

Guild of Organists

A.G.O. Pipe Notes

August 2016



Soli Deo Gloria

*“Sing psalms,
hymns, and
spiritual songs
with gratitude
in your hearts
to God.”*

Colossians 3:16

Maryanne Beery, Dean
616-844-0317
E-mail: mbeery@fpgh.org

Richard Hoogterp, Sub-Dean
231-755-0141
E-mail: RichardHoogterp@gmail.com

Juanita Joiner, Editor
231-722-3689
E-mail: jrjoiner@comcast.net

Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter Website:
www.mlago.org

Facebook:
Muskegon Lakeshore AGO

From the Dean



Dear AGO Members,

Greetings from Grand Haven! It is my privilege to serve as your new Dean of the Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO Chapter. Thank you to Caron Farmer who led us for the last two years with imagination and energy. It is my hope you will take a moment to thank her at our events over the next season. Caron brought experience and knowledge of the National AGO happenings as well as keeping the pace of our local chapter moving steadily into the future. Thank you, Caron!

I am particularly grateful for all of the wonderful programs we hosted and presented during our 2015-2016 season. I have a few favorites, how about you? What did you attend recently which inspired you musically, spiritually, or artistically? Do you have ideas for future programs? I spent last week in Lexington, Kentucky while my daughter attended a Pipe Organ Encounter. I was fortunate enough to attend four organ recitals while in town, presented on five very different pipe organs. It was inspiring! All teachers for the POE played on a recital, and the week culminated with the students playing in recital. Young players, some who had never studied organ, some who had played for a year or two, and everything in between, stepped up to the instrument and played with poise and professionalism. Do you wonder what inspired these students? I wonder what inspires a 12 year old to study the organ, and then I'm reminded on Sunday morning when our own excellent organist plays our worship service. It is you, me, all of us, who share the joy and challenge of maintaining and growing the musical culture around us. Join me this season and be inspired. Play, sing, ring, and share the fortune of this chapter with our community

Sincerely,

Maryanne Beery

September Meeting

“Dinner, Installation of Officers & Reading Session”

Find that “one” favorite choir anthem or organ piece and share it during our reading session.

Delicious meal prepared by Lisa Harrison—\$15

More details coming SOON!

Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter

2016-2017

MARK THESE DATES NOW!!!

(Exact details and final dates will be published in your Sept. newsletter).

September 9, 2016

“Fall Kick Off”

**Dinner, Installation of Officers and Reading Session of Favorite Anthems
6:30 PM**

Cost: \$15

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Giles Road in North Muskegon.

October 9, 2016

“Young Artist Concert—Chase Loomer”

3 PM at Central United Methodist Church

November 6 or 13

“Peter Kurdziel’s DMA Project”

Details TBA

January 6, 2017

“Winter Social”

Shane Arkel’s Home

February 18 or 25, 2017

“Ringin In The Round”

Calvin CRC

Details TBA

March 12, 2017

“Young Artist’s Recital—Amanda Mole”

4 PM at First Presbyterian Grand Haven

April 9, 2017

“In Memoriam—Members’ Recital”

3 PM at First Congregational Church

May 7, 2017

“Hymn Festival with Bob Batastini”

Details TBA

We have a wonderful year planned for the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter and we hope that you will make plans to participate in many of the events during the coming year.

You won’t want to miss September so plan to start your AGO year out on the right foot.

Grand Rapids AGO Chapter

Monday, September 19 at 8 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church—

Organs in the Heartside Neighborhood

First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, September 25 at 4 PM

Schlitz Creek Bluegrass Concert



SONGS
OF
INSPIRATION

FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH, MUSKEGON
1201 JEFFERSON STREET (231) 726-3254

DONATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED FOR CHURCH MEMBER ERIC RETTIG
IN MAKING HIS VEHICLE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE.

PLEASE BRING A LAWN CHAIR OR BLANKET TO ENJOY THE EVENING!

Financial Report

As of July 31, 2016

General Fund

\$1,298.07

Scholarship Fund

\$2,289.51

Young Artist Fund

\$643.00



2016 Pillar Church Summer Organ Concert Schedule

**57 East 10th St. (Corner of 9th St. & College)
Holland, MI**

August 3	Pamela Ruitter Feenstra
August 10	Richard VanOss
August 17	David Schout
August 24	David Heinze
August 31	Jonathan Tuuk

Please take in as many of these concerts as you can...pair it with lunch and some shopping in downtown Holland.

Volunteers from around the continent keep music playing at Conklin Reed Organ Museum

HANOVER TWP., MI – Reed organs aren't expensive, whether you buy them or buy the materials to restore them. The real cost is in the labor hours it takes to keep them playing, as the average reed organ takes 100 hours to restore, said Sharon Folkerth from the Conklin Reed Organ Museum.

To meet this demand, 10 to 20 volunteers come to the Hanover Township museum for a weekend every month from March to October. Some from as far as California, Iowa and Ontario to help keep the museum's instruments up and running.

Ninety-nine functional reed organs sit inside the Reed Conklin Organ Museum – which is the former site of Hanover High School. Another 40-50 sit in the garage, waiting to be repaired. The group focused on two organs in the most recent workshop on July 22-23. The museum has the largest public collection of restored and working reed organs in the country.

Reed organs, also known as pump organs, differ from the less portable pipe organs in the way the sound is produced. They were in their heyday in the mid-to-late 1800s, Folkerth said, with many companies going out of business in the 1920s.

"One of the last things that really kept reed organs going was World War II, because they needed chaplain organs that could be portable and played without electricity," Folkerth said.

To make sound, reed organ players must continuously pump the foot pedals. Instead of pumping in rhythm with the music, experts change the speed to affect the volume of the music.

"It is different, because your expression is through the feet," said organist Rodney Jantzi. "With this, you've got to disconnect your feet from your brains and connect them to your emotions. Your feet become the artistic expression of the instrument rather than the rhythm of the instrument."

Jantzi and other volunteers take a break from the restoration process to play the variety of reed organs at the museum. While some volunteers don't play and only bring mechanical skills, many still gather around to listen.

Nancy Varner, who works with the Reed Organ Society, said the instruments strike a chord from many people's childhoods.

"I think some of them have gotten involved because they remember from their youth grandma had one in the parlor, and maybe the grandkids got to play it, maybe they did not," Varner said. "But they remember that. Then they came to be quite available, they began to get them."

Varner tells stories of people having to sell their reed organ during The Depression to buy pigs for food or to break down the instrument to use for firewood in desperate times. Before phonographs or stereos, live music was the only form of music in homes. Jantzi said a family could buy a reed organ for \$29. Many churches also found it as an affordable alternative to pipe organs, Jantzi said.

While the volunteers do minimal casework on the organs, many have years of experience in repairing reeds and other components to the instruments. They even welcome and find work for those not mechanically inclined.

"We got bit by the reed organ bug," Varner said. "We have all learned that they're like potato chips: You can't have just one. Sorry, but you can't."

Want to see/hear more? Click on this website and watch the video. <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=-F5Kklu4bXk>

It's a Grand Night for Singing! First

Congregational Church of Muskegon is proud to announce "Concert in the Courtyard" a benefit concert and Ice Cream Social. The program will take place on Sunday, August 14th at 7:00 pm on the church's beautiful lawn. Please bring a chair or blanket to enjoy the evening.

The program will be led by the vocal trio of Diane Goodman, Eric Rettig and Tom Clark known as "Sola Gratia." A group specializing in songs of inspiration. The concert will also include many of the talented musicians of FCC and the unique singing ensemble "Shema."

Following the performance will be a good old fashioned ice cream social in Julia Hackley Hall.

The concert is free and open to the public. Donations will be accepted for church member Eric Rettig in making his vehicle handicap accessible.

For more information please call the church office at 231-726-3254.



Next Meeting...

September 9, 2016

MISSION STATEMENT

The American Guild of Organists is an organization devoted to the advancement of organ and church music in the United States.

Since its founding in 1896, the Guild has grown from approximately 100 members clustered around New York to over 24,000 nationwide, with chapters in all 50 states and abroad. Synagogues and churches of all denominations and sizes are represented in the Guild's membership, which ranges from students to world-renowned recitalists and teachers.

The Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter currently has some 30 members serving churches throughout the Western Michigan area.

A.G.O. Pipe Notes
Juanita R. Joiner, Editor
63 W. Dale Ave.
Muskegon, MI 49441