

# THE COUPLER

MARCH 2019 ISSUE

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

## Dean's Corner:

A choir devotion from the book *Soli Deo Gloria*  
by Wayne L. Wold: **Transfiguration of Our Lord**

In Many areas of our lives, we may have difficulty discerning what is real and lasting and what is illusory and transitory. The glorious praise and sense of awe we feel in Sunday worship may be hard to carry with us into the humdrum weekdays in between. The heartfelt camaraderie we experience when sharing the Peace may be hard to recapture when faced with tension-filled relationships at home and at work. The beautiful stained glass windows that seem so perfect in our worship space seem strange and foreign when peering out our painfully honest clear glass windows. Will the real world please stand up?

Peter, John, and James experienced a whole different world when they accompanied Jesus to a mountaintop. There they saw a brilliant light, witnessed conversations between Jesus and the long-dead Moses and Elijah, and heard a voice from heaven telling them, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" It is no

wonder that those disciples suggested building dwellings for each of the three divine celebrities; they wanted this earth-transcending experience to stick, for their lives would surely be better if they could just hold on to it. We try to identify with their emotions when we sing the transfiguration hymn by Joseph A. Robinson:

How good, Lord, to be here! Your glory fills the night;  
Your face and garments, like the sun, shine with unborrowed light.  
Before we taste of death, we see your kingdom come;  
We long to hold the vision bright and make this hill our home.

Well, “hold on to it” they did, and the gospel account reports that they told nobody about this experience until much later. As they went back to their daily lives, trying to hold on to this memory, perhaps they started to wonder about it. Was it real? Had it been just a dream? But the experience was just too vivid to be forgotten, too surreal to be trivialized, too good to be kept to themselves for very long. That’s what good worship does; it transcends the mundane, created its own alternative reality, reminds us what is real and important and what is trivial and transitory, and injects into our routine lives the vision of the transformed live God intends for each of us.

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*John Renfroe*

Soli Deo Gloria,

**Attention organists, choir directors, and choir singers!** How do you combine tall rich sounding vowels with resonant forward placement? How can you be sure to engage the lower diaphragm to support singing? What vowel will help singing in tune? How do you sing the letter "R" in the middle or at the end of a word? How do you phrase pickup notes? The answers to these and many more questions can be learned at the AGO choral workshop from ten until noon on Saturday morning March 30. The site is the First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs, 9751 Bonita Beach Road SE. The clinician will be Jeff Faux, music director at that church and artistic director of the Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers. Jeff has degrees from the Westminster Choir College and Michigan State University.

If you are an accompanist organist, please tell the choir director about this upcoming event. Not only are choir directors invited, but choir members are welcome as well. I know my choir is excited and most are planning to attend. Jeff will help us get relaxed to sing, do some warmup exercises, and then conduct a rehearsal with some selections from his church music library to improve vocal technique and production.

Let us gather at about 9:30 to meet each other and hydrate before the 10:00 start. While no reservations are needed, would you please email [johnfgeib@yahoo.com](mailto:johnfgeib@yahoo.com) with the numbers attending, so that we can plan to have enough music copies to go around.

Finally how about a big sigh on "oo" and then "zing-zing-zing!"  
By the way, which question above is a trick one?

This workshop is open to both conductors and choir members. My choir at All Souls is excited, and they all said they would sign up. Contact John Geib at [johnfgeib@yahoo.com](mailto:johnfgeib@yahoo.com) to register with the numbers attending.

**"Zing....Zing...Zi nnnnng!"**

**John Geib**



John Festermaker sent the following report, with a photo, to "chapter news" at *The American Organist* magazine.

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**Naples, Florida** January 15, Trinity-by-the-Cove hosted a member's recital by eight organists, playing Bach, Vierne, Mulet, Buxtehude, Tchaikovsky, Mulet and Sowerby on the 1971 30-rank Casavant, the first pipe organ in southwest Florida. The chapter covers a large geographical area; some of the audience and performers traveled more than 50 miles to attend. Before the recital, there was a reception and a used music sale of hundreds of scores, hymnals, prayer books and teaching materials, with the proceeds going to the chapter's young organist's scholarship fund. Several hundred dollars were raised. The chapter also

recently raised the funds and ordered an *Orgelkids* pipe organ, to be delivered in August. (In the photo is a four-stop 18<sup>th</sup>-century German chamber organ, acquired by Trinity-by-the-Cove in 2014.)



**Photo, left to right:**

William Pomeroy, Lee Cobb, John Fenstermaker, Emogene Bedrosian, Sandra Averhart, Richard Jaeggi, John Renfroe, *dean*, Thomas Goetz, Henry Glass  
*Photo by Colin Edwards*

Listed below, is information about our chapter's plans for this year:

**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!!

I want to thank your executive board officers for their tireless work. I can't begin to tell you how honored I am to work with such a wonderful group of people! Together we have accomplished some great things.

**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.**

## **-CONCERT DATES-**

### **Messiah Lutheran Church**

2691 Pine Island Rd, Cape Coral, FL 33909

**Sunday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**, at 3:00 PM John Renfroe organ concert

### **New Hope Presbyterian Church**

10051 Plantation Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33966

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

Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers present Faure's "Requiem"

Jeff Faux, conductor **(this event has been cancelled)**

### **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.**

**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.

**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)

Hello SWFL AGO,



New Hope Presbyterian would like to sell its Roland Digital Harpsichord  
It is a Roland "Classic 50." Please let me know if you have any interest.

Thanks and Blessings,  
Ben

### **-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).

## **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
- ♪ **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, Monday-Saturday, 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, Saturdays, Sundays, 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—paulaleighton@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—jollikkala@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

To:

