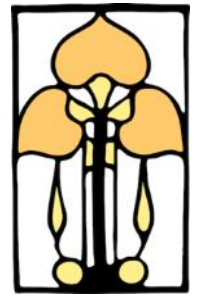


FRIENDS of HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH

THE HERALD

Volume XIV, Number 2

Summer 2020



A CONVERSATION WITH VENTURELLA STUDIO *by Nate Laelasus*

We hope that you are as excited as we are that Friends will begin a second Tiffany window restoration this fall. Two significant gifts toward the restoration of the 1895 Tiffany window, St. Paul Preaching at Athens - a gift from the Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation and a memorial gift in honor of Mae B. and James D. Hinchliff - make this work possible, along with smaller gifts from many of you.

A CONVERSATION WITH TOM VENTURELLA AND JIM MURPHY OF VENTURELLA STUDIO

Interview took place via phone on 8/19/20. Tom and Jim were at Venturella Studio.

With the recent announcement that Tom Venturella and Jim Murphy of Venturella Studio will be restoring the 1895 Tiffany Glass and Decorating Company window “St. Paul Preaching at Athens,” there has been a lot of excitement around the church. Friends had a chance to catch up with Tom and Jim by phone to discuss the upcoming restoration. This will be the second major Tiffany window restoration undertaken by Venturella Studio for Friends - the first being the Peace Window, which was reinstalled in August, 2018 after extensive restoration and reconstruction work. As they did for the Peace Window, Tom & Jim will do all the hands-on restoration work for the St. Paul Window.

When asked about first impressions of the St. Paul window, Tom immediately points out that the window is “out of tune.” The composition of the St Paul window



*St. Paul Preaching at Athens
photo credit: Martin Cheung*

is very complex with a crowd of figures in the foreground and a deep perspective with a dramatic background. Due to partial cleaning and a century of dirt, parts of the window are very bright while others are dark and flattened. One panel of the window was cleaned in the 1990s and is now much brighter than adjacent panels. Parts of the sky, which Jim believes may be replacement glass, are also washing out adjacent portions of the design. The cleaning and restoration will allow the details to pop and return the depth and nuance to the design.

Tom also has thoughts about the border, designed by Giannini and

Hilgart and added in 1927 when the window was brought to Second Presbyterian Church. The original home of the window was First Presbyterian Church. The original Tiffany window is smaller than the window opening at Second Presbyterian and so a border was



*Giannini and Hilgart
Border*

required to fit the window to the opening. The border is a busy, repeating design which Tom feels currently “fights” with the dirty window. Perhaps after cleaning and restoration the Tiffany window will be able to stand its ground against the busy border, though he also wonders if the border should be toned down.

Regarding the composition and design of the window, Tom is drawn to the smokey fire in front of the Parthenon and the giant statue of Athena in the background while Jim points out the moody sunrise or sunset. While Friends has heard in the past that the large group of people is unusual for a Tiffany window, Tom notes that whenever Tiffany did a “St Paul Preaching” window, there is always a crowd and recalled several Tiffany windows he has worked on with crowds of people.

The crowd of people in the window also means a lot of painted glass and the painted glass in the St. Paul window is very dirty with a lot of paint loss. Tiffany painted glass has a bit of a “tooth” to it and so gathers dirt and grime faster than the surrounding

glass. Tom is hopeful that cleaning can reveal the original design. For some pieces with significant paint loss, he wonders whether pieces of existing painted glass should be archived, and new replacement painted glass created. For replacement glass, Tom would turn to Indre McCraw, who has been working on stained glass replication since the early 90s.



Acropolis and Athena Statue

It has always been curious that the scene in the window is reversed from what one would see in real life. As the Parthenon and Areopagus (where St. Paul preached) are real places, we know that the Parthenon should be facing to the right in the scene. Tom believes flipping the scene was a compositional choice by the designer.

The restoration of the St. Paul window will follow along the general lines of the Peace Window. The Peace window was the dirtiest window Tom had ever worked on and the St. Paul window is even dirtier due to the greater level of plating. The St. Paul window has more panels - twenty compared to fifteen at the Peace Window – though only six of the panels comprise the Tiffany window and the remaining fourteen are the Giannini and Hilgart border.

Tom founded Venturella Studio in 1985. He studied at the School of the Art Institute in Chicago before relocating to New York in 1969 where he began his stained-glass restoration career. Jim Murphy joined the studio in 1996. Tom says they have worked on “a lot” of Tiffany windows, averaging about two a year.

Both Tom and Jim are excited to get the restoration underway. Tom says he falls in love with whatever window is currently in their studio. Jim talked about the feeling that comes from having a fragile window in his hands and being able to see firsthand the amazing abilities that Tiffany brought to creating and designing with color.

Removal of the window is scheduled for November of this year and the restoration is planned to take fourteen months.

There is still time for you to join the St. Paul Restoration. Gifts of any size are welcome and will help Friends complete the funding for this much needed work.

**Send your gift by mail to
Friends of Historic Second Church
1936 S. Michigan Avenue,
Chicago, IL 60616
Or online at
www.historicsecondchurch/donate**

**BARLETT MURAL BROUGHT
BACK TO LIFE**



Thanks to a generous grant from The Service Club of Chicago the mural surrounding the St. Paul window was cleaned and restored over a two week period in July by Parma Conservation Ltd. The restored mural reveals Bartlett’s inspiring pre-Raphaelite figures, lush colors, and lilies and pomegranates.

In addition to the expected consolidation of underlying plaster and removal of 100 years of dirt from figures and flora in the mural, there were some surprises. During the course of cleaning some past restorations were discovered. High on the West wall, an angel on plaster had been completely repainted in oils. The rendering was poor and the colors did not match the original, particularly after

cleaning. Upon closer examination it became clear that past plaster damage had occurred in the area. Consequently, previous patchwork and repainting of the angel had occurred. There are no known records of who completed the restoration or when. Pomegranate motifs directly facing the restored angel were similarly discovered to have been restored. In both cases, repainting was mismatched and rendered crudely. To the extent possible, all repainting was removed. Then an adjacent composition was



traced and transferred to the previously restored/repainted

areas. Wherever the tracings overlapped with undamaged areas, they matched precisely. This led to the realization that Bartlett had used stencils to help create his mural imagery throughout the church, with different colors, facial expressions and other details that establish diversity.

For more details of the mural restoration see the video interview with Parma conservator Peter Schoenmann on our website www.historicsecondchurch.org.

TOUR PROGRAM UPDATES

Since the coronavirus continues to spread, Friends has decided to forego re-opening for public tours until it is safer to do so and people feel more comfortable going out. Strict protocols will be put in place once we feel it is safe to re-open. The church has been live-streaming its Sunday services but will open for services in the sanctuary starting in September. The tour program will re-start sometime after that. We will continue to keep you updated on Friends’ website www.historicsecondchurch.org.

The annual docent training has also been postponed, moving from Fall 2020 until Spring 2021. Friends will send you an eblast when the new training series starts in the spring. We hope you will consider taking the training and becoming a certified docent.

Friends of Historic Second Church gratefully acknowledges the following memberships, donations, and contributions from January 30, 2020 to August 19, 2020.

\$100,000 and up

The Richard H. Driehaus Charitable Fund at The Chicago Community Foundation

\$10,000 - \$15,999

The Donnelley Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Anonymous
Richard Peloquin & Mary Bucaro
Howard & Jane Tiffen
Christian Vinyard

\$1,000 - \$2,999

Jeff & Annette Adams
Michael & Ann Belletire
John A. & Judy Bross
Susan & Friedrich Burian
Vanguard Charitable
In memory of Mildred Carr
William Tyre
Albert Walavich

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Clifford & Barbara Crawford
Susan Evans
Robert Irving

John Cramer & Nate Lielasus
Joan Stinton

\$100 - \$499

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John & Joan Blew
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Madelon Clymo
Craig & Kelly Dean
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Richard & Marilyn
Helmholz
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Senator Mattie Hunter
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Michael Leo Kirk
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Karen Lamb
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Dean Rapp
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Sharon Sylvester
Michael Trier
Allan & Angela Wagner
Elise Wagner
Richard Heath & Jennifer Welch
Trisha Cassidy & Andrew Wycislak
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Stephen & Mary Kay Wysham

In memory of Karen Oliver

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Stephen & Marilyn Scott
Joan Stinton
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Under \$100

Steven Andes
Anonymous (3)
Nancy Bothne
Shirley Conley
Rochelle Davis
Paul Doros
Nina Fain
Jim Jepsen & Jackie Finch
Suzanne Fraker
Bobbie Harper
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Stephen & Marilyn Scott
Joan Stinton
Sharon Sylvester

In memory of David C. Sharpe

Michael & Ann Belletire

MARKTOWN WALKING TOUR - THE ARCHITECTURE OF HOWARD VAN DOREN SHAW

Saturday, September 5, 2020
1:00 pm to 3:00 pm



Architect Nate Lielasus will lead the 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. The tour will focus on the history of the community; the original, only partially realized master plan; building typologies; and repeated design elements throughout the community.

Meeting place to be determined.
\$20 general admission/\$18 members
Purchase tickets at historicsecondchurch.org.

SUPPORT FRIENDS WITH AMAZONSMILE

Friends has joined AmazonSmile, a website which allows non-profit organizations to receive donations from a 0.5% portion of sales made on the website. To donate via AmazonSmile, visit: <http://smile.amazon.com/> and select Friends of Historic Second Church at the prompt.

ONLINE - ON THE WAY TO SUFFRAGE CHICAGO WOMEN AND POLITICS 1865 - 1920

Wednesday, September 16, 2020
6:00 pm to 7:00 pm

Join us for this very special online presentation in honor of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, co-sponsored by



Glessner House, the League of Women Voters of Illinois, and Friends of Historic Second Church. Our speaker will be Rachel Bohlmann, Curator of Rare Books and Special Collections, American History and American Studies Librarian, and Gender Studies Librarian at the Hesburgh Libraries at the University of Notre Dame. This program is generously funded by a grant from Wintrust. The program is free of charge but advanced registration is required.

Register at historicsecondchurch.org.



IN MEMORIAM



Beloved Friends' docent Karen Oliver unexpectedly passed away on August 3, 2020 surrounded by her son Joseph, daughter-in-law Jackie and adored grandson Joey. Karen was a committed docent who served with distinction since 2010 and was due to receive her 10-year service pin at the 2020 Docent Symposium and Recognition. When Friends initiated the position of Docent Representative to the Board in 2016, Karen was the first and only docent to be elected to the position. She served with distinction and was re-elected three times. Karen willingly assumed additional responsibilities for the Friends' tour program including Group Tour Coordinator. When a new electronic SignUp system was adopted for scheduling public tours, Karen learned the new system, trained her fellow docents and adeptly initiated the new system. She was always a willing volunteer, a pleasant and interesting person with whom to work, and was highly regarded by her fellow docents. She will be sorely missed.

Karen's family prefers that memorial gifts be sent to Friends of Historic Second Church or Glessner House as the two places Karen was most active. Friends will use the funds to undertake restoration of the under-balcony lights at the back of the sanctuary where Karen spent so much time readying for the many tours she gave. Think of her as the "light" in the Friends' world. Glessner will also fund a special project in Karen's memory. Cards of condolence may be sent to Karen's son Joseph Oliver at 26040 S. Creekside Drive, Monee, Illinois 60449.



FRIENDS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER KAREN LAMB

Friends is pleased to welcome Karen Lamb to the Board of Directors. Karen's administrative and non-profit experience will be an asset to Friends. She worked for nearly 40 years as a member of the faculty at the College of Nursing at Rush University. She has a wide range of experience on nonprofit boards, including Rush from 1995 to 2003, Rush Hospice Partners, and Chicago Lights the non-profit organization of Fourth Presbyterian Church where she is a member.



A native of the Chicago area, Karen has always had an interest in architecture. A class on the Pre-Raphaelites at Oxford University sponsored by the Smithsonian added to her interest in the Arts and Crafts Movement. It was at this class that she learned about Second Church and the Burne-Jones windows. Once she visited the church and saw the windows, she was hooked on the importance of preservation and restoration of the building. Karen has been a docent since 2016.

SHAW IN HYDE PARK - AN ARCHITECTURAL WALKING TOUR

Saturday, September 19, 2020
10:00 am to 12:00 pm



The prolific and talented Howard Van Doren Shaw designed more than 20 houses in the Hyde Park

neighborhood, as well as a church and a club house. The buildings span his full career from the 1890s through the 1920s and display the variety of styles in which Shaw was proficient. This walking tour, led by architect Nate Lielasus will go past many of the surviving houses, with attendees learning about both the architecture and design and the families for whom they were built.

Meeting location to be determined. An email with information will be sent to attendees before the event.

\$20 general admission/ \$18 members
Purchase tickets at historicsecondchurch.org.

ONLINE - ALICE PAUL A SUFFRAGIST AND THE WOMEN'S VOTE

Tuesday October 6, 2020
7:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Actress and Scholar Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., performs in this living history portrayal of suffragist Alice Paul. Paul was one of the most enigmatic leaders in the fight to win votes for women. She arranged parades, organized the first picketing demonstrations outside the White House, lobbied politicians, and endured imprisonment for women's suffrage



Glessner House and Friends of Historic Second Church are partnering for this event. This program is generously partially-funded by a grant from Wintrust.

This event will be online. Before the event, an email will be sent to attendees with details on how to login into Zoom or other online platform.

General admission \$10/Member \$8
Purchase tickets at historicsecondchurch.org

BECOME A MEMBER

2020 is a uniquely challenging year in the history of Friends of Historic Second Church. We are dealing with a worldwide pandemic that has kept us all socially isolated and wearing masks. We miss gathering for tours, programs and lectures. Yet we know we must be safe and follow the protocols. As soon as we are able to do so, we will safely and carefully re-open and welcome you back. In the meantime, we are learning to do Zoom meetings and virtual programs. Now, more than ever, your support of Friends through your annual membership means we can make these adaptations and plan creatively for the future. Restoration work has continued (see article re Bartlett mural), and we will soon undertake the complete restoration of Tiffany’s St. Paul window. And you don’t have to miss a thing! Join now because you believe in preservation as a civic duty or join because you enjoy seeing restoration come to life. But don’t miss out on your chance to be a vital part of living history – the restoration of Historic Second Church.

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.+)

____ **Arts & 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.historicsecondchurch.org.



**FRIENDS of
HISTORIC SECOND CHURCH**

1936 S. Michigan Ave.

Chicago, IL 60616

Phone: 1-800-657-0687

E-mail: info@historicsecondchurch.org

Web: www.historicsecondchurch.org

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Heather Kendall *Administrative Manager*

Contributors: Ann Belletire, Heather Kendall,
Nate Lielasus, and Linda Miller.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Open House Chicago: October 16-25, 2020

Friends looks forward to participating in the 2020 Open House Chicago. Adhering to guidelines to ensure the safety of all participants, this year's tours of Historic Second Church will feature a self-guided tour of the church exterior aided by an online guide available from the Chicago Architecture Center. Our tours do not normally feature the church exterior so this provides an opportunity to focus on Renwick's 1874 Gothic Revival design and Shaw's 1901 post-fire alterations. Details will be available soon.

Admission: Free

Basement to Belfry

Saturday October 24, 2020 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Architect Nate Lielasus will provide a Basement to Belfry tour of the church. During this popular tour at Second Presbyterian, guests will be given a behind the scenes look at areas of the church not typically visited on regular tours, from the basement dirt floor to the charred roof timbers. Please note there are stairs, uneven ground, and several small spaces.

Admission: \$20 for non-members and \$18 for members of Friends

To purchase tickets go to historicsecondchurch.org

**SECOND PRESBYTERIAN
PUBLIC TOUR
SCHEDULE:
TEMPORARILY ON HOLD**

Wednesdays:
1:00-3:00 pm

Saturdays:
11:00-3:00 pm

Sundays: 12:15 pm
(after worship service)

Or call
1-800-657-0687 to arrange a
private tour

Mission Statement

To preserve and restore the art and architecture of Chicago's landmark Second Presbyterian Church and to engage neighbors and the world in sharing our passion for its beauty and significance.

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