

## St. Andrew's Chapel

St. James Cathedral, Chicago, Illinois



t. Andrew's Chapel, completed in 1913, was designed by Bertram Grosvenor Goodhue for the architectural firm of Cram and Goodhue (Boston, New York.) Goodhue was a noted church architect and a great proponent of the neo-gothic style. Dominated by the low, massive stone vaulting of the ceiling and side pillars, the chapel is in sharp contrast to the Victorian gothic interior of the Cathedral above, where the emphasis is on lightness and elaborate surface ornament. Another of Goodhue's commissions, locally, is Rockefeller Chapel at the University of Chicago.

Of significance is the reredos triptych painting and the rich gilded frame. The painting is by Phoebe Anna Traquair, Edinburgh, Scotland, commissioned in 1912. The paintings depict three events in the life of St. Andrew: *The Calling of St. Andrew*, *Christ's Appearance to St. Andrew*, and *The Crucifixion of St. Andrew*. Traquair was a prominent woman in the Scottish Arts and Crafts movement in the early part of the 20th century. She was one of the first women to be elected an honorary member of the Scottish Royal Academy; her work is on display at the Scottish National Gallery and the Scottish National Portrait Gallery. The elaborate frame was executed by Nathaniel Grieve, Edinburgh; he also contributed to such projects as the woodwork in the Thistle Chapel at St. Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, Scotland (1912).

St. Andrew's Chapel is located in the undercroft of the Cathedral in a space that was originally used as a Bible study class for young men in 1883. The chapel was given by the Houghteling family as a memorial to their father, James L. Houghteling. The original group of twelve young men grew in participation to the hundreds under James Houghteling's leadership. The result was the founding of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew, a fraternal organization with chapters across the United States and some foreign countries, with the mission of bringing young men to the Church. The Brotherhood exists today with chapters in numerous Episcopal parishes, with a renewed commitment to service to the Church and wider community service.

Appropriately, the chapel was dedicated to the Apostle Andrew, reflecting the Gospel story of Christ calling Andrew as his first disciple; and the story that Andrew brought to Christ a young man with five loaves and two fishes with which Christ fed the five thousand.

St. Andrew's Chapel has recently undergone a complete renovation to correct a century-old waterproofing issue; repair, clean and refresh all finishes; and to incorporate new lighting that accentuates the neo-gothic arches. Work included restoration and reuse of the original Traquair altarpiece, stained-glass windows, Goodhue-designed light fixtures, and return of the entrance doors to their original shiny finish.

