

UPCOMING EVENTS



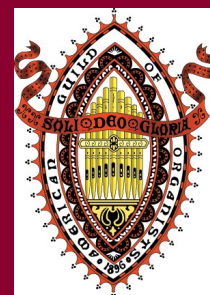
MEMBERS' RECITAL TO BE RE-SCHEDULED: STAY WELL, STAY TUNED

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Sforzando

VOLUME 9, ISSUE 8



APRIL 2020

Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists

Dean's Message

-- by Vernon Williams

I hope this message finds all of you healthy and in good spirits. This is certainly a challenging time for all of us, as we adjust to the closure of our churches and the isolation that comes from not seeing our choirs and congregations – and each other. One of our challenges is finding ways to bring worship to our church families, and to stay connected with them.

As musicians, we suddenly find ourselves hoping or trying to get at least some kind of music to our parishes, whether through live feeds or recordings. Some of us are experimenting with virtual choirs as a way to keep our choristers connected and maybe even produce an anthem to share. At Trinity we reserve our regular choir times for Zoom gatherings, to check in with each other and see how we are all doing. Even practicing can be difficult for many of us. Such strange times!

....continued on page 14



Joe Routon's photo of Trinity Lutheran Church in Speyer, Germany. The organ is a Steinmeyer three-manual, 41-stop organ.





"I look forward to the day when we can come together again, but until that time I will keep you all in my prayers and I ask that you keep me in yours."

Sub-Dean's Report -- by Vicki Nichols

Hi Everyone! Our Members' Recital originally scheduled for Sunday, April 26th will be postponed. Our next event is an organ crawl at Girard College, so far scheduled for May 2nd. At this point our remaining events for this season are subject to postponement or even cancellation due to the corona virus and the measures that are being taken to slow the spread of this disease. We will let everyone know when these events will be rescheduled, however it is too soon at this stage to plan on any specific date for the Members' Recital. In the meantime, I hope you are all well and that you are able to make the most out of our shared unexpected Lenten sacrifice of being unable to move about in the world, of being unable to follow our normal routines, and even of being unable to play at our church services and masses. Maybe we

should take advantage of this time of seclusion and use it as an opportunity to finally look at that piece of music we've always wanted to play, but never had the time to practice. And if you don't have an organ in your home, start learning it on the piano, or try mental practicing! Find a book to read, listen to music. Call, text, or send an email to some friends from the chapter, see how they're coping with these difficult times. Maybe this is the perfect time to deepen your prayer life. Try spending some time reading and meditating on sacred scripture, or do some other spiritual reading, or try simply praying in silence. I look forward to the day when we can come together again, but until that time I will keep you all in my prayers and I ask that you keep me in yours. May God protect you and your families from this virus. Stay well!



Matters of Note



A Message from Ruth Fink: I would like to thank the members of our Chapter for their gracious get well cards, and beneficial text messages. Receiving messages at this time is amazing and very helpful. I am now back home and "enjoying" physical therapy. Ruth's email address is vzeomo2e1@verizon.net

From the Registrar: Please welcome the following new and returning members to our chapter:

Elizabeth Lawrence, 2935 Quaker Bridge Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619

Email: lizzslaw@yahoo.com. Phone: 646-765-2387

New address: Richard P. Carroll, 585 N. East Avenue, Vineland, NJ 08360.

Email: Remais@aol.com. Phone: 856-228-2449

Mary Sampson is now Director of Music/Organist at St. Paul's Lutheran Church In Collingswood, NJ

Elsewhere in the Sforzando you will find my amended financial statement for last year. If you have any questions, please contact me. - Gail Gassaway *Editor's note: Find Gail's report on pages 8 and 9*

Email address corrections: Larry DePasquale's correct email address is ldorg59@yahoo.com. Linda Davis' correct email address is melodymkr1953@comcast.net. Please mark these changes in your directory,

Cares and Concerns: A get well card was sent to George Mitchell who recently had a stroke.

What are you doing during this time? Are you sitting at home in front of the TV and watching every news conference and report or binge watching your favorite show? I am not watching any news other than first thing in the morning and the local news at 6PM like I have always done. My church is still open and I am there several days a week practicing and learning new music. This is the time to do something constructive. It is only God, the organ, and me in church so no I am not worried. If you don't want to go out try praying -- for your church, your Pastor, your choir members, and your church family. During this time I will also be sending cards and notes to folks that are by themselves and do not use social media. I will be sending Easter cards to several of our members. This forced isolation is the time to do something you have been meaning to for years. I include the following prayer that the NJ Lutheran bishop has asked us to stop and pray every day at noon. I know what the power of prayer can do. If you don't like this one, come up with one of your own but be in prayer during this time. God will see us through as He always does. - Cathy O'Neill

Eternal God, amid all the turmoil and changes of the world your love is steadfast and your strength never fails. In this time of fear, danger, and trouble, be to us a sure guardian and rock of defense. Guide the leaders of our nation and nations around the world with your wisdom, comfort those in distress, and grant us courage and hope to face the future; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.



Istvan Ruppert Awarded Liszt Prize



Dr. Istvan Ruppert, who performed an outstanding recital and led a workshop at our 2019 AGO Regional Convention, has been awarded The Liszt Prize, the highest, most prestigious award for a classical music performer in Hungary. Istvan has performed several recitals for our chapter over the years, and a few years ago our chapter awarded him the Performer of the Year Award. Istvan described his honor by saying, "I think this is a recognition of my more than 30 years of performing arts, teaching, and directorial work. It feels good." Our congratulations to him!

Left, Dr. Ruppert, at a master class held in Moorestown a few years ago, with Vicki Nichols as one of the participants. Photo by Joe Routon.

Online Compline: Worship in the Time of Social Distance

-- by Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO

March 8 was the last time many of our congregations worshipped together in a shared space. Since then, we have been on a mission, relying heavily on technology and ingenuity, to shelter in place while continuing the work of our faith communities and interacting with all those who need support. Thanks to all of you who shared ideas and techniques we are using to fulfill our spiritual calling for the duration of the COVID-19 outbreak. Here is a brief summary of your responses:

Providing the greatest accessibility across platforms and ability levels, including Facebook and Facebook Live, YouTube channels, Zoom conferencing

Live-streaming worship services

Making sermon podcasts and video available on church websites for people who are not on Facebook

Recording worship segments remotely, and also separately, throughout the week to maximize social distancing; compiling, editing and scheduling online "debut" at traditional worship times

Recording video segments from a variety of places around the church building... for example: Welcome and Benediction outside on church lawn, Children's Sermon from the nursery, Scripture lesson from the library, Special Music from the choir room....etc.

Using soloists, scaled-down musical selections and shortened hymns to keep the "flow" for video worship and encourage participation

Employing equipment ranging from an Iphone on a tripod to sophisticated microphones, video recorders and film editing software

Offering bible study, evening compline, and morning prayer services via "Zoom"

Hosting worship meetings via "Zoom" and "Google Meet"

Continuing choir rehearsals via "Zoom" to keep the connections, share time together

Capturing virtual choral and congregational singing using multi-track recording

Offering a church "bulletin" downloadable from church website or Facebook page

Offering technical support from volunteers in the congregation

Sharing information about online giving during the offertory time

Sharing the Peace done with video montage (compiled from congregants who texted or emailed pictures of themselves)



Matters of Note

-- continued from page 2

As of this publication, summer events, including the AGO National in Atlanta, are going on as planned:

Pipe Organ Encounter Plus June 28 – July 3, 2020 Sponsored by the Lehigh Valley Chapter AGO. Participants should be age 19 or older, want to play the organ or currently play the organ in a church or synagogue and be interested in improving their skills. Featuring: outstanding faculty, the finest organs in the Lehigh Valley, concerts, recitals, private instruction. For additional information: See our [brochure](#) and [letter of greeting](#) or call 610.439.1933

Pipe Organ Encounter Plus July 26 - 31 July 31, 2020 hosted by the Richmond chapter, offering adult students of all experience levels an intense and exciting schedule of lessons, practice time, workshops, recitals, master classes, and field trips. Registration fee is \$500, or \$450 if registered and paid by May 1st. Registration deadline is June 15th. For more information on the event, go to <http://poe2020.richmondago.org/>

Delaware Womens Chorus concert postponed until 6/7/20: In compliance with the guidelines from the Governor of the State of New Jersey, "Music Around the County" announces the postponement of the concert by **The Delaware Women's Chorus**, originally scheduled for March 29, 2020. This concert has been rescheduled for **4 p.m. on June 7, 2020** at First Presbyterian Church, 88 Market Street, Salem NJ. Admission is free. We extend our heartfelt wishes that all of you stay healthy and smart about the measures in place to control the spread of Covid-19. Thank you for your continued support of music and the arts in Salem County. Joanne Owen, President, "Music Around the County" For further information, call 856-769-3212 or 609-420-0309.

Programs at a Glance

[See Sub-Dean's Report on page 2 for details]

To Be Rescheduled:

*Workshop with David Schelat -
Music of Wilbur Held*

and

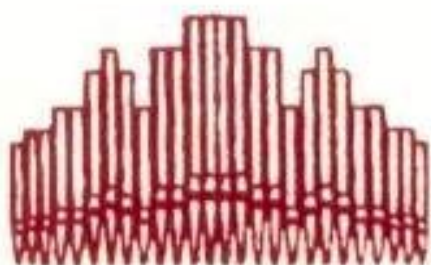
Annual Members Recital

Saturday, May 2, 2020 at 10AM (as yet not rescheduled - stay tuned):

*Organ Crawl: Girard College, Philadelphia
Demonstration by Rudy Lucente
Followed by lunch at Jack's Firehouse*

Sunday, June 28, 2020 at 3:30PM:

*Picnic and Annual Meeting,
At the Nichols farm, Franklinville*



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SouthWest Jersey AGO Nominations 2020

-- by Glenn Rodgers, AAGO

The Nominating Committee is pleased to report the following candidates for the upcoming year:

Dean – Vernon Williams	Executive Board Class of 2023
Sub-Dean – Victoria Nichols	Renee Hatzold
Treasurer/Registrar – Chuck Gibson	Evelyn Larter
Secretary – Cathy O'Neill	Kyle Sheppard
	Dave Reich

Gail Gassaway will be retiring from the position of Treasurer/Registrar at the end of this term. We offer our resounding thanks to her for her faithful service since 2005. Chuck Gibson, who was initially nominated as a member of the Executive Board Class of 2023, has agreed to be our new candidate for Treasurer/Registrar. The Nominating Committee is pleased to report that the slate of officers is now complete with the inclusion of David Reich who has agreed to serve on the Executive Board, Class of 2023. We are grateful to all these members for their willingness to serve the Chapter by assuming or continuing these responsibilities. We encourage everyone to return the ballot by post or email. Even though it may seem like a formality, the act of taking time to respond is an indication of your engagement with the activities of the chapter and your support of the Committee and the prospective officers. You may send it by mail to Glenn Rodgers, the Teller of the Election, at 103 Tarlton Court, Delran, NJ 08075. You may also vote by email at gcrodgers@aol.com. Please refer to the ballot form for full instructions. (See ballot, next page - Deadline for post mailing is 4/10. Deadline for emailing is 4/15.)

SouthWest Jersey Chapter Scholarship Program

-- by Lawrence DePasquale, CAGO

Our chapter's scholarship program has been unintentionally in "intermission" and needs to continue. This program exists to serve area congregations by increasing the number of capable organists and to insure the continuation of the classical church music profession.

As a reminder, the program is structured as 14 one-hour lessons scheduled at the mutual convenience of the instructor and student, ideally on the organ where the student practices, or at least one a month where the student practices. The lessons and public jury *must take place within 4 months*. The practice instrument must have a minimum of two 61-note keyboards and a concave, radiating 32-note pedalboard, with all keys functioning. The student must have legs long enough to reach the pedalboard and have intermediate piano skills (meaning and understanding of meter signatures, chords, key signatures, and the ability to read G and F clefs).

The audition for this program is on piano. Applicants will be asked to prepare and perform a simple Bach keyboard work, also one movement of a sonata by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Clementi, or Kuhnau, and also one hymn written in traditional four-part harmony. The applicant will be asked to sight-read two short pieces; one will be in common meter.

At the conclusion of the 14 one hour lessons, a jury is required with the teacher and at least two additional chapter members present. The jury will consist of the following:

Two of these three chorales: *Ein feste Burg*, *Lobe den Herren*, *Herzlich tut mir verlangen*

A hymn will be sight-read, pedaling not required

The tune *Old Hundredth* in any of its traditional forms, copy provided to the committee

One pedal alone passage of a chorale, minimum 15 measures

A trio chorale

A prelude or fugue from the collection [Eight Little Preludes and Fugues](#)

The instructor is appointed by the local chapter. Accepted applicants are responsible for securing a pair of Organmaster shoes and required music. Instruction may happen any time provided all activities are completed within four months. Candidates of all ages who meet the above criteria are welcome. Please contact Lawrence De Pasquale at ldorg59@yahoo.com with questions and to express interest.

SOUTHWEST JERSEY CHAPTER
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
ELECTION BALLOT 2020-21

Please complete your ballot, do not sign it. Place it in an envelope, sign your name across the back flap, and mail **by April 10th** to:

Glenn Rodgers, Teller of the Election
103 Tarlton Court
Delran, NJ 08075

You may also vote by email to Glenn at gcrodgers@aol.com by April 15th.

DEAN – Vote for one

____ Vernon Williams
____ (write-in choice) _____

SUB-DEAN – Vote for one

____ Victoria Nichols
____ (write-in choice) _____

TREASURER/REGISTRAR - Vote for one

____ Chuck Gibson
____ (write-in choice) _____

SECRETARY – Vote for one

____ Cathy O'Neill
____ (write-in choice) _____

EXECUTIVE BOARD CLASS OF 2023 – Vote for four

____ Renee Hatzold
____ Evelyn Larter
____ Kyle Sheppard
____ Dave Reich
____ (write-in) _____
____ (write-in) _____
____ (write-in) _____
____ (write-in) _____

SOUTHWEST JERSEY CHAPTER, AGO
Treasurer's Report -FY2018-2019

INCOME

From National:

Special - (37)	\$1,221.00
Regular - (24)	\$984.00
Youth - (3)	\$54.00
Chapter Friend - (3)	\$114.00
Dual - (8)	\$304.00
Patrons	\$1,100.00
Contributions	\$16.00
Convention	\$376.00
Emergency Fund	<u>\$71.00</u>
Total:	\$4,240.00

Membership transfer	\$33.00
Patrons	\$100.00
Emergency Fund	\$100.00
Sforzando ads	\$274.00
Guild Service -offering	\$160.00
Guild dinner	\$486.00
Offering (Members' Recital)	\$276.00
Transfer from 2019	\$33.24
Return Wanamaker program	<u>\$200.00</u>
Total:	\$1,662.24

TOTAL INCOME 2018-2019: **\$5,902.24**

EXPENSES

Programming:

September workshop	\$400.00
Guild Dinner	\$520.81
HUMC - Olivera	\$500.00
January (Wanamaker)	\$400.00
February - Cherwien	<u>\$1,193.85</u>
Total:	\$3,014.66

Hospitality: **\$589.92**

Administration:

Supplies	\$23.99
Postage	\$121.36
Copies	<u>\$9.90</u>
Total:	\$155.25

Directory: **\$163.50**

Donations:

AGO Annual Fund	\$300.00
Wanamaker Organ	<u>\$100.00</u>

Total: **\$400.00**

SOUTHWEST JERSEY CHAPTER, AGO
Treasurer's Report -FY2018-2019

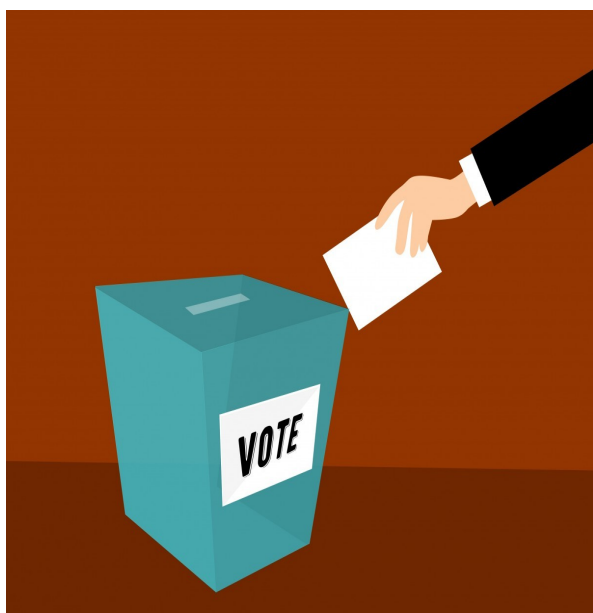
Transfer to Regional	\$301.00
TOTAL EXPENSES:	\$4,624.33

BANK ACCOUNT RECONCILIATION

Balance- June 30, 2018	\$17,302.54
Plus 2018-2019 Income	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 10px;">\$5,902.24</div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 50px;"></div> </div>
	\$23,204.78
Less 2018-2019 Expenses	\$4,624.33
BALANCE- JUNE 30, 2019:	\$18,580.45
Plus outstanding check:	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: flex-end; align-items: center;"> <div style="text-align: right; margin-right: 10px;">\$22.38</div> <div style="border-top: 1px solid black; width: 50px;"></div> </div>
Bank balance 6/30/2019:	\$18,602.83

Note: There have been no expenditures from either the Emergency Fund or the Scholarship Fund in 2018-2019

Gail Gassaway, Treasurer



**Don't forget to return
your
chapter elections ballot!**

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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.

Positions Available:

Beverly Presbyterian, Edgewater Park - Organist only, 2 manual Allen, one Wednesday evening adult choir rehearsal, 10:00 svc. Contact Gwen Reed at 609-280-8329 or gwen88keys@aol.com (3/20)

Morrisville Presbyterian Church, Morrisville, PA - O/accompanist for adult and children's choirs, 4 manual 79 stop Allen Quantum, Thursday evening rehearsals, 10:30 service. Contact timcarpenter@mpusa.net for additional info and complete job description. (2/20)

Luther Memorial Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod), Blackwood - O/D, no choir but would like to begin one, 9:00 service, 3m Allen Renaissance 340, contact Randall Kelley, randallkelley@comcast.net 856-278-9570. (2/20)

St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Willingboro - Organist/pianist, 2 man. Allen, diverse congregation with diverse musical styles, Rehearsals wed. at 7:15, Sunday service at 10:30, resumes to Nina D. Bonner at stpumc@verizon.net or 201 Levitt Pkwy., Willingboro, NJ 08046 (1/20)

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

Charlene Cranmer 609-458-2993 (Southampton, NJ - July and August only) ctcranmer@comcast.net

Patricia Brady-Danzig 973-908-1324 (South Orange) pbradydan@erols.com - organ/piano, cantor, choir director

Peter Homon, Jr. c-856-952-5132 (Merchantville) lapajar@yahoo.com

Mary Johnson 856-332-8869 (Pine Hill) mebayj47@yahoo.com

Elizabeth Lawrence 646-765-2387 (Hamilton) lizz5law@yahoo.com

George Mitchell 856-795-0970 (Cherry Hill) babayaga430@verizon.com

Irina Nenartovich, CAGO, SPC 856-321-3465 (Cherry Hill) knenartovich@hotmail.com

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

Evelyn Larter, CAGO 856-358-1112 (Elmer) ERLarter@juno.com

Lee F. Milhous, 215-348-8872 (Doylestown PA) leefmilhous@verizon.net

Cathy O'Neill, 856-0192 (Sewell, NJ) cmo125@aol.com

Joanne Owen 856-769-3212 (Woodstown) lbjkowen1982@comcast.net

Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO 856-589-3901 (Pitman) mwrabbai@verizon.net



CHAPTER EMERGENCY FUND Our Chapter has begun the sponsorship of a fund to provide short-term emergency aid to Chapter members who find themselves temporarily in need of assistance. No dues money will be used for this aid, but tax-deductible contributions will be welcome at any time. A committee of three, consisting of the Dean, the Chair of Professional Concerns, and another member of that committee, will award aid as the need arises. Any Chapter member may recommend a member in good standing who, for reasons such as illness or unemployment, deserves our help, by contacting the Dean or the Chair of Professional Concerns. All cases of course will be confidential. If you would like to contribute to this cause, please send your tax-deductible donation (made out to SWJersey Chapter AGO) to our Treasurer Gail Gassaway, marked for "Musicians' Emergency Fund." Mail to: 241 Night Hawk Circle, West Deptford NJ 08086.

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Marilyn Rabbai, CAGO, SPC

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Powell, Robert

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Rhody, David

Rodgers, Glenn

Sakowsky, Richard

Scara, Robert

Stokking-Perry, Nancy

White, Kathleen

Williams, Vernon

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

Thank you, Patrons, Contributors and Advertisers

Our next issue will be May 2020.

Deadline for articles, announcements, pictures and reports will be Saturday, April 25.



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See the Excellent Documentary, "The Organistas"

By Burt Shapiro, Featuring the Gergers

Sforzando is the official publication of the SouthWest Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The AGO is a multi-denominational, non-profit organization chartered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York in 1896.

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WEBSITE: www.agohq.org/chapters/southwestjersey

Dean's Message --

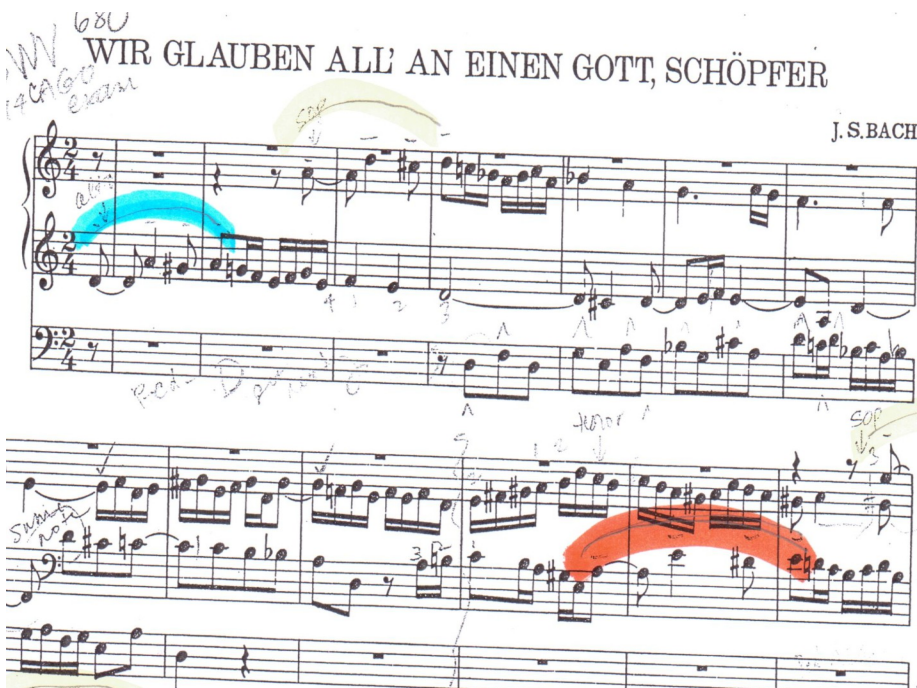
continued from page 1

Marilyn has collected reflections from some of you about what your churches are doing to cope, and is including them in this issue. At least we are all in this together, and it is good to share our stories with each other.

For several reasons, we regretfully need to postpone the April 26 Members' Recital at St. Stephen Lutheran Church in Woodbury. Although we were very much hoping the event could proceed, it is doubtful that the church will even be open by then, and even if it is, the organists would have needed to be in there ahead of time to practice.

As we continue to hunker down, I pray that you stay healthy, busy, and as relaxed possible. If you are sick, please let us know. You can contact me or Marilyn Rabbai, or Cathy O'Neill.

May you and your families enjoy the blessings of Easter, and a renewal of normal life in the near future.



*Organ practice is
spiritual practice. . . .*