



Friends of Historic Second Church

THE HERALD



Volume IX, Number 3

Fall 2015

AN HISTORIC PROGRAM: CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF TOURS AT SECOND PRESBYTERIAN *by Nate Lielasus*

In November, Second Presbyterian and Friends of Historic Second Church will celebrate the 75th anniversary of the tour program at the church. At 75 years and counting, the tours offered at Second Presbyterian are part of what is believed to be the longest operating historic architecture tour program in Chicago.

Even before a tour program was developed, the church attracted attention for its spectacular interior. In 1904, House Beautiful wrote an article exalting the fine craftsmanship and beauty of the new sanctuary space at Second Presbyterian and in 1928 the Municipal Art League of Chicago included an entry on the church in their guide "Chicago Beautiful: A Guide to the Outstanding and Accessible Works of Art in the City." The guide, published by the Chicago Daily News, mentioned the "distinguished examples of stained glass art" and the "rich mural paintings" in the church.

In 1940 the first official tour program was launched by the Attendance Committee under the leadership of David Muir, the committee chair. Dr. William Clyde Howard, pastor from 1926 to 1953, trained ushers on the artistic highlights of the

sanctuary. Dr. Howard and his wife, Elizabeth, took an active interest in the history of the church's art and architecture. Initially tours were mostly given by Elizabeth Howard or the sexton and were somewhat informal - tours were typically given after service to interested members of the congregation or visitors to the church – but there was the acknowledgement of the need to compile a history of the art and architecture of Second Presbyterian church and share that history with a wide audience.

In 1949, Elizabeth Howard wrote a history of the church and a guide to the significant artistic treasures of the interior, with a particular focus on the stained glass windows. It is interesting that this early document, which formed the basis of much later research, was free of many of the inaccuracies that appeared in later publications.

In 1952 the Session minutes note a proposal to distribute a brochure on the history of the church with notes by Dr. Howard to hospitals, hotels, schools, and colleges. It is unknown if this brochure ever became a reality, but many other publications on the history and

art of the church followed.

In 1958 Jesse D. Nigh compiled two documents on the church – "A Few Items of History Pertaining to Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago," prepared for the youth group, and a five-page document entitled "Some of the Art Treasures of the Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago" with a description of each window and information on the murals. Nigh was a member of the church from 1926 until his death in 1961, serving as a trustee, treasurer and elder.

In 1968 Nelson Chubb, Jr. compiled earlier histories into a pocket-sized booklet, which was published with at least two editions, and was used as the main source of information for the tour program for many years. Nelson Chubb and his wife Lois Chubb became active in the tour program, which blossomed in the 1970s due to their involvement and the encouragement of Reverend Joe Francis and his wife Eleanor. During this early period of the tour program, there were no set tour times – rather people contacted the church directly to request a tour or wandered in when the doors were open.

Aiding Nelson and Lois Chubb, was church sexton Harold Dugger who was an active guide during this time. Other events in the 1970s helped to bring the church to greater notice – in 1974 the church was listed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U.S. Department of the Interior and in 1977 it was designated a Chicago Landmark.

Interest in the church was further increased by the first official publication on the history of the art and architecture of the church in 1978 - Erne and Florence Frueh's book *Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago Art and Architecture*. This book, with numerous color illustrations, became a new source for tour information, replacing Elizabeth Howard's and Nelson Chubb's earlier works. The Fruehs also published an article on the windows in the *Chicago Historical Society* magazine, *Chicago History*, in 1977 and included extensive coverage of the windows in their book *Chicago Stained Glass*, published in 1983.

In 1982 Ann & Harold Bretz took over the tour program and established the Landmark Volunteer Corps with "Landmark Volunteers" leading tours. Ann put together a double-sided sheet of tour information, still available and recently updated, as a distilled guide to the sanctuary. Ann noted that interest in the church and requests for tours increased after "The Treasures of Tiffany" exhibition opened on June 10, 1982 at the Museum of Science

and Industry. The exhibition showcased artifacts from the Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art and led to renewed interest in the work of Tiffany and the windows at Second Presbyterian. Ann later edited *Second Presbyterian Church of Chicago Art and Architecture* and it was re-released in 1988.

After Ann and Harold Bretz moved out of state, Lois Chubb again took over the tour program. Increasingly, outside tour guides, community organizations, and local schools became aware of the church and planned group visits. Regular visitors included Bill Hinchliff, Linda Rubin, Ted Golat, Rolf Achilles, Marie Olson (who brought students from College of DuPage), Chicago Adventures, Mid American Tours, My Kind of Town, Destination Management, The School of the Art Institute of Chicago, and the Cultural Center Neighborhood Tours. Church members assisting Lois included Rowena Rennie (now Balogun), Jan Erickson, Pauline Ferguson, and Jackie Kuehnle.

Around the year 2000 a special committee of the church - The Angels Fund – was organized to help manage preservation of the building and the tour program. The Angels Fund was a focused effort to raise money for restoration of the sanctuary. However, while the Angels Fund could solicit donations from individuals, as part of a religious organization it could not seek municipal, state or Federal grants. Friends of Historic Second Church, a secular non-profit

separate from the church, was formed by members of the church and other interested individuals in 2006 with a mission "to preserve and restore the internationally recognized 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." Upon Friends incorporation, the Angels Fund disbanded with Friends assuming many of the group's duties. As a secular non-profit, Friends is able to apply for government and other grants, which were inaccessible to the Angels Fund. Next year, Friends will celebrate its 10-year anniversary.

As part of Friends' mission, Friends took over the tour program and established the church's first scheduled open door tours, though Friends continues to offer pre-arranged tours at other times. Open door tours are offered three times a week with docents available to guide visitors through the sanctuary. The church also participates in A Walk Through Time: Prairie Avenue Historic District Tour and Open House Chicago. Last year the docent pool of 25 individuals led nearly 3,000 guests through the church. Tour attendees have come from 42 different countries.

The next time you visit Second Presbyterian for one of Friends' tours remember - you are not just experiencing an historic building but you are also participating in an historic tour program.

WALL SCONCES TO BE RESTORED

This fall, Friends will undertake its newest restoration project, addressing the deteriorated condition of the four leaded glass wall sconces on the east wall of the balcony, in between the five scourges windows. These sconces, designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw and executed by Willy H. Lau, are somewhat unusual in that the four light bulbs are positioned in front of, rather than behind, the large leaded glass panels. Over the years, heat from the light bulbs has softened the lead and caused the panels to deflect to the point that they are in danger of breaking apart. The restoration work, to be undertaken by Peter Janko of Lumenelle, will involve removing the fixtures, flattening the panels, gluing broken panes of glass, stabilizing the lead caming, and complete rewiring. LED bulbs, which simulate the appearance of the historic carbon filament bulbs, but do not give off the heat of incandescent bulbs, will be used once the sconces are reinstalled. The total cost of the project is \$3,000 and donations are now being accepted. Online donations may be made using the Paypal option on our website and selecting "Wall sconces," or checks may be mailed to Friends.



FRIENDS TOUR OF HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW'S MARKTOWN

On September 19, Friends Board Members Nate Lielasus and Bill Tyre led a walking tour of the community of Marktown, a former industrial town designed by Howard Van Doren Shaw in 1917 to house workers of the Indiana Harbor Works of the Mark Manufacturing Company. Marktown represents a rare example of town planning by Shaw. The tour focused on the history of the community; the original, only partially-realized master plan; building typologies; and repeated design elements throughout the community. With several of Marktown's buildings having already been demolished, and the increasing threat of demolition of additional structures by the BP Whiting Refinery, this was a valuable opportunity to see one of Shaw's most significant late-career projects.

2015 LECTURE SERIES CONCLUDES IN OCTOBER

Please join Friends for the final lecture in our 2015 series on Thursday, October 22, when musicologist David Patterson will present his lecture, "Frank Lloyd Wright, 'Organicism,' and the Long Shadow of Beethoven." During his career, Frank Lloyd Wright spoke of Beethoven as one of his influences, even referring to the composer as "a great architect." David Patterson is currently writing a book on the place of music in the thought and work of Frank Lloyd Wright and has spoken on the topic at several Wright sites. In 2013, Mr. Patterson produced a recording of music composed by Wright's father, entitled *The Music of William C. Wright: Solo Piano and Vocal Works, 1847-1893*. Copies of the CD will be available for purchase. The lecture will be held at 7:00pm preceded by a reception with light refreshments at 6:00pm. \$10 suggested donation. This lecture is being presented in partnership with the Chicago Architecture Biennial. Friends of Historic Second Church is proud to be a Chicago Architecture Biennial Affiliate Partner.

**CHICAGO
ARCHITECTURE
BIENNIAL**

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.



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UPDATE ON EXTERIOR WORK

Over the past several months, the church has been working closely with Wiss, Janney, Elstner Associates, Inc. to develop a plan for the restoration of the bell tower. Bulley & Andrews Masonry Restoration LLC has been contracted to undertake the work, which is scheduled to begin in March 2016, as soon as the weather is favorable. The project will require scaffolding up to the top of the tower, and will encompass both the limestone and sandstone masonry, as well as the windows. The work, projected to cost \$600,000, is being funded through gifts to a church-sponsored capital campaign as well as a loan through the investment loan program of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

2016 LECTURE SERIES

Friends is very excited to announce its first lecture of 2016. Jeff Nigro, Adjunct Lecturer in Museum Education at the Art Institute of Chicago will give a presentation on the collection of paintings donated by Frederic Clay Bartlett, the artist who painted the murals at Second Presbyterian Church, in memory of his wife, Helen Birch Bartlett. The lecture will be held on Thursday April 14, 2016. The lecture will begin at 7:00pm, with tours, a reception, and light refreshments beginning at 6:00pm. Suggested donation is \$10.

Second Presbyterian Public Tour Schedule:

Wednesdays
1:00-3:00pm

Saturdays
1:00-3:00pm

Sundays (after worship service)
12:15pm

SUPPORT FRIENDS WITH AMAZONSMILE

You can now support Friends of Historic Second Church just by shopping on Amazon.com. Friends has joined AmazonSmile, a website which allows non-profit organizations to receive donations from a portion of sales made on the popular shopping website. To donate via AmazonSmile, visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/> and select Friends of Historic Second Church at the prompt. Friends will receive donations in the amount of 0.5% of purchases made through AmazonSmile.

Jackie Stein (right) graciously opened her home for a special Docent Enrichment event in which she showcased the original Frederic Clay Bartlett murals that decorate all four dining room walls in her home. The home was originally owned by Bartlett who painted the murals in 1930. The style of the Stein murals is in sharp contrast to the Pre-Raphaelite Bartlett murals gracing Second Presbyterian Church.

Photo credit: Ann Belletire



***Friends of Historic
Second Church
gratefully acknowledges
the following
memberships,
donations, and
contributions from
May 21, 2015 -
September 20, 2015.***

\$100-\$499

Jerry Adelman
Marilyn Cantisano &
Donald Southworth
Connie Casey
Barbara & Cliff Crawford
Andrew & Rochelle Davis
Richard & Mary L. Gray
Elizabeth Greene
Jim & Darleen Jackson
Betty Ruth Kondayan
Diane Kremkow

Susan Coblentz Lane
in honor of Darleen & Wanda
Nate Lielas
Lois & David Rakov
Robert & Vicki Reynolds
Albert Walavich
Barbara Webb

Under \$100

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Robert & Caroline Jacobsen
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Mary Meese
Dr. Karen Pope
Marilyn Scott
Anne Sullivan

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

FRIENDS LAUNCHES FIFTH ANNUAL APPEAL

Please consider Friends in your year-end giving. Your gift will ensure progress in the preservation of this treasured building and Friends' numerous programs. It will support our tour program and afford an opportunity for more people to visit and be enchanted by Shaw's Arts & Crafts masterpiece. It will support our research, newsletter publication and upkeep of the Friends' website. Your gift will enable us to continue offering fine programming: lectures and walking tours on art, architecture and Chicago history. We cannot reach these goals without you. Thank you for your support. Donations can be made online at www.2ndpresbyterianfriends.org.

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.

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



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Linda Miller, Lisa Napoles, and Bill Tyre.

OPEN HOUSE CHICAGO

For the third year in a row, Second Presbyterian will participate in Open House Chicago, sponsored by the Chicago Architecture Foundation. Last year, Friends docents provided guided tours to nearly 700 visitors over the weekend. The church will be open for tours on Saturday, October 17 from 9:00am to 5:00pm, and on Sunday, October 18 from 12:30pm to 5:00pm. Open House Chicago makes some of the most important buildings and spaces in the city accessible to the public for one weekend every year free of charge. Friends is proud to participate in welcoming visitors to tour the church and see the unique collection of stained glass windows by Tiffany Studios and local firms, murals by Frederic Clay Bartlett, and Chicago's best examples of Arts & Crafts decorative art. For a complete listing of participating sites, visit openhousechicago.org.



FRIENDS HOLDS DOCENT RECOGNITION EVENT

At its first *Annual Docent Symposium and Recognition*, Friends of Historic Second Church honored docents who had provided tours for at least five years with a Five Year Service pin. Those honored include Linda Miller, Ann Belletire, William Tyre, Pauline Ferguson, Robert Irving, Darleen Jackson, Rowena Rennie Balogun, Marilyn Scott, Joan Stinton, Barbara Chasnoff, Bill Crawford, Ann Fisher, Karen Oliver and Sharon Sylvester. The Friends' tour program began in 2006, the year Friends was organized, and welcomes approximately 3,000 guests per year.

Eighteen active docents participated in the first *Annual Docent Symposium and Recognition*.

Photo credit: Todd Protzman Davis