

Guild of Organists

A.G.O. Pipe Notes

March 2016



Soli Deo Gloria

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

Colossians 3:16

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From the Dean



Dear AGO Members,

We had a very successful Handbell workshop on Saturday, February 27. We had over 50 ringers from about 7 or 8 different churches in the area. From the comments I heard as the ringers were leaving, everyone enjoyed him/herself. A big thank you to John Mattson at Central United Methodist Church for stepping in a week before the event and offering to host it. Everything went smoothly and it's because the people at Central did an amazing job! Thanks also to Tom Clark who secured the music and with his assistant, Eddie who provided the bagel breakfast which all enjoyed. We also appreciate so much the willingness of the various choirs who hauled bells for us to use.

Our Young Artist's concert is on Sunday, March 6, 2016 at 4:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven. Our organist is Madeleine Woodworth and I hope that many of you will be able to hear this up and coming performer. We are so fortunate to have the collaboration with churches in the area that lets us bring these fine young musicians to perform for us and our communities.

Finally, the deadline for scholarship applications for the Kolkema Scholarship Fund is March 31, 2016. Please encourage potential applicants to apply. This is another endeavor of which we can all be proud. Providing the where with all for aspiring organists to hone their skills is so important. As most of you already know, there aren't many folks studying organ these days and we need to encourage and support those who show an interest in the King of Instruments.

Caron Farmer



Happy Easter

**Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter
2015-2016 Events**

March 6, 2016 (Sunday)
“Young Artist: Madeleine Woodworth”
4 p.m.
First Presbyterian Grand Haven

April 15, 2016 (Friday)
“Practicing: the lesser of two
taxing realities!” with Huw Lewis
7 p.m.
Samuel Lutheran Church

May 13, 2016 (Sunday)
“Members’ Recital”
3 p.m.
First Congregational Church

June TBA—End of Year dinner

**Feeding the Soul of the City
2015-2016**

**All performances are held
Tuesdays from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m.
unless otherwise noted.**

March 22, 2016
“Quintessence Woodwind Quintet”

April 26, 2016
“Arthur Campbell and Helen Marlais”
Clarinet and Piano

May 24, 2016
“The Hildegard Singers”
Medieval Music

June 7, 2016
“GVSU Steel Drum Ensemble”

The Kolkema Scholarship Fund

It’s time to be thinking about applying for the Irene Kolkema Scholarship Fund.

A PDF document has been attached to your email or included in your mailed copy. The information about who can apply and other qualifying information is included on page two. **Applications must be submitted by March 31.** All notifications will be made by May 1.

Members’ Recital

It’s not too soon to be thinking about playing at our Members’ Recital on May 13. This is always a very special afternoon of music for not only our members but for the community. Keep in mind that you can do organ or organ plus. The variety in programming is always nice. This year’s concert will be held at First Congregation Church at 3 PM.

Change in Email Address

Susan Tindall has a new email address.
tinallpiano@gmail.com

**Financial Report
As of February 29, 2016**

**General Fund
\$707.58**

**Scholarship Fund
\$2,459.51**

**Young Artist Fund
\$883.00**

Submitted by: Juanita R. Joiner, Treasurer



Membership News

Please join me in welcoming **John Mehne** as our newest Chapter Friend. Please make him feel welcome with a call or an email.

Add the following information to your Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter Directory:

Address: 1420 Hansen Street
Muskegon MI 49445

Phone: 231-744-2041 / Cell 231-288-6935

Email: mehnejl@gmail.com

MARCH PROGRAM

March 6, 2016 — First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven — 4 PM

*Community Artist and Speaker Series
and
Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter of The American Guild of Organists*

present

Madeleine Woodworth, organist



*March 6, 2016
4:00 p.m.
First Presbyterian Church
508 Franklin Avenue
Grand Haven, Michigan*

*Freewill Offering
Reception following in the Church Lounge*

Madeleine Woodworth is a sophomore at the Eastman School of Music, studying organ with Nathan J. Laube. While at Eastman, she sings in the Christ Church Schola Cantorum,, performs in recitals in the Rochester area, and is active in student government, the Eastman Orientation Crew, and the professional music fraternity, Sigma Alpha Iota. Growing up in Oak Park, Illinois, Madeleine began studying piano at age 6 with Dr. Sally Sloane and organ at age 13 with Dr. Dennis Northway. In May 2014, she graduated as a music major from the Chicago Academy for the Arts where she studied with Rick Ferguson (piano), Jesse Langen (theory, composition, and new music), Daniel Bruce (jazz improvisation), and Alyssa Bennett (voice). Madeleine has attended six Pipe Organ Encounters, including the POE-Advanced in Rochester and in Ann Arbor. She recently won the Great Lakes Regional Competition for Young Organists in Indianapolis and will be featured as a “Rising Star” in the American Guild of Organists’ National Convention to be held in Houston in June 2016. Madeleine’s solo organ performances in the Chicago area include the “Bach and Beyond” series at the Marmion Abbey in Joliet, a concert as guest artist with the Gargoyle Brass ensemble in Indiana, a solo recital at St. John Cantius Church in Chicago, and a performance in the Organ Historical Society’s 2012 National Convention Chicago.

LEXINGTON, KY CHAPTER TO HOST GREAT LAKES REGION POE

Calling POE Students! On July 17-22, the Lexington, KY AGO chapter will host 20 young musicians at the Great Lakes Region Pipe Organ Encounter (POE).

Registration is currently open for all interested students. Applicants need not have any previous organ experience; all pianists and organists ages 13-18 are welcome and encouraged to apply.

For more than two decades, POEs have proven to be one of AGO’s most successful ventures in attracting young folks to the King of Instruments. Who do you know that could benefit from attending the POE in Lexington next summer? Point them to our website (www.lexingtonpoe2016.org) where they can **download our brochure**.

Our early-bird registration deadline is April 1, so don’t delay --- *we encourage you to complete the online registration process today!*

Questions should be directed to the POE Director, Zach Klobnak. You can reach him at zachary.klobnak@centre.edu. Lexington looks forward to welcoming a young person from your chapter!

**Pipe Organ
Encounter 2016**



American Guild of Organists
Lexington, Kentucky

July 17-22, 2016



Addressed organ with Pedal Console
Church of the Good Shepherd, Lexington, KY
©2016 by Tom Truitt

Church Autopsy

Floyd Farmer



For the November, 2015, issue of “Pipenotes” I wrote a column entitled *Church Econ 101* in which I put forth the premise that investing in good musicians is essential for the vitality of the church. This is a follow-up to that earlier column. A small book (102 pages) by Thom S. Rainer entitled **Autopsy of a Deceased Church: 12 Ways to Keep Yours Alive** does not directly address the matter of music in the parishes but there are some observations and suggestions that can and should be applied to the issue. Rainer’s observations are based upon a study of fourteen churches, which is not a particularly large sampling, but he did find certain commonalities in all of the parishes examined.

One finding particularly applicable to our music programs was that the dying and dead churches were not willing to expend the funds necessary for a vibrant outreach. (Page 44.) The “Great Commission” had become the “great omission.” In your own experience you have been told by parishioners that, “It was the music that attracted me to this church,” or, “It’s the music that keeps me coming to church.” What we do as church musicians is not for the benefit of the stained glass windows; it is for *people*, and without people parishes will die.

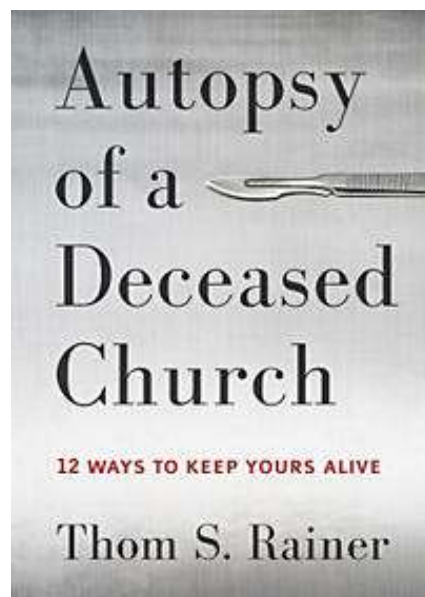
Another flaw found to be common in the dying churches was that they were obsessed over the facilities. (Page 77.) My guess is that you have never heard any parishioner say, “What really attracted me to this church and why my attendance is so regular is because of the carpeting, paint scheme, and pew cushions.” While all of those things, and others like them, may be aids to effective ministry, none of them can be *pastors* to the people. More than any other item in Rainer’s study it was the inward focus on a congregation’s own needs rather than the needs of others that caused the church to die. (Page 22.)

The reason for the “great omission” was because the people of the churches had lost their purpose. (Page 73.) These are churches that I would describe as having “no mission, no vision, no faith.” Many of us have known or even been part of such churches during our careers; parishes that had no idea of where they should be going, how to get there if they did know, and no belief that even with the help of the Holy Spirit they could accomplish their goal.

Budgeting is at the heart of the problem. Probably most if not all of you have been told that your salary cannot be raised or your benefits increased because “the money just isn’t there,” but has anyone every asked *why* the money isn’t there? Rainer found in his study that in most cases the churches that died did so because they cut the budget for programs and ministries that had an *outward* focus. (Page 34.) In other words, expenditures were going for “carpets and pew cushions” rather than music and ministries. Eventually there was less and less money in the budget to the point where even the heat and electric bills could not be paid and so the doors were shut for good.

I would suggest that we should not be timid in reminding our clergy and governing bodies that as organists and choirmasters we are part of the outreach and ministry of the congregation; that we and what we do are not only essential but fundamental to a healthy parish. Otherwise, and unless the churches heed that truism, the last service we play will be a funeral; for the church itself.

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Next Meeting...

March 6, 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
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