

# THE COUPLER

NOVEMBER 2018 ISSUE

*The Newsletter of the Southwest Florida Chapter  
of the American Guild of Organists*

## The Dean's Corner:

This year, the Holiday Season reminds me of two things that we already know: it's noisy and it's busy! Approximately three weeks *before* the Thanksgiving Holidays, I began hearing Christmas music while shopping. Now that we are past Thanksgiving, the clamor is louder. The list of Christmas sounds is long: we hear Christmas music everywhere we turn, the sounds of choirs and instrumentals rehearsing for seasonal concerts, children and youth choirs rehearsing their music for the annual Christmas pageant, and the unmistakable sounds of the Salvation Army bells demanding our attention. Television Christmas advertisements abound. All of the many sounds can become noisy, and if this isn't enough to distract our attention, the busyness of the holiday season itself is a distraction.

To suggest that many of us have a busy schedule this month would be a gross understatement! Our busy schedules burn those Advent candles at both ends. (I jokingly tell people that I kiss my

wife good bye in the fall, and tell her that I will see her after Easter.) You certainly don't have to be reminded of all of the extra rehearsals, concerts, High Holy Services and Masses, and extra preparation time, all along with personal practice times. Where is rest in all of this, and when we finally go to bed, where is there sleep through all of the chaos that the season brings?

Pushing past the exterior noises and busy schedules, I think we need to take time to ask a deeper question: Where is the good news of Joy and Peace that this season brings, and how can we share in it using the musical gifts that God gives us? I think we can all experience a more profound understanding of this holiday season if we take time to focus on its deeper meaning. In doing so, we can turn the extra planning and rehearsals into time of meaningful music making that allows God to speak to us, and through us, we can witness to the deeper power of the season while we offer our musical gifts in worship.

Soli Deo Gloria,

*John Renfree*

Dean, SWFL Chapter  
AGO



## Classical Piano Recital: Images by Great Russian Composers

November 9, 2018, Friday at 7-9 p.m. FREE

Performed by Dr. Gena Bedrosian

Moorings Presbyterian Church

791 Harbour Drive, Naples, 34103

Includes works of Tchaikovsky, Mussorgsky, Rachmaninoff and Prokofiev

For further information call 239-261-1487. Handicap accessible.



On October 20<sup>th</sup>, we started off this season with an organ crawl. We met at **St. Luke's Episcopal Church** and at **Epiphany Episcopal Church** to experience two contrasting instruments. There were fourteen members in attendance. A Wonderful time was had by all.







Listed below, is a reminder of our chapter's plans for this year:

**January 4, 2019** – we will have our third annual Epiphany party. More information coming soon.

**February 15, 2019** – 7:30 PM at Trinity by the Cove, 553 Galleon Drive, Naples, FL 34102, all AGO members will be invited to perform on the 30 rank Casavant-Frères organ for our member's recital.

**March 30, 2019** from 1-:00 AM-12:00 noon at First Presbyterian Church Jeff Faux will offer a choral workshop. This will be a great opportunity for us to pick up some practical teaching approaches in achieving good choral sounds from our choirs.

End of the year banquet – more information will be available soon.

**WELCOME!!**

### **-FROM THE CHAPLIN-**



Dear Partners in the Good News,

On Reformation Sunday, my calling as the pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church (North Fort Myers/Cape Coral) became official. Like many of the congregations in which you serve, God's people filled the pews for singing, liturgy, and musical expressions of praise. Liturgy, or the work of the people, is what we empower as worship leaders. As we worship, I am continually grateful for the essential gift of music to help worship be honoring to the one who enables liturgy to happen.

My devotion this month centers on appreciation for all that you do as music leaders. Often those to lead worship do not receive the thanks and appreciation that is so deserved. I want to use this space to simply say thank you for all that you do. As the installation liturgy at Messiah unfolded, with an abundance of musical expression, I committed myself to be more mindful, and appreciative, of those who honor our Lord with music.

May God continue to be glorified through your gifts. May our combined efforts make the kingdom stronger. And, may we continually sing the Lord a new song.

Respectfully,

*Pastor Rich Leseganich*

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

We welcome **Shane McDonald** to our chapter

We welcome **Roger Matthies** to our chapter

**In an attempt to make our communications better, the board voted to subscribe to "DialMyCalls". Starting in October each member will get a brief reminder notification of our upcoming activities.**

The **2018/2019 Directory** will be available by way of email.

## **CONCERT DATES-**

# New Hope Presbyterian Church

10051 Plantation Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33966

**Sunday, November 11, 2018 --- 3:00 p.m.**

Saxophone Recording Artist Eirinn Abu in concert

**Sunday, December 2, 2018 --- 3:00 p.m.**

Ft. Myers Symphonic Mastersingers

A Service of Readings and Carols

Jeff Faux, conductor

Ben Ball, organist

**Sunday, March 3, 2019 --- 3:00 p.m.**

Spirit of the Gulf women's barbershop chorus in concert

**Sunday, April 7, 2019 --- 3:00 p.m.**

Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers present Faure's "Requiem"

Jeff Faux, conductor

# St Luke's Episcopal Church

2635 Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33901

Calendar 2018-2019

Please mark your calendar for these exciting upcoming events at St. Luke's.

**Nov. 4, 4 PM**, Evensong & Benediction

**Dec. 16, 3 PM**, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols  
Followed by High Tea

**Jan. 27, 4 PM**, Organ Recital, Evensong & Benediction  
Eric Strand, Director of Music and Arts, First United Methodist Church,  
Grand Rapids,  
Michigan.  
St. Luke's choir will present the Florida "first performance" of Mr. Strand's  
Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis.

**Feb. 10, 3 PM**, City of Palms Choir, Matt Koller, Director

**Mar. 17, 4 PM**, Organ Recital, Ric Jaeggi, Director of Music, Peace  
Lutheran, Fort Myers

**Mar. 24, 4 PM**, Faure Requiem plus other choral works. St. Luke's Choir  
and guest Orchestra.

**May 5, 4 PM**, Lee Cobb, organist

**June 30, 3 PM**, Patriotic Concert

The **HYACINTH CONCERT SERIES** at  
**The Moorings Presbyterian Church** in Naples  
offers the very finest concerts without admission charge (free-  
will offerings accepted). 791 Harbour Drive, Naples. Phone  
(239) 261-1487 [www.mooringschurch.org](http://www.mooringschurch.org)

All Sunday concerts are held at 4:00 p.m.; the organ concert by Daryl  
Robinson on Friday, March 1, is at 7:30 p.m. In addition, the HYACINTH  
MASTERWORK, which is a Sunday morning service, is at 10:00 a.m.  
December 16.

ALL CONCERTS ARE **FREE**, with a free-will offering received, and are held  
IN THE SANCTUARY AT MOORINGS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN  
NAPLES.

**Nov. 18, 4:00 p.m.** *Russian String Orchestra, Misha Rachelvsky, Music Director*, at  
Moorings Presbyterian Church (239) 261-1487.

**Dec. 16, 10:00 a.m.** *Hyacinth Masterwork: Gloria by Antonio Vivaldi featuring  
Chancel Choir, Soloists, and members of the Naples Philharmonic* at Moorings  
Presbyterian Church. (239) 261-1487.

**Jan. 20, 4:00 p.m.** *Tim Zimmerman and THE KING'S BRASS* at Moorings  
Presbyterian Church (239) 261-1487.

**Feb. 24, 4:00 p.m.** *Alma College Choir* at Moorings Presbyterian Church. (239)  
261-1487.

**Mar. 1, 7:30 p.m.** *Concert Organist Daryl Robinson* at Moorings Presbyterian  
Church. (239) 261-1487.  
7:30 p.m.

**Mar. 17, 4:00 p.m.** *Hope College Chapel Choir* at Moorings Presbyterian  
Church. (239) 261-1487.

**Apr. 7, 4:00 p.m.** *Southwest Florida Symphony, with Alexandra Carlson, piano, and Nir Kabaretti, conductor,* at Moorings Presbyterian Church, (239) 261-1487.

**The following two concerts are produced by other organizations. They are held at Moorings Presbyterian Church but are NOT part of the Hyacinth Series.**

**Tuesday, Nov. 27, two performances at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.** *FGCU Holiday Concert: Joyful and Triumphant* at Moorings Presbyterian Church. Produced by FGCU.

**Saturday, Feb. 9, two performances 3:00 & 7:00 p.m.** *St. Olaf College Choir* at Moorings Presbyterian Church. TICKETS REQUIRED; purchase through the St. Olaf College website [www.stolaf.edu](http://www.stolaf.edu)

## **-CHAPTER OFFICERS-**

Dean: John Renfroe

Secretary: Hank Glass

Financial Secretary: Paula Lieghton

## **-BOARD MEMBERS-**

Mr. John Fenstermaker

Mr. John Geib

Bob Kirchner     Norman Libby

Judy Prier

Mr. Jonathan Birner, Member at large

Newsletter deadline will be the 25<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Thank You for your contribution to our newsletter.

Please make submissions to: William Pomeroy [mr\\_bill41@juno.com](mailto:mr_bill41@juno.com)

([mr\\_bill41@juno.com](mailto:mr_bill41@juno.com)).

**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.*)

***Upcoming Events-*** it's important that 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*) for events taking place in your



community/church. ***Positions Available-*** in addition to following the online job placement page of the TAO 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 music instruments for sale.

## **-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](mailto:dlmusa@hotmail.com)
- ♪ **Elena Melnikov**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-248-3810—[Mmelnikov3@aol.com](mailto:Mmelnikov3@aol.com)
- ♪ **Joseph Nigro**—Weddings, funerals, weekend services. Piano/organ teacher—914-318-3268—[Treasurehousemusic@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jolikkala@netscape.com)
- ♪ **Douglas Renfro**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays (choral)—941-587-1140—[srodolor@aol.com](mailto:srodolor@aol.com)
- ♪ **David Speir**—substitute staff singer—203-912-8168—[speirdavid@netscape.net](mailto:speirdavid@netscape.net)
- ♪ **Judy Weaver**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-693-5436—[jedijudy@comcast.net](mailto:jedijudy@comcast.net)
- ♪ **Becky Weese**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-594-3411—[BeckyWeese@msn.com](mailto:BeckyWeese@msn.com)
- ♪ **Priscilla Wonkka**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays (Oct.-Apr.)—239-432-9285—[rpwonkka@aol.com](mailto: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

To:

