

THE COUPLER

April 2018 Issue

~ THE DEAN'S CORNER ~

We are combining one newsletter for April & May. Our next newsletter will come out in September.

The year in review:

The Florida SW Chapter of the AGO has had a busy and exciting year!

On October 7th, Faith Lutheran Church in Naples hosted our first gathering featuring Michael Helman, who led us in a handbell workshop.

On November 11th, The Mastersingers and our AGO Chapter jointly sponsored a choral workshop at First Presbyterian Church in Bonita Spring featuring Michael Kemp.

We celebrated our Second annual Epiphany party on January 12th at Johnathan Birner's home. I understand that there was some great fellowship at the party!

St. Luke's Episcopal Church hosted our AGO member's recital on February 9th. If you missed this event, you missed some amazing organ playing!

On May 11th at 6:30 PM, St. Michael's and All Angels Episcopal Church will host us for our annual Clergy/Musician dinner. Dr. Don Saliers, national Chaplin for the AGO will be our guest speaker. Feel free to invite your pastor to this wonderful event!

I look forward to seeing everyone at the dinner, and I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer. Thank you, once again, for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your dean for this AGO Chapter.

Soli Deo Gloria,

John Renfree

Dean, SWFL Chapter of the AGO

~ IN THIS ISSUE ~

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~ From the Chaplain ~

Paul's instruction was to "greet one another with a holy kiss", and this may well have been the common way of expressing the peace in the early church, whatever the physical form used, the purpose is the expression of love and reconciliation; the renewal of relationship within the Christian community. It is not, and never was meant to be, a time of social chat with one's friends. It was, and is, a time to be reconciled with all one's sisters and brothers in Christ before approaching the altar to receive communion. As such one might first approach any member of the community with whom one has an unresolved conflict in order to be reconciled.

During the middle ages it was common to pass the peace without any personal contact at all, by means of a metal or wooden plate, usually inscribed with an image of the crucifixion, which was kissed first by the celebrant then passed throughout the congregation from hand to hand. In this current epidemic of influenza, maybe we should consider the wisdom of the ancients?

The Rev. Dr. David Jackson, AHC
Rector, All Souls Episcopal Church, North Fort Myers, Florida

We did a sad farewell to Mr. Herman Fisher Jr. as he has moved to the Tampa Bay area. His new address is: 11670 Callisia Drive, Odessa, Florida 33556, and his new home phone number is (727) 339-3077.

~ UPCOMING EVENTS ~

May 6, 2018—3:00 p.m.

Handbell Concert, SWFL Handbell Ensemble
Michael Helman, conductor
New Hope Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers
(10051 Plantation Road)

May 11, 2018—Annual Members Banquet

SWFL AGO Chapter Banquet
Guest Speaker: Don Saliers (AGO national chaplain)
6:30—Dinner (complimentary)
7:30—Workshop with Marilyn Keiser
Saint Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church,
(2304 Periwinkle Way, Sanibel Island)

~ CHAPTER OFFICERS ~

Dean: John Renfroe 🎵 Secretary: Hank Glass 🎵 Financial Secretary: Paula Leighton

~ BOARD MEMBERS ~

H G Fisher, Judy Prier, Norm Libby, Bob Kirchner,

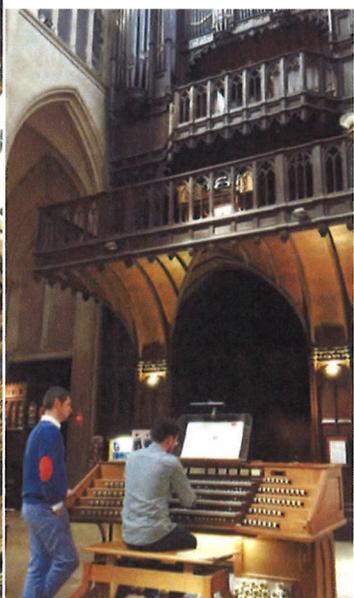
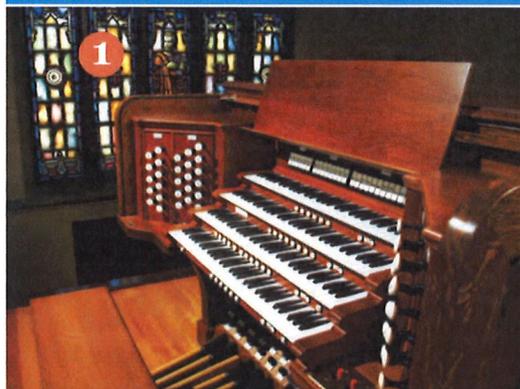
Our executive board and officers for next year are:

John Renfroe, Dean ♦ Paula Leighton, Treasurer ♦ Hank Glass, Secretary
Mr. John Fenstermaker* ♦ Mr. John Geib* ♦ Bob Kirchner ♦ Norman Libby ♦ Judy Prier
Mr. Jonathan Birner*, Member at large

*new board members

We thank those who are willing to serve, and we welcome our new board members!

ORGAN STUDY AT Hope College



Principal Performance Instruments

- 1 4 manual, 48 rank E.M. Skinner, 1929
- 2 3 manual, 34 stop J.W. Walker, 2000
- 3 4 manual, 54 rank Casavant, 2016

Program highlights

- Subsidized biennial study trips to England, France, Germany, and the Netherlands
- Great solo and accompanying opportunities (with choirs, orchestras, etc.)
- Extensive experiential training in different worship traditions
- Very generous scholarships

Hope's Keyboard Area:

hope.edu/academics/music/areas-study/keyboard.html

Audition information:

hope.edu/academics/music/auditions/index.html

Dr. Huw Lewis, Professor of Organ:
lewis@hope.edu



Hope COLLEGE

~ MEMBERSHIP INFO ~

Our new email address is agoswfl@gmail.com If you have any questions, updates, change of addresses, etc. please contact us using our new email address.

Reminder:

If you have not renewed your membership for this year, the national office will drop you from the membership rolls. So, if you have not already done so, please do not forget to renew!

PART-TIME ORGANIST OPPORTUNITY

Burnt Store Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Punta Gorda, FL is seeking an organist/primary accompanist to join our music ministry team. Burnt Store is a vibrant 550-member church with a strong tradition of fine music, both choral and instrumental, utilizing a variety of musical styles from classical to gospel. The well-qualified candidate will work closely with the director of worship arts in continuing this tradition, and will be responsible for service music (preludes, postludes, offertories, hymns, etc.) in the 8:15 & 11:00 a.m. traditional services, weekly rehearsals and 3-4 special services throughout the year. This position is part time (approximately 10-12 hours weekly). Hours include weekly rehearsals and Sunday mornings, along with preparation. He/she will serve as the accompanist for the chancel choir, chancel ensemble, soloists, and occasional instrumental groups. Five years or more experience as a church musician, with excellent piano and organ skills preferred. Salary will be commensurate with education and experience. For additional information, please submit resume, references and inquiries to Joseph Mayes, Director of Worship Arts, josephmayes54@gmail.com.--

CHURCH MINISTRY OPPORTUNITY

First Congregation Church of Naples is seeking an organist. If interested, contact Pastor Les Wicker at (239) 293-5210



~ Newsletter Submission Dates ~

Please submit your information to *The Coupler* as soon as you can. We will resume this newsletter in the fall and would love to have all your concert dates available for publication so as to avoid conflict where possible. Have a great summer!

~ THE 2018 AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION ~

To all AGO members,

Registration is now open for the 2018 AGO National Convention to be held in Kansas City, July 2-6, 2018. After years of planning, we have assembled an incredible program of world-class organists, choirs, workshops, and continuing education opportunities. Creative worship services and world premieres of new organ and choral works by renowned lyricists and composers will be showcased in beautiful and historic organ venues.



2018 marks the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI, which is of particular significance to Kansas City, home of the National WWI Museum and Memorial. Both of our convention hotels sit in the shadow of the Museum and Memorial. Much of our programming will reflect on the ways in which the Great War impacted and influenced the arts world.

Kansas City is sometimes called “The Paris of the Plains” with its many boulevards and fountains. Situated in the heart of the country, we are a convenient drive from many locations. Kansas City International Airport (MCI) is served by most major airlines, and Amtrak will bring you to Union Station, which is connected via air-conditioned skywalks to the convention hotels.

Convention housing will be at the Sheraton Kansas City Hotel at Crown Center and its sister property, the Westin Kansas City at Crown Center. Registration, Exhibits and Workshops will be at the Sheraton, which will serve as the Convention Headquarters.

Super Saver rates will be available until December 31, 2017:

AGO Regular Member - \$375	Spouse/Partner - \$350
AGO Senior 65+ - \$350	Young Organist under 30 - \$250

Early Registration rates will be available January 1-March 31, 2018:

AGO Regular Member - \$435	Spouse/Partner - \$350
AGO Senior 65+ - \$395	Young Organist under 30 - \$250

The full bus transportation package (\$175) is recommended. For Young Organists under 30, the bus is only \$100 for the entire convention. Daily and single-event bus passes are also being offered.

Please visit our convention website at agokc2018.com to register and explore all of the performers, venues, instruments, and workshops of the convention. We look forward to seeing you next July at the convention.

REGISTER EARLY FOR THE BEST RATES!

Debbie Lynch, Registrar

~ WHAT TO CONTRIBUTE ~

We would like to build this newsletter to include items of importance to our membership. New sections for which we need information from you include:

Noteworthy—in this section we would like to include member news, appointments, achievements, etc.

Sub-list—Please include your name, phone number, email, and availability (Please be as specific as possible)

Example: John Q. Organist—Available for weddings, funerals, Sunday worship services before 10:00 a.m.—Proficient in Organ, Piano, Conducting.
Phone: 239-123-1234 (text OR call after 7:00 p.m.)
Email: John.Q.Organist@organistforhire.com

Upcoming Events—It's important that we support each another in our church music endeavors. In an effort to avoid double booking concerts on the same day/time whenever possible, please submit dates for the next six months (or more as you wish) for events which taking place in your church/community.

Positions Available—In addition to following the online job placement page of the AGO website, please include local positions that may not be listed. Include as many details about the position as possible in addition to contact information.

For Sale—Information regarding organs, pianos, and other church music instruments for sale.

NOTE: If you would like to see something else included in our monthly newsletters, please let us know your ideas. Remember, this is your newsletter!

Please submit materials to be included in *The Coupler* directly to:
Ben Ball, newsletter editor
Email: ben@newhopefortmyers.org
Cell phone: 443.745.2642
Church office: 239.274.1230



~ SUBSTITUTE LIST ~

- ♪ **Ben Ball**—Teaches organ; available sub for Weddings, Funerals, Saturday and weekdays services—
ben@newhopefortmyers.org—443-745-2642 (cell)
- ♪ **Jonathan Birner**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays—239-352-3350—birnerj@yahoo.com
- ♪ **Karl Cole**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-732-5773—concertonthekeys@aol.com
- ♪ **Martha Cox**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays—239-458-0721
- ♪ **John Fenstermaker**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-262-6581 (ext. 207)—
johnfenstermaker64@gmail.com
- ♪ **Alden Gatt**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays—239-601-6722—
adlenpiano@gmail.com
- ♪ **John Geib**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-728-8550—johnfgeib@yahoo.com
- ♪ **Connie Hartt-Hitchcock**—Funerals, Saturdays—239-225-7281
- ♪ **Michael Helman**—Weddings, Funerals—239-542-2858 michael@faithcapecoral.org
- ♪ **Robert Herrema**—Weekdays, weddings and funerals—570-575-5622—bob@robertherrema.com
- ♪ **Richard Jaeggi**—Weddings, Funerals, Teaches organ lessons—239-454-7970 rdmej@aol.com
- ♪ **David Jozaities**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-841-0263—
mrorganboy@yahoo.com
- ♪ **Robert Kirchner**—available for any and all services, weddings, funerals, etc.—727-674-5118—
floridakeymaster@yahoo.com
- ♪ **James Kreger**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays—jlkreger@hotmail.com
- ♪ **Paula Leighton**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays (Oct.-May)—508-769-3713—
paulaleighon@comcast.net
- ♪ **Ronald Lemke**—Available for all types of services (comfortable in all denominations)—847-265-1589—
ronaldlemke2@yahoo.com
- ♪ **Deborah Louth-Martin**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-598-2228—
dlmusa@hotmail.com
- ♪ **Elena Melnikov**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-248-3810—Mmelnikov3@aol.com
- ♪ **Joseph Nigro**—Weddings, funerals, weekend services. Piano/organ teacher—914-318-3268—
Treasurehousemusic@gmail.com
- ♪ Available for weddings, funerals, weekend services. Piano/organ teacher
- ♪ **Judith Ollikkala**—Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays (Nov.-Jan.)—239-992-0318—
jolikkala@netscape.com
- ♪ **Douglas Renfroe**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays (choral)—941-587-1140—
srodolor@aol.com
- ♪ **David Speir**—substitute staff singer—203-912-8168—speirdavid@netscape.net
- ♪ **Judy Weaver**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-693-5436—jedijudy@comcast.net
- ♪ **Becky Weese**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-594-3411—BeckyWeese@msn.com
- ♪ **Priscilla Wonkka**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays (Oct.-Apr.)—239-432-9285—
rpwonkka@aol.com

NOTE: If you would like to be added to or removed from this list, or if your information needs to be updated, please contact the newsletter editor.

American Guild of Organists

Southwest Florida Chapter
ATTN: Mr. John Renfroe
Messiah Lutheran Church
2691 NE Pine Island Road
Cape Coral, FL 33909

Place
Stamp
Here

TO:

