



Capitol Hill

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Committed! Caring! Community!

Grateful Hearts Anniversary Celebration • 1864-2014
www.capitolhillpreschurch150.org

*Committed
to serving
Jesus Christ*

*Caring
about each other
and the needs
of a broken world*

*Community exploring
faith, joyfully sustained
by the love of God*



NSO Brass Quintet Concert

*Steven Hendrickson, trumpet
Amy McCabe, trumpet
Laurel Bennert Ohlson, horn
Craig Mulcahy, trombone
Stephen Dumaine, tuba*

***Honoring the CHPC Sesquicentennial
1864-2014***

Welcome

A sense of the historical is something you cannot escape in the District of Columbia. It is palpable as you walk around Capitol Hill. As you look at the variety of old buildings, you wonder at the role each played in creating the story of the Hill. In particular, the non-government buildings put a personal twist on the stories of the Hill; and Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church, like all churches, houses personal and spiritual history: the births, marriages, deaths and other life experiences that shade a community.

This is the 150th year of Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church's service to the Capitol Hill community and the larger region. This year we will honor the church's legacy during the period from 1864-1870. To learn more about our programs this year and church history, go to www.capitolhillpreschurch150.org. Once again, welcome to our Sesquicentennial year and enjoy your journey into the history of this congregation.

The History Committee
of the CHPC Session

Welcome

Pastor Andy Walton

NSO IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CHAMBER 24

**Steven Hendrickson, trumpet
Amy McCabe, trumpet
Laurel Bennert Ohlson, horn
Craig Mulcahy, trombone
Stephen Dumaine, tuba**

KEVIN MCKEE	<i>Escape</i>
ELLIOTT CARTER (1908)	A Fantasy about Purcell's "Fantasia upon One Note"
VARIOUS COMPOSERS (IRVING ROSENTHAL)	Three Renaissance Madrigals Jubilate Deo (Gregor Aichinger) Dolorasi Martin, fieri tormenti (Luzzasco Luzzaschi) Revey venir du printans (Claude Le Jeune)
KERRY TURNER	<i>The Casbah of Tetouan</i>
ERIC EWAZEN (1954)	<i>Colchester Fantasy</i> The Rose and Crown The Marquis of Granby The Dragoon The Red Lion
JOHANN SEBASTIAN BACH (JOHN GLASEL) (1685 - 1750)	Contrapunctus IX

*You are invited to a Reception
immediately after the program
downstairs in the Fellowship Hall*

A Brief History of the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church

In January of 1864, several ladies saw in *The Presbyterian Magazine*, an article written by the Reverend John Chester about a church he had started under a tree in Bustleton, NJ with another pastor. Since they were tired of walking or riding in a carriage through muddy or dusty streets to get to the closest Presbyterian church, they wrote to him and asked if – since God had used him to start a “Church under a tree” – he might also use him to start a church on a hill. The young pastor saw this as a call from God and immediately came to DC, met with a few interested persons and preached a sermon. Finding the situation favorable, he then returned to NJ, resigned his charge, moved his young family to Washington, and the Capitol Hill Presbyterian church was organized by the Presbytery of the Potomac on April 11, 1864 with 34 members.

The congregation soon outgrew the various temporary quarters (which included the Capitol Building itself), and by 1868 it was obvious that a large edifice needed to be built to house the church. At this time the assets of the Metropolitan Church, a corporation formed for the purpose of establishing a National Presbyterian Church in DC (but which did not exist in fact as a congregation), were turned over to Dr. Chester’s Capitol Hill Church with the provision that the plans be enlarged and the name changed to Metropolitan Presbyterian Church. This was done and the work started, but the building had only reached the first floor when the contractor failed. This caused much hardship and consternation among the members but the building was finally completed in 1872. The dedication service was attended by President Ulysses S. Grant. Money was very tight, however, and consequently the iron spire which was to top the tower was not built and the tower was completed as it appears today. The cost would have been approximately \$1,500.

The congregation grew steadily and by 1892 more room was needed for the Sunday School department, so a small building was built next to the church. The building is often called the “chapel” today.

The church continued to thrive into the 20th century, having about 900 members in the first decade.

During the forties, the Pastor, Dr. J. Lowrey Fendrich Jr., started the “Institute of Applied Religion and Psychology” and radio broadcasts were made from the church. This period was marked by growth in membership of nearly 50% and dramatic increase in worship attendance. However, there was some dissension in the congregation, and despite efforts by the Session and the Board of Trustees to convince Dr. Fendrich to stay, he left in April, 1944 to accept a call in Cincinnati, OH.

After the Second World War, many young families moved to the suburbs and membership declined in most city churches. In 1955 it was decided to merge with Eastern Presbyterian at 6th and Maryland Avenue NE. The name chosen for the new church was The Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church.

During the 1970s, a proposal was made to tear down the church building and build townhouses. Worship services would be held in the chapel. This was ultimately defeated, but the congregation looked at new ways to support the building. The Washington Seminar Center grew out of this.

During a storm on Friday, April 13, 1984, two days before Palm Sunday, lightning struck a window frame and started a fire in the attic. A tragedy was averted when a homeless man, who had a relationship with the church, saw the fire as he was walking by and called the fire department. His quick action probably saved the building. However, the Sanctuary was badly damaged by water and for a year the congregation worshiped in the Fellowship Hall. During this time some remodeling was done to the Sanctuary.

Though the church is now 149 years old, it does not rest on its laurels but constantly seeks ways to relate to the community. A few of the current programs include Breakfast Burrito Sunday, Food Pantry Sunday, the Little Girls Easter dress project with dresses given to little girls in the homeless program of Capitol Hill Group Ministry, and mission projects both at home and internationally. Various community groups use the building on a regular basis. And now we are looking forward to the next 149 years.

Contributed by Sue Van Slyke

Emil Sophus Friedrich – Little Known Architect of Capitol Hill Buildings and Homes

There are many public and private buildings on Capitol Hill that were built in the 19th century where the architect is not easily identified. One of these buildings was the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church. The cornerstone of the Church was laid in February 1869 but the identity of the architect was soon forgotten.

A 19th century newspaper article about the Presbyterian Church building has been found (The National Republican, issue dated April 12, 1869). The article describes the building of a Presbyterian Church on 4th Street, SE. It states that the “Church structure will be of Gothic style, two stories in height, with slate roof. The fronts will be of pressed brick and the bases, sills, and trims will be of Connecticut brown stone. The main entrance will be on Fourth Street, where the bell-tower, which will be 18 feet square will project 6 feet from the front line of the building. The tower will be 101 feet high to the top of the brickwork.” Many other architectural details are provided and the article concludes that Mr. E. S. Frederick is the architect.

(Note: E. S. Frederick is a variant spelling for E. S. Friedrich, who was a German immigrant and architect who lived 3 blocks from the site of the Church (321 East Capitol Street, SE). The newspaper Anglicized the German name as Frederick. Similarly when Mr. Friedrich testified before a House Committee in 1872, his name was Anglicized as Fredericks (HR 42nd Congress, 2nd Session, Report 72, Affairs of the District of Columbia, May 13, 1872. Also the Washington Star Anglicized the name when writing about the Architect’s son, Dr. Friedrich, a prominent Capitol Hill Doctor at the turn of the century (who also lived in the 300 block of East Capitol Street, SE.)

Emil Sophus Friedrich was born in 1828 in Dankerode, Germany, the son of a Lutheran Pastor. He was educated in Germany and at age 20 immigrated to Virginia. Around 1851 he moved to Washington, D. C. where he worked as a draftsman, architect, and builder. He was employed on the staff of the Architect of the Capital at the time of the installation of the new cast iron dome. He subsequently was employed by the Navy Yard and engaged in private projects. He specialized in buildings with mansard roofs.

Emil Sophus Friedrich is best known as the architect of College Hall at Gallaudet College for the Deaf. In 1862 Mr. Friedrich designed a large addition for Gallaudet and in June 1864 he prepared a drawing for College Hall. Work began on the building in 1865 but only the first third of the building was completed because Gallaudet changed direction on the layout for the campus and hired a different Architect to finish the Hall. Nonetheless, Mr. Friedrich's building is where President Lincoln signed the charter for Gallaudet and is an important historical site. While Mr. Friedrich was working with Gallaudet, his correspondence was written on the letterhead of the Navy Construction Engineers Office. (See the Records of the Columbia Historical Society of Washington, DC, the 50th Volume, pages 279-289.)

Emil S. Friedrich testified before the House Committee for the District of Columbia (see note above). He and Captain Grant applied for a contract to pave streets. His testimony was that he was currently employed at the Bureau of Yards and Docks at the Navy Yard as a draftsman, a stonemason, and that he had worked as an architect for Gallaudet. He testified that he was the architect for a large number of houses in the city of Washington, the midshipman's quarters at Annapolis "and the new naval hospital there" and an addition to the Navy Department Building. He also testified that before he immigrated to the U.S. he had superintended the building of macadamized turnpike roads in Germany, the street pavement of the city of Halle and extensive improvements to the Halle City Hall.

In a letter written to his brother in Illinois dated May 16, 1876, Emil S. Friedrich stated that during the building season almost all his attention was required on the buildings that he was working on, and that the buildings were mostly large and costly and required a good deal of watching. He also stated that at the time he was working on a large addition to the Riggs House (a large hotel just South of the Treasury Building) and had over 100 hands working on it.

Mr. Friedrich's 1864 design for Gallaudet's Main College Hall bears an uncanny resemblance to the Old Naval Hospital at 921 Pennsylvania Avenue, SE, which was built in 1866, 2 years after Mr. Friedrich proposed a similar design for the main building at Gallaudet (only a third of the design was built). Mr. Friedrich died 19 September 1886 and is buried in Prospect Cemetery on North Capitol Street (also known as the German Cemetery of Washington, DC).

Comment: Mr. Friedrich was employed at the Navy Yard as Draftsman in the Constructing Engineers Office in 1866 when the Old Naval Hospital was designed and it is similar to the design Mr. Friedrich submitted to Gallaudet in 1864.

Contributed by Gene Larkin

Support from the community is provided by:

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CHAW congratulates the Capitol Hill Presbyterian Church
on its sesquicentennial.

For this wonderful *NSO in Your Neighborhood* concert and reception, we give a big

Thank You to:

The History Committee

Sue Van Slyke, Chair

Gary Barbour, Gene Larkin and Mary Ann Sroufe, Anne Hunt

And to the Sesquicentennial Committee

Leslie Barbour, Chair

Claudia Nadig, Sue Van Slyke, Gene Larkin, Dave Levy,
Diane Shages, Dudley Brown and Gary Barbour

And for the Volunteers

Program: Olivia James

Ushers: Jane McGregor, Jennifer Newton, Elizabeth Hannold, Jerry Sroufe, Mary Ann Sroufe,
Susan McAvoy

Reception: Mary Beth Weaver

**CAPITOL HILL
PRESBYTERIAN**

150



1864-2014



**ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION**

capitolhillpreschurch150.org

201 Fourth Street SE Washington, DC 20003

202.547.8676 TEL 202.547.2182 FAX

www.capitolhillpreschurch.org (church website)

www.capitolhillpreschurch150.org (Grateful Hearts celebration)