

UPCOMING EVENTS



GREGORIAN
CHANT
ZOOM
WORKSHOP

JAN 24
4PM

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Sforzando

VOLUME 10, ISSUE 5



JANUARY 2021

Southwest Jersey Chapter American Guild of Organists



Joseph Routon

This is the transept organ, one of three organs, in the Oude Kerk (Old Church) in Amsterdam. It was built in 1658, but it was rarely used, so the pipes were removed in 1821 and used to build an organ in another church. In 1965, it was reconstructed, and in 2002 Flentrop completed it, making it sound again like a 17th century instrument. Photo by Joe Routon.

Dean's Message

-- by Vernon Williams



Happy New Year 2021! We are all looking forward to things getting back to normal at some point in 2021, which in itself makes the New Year most welcome and auspicious. May our hopes come to fruition soon!

Another thing to look forward to is Vicki Nichols' January 24th Zoom presentation on Gregorian Chant. Vicki will draw on her years of choral directing experience to help us understand what chant is, why it matters, how to read it, and how to teach it to choirs. She will sing examples for us, and we'll have opportunities to sing as well—on mute, of course!

And what about the usual New Year's habit of taking a step back and looking at priorities and goals? Given that most of us were forced to take at least one step back months ago, I'm sure we would rather get back to work than ruminate. However, the changes in our work do offer some possibilities, if we can find the time to take



“...with all the COVID restrictions that are in place, this might be the perfect time to introduce this very special music to your singers and congregations....”

Sub-Dean's Report -- by Vicki Nichols

Hi Everyone! On **Sunday, January 24th at 4:00 PM**, I will be presenting a workshop on Gregorian chant. It will be presented via Zoom and a link will be sent out in an email when the day gets closer. During the workshop we will examine what chant is and why it matters. I will give a brief history of chant, we will explore chant notation, I will go over some of the basic chants from a Compline service, and I will talk about some of the chant resources that are available. I'm hoping we can have a little audience participation during the workshop and there will also be time for questions at the end. Gregorian chant is a passion of mine and several

years ago I started a choir at my church that specializes in singing chant. My choir learned how to read neumes (chant notation) and now prefer neumes to modern notation when they sing chant. One of the great things about Gregorian chant is that it works with just one singer, it works with small choir, and it works with large choirs. And with all the COVID restrictions that are in place, this might be the perfect time to introduce this very special music to your singers and congregations. So if you ever wanted to know more about Gregorian chant here is your chance! I hope you are able to attend! *Editor's note: watch your email for the Zoom link as we near 1/24/21*



Matters of Note



Sunday, January 3 at 4:00 PM Pacific Time, (7:00PM our time): “**Around the World in 80 Minutes,**” a new program featuring Dr. Jeannine Jordan, organist and Dave Jordan, video artist. Their program, “From Sea to Shining Sea,” was a chapter favorite in 2017. This program is offered free of charge by St. Paul's Episcopal Church of Salem, OR. *See poster on page 6.*

Now until January 6: Morning Prayer for the Nativity of Our Lord and the Festival of St. Stephen presented by members of the choir of St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Woodbury, under the direction of Lawrence DePasquale. To access the program, go to ststephenselca.org. *See poster on page 7.*

Our Regional Councillor, Wayne Wold, included this announcement in his January 2021 message to Mid-Atlantic chapter leaders: "We have some exciting leadership changes in our region. **Newly appointed as District Convener for New Jersey is Evelyn Larter**, who I know will do a wonderful job. Many thanks to Preston Dibble who has served admirably in this role for the last several years. And congratulations to new members on our Regional Nominating Committee: Eileen Guenther, Keith Ferguson, and John Walker. Mary Eileen Johnston and Stewart Holmes were re-appointed to the committee for another term. Thanks to all who serve!" **Congratulations, Evelyn!**

Kevin Simons, the new editor at Saint James Music Press, is eager to introduce their extensive catalog to more church musicians. All their music comes with permission to photocopy and livestream for an annual subscription of \$139. He recently contacted Evelyn Larter, whose music they publish, with an offer to set up any of her contacts in the chapter with a free account. If you are interested, please email Evelyn at erlar-ter@juno.com with the name of your church and your preferred email address.



Evelyn Larter is AGO's new District Convener for New Jersey

Programs at a Glance

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



Sunday, January 24 2021 at 4:00PM:
Zoom Workshop with Vicki Nichols
Gregorian Chant

Watch your email for meeting link....

February 2021:
Online Workshop from AGO National
date TBA

March 2021:
Masterclass
Guest artist and date TBA

April 9, 2021:
Retreat at the Jesuit Center for Spiritual
Growth
Wernersville, PA

May 2021:
Girard College Organ Crawl and Tour
date TBA

July 2021:
Annual Picnic and Meeting at the home of
Vicki Nichols, date TBA

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.

Editor's note: We have a couple of inquiries in progress and, thanks to Vernon Williams, an updated brochure. (see next page) Please feel free to print out and encourage qualified applicants to submit this form.

The Scholarship

The Organ Scholarship of the Southwest Jersey Chapter of the American Guild of Organists provides a term of 14 introductory organ lessons for qualified persons wishing to begin study of the organ.

Eligibility

All applicants must possess the following qualifications:

- ◆ Must reside in the Southwest Jersey geographical area.
- ◆ Must have received little or no previous formal classical organ training.
- ◆ Legs must be long enough to reach the pedalboard.
- ◆ At least an intermediate piano proficiency (see *audition requirements below*).
- ◆ Basic knowledge of theory, including G and F clefs, key signatures, meter signatures, and chords.
- ◆ Must have access to an organ on which to practice. The organ console must either 1) conform to AGO standards having at least two 61-note manuals and a full pedalboard, or 2) conform to historical mechanical action standards.
- ◆ Must commit to completing 14 lessons and the jury within four to six months.

Inquiries

Address questions or inquiries to:

Vernon Williams
email: vwilliams@trinitymoorestown.org
phone: 856-235-0811

Application Procedure

Send completed applications to:

Vernon Williams
Trinity Episcopal Church
207 West Main Street
Moorestown, NJ 08057

In addition to the application form, applicants are asked to include on a separate sheet a brief statement of their goals and objectives for study and a summary of their musical background and experience.

The Audition

The audition is scheduled once the application has been received... Auditions will be played on the piano. No memorization is required.

Prepared pieces

- ◆ Any Bach Two-Part Invention or one selection from the *Anna Magdalena Notebook*
- ◆ One movement from a sonatina by Mozart, Haydn, Beethoven, Clementi, or Kuhnau
- ◆ One hymn written in traditional four-part harmony

Sight-reading

- ◆ Two short pieces: one in common time, the other in another meter

The Lessons

Lessons are arranged at the mutual convenience of the teacher and student, ideally on the organ where the student practices. In any event, at least one lesson per month will take place on the organ where the student practices.

Students will learn how to practice and will become acquainted with registration, articulation, and pedaling, through the practice and preparation of hymns, teaching pieces, and repertoire.

Students will be required to have appropriate shoes (as recommended by their teacher) before the second lesson.

Students will provide at their expense the necessary hymnal and books required by the teacher. (Generally hymnals may be borrowed from the student's church.) Photocopied music is illegal, contrary to the Guild's *Code of Ethics*, and may not be used.

The Jury

At the conclusion of the 14 weeks of study, the student will be required to play before a jury:

- ◆ Two of the following four-part hymns (at least one of the hymns must be played with pedal):

Nicaea *Lobe den Herren*
Ein feste Burg *Olifret*
Hymn to Joy
New Britain (Amazing Grace)
Herzlich tut mich verlangen
(Passion Chorale)

- ◆ The Doxology (*Old Hundredth*) in any of the standard forms
- ◆ One pedal-alone passage of a Bach chorale or from a method book, at least 16 measures long
- ◆ A trio exercise or a chorale trio
- ◆ A prelude or fugue from Bach's *Eight Little Preludes and Fugues*



Application

DATE _____

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE, ZIP _____

PHONE _____ BEST TIME TO CALL _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

Your Place of Practice

NAME OF PRACTICE LOCATION (Church, Temple, etc.) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, STATE _____

TYPE AND BUILDER OF ORGAN (if known) _____

Your Keyboard Background

YEARS OF PIANO STUDY _____

LIST ANY PREVIOUS CLASSICAL ORGAN STUDY _____

Your Goals and Musical Background

Please include on a separate sheet a brief statement of your goals and objectives for organ study and an outline of your musical background and experience.

Purpose

The organ scholarship awarded by the AGO is necessary in order:

1. To serve the congregations by increasing the roster of capable organists.
2. To foster an appreciation for sacred classical organ repertoire.
3. To encourage more musicians to meet the standards and ideals of the American Guild of Organists.
4. To ensure the continuation of the church music profession.

History

In the 1980's a decline in the number of qualified organists and in the number of new organ students became a concern for churches and Guild chapters across the country.

Inspired by an innovative "floating organ academy" begun in South Dakota and described in an article in *The American Organist*, AGO member Helen Taylor founded the Southwest Jersey Organ Scholarship program in 1988 as a way to help solve this problem. The first committee members were Marilyn Rabbai, Barbara Knight, Joyce Ann Routon, and Larry DePasquale.

Since its inception, more than two dozen organists have successfully completed the program. Many of these new organists have gone on to successful careers in area churches.

The Southwest Jersey Chapter is pleased to continue this tradition of service to its churches and to the art of organ playing.

AGO Code of Ethics

Approved by the AGO National Council January 27, 2017

Preamble/Preface

The American Guild of Organists encourages its members to embrace and practice the following values as core ideals that Guild members aspire to cultivate in their ethical and professional conduct.

Value 1. Responsible Conduct toward Those Whom We Serve (including but not limited to clergy, supervisors, congregants, choir members, students, children, et al.). Members shall:

- o Treat those whom they serve in a professional manner, with dignity, compassion, civility, and respect.
- o Show respect to those whom they serve, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, socio-economic status, disability, or medical condition.
- o Avoid any sort of abusive behavior, whether verbal, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional, or other.
- o Refrain from disclosing confidential or sensitive information about others obtained in the course of professional service, unless disclosure serves a compelling professional purpose or is required by law.

Value 2. Respect for Our Professional Colleagues. Members shall:

- o Maintain a professional attitude and act with integrity in relationships with colleagues, regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, age, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, marital status, socio-economic status, disability, or medical condition.
- o Respect the reputation and diversity of colleagues.

Value 3. Integrity in Our Professional Work. Members shall:

- o Honor and abide by the conditions and requirements of the job descriptions and work agreements to which they have knowingly agreed, so long as those provisions are in accord with all applicable federal, state and local laws.
- o Follow, as applicable, the principles of professional conduct that are expressed in the AGO Code of Professional Standards.
- o For the benefit of future generations of musicians and to preserve the instruments of our profession, use care to ensure that when playing an instrument, the institution's expected practices and requirements for the care of the instrument and its venue are met.

Organ Scholarship

for beginning students

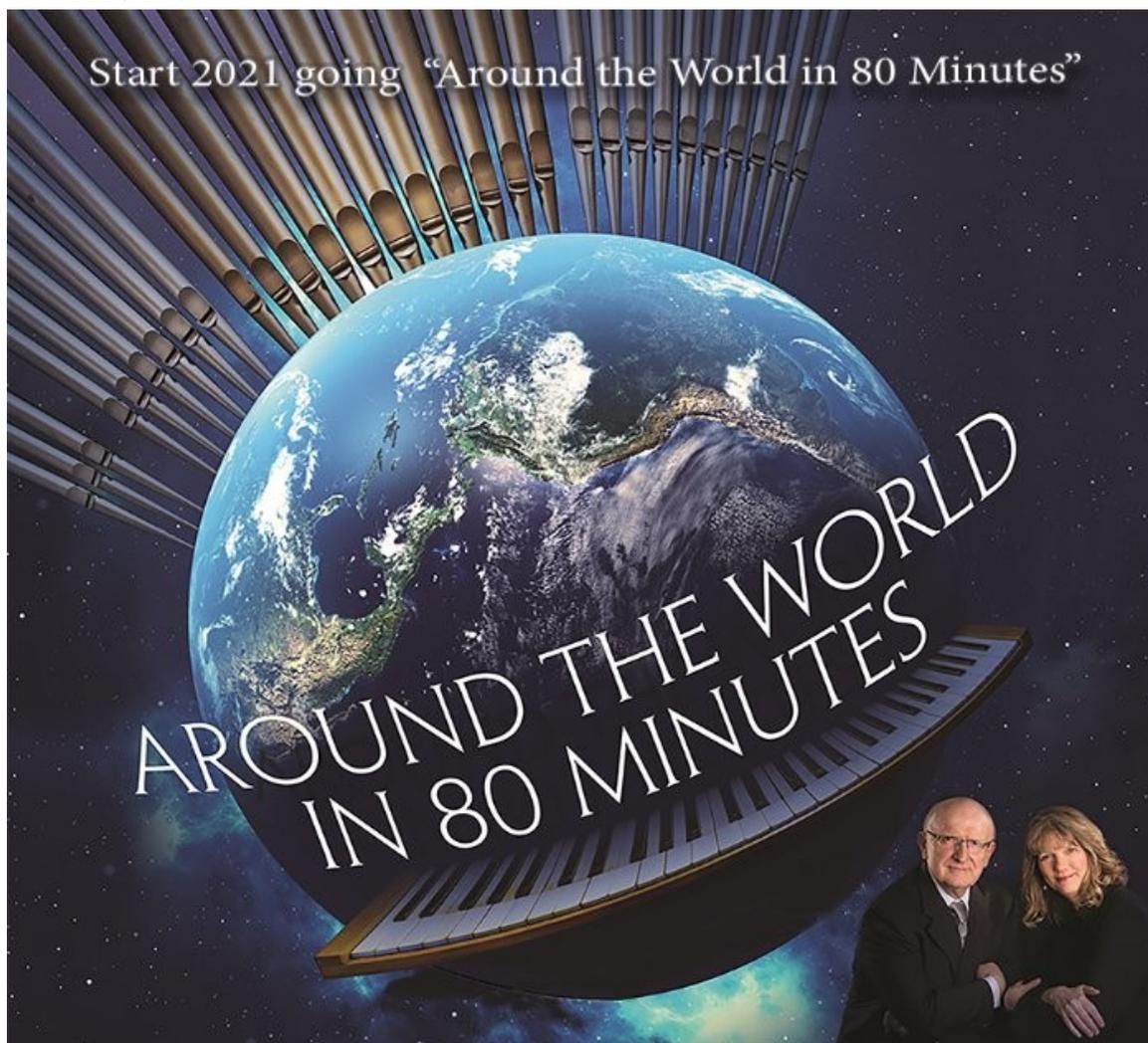


presented by

The Southwest Jersey
Chapter

of

The American Guild of
Organists



What?

After many successful live performances of this exciting concert, we now have the opportunity to share this event with the world.

See and experience the Online Premiere Performance of our multimedia organ concert *Around the World in 80 Minutes*.

When?

Sunday, January 3, 2021

4:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Where?

St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Salem OR

The concert was recorded live at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Salem, Oregon on the Kney tracker organ It will be broadcast via the church's YouTube Channel.

https://www.stpaulsoregon.org/pages/music-concerts?fbclid=IwAR1I8P9YXyCVwfHyfybmgYQ4ILRTjBwGWJKtpLayuIF6Wu_C7Zi95jN5s

**MORNING PRAYER FOR
THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD
and
THE FESTIVAL OF ST. STEPHEN**



ststephenselca.org

click on the "video" icon to access services

This liturgy will feature the office of Matins (Morning Prayer) from the
1978 Lutheran Book of Worship

which includes the Venite, Benedictus and Te Deum
with arias from Handel's Messiah and other music for the season
shared by members of St. Stephen's Choir, including
Carolyn Jennings' "Climb to the Top of the Highest Mountain" and
Handel's "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion."

Jason Puskar, liturgist; Deacon Lawrence De Pasquale, organist
Sarah Spivack, soprano; Diana Claps, mezzo soprano; Jesse Panico, tenor
Kenneth Carson, videographer

From the nave of St. Stephen Church, Woodbury

The recording will be accessible December 25 through January 6, 2021



2020-2021 SEASON

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January 23, 2021,
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Director: Jim Ludlam

March 6, 2021, 7pm
Salem Community
College



Tunes from the Crypt



October 24, 2020
Virtual Concert:
Information on our
Facebook Page!

World Music Festival: A Japanese Garden

April 9, 2021
Salem Community
College



Michiko
Otaki
&
Yumi
Kurosawa



Dulcet Guitar Duo

A Thanksgiving
Musical Offering

November 22, 2020, 6pm
Facebook Live:
Music Around the
County, Salem NJ



May 15, 2021, 6pm
Haven United
Methodist Church

Alex Pollock &
Caroline
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Hear The News The Angels Bring: Christmas Music ~ for Cello

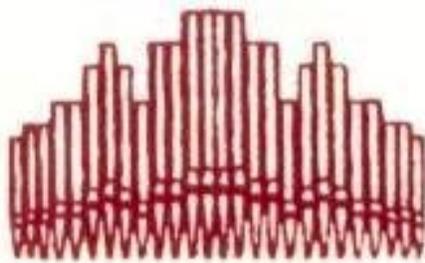
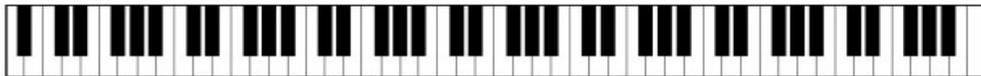
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www.evelynlartermusic.com

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— David Kim, Concertmaster of The Philadelphia Orchestra



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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)

St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Clarksboro - O/D, 10:00 service, adult choir with evening rehearsal. 2 manual Allen, additional services for Holy days. Services are temporarily being held using piano in Parish Hall to allow for social distancing. Contact Rev. Mantelle Bradley revmmb@comcast.net. (11/20)

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

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 Chuck Gibson, marked for "Musicians' Emergency Fund." Mail to: 691 Willow Grove Road, Monroeville, NJ 08343-4529.



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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 February 2021.

Deadline for articles, announcements, pictures and reports will be Monday, January 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

advantage of them.

For example, how about that choral library? If it is like ours at Trinity, it could use some TLC, and what better time to tackle that project than when the choir is on break? Do you have any extra time to practice? Maybe break out some music you've been wanting to learn or relearn. I have a bunch of those going at the moment. Could your music office space use some more organization or clean up? Another possibility.

Or perhaps you are so overwhelmed with the technical demands of online worship you have little time for anything else? It would still be good to take a moment to remember why we became organists to begin with, and that we still hope to inspire our congregations, and that we are lucky to have the opportunity to do that, as best we can.

As I've been in the "too busy" category this past fall, I am hoping to reinvigorate our chapter's projects in the new year. Vicki and her committee will be looking at our calendar of events to see how we might proceed this spring. One of my projects for early January is to reproduce the Members' Directory and distribute it. Our long-time and faithful treasurer, Gail Gassaway, passed along that task when she retired, and we are having to recreate it from scratch. But it will get done!

Onward and upward as we leave 2020 behind! Time for a fresh beginning. I wish all of you and your families a very Happy New Year!

Happy New Year!

