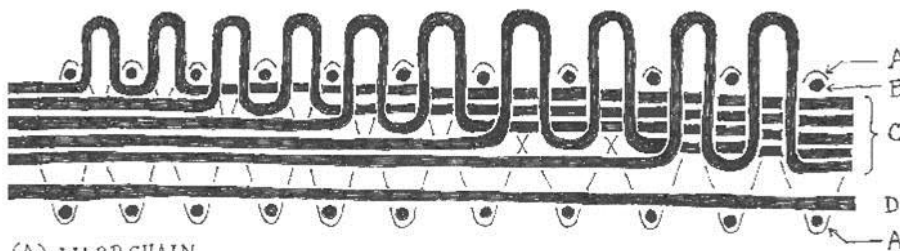


In 1902, the American Carpet and Upholstery Journal referred to the carpet department at Marshall Field & Co (*above*) as the largest in the world. The retail division, managed by Edwin Brown, was in a 150' x 250' space on the fifth floor of the State street store with windows on three sides and a skylight above. The wholesale division, managed by Franklin Ames, took up most of the sixth floor of Marshall Field's Wholesale Store, the massive stone warehouse designed by H.H. Richardson on the block bounded by Quincy, Franklin, Adams and Wells Streets (demolished 1930). Prince Henry of Prussia visited the wholesale carpet department in 1902 when

travelling in the United States. Just a month before the church burned, Marshall Field & Co placed a full page ad in the Chicago Tribune announcing new Spring carpets with best quality body Brussels at \$1.10 per yard.

Besides the Brussels and Tapestry carpets, other popular styles available at the time included Wiltons, similar to a Brussels but with a trimmed pile; Tapestry velvets, like Tapestry carpets but also with a trimmed pile; Axminsters, with machine knotted threads to replicate the construction of Oriental rugs; and Ingrains, flat-weave carpets with a reverse image on each side.

The new sanctuary space reopened in November 10, 1901 to great fanfare. The sumptuous interiors with rich colors, textures and materials showed off the great wealth and taste of the congregation. Perhaps nothing expressed the luxury afforded by the genteel congregation more intimately than the plush carpet underfoot.



- (A) WARP CHAIN
- (B) WEFT
- (C) PILE WARP (WORSTED WOOL)
- (D) STUFFER WARP

*Diagram of five-frame Brussels carpet weave.  
Drawing by author.*

*Photo credit: Martin Cheung*





## MOURNING

The Board of Friends of Historic Second Church joins the Session and the Congregation of Second Presbyterian Church in expressing our deep sorrow at the death of Sarah Bean, who died tragically as a result of an accident that occurred in front of the church at noon Thursday, September 4, 2014.

Now more than ever, Friends of Historic Second Church is committed to the preservation of the interior of the church and supporting the church in the conservation of the church's exterior. Our programming and tours will continue their growth in 2015. We plan to communicate with you, our supporters, regularly on the progress of this work. So look for regular updates. We welcome your support and feedback as we move forward.

## NEW HOLIDAY CARDS ARE AVAILABLE!

Friends of Historic Second Church's sixth annual Christmas card is now available. This year's card features the central detail of the Tree of Life mural comprising a grouping of five angels holding a banner which reads "Sing forth the honor of His name, make His praise glorious." The mural was created by Frederic Clay Bartlett and installed in 1903, a gift of church trustee Eugene S. Pike. Packages of 10 cards with envelopes are just \$10. Two styles are available, one is blank and one features a Christmas verse, "Sing forth the good news, He is born." By purchasing cards, you will support the ongoing preservation work of Friends and can share the beauty of our sanctuary with your friends and family this holiday season. Cards may be ordered by sending a check made payable to Friends of Historic Second Church, 1936 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL, 60616. Please include \$2.00 per package to cover shipping costs and indicate your preference for cards with or without the verse.



## Second Presbyterian Public Tour Schedule:

Wednesdays  
1:00-3:00pm

Saturdays  
1:00-3:00pm

Sundays (after worship service)  
12:15pm

## OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO: ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

In October, Friends of Historic Second Church participated again in Open House Chicago, organized by the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Over the weekend of October 18th and 19th, Friends docents and volunteers welcomed nearly 700 visitors to Second Presbyterian Church, giving guided tours of the art and architecture of the church sanctuary and explaining the restoration process used to complete various projects. This year, Friends welcomed visitors from Maine to Hawaii, and from Argentina, Austria, and the United Kingdom. Visitors had the opportunity to walk around the balcony and see the stained glass windows by Tiffany Studios as well as local firms up close and have their questions answered by Friends' knowledgeable docents. Friends looks forward to participating in next year's Open House Chicago.

## Mission Statement

*The mission of Friends of Historic Second Church is to preserve and restore the art and architecture of Chicago's Landmark Second Presbyterian Church, educate a worldwide audience about its historical and cultural significance, and share those resources with the community.*



Sebastian Nigro, a young architecture enthusiast, takes his first tour of Second Presbyterian Church.

## FRIENDS VISITS KOKOMO OPALESCENT GLASS

Docents enjoyed a particularly fascinating enrichment activity in November with a tour of the Kokomo Opalescent Glass (KOG) factory in Kokomo, Indiana. The plant, founded in 1888 as Opalescent Glass Works, makes sheets of one-of-a-kind decorative opalescent art glass and has a storied history. In 1889, the firm was awarded the Gold Medal of Excellence at the World's Fair in Paris and by the 1890s it boasted high profile clients including Tiffany, LaFarge, and McCully and Miles. It is the oldest continuously operating manufacturer of decorative art glass products in North America and one of only five such glass factories remaining.

The 2500 degree twelve-pot fiery furnace runs 24/7 to turn the ingredients of an old recipe of sand, soda and pigment into molten glass. Men who work with amazing strength and agility dip their ladles and gather the glass for a quick and orchestrated walk to the mixing table where the mix man lifts and turns the 45 – 50 pound gather, draping and stirring, until he feeds the glass into the double rollers. From this process emerges a sheet of approximately 96" x 35". Up to five colors can be added to create one sheet resulting in hundreds of combinations, no two of which are exactly the same. The factory also creates blown glass products, dalle de verre (slab) glass, and sculptural vases, bowls, ornaments, paperweights and pressed jewels.

It is likely that Kokomo opalescent glass exists in the windows at the church, including those designed by the Tiffany Glass Company, McCully and Miles, and Giannini and Hilgart.

*Photo credit: Ann Fisher*



***Friends of Historic  
Second Church  
gratefully acknowledges  
the following  
memberships,  
donations, and  
contributions from July  
16, 2014 – Nov. 14, 2014.***

***\$5,000-\$9,999***

Christian Vinyard

***\$1,000-\$4,999***

Anonymous  
Ann & Michael Belletire  
Linda & Jeff Miller

***\$500-\$999***

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Bruce Sagan *in honor of*  
*Mary Bucaro*  
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Michael Leo Kirk  
Darlene Pollard  
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***Under \$100***

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Ruth Foley  
Thomas &  
Margaret Hartmann  
Tori Simms & Ray Hoffman  
Samijeane Nordmark  
Mandy Pava  
Miss Sprite  
Anne Sullivan  
Jennifer Welch

### YOUR SUPPORT NEEDED NOW MORE THAN EVER

Friends has launched its Fourth Annual Appeal this fall. We need your support to help us address the most pressing preservation needs in 2015 and expand our programming to reach an ever-growing audience. If you have already sent a donation, we thank you! If not, please consider Friends in your end-of-year giving. With pride in the beauty of this historic building and an appreciation for preserving that beauty for future generations, now is the time to act. To make a donation, send a check to Friends of Historic Second Church, 1936 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60616 or online at: <http://www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org/support/donate.html> Thank you.

### MEMBERSHIP FORM

All members receive the newsletter *The Herald* and are recognized as donors in the newsletter.

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

*Benefits include:* Free tours during regular tour hours, 25% discount on Friends' merchandise.

**Arts & Crafts Circle:** \$100 and above

*Benefits include:* Free tours during regular tour hours, 25% discount on Friends' merchandise, and invitations to special members-only tours and programs.

I/we wish to become a member of Friends of Historic Second Church or renew a current membership.

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.+)

\_\_\_\_ **Art & Crafts Circle:** \$100 and above

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

\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No I prefer to receive my newsletter by e-mail.

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

If you wish to discuss sponsoring a restoration project, contact Friends of Historic Second Church at 1-800-657-0687.

Please return completed form with check made payable to:

Friends of Historic Second Church 1936 South Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60616.

Or renew online at [www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org](http://www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org).



1936 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: 1-800-657-0687

E-mail: [historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com](mailto:historic2ndchurch@yahoo.com)

Web: [www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org](http://www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org)

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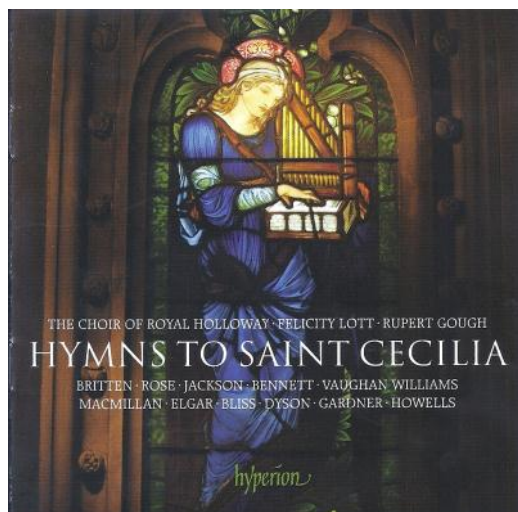
Contributors: Ann Belletire, Nate Lielasus,

Linda Miller, Lisa Napoles, and Bill Tyre.

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#### CLASSICAL COLLABORATION

Hyperion Records, a British independent record company specializing in classical music "from the 12th century through the 21st" recently contacted Friends about contributing cover art for one of their upcoming releases, a compilation of religious choral music dedicated to St. Cecilia. They requested permission to use a photo of our St. Cecilia window for the album. Friends was excited to partner with Hyperion Records for "Hymns to Saint Cecilia," which was released earlier this month. The CD cover features a detail from a photograph of the Burne-Jones St. Cecilia window taken by photographer Martin Cheung. For more information about the CD or to purchase a copy, visit the Hyperion Records website: <http://www.hyperion-records.co.uk/>



#### CONGRATULATIONS

On Sunday, November 16, 2014, Rev. Dr. David Neff was formally installed as pastor of the church by a commission from the Presbytery of Chicago. During his three-year tenure as interim pastor, church membership has grown, new programs have begun, and community outreach has expanded. Congratulations from Friends of Historic Second Church to Rev. Neff and the congregation of Second Presbyterian Church.



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*Friends of Historic Second Church is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation. All donations are deductible to the extent allowed by law.*