

UPCOMING EVENTS

COMMEMORATION
SERVICE
SEPTEMBER 11



WORKSHOP
DAY
SEPTEMBER 17

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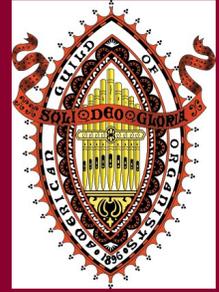
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VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 2016



Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists



June 19, Opening Convocation of the 2016 AGO National Convention at St. Martin's Episcopal Church in Houston, Texas. Photo by Joe Routon.

Dean's Message

-- by Rob Hobgood



Happy Fall!

I hope you all have had a restful and rejuvenating summer. Summer is always a chance to be a little more creative in different ways than during the choir season (if for no other reason than the choir is not there and you need something to fill the offertory slot). It's always a time of year when I have musician friends who are passing thru town and I get to enjoy making music with them.

I would encourage you to take special note of David Rhody's column as he highlights upcoming events for this fall. We have a very full fall semester with lots of really exciting events for you to take advantage of. We are particularly excited to feature compositions that have been specially commissioned by two of our members – one by Dan Nelson in September and the other by Evelyn Larter in October.

In our September 17th workshop, we have the opportunity to work with



"We are starting the program year with some great opportunities – I hope to see many of you and all of them!"



Dr. Christopher Thomas



Photo by Joe Routon.

Sub-Dean's Report -- by David Rhody

Dear Friends,
Are you familiar with the "rules for organ registration?" (Are there any rules?) How do you select the proper solo for a chorale melody and its accompaniment? When the score calls for stops you don't have, like clarinet or French horn, how do you approximate those sounds? What are the challenges in adapting piano scores for choral accompaniment? These and other perplexing topics in organ registration, in which most of us have no formal training, will be discussed by our resident authority on registration, Helen Carrell, at the Fall Kick-Off Workshops on Saturday, September 17, 10 am at First Presbyterian Church, Pitman. At 11:00 we will have the unique opportunity for a workshop and master class on Choral Conducting led by Dr. Christopher Thomas, Director of Choral Activities at Rowan

University. Dr. Thomas will demonstrate conducting techniques using volunteers from several local church choirs as a demonstration group. Members are then encouraged to take a turn conducting with suggestions and comments by Dr. Thomas. Members and guest singers are invited to lunch at 12:30 following the program. All are invited to this exciting program as we begin our 2016 program year!

Also see the announcement in this newsletter about a special service at St. Stephen's Church in Woodbury, where Larry DePasquale has put together a moving commemoration of the events of September 11, 2001. The service on Sunday, September 11 will feature another commissioned work by our member Dr. Dan Nelson, which you will not want to miss.

Our Chapter will enjoy two programs in October. On

Sunday, October 9 at 7 pm we join with Haddonfield United Methodist Church to hear Scott Dettra in recital. Scott is the son of long-time Wilmington organist Lee Dettra, and was reportedly the last graduate student of Joan Lippincott at Westminster Choir College. Look for more details in the October issue.

On Sunday, October 16 at 4 pm Vernon Williams will host the annual Guild Service at Trinity Episcopal Church in Moorestown, where we will be the first to hear our commissioned anthem from Evelyn R. Larter, and among the first to enjoy Trinity's newly renovated organ. After the service, plan to stay for the banquet at nearby Iron Hill Brewery. Again watch for more details next month.

We are starting the program year with some great opportunities – I hope to see many of you and all of them!



Matters of Note



Labor Day - Monday, September 5, 7:00 PM: Holiday Encores - Classics and Nostalgia with Hugh Sung, Piano; Gordon Turk, Organ; Ronald Naldi, Tenor (Metropolitan Opera, NY) Tickets \$14.50 Ocean Grove Auditorium Summer Stars Music Series

Friday, September 9 is the last day for open house tours of the Philadelphia Mormon Church.

Tours are available Monday through Saturday only. The church has requested that reservations be made online: <https://templeopenhouse.lds.org>. The tickets are free and when the reservations are made they also provide a free parking ticket. The church address is: Philadelphia Mormon Church, 1739 Vine Street, Philadelphia PA 19103

Tuesday, September 13 at 11:30 am, 12:30 pm, 1:30 pm and 2:30pm: Live organ demonstrations by Peter Conte, Longwood Gardens, Kennett Square, PA.

Saturday, September 17 at 10:00 am: Kick-off workshops at Pitman Presbyterian, starting with coffee and donuts. Your choir members are invited to participate in the demonstration choir with Dr. Chris Thomas at 11 am, and join us for lunch. Feel free to duplicate and distribute the **information flyer on page 9**. We will again have an music swap table set up, so bring choral, piano and organ music you wish to trade in.

See Hospitality, page 7 for directions and contact information if you can help with lunch items.

Gallery: Summer Events



AGO National Convention June 19 - 23 in Houston. Above, finalists in National Young Artists Competition for Organ Performance. Below left, Ludger Lohmann, with Chelsea Chen, composer of commissioned piece, at St. Philip Presbyterian Church. Photos by Joe Routon.

Annual Chapter Picnic, July 10. Photo by Joe Routon.



Davidsson Organ and Dance Collaborative

Videos from Hubble telescope shown during music at closing service of AGO convention.



Augsburg Summer Music Clinic August 4 - 5





Procession at the
Opening Convocation

A Report on the Houston Convention

-- by Joyce Ann Routon, CAGO, SPC

Joe and I attended the National Convention in Houston in June—we both agree that it was one of the best that we have attended. Note that we have attended many, the first being the 1964 Philadelphia Convention as part of our honeymoon! Joe had been asked to be the official photographer for TAO, The Diapason, and the Houston chapter, so he was loaded down with photography equipment. Organists performing during the week included Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet from France, performing a commissioned work by her husband, Naji Hakim, also



in attendance; David Goode from England; Ludger Lohmann from Germany, who performed a commissioned piece by Chelsea Chen—Chelsea will compose an organ piece, commissioned by our chapter, next year; Raul Prieto Ramirez from Spain; and many American organists, including Daryl Robinson, whom our chapter co-sponsored in Haddonfield last fall. My favorite recital of the week was performed by Richard Elliott, principal organist of the Mormon Tabernacle. His recital was exciting, including a piece for organ and brass quintet and ending with the Farnam Toccata on “O filii et filiae” which is

seldom heard. It was fascinating to hear the connection between Farnam’s toccata and the Curtis Institute of Music. Farnam, who taught at Curtis for several years, composed the work while in Philadelphia. Years

later, after he had died, the toccata was found in some papers at Curtis and was subsequently published by the Institute. An honor for our chapter was the re-installation of Glenn Rodgers as Regional Councillor of the Mid-Atlantic Region, during the national meeting. More than 70 workshops on various subjects were available each morning, recitals and worship services each afternoon, and concerts were held each night. At least 60 exhibits showcased organs, music and related products. The Houston Chamber Choir, *Ars Lyrica Houston* (an ensemble using period instruments) and the Davidson Organ and Dance Collaborative were included during the week. However, one of the highlights was the concert by the St. Thomas Choir from NYC, the program having been planned by the late John Scott before his untimely death. As someone next to me said at the end of that concert, “This is why we come to National Conventions.” The choir’s singing was truly sublime, and it ended with “I Was Glad” by Parry, one of my all-time favorite anthems. We had been fortunate enough to hear



a combined choir also sing it accompanied by brass during the Opening Convocation, but this time it was sung with organ as originally intended. The Closing Ceremony, or as it was called, the “Evening Extravaganza,” was indeed spectacular. It began with a greeting from astronaut Jeff Williams, live-streamed from aboard the international space station in space—Houston is the home of the Johnson Space Center. After that, it was continuous music accompanied by pictures taken from the Hubble telescope. The Hans Zimmer score from the movie “Interstellar” and improvisations by Aaron David Miller morphed seamlessly into the Hanson Concerto for Organ, Harp and Strings, with Miller at the organ, and the Poulenc Concerto for Organ, Tympani and Strings, performed by John D. Schwandt and the Houston Symphony. Even the symphony’s tuning sounded as if it belonged in the music accompanying the outer space pictures. An unbelievable evening with a prolonged standing ovation! The closing service had the excitement of the closing ceremony of the Olympics and the overwhelming feelings of the greatness of God! If you’ve never attended a national convention, you really should consider it. Nothing will inspire you more.

“The closing service had the excitement of the closing ceremony of the Olympics and the overwhelming feelings of the greatness of God!”

AGO Houston 2016 Photos -- by Joe Routon



Clockwise, from top left: Davidsson Organ and Dance Collaborative; our own Glenn Rodgers with other regional councilors and AGO national officers; Marie-Bernadette Dufourcet recital at St. John the Divine; Katelyn Emerson, National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance 2016 winner; AGO President's Award recipient, Philadelphia's Fred Haas, with current and former AGO presidents; St. Thomas Choir, Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart; Dr. Rhonda Furr, Convention Coordinator.



From the Registrar -- by Gail Gassaway

Thanks to everyone who has renewed their membership for 2016-2017. Our chapter is also grateful for the many of you who added a special contribution to support our chapter.

Let me take a moment to clarify the renewal deadline. All members who have their dues received by August 31 will be considered to have their renewal date remain July 1. Over the course of the last

year, if you renewed after September 1, 2015, your new renewal date is now the first of the following month.

I will endeavor to place renewal dates somewhere in our directory to help everyone know when to expect their renewal notice.

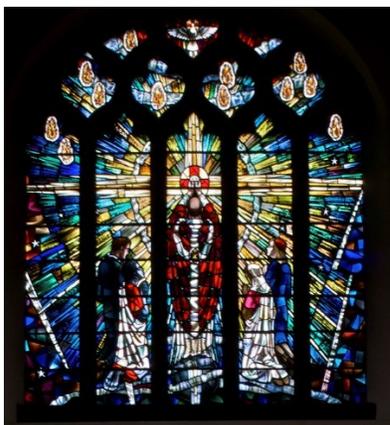
Don't forget to send me any phone or address changes- the directory deadline is September 9th.



God is Our Refuge

a celebration of the eucharist

on the fifteenth anniversary of 9/11



St. Stephen's Lutheran Church

230 North Evergreen Ave., Woodbury NJ

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2016 at 7:30 PM

featuring a commissioned choral offertory by the parish and

Southwest Jersey Chapter

of the American Guild of Organists

composed by Daniel Nelson

*All baptized people are welcome to receive the sacrament
professed by the Augsburg Confession to bear
the true presence of Christ in, with, and under the bread and wine.*



A Resolution

Whereas WILLIAM C. MITCHELL has been a member of the South Jersey, and later the Southwest Jersey, Chapter of the American Guild of Organists since 1956, joining as a schoolboy before he was able to drive to meetings, and therefore being chauffeured by his good friend Lynn Ware; and

Whereas Bill has been a valued and active member of the Chapter, planning and hosting several Guild Services and serving as Chapter Treasurer and Executive Board Member; and

Whereas Bill is recognized as one of the finest organists in the area, having studied with Chapter members John Sankey and Dr. Hoyle Carpenter, and in addition to his fine work in church music has performed at Porthleven Methodist Church in Cornwall, England, and also at Truro Cathedral, and at Rowan University, and with his choir at St. George's Church in Philadelphia, the Nation's oldest Methodist Church; and

Whereas Bill was hired as organist at The First United Methodist Church of Glassboro, New Jersey, at age fifteen in 1956, and is this year celebrating sixty years of music ministry at the Church, having outlasted two church buildings, three organs and ten pastors; and

Whereas the First United Methodist Church of Glassboro will honor Bill with a special service and reception on Sunday, September 18, 2016,

Be it Therefore Resolved that the Executive Board of the Southwest Jersey Chapter, American Guild of Organists, joins the Church in honoring and celebrating the Sixtieth Anniversary of Bill's service as Organist, Choir Director, and Minister of Music by recording this resolution in the minutes of the Executive Board on September 1, 2016.

Cares and Concerns/Hospitality -- by Cathy O'Neill



Cares and Concerns: I have good news for a change. We want to wish Anthony Falatico and Dean Metzler best wishes on their 40th anniversary.

Hospitality: We will begin the Saturday 17 morning workshop with donuts and coffee. Lunch will be provided after the workshop with everyone's favorite, hoagies from Pal Joey's. I am asking folks to bring chips, drinks including ice tea, soda, and bottled water as well as a few desserts. Please let me know in advance what you can bring so we have all the items covered. Thanks in advance for your assistance. Cathy cmo125@aol.com

Editor's Note: Pitman Presbyterian is located on the corner of Broadway and Wildwood Ave. The address is 10 Wildwood Ave., Pitman NJ 08071. Look for the driveway off Wildwood Ave, and enter through the automatic door there. Take the elevator to level 2 for the sanctuary. Parking is available in handicapped spaces (except on Sundays) and on the street.

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Dear Singer,

Get ready for fall and kick off our new choir season with a workshop especially designed for choral musicians! On **Saturday, September 17 at 11 AM**, First Presbyterian Church of Pitman will be hosting a special event sponsored by the South-West Jersey chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

Dr. Christopher Thomas, director of Choral Activities at Rowan University, will give a seminar/masterclass on choral conducting. This is an excellent opportunity for us to participate in an informative, hands-on, engaging learning experience.

Please join us as a member of the demonstration choir. Music will be provided. All singers from high school age and older are invited. You do not need to bring anything. Just come for the workshop ready to listen and sing.

In addition to his duties at Rowan, Dr. Thomas is the Artistic Director of the Greater South Jersey Chorus and is president-elect of the NJ chapter of American Choral Directors Association. You can find out much more from his Rowan University Music Faculty website: <http://www.rowan.edu/colleges/cpa/music/assets/facultyinfo.cfm?id=580> He has exciting ideas and methods to share, and we are thrilled that he is coming to work with us.

The seminar will take place from 11:00AM to 12:30PM, followed by lunch for all who participate, and to which you are cordially invited.

We hope you'll join us and stay for lunch! Directions to our church can be found on our website: www.pitmanpres.org



Dr. Thomas performing with the Rowan Concert Choir in Salzburg, Germany during their European tour, July 2016.

Please RSVP to your choir director by Wednesday, 9/15 so we know how to be prepared.

If you have any questions, email me: mwrabbai@verizon.net or text me at 856-371-6787.

Thank you,

Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO

Director of Music, First Presbyterian Church of Pitman NJ

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Mark A. Cole, SPC

Charlene Cranmer, CAGO, SPC

Lawrence DePasquale, CAGO

Ruth O. Fink, AAGO, ChM

Ethel H. Geist, CAGO

Evelyn Larter, CAGO, SPC

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David L. Rhody, SPC

Glenn L. Rodgers, AAGO

Joyce Ann Routon, CAGO, SPC

Helen K. Taylor, AAGO

For more information on Professional Certification requirements, procedures, materials and deadlines, visit the website of AGO National Headquarters: www.agohq.org

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Thank you, Patrons, Contributors and Advertisers

Our next issue will be October, 2016.

Deadline for articles, announcements, pictures and reports will be
Monday, September 26.

Positions Available/Substitute List -- by Peter Homon

Editor's Note: We are updating and hoping to expand our Substitute List. If you are available to substitute, please contact Peter Homon, our Referral/Position Coordinator. Please forward or refer any items concerning positions available or substitute needs to Peter at lapajar@yahoo.com or call 856-665-0149.

These musicians are available on Sundays and also for weddings and funerals other days:

Patricia Brady-Danzig 973-761-0041 (South Orange) pbradydan@erols.com - organ/piano, cantor, choir director

John Dow 856-327-1739 (Millville) jedowfam@aol.com

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Nancy McCloud 856-667-6127 (Maple Shade) nairmc@verizon.net

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These substitutes are available for weddings and funerals or Saturday work only:

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Dean's Message, continued from page 1

local conductor Dr. Christopher Thomas from Rowan University. This is a really great opportunity to invite choir members or other singing friends to come participate in a program where they get to see a little bit of what we do on a monthly basis. It will also give your singers a glimpse into what you as a director have to think through as you lead a piece of music. I've already invited my choir and received several positive responses from people who are excited about the opportunity.

I hope to see you at many events this year. As always feel free to reach out to me or someone else in the Guild if you have ideas about programs for the chapter or ways in which the chapter might become more involved in the community.



Matters of Note, continued from page 2

Sunday, September 25 at 5:00 pm: Jazz Vespers at Pitman Presbyterian kicks off its 16th season with New York City vibraphonist Behn Gillette and friends. Free will offering will benefit Presbyterian Disaster Assistance. **See poster, page 8.**

SUNDAYS AT FOUR continues to be a series of varied concerts at St. Mary's Episcopal Church - Haddon Heights. Free admission to all events.

Sunday, November 13, 2016 4:00 pm: Choral Evening: guest organist Joseph Russell, Wm. Fenimore conducts. Mendelssohn's "Hear My Prayer" & Bairstow's "Evening Hymn".

Sunday, December 11, 2016 4:00 pm: Seasonal concert: Moorestown High School Madrigal Singers, Sergey Tkachenko directs.

Sunday, February 12, 2017 4:00 pm: Opera and Chocolates: Teresa Bonilla, soprano and friends.