

Guild of Organists

A.G.O. Pipe Notes

September 2019



Soli Deo Gloria

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

Colossians 3:16

Richard Hoogterp, 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 ~ Richard Hoogterp

Greetings,

Our Chapter Year begins with Evensong Vespers and Installation of Officers at 4:00 PM, Sunday, September 15, at St. John's Episcopal Church in Grand Haven. The service will be led by St. John's Rector, Dr. Jared Cramer, and our Chaplain, Reverend Kenneth Michnay, with organist Nicholas Palmer. I expect this event to be engaging, inspiring and a fine way for us to begin the year. Those who wish will meet afterward at the Kirby House for dinner. (See details on page 3)

We are all aware that the tradition of formal prayer services, featuring especially the singing of Psalms, sometimes with a choir but always accompanied by the organ, is a centuries-old tradition in the Episcopal church and other denominations. I hope you are able to join us and perhaps bring a friend, too.

Pipes Spooktacular will be presented at 4:00 PM, Sunday, October 27, at First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven. Rob Hlebinsky invites area organists to prepare suitable scary music for this community-friendly annual event.

Our first Young Artist recital will take place at 3:00 PM on Sunday, November 10, at Central United Methodist Church. Our recitalist is Matthew Wachtman, a native of Defiance, Ohio. This personable young man is majoring in organ with Nicole Keller at Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio. Matthew competed in the Quimby Competition during the 2019 Grand Rapids AGO Convention.

The annual Twelfth Night Christmas Party will be at 6:30 PM, Friday, January 10, 2020 at the home of Shane Arkels. This time of fellowship and enjoying good holiday food and drink is always a welcome way to spend a winter evening.

A Choral Workshop, following on last year's very successful program, will take place on Saturday, February 29, from 9:00-11:00 AM at Mona Shores Middle School. Dr. Michael Match will again choose the music and conduct the workshop. Plan on alerting and inviting your choir singers well in advance of this fine educational opportunity.

The annual *In Memoriam: A Members' Recital* will be held at 3:00 PM, Sunday, March 15, at First Congregational Church, Muskegon. This program is always meaningful and represents a great opportunity to hear fine performances by our member organists and other musicians.

~ continued on page 3

Muskegon-Lakeshore AGO Chapter

2019-2020 Programs

Complete details will be printed in your directory.

September 15, 2019 (Sunday) 4 p.m.

“Vespers—Installation of Officers—Dinner”
St. John’s Episcopal Church—Grand Haven

October 27, 2019 (Sunday) 4 p.m.

“Pipes Spooktacular”
First Presbyterian Church—Grand Haven

November 10, 2019 (Sunday) 3 p.m.

“Young Artist: Matthew Wachtman”
Central United Methodist Church—Muskegon

December—No Scheduled Meeting

January 10, 2020 (Friday) 6:30 p.m.

“Twelfth Night Party”
Home of Shane Arkels—Muskegon

February 29, 2020 (Saturday) 9-11a.m.

“Choral Workshop” — Dr. Michael Match
Mona Shores MS Choir Room—Muskegon

March 15, 2020 (Sunday) 3 p.m.

“In Memoriam: A Members’ Recital”
First Congregational Church UCC—Muskegon

April 19, 2020 (Sunday) 4 p.m.

“Young Artist: Emily Amos”
First Presbyterian Church—Grand Haven

May 8, 2020 (Friday) Time TBA

“60th Anniversary Banquet and Celebration”
Prince of Peace Catholic Church—Muskegon

Feeding the Soul of the City

2019-2020

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

September 24, 2019

“AnDro, Celtic/world music”

October 22, 2019

“Matthew Ball, boogie-woogie piano”

November 26, 2019

“Lee Murdock, The Christmas Ship” (folk music)

December 8, 2019 5 p.m.

“Festival of Lessons & Carols”
Grand Rapids Choir of Men and Boys

December 17, 2019

“Christmas at the Organ” Peter Kurdziel

February 25, 2020

“Grand Valley Faculty Brass Quintet”

March 24, 2020

“Grand Rapids Guitar Quartet”

April 14, 2020

“Gregory Maytan, violin”

May 26, 2020

“Quintessence, Woodwind Quintet”

June 9, 2020

“Denise Newell, mezzo soprano and Caron Farmer, piano”

A Financial Report

As of August, 2019

General Fund
\$2,441.76

Scholarship Fund
\$3,230.51

Young Artist Fund
\$483.00



Contributions are always accepted!

*Submitted by: Juanita R. Joiner, Treasurer
(Feel free to ask for a more detailed report.)*

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Our membership for 2019-2020 stands at 33. We lost 4 members due to death, relocation and not joining this year. The good news is this...we have *two new members*.

Please join me in welcoming Denise Newell, Directory of Music at Samuel Lutheran and Nicholas Palmer, Director of Music at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Grand Haven.

Directories will be available at our September meeting...another good reason to attend!

We still are welcoming “new members”.

continued from page 1

Emily Amos will be our featured Young Artist at 4:00 PM, Sunday, April 19, at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Haven. Emily is a graduate of the Interlochen Arts Academy and is now enrolled at the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia, studying with Alan Morrison, Professor of Organ. Emily also competed in the Grand Rapids Regional Quimby Competition. Caron Farmer, Ron Vanderwest, other chapter members and I have heard both Emily and Matthew Wachtman perform and we are certain all will enjoy their splendid playing.

Finally, in recognition of our Chapter's 60th Anniversary, we are planning a Festive Banquet for the evening of Friday, May 8, 2020, at Prince of Peace Church in North Muskegon. Final details are pending, but it is hoped that this will be a fitting way to commemorate the history of the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

So, I am ready to experience the Evensong service on September 15, and it would be so wonderful if all our members could be in attendance to pray and sing together. A few of us will be duly installed as Chapter Board members, but every person in our chapter is important to our success and, in fact, existence. As always, feel free to contact me or any Board Member if you have a question, suggestion or concern. *Carry on, Dick Hoogterp*

A Look Down Memory Lane—I started being the Newsletter Editor in 2004 and so I'm reflecting back on one of my first publications when our Chaplain was John Brown. I was serving as Director of Music at First Baptist and asked him to write something for the newsletter. His thoughts were always special and to this day, still ring clear in my mind. The other gem I came across was in a bag of "chapter goodies" I still have in my possession. During this year I'll share Arnold Bourziel's first article to the newly formed Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter. (Yes, I really have that.) But for now, enjoy his announcement for that meeting that started it ALL. You'll find that on the back page. Enjoy!!

"Make A Joyful Noise!"—Psalm 100

Joy, gladness, singing, thanksgiving, praise! These are important elements in worship. Music is essential to creating this atmosphere in worship. Yes, worship is to glorify God, but it is also to open us to the experience of the presence and mystery of God. Music that is designed to stimulate feeling may not glorify God. Music that aims only at glorifying God may not help persons experience God. Joy is one test for music that glorifies God and helps persons experience the presence of God.

For years I could not see what people got out of worship that was expressive of what I thought was excessive feeling. The music was ordinary to say the least. The service lacked the order and structure that I find helpful. The sermon was more about feeling than thought. What did these people get out of worship? They got joy! I realized that to go to church with the ordinary burdens and struggles of life and receive two hours of joy was not a bad exchange. I still do not want that style of worship. It would not meet my needs. But can we learn from them that joy is a healing and strengthening power? And that worship that does not bring us joy is not all it could be.

Lord: "Help us come into his presence with singing that brings joy and gladness!." Amen.

Pastor John, First Baptist Church

Important Information

September 15 (Sunday)

**Vespers—Installation—Dinner
St. John's Episcopal Church
524 Washington Ave. Grand Haven**

At 4:00 p.m. we will have our Evensong Vespers and Installation of Officers. This is being planned by The Rev. Dr. Jared Cramer, Rector at St. John's Episcopal Church and Rev. Kenneth Michnay, Chaplain for the Muskegon-Lakeshore Chapter. Our organist will be Nicholas Palmer, Director of Music at St. John's Episcopal Church.

Afterwards we will have dinner together at The Kirby House in downtown Grand Haven. Reservations will need to be made to Michael Match at tenormatch@aol.com (click his address now and you'll be able email him immediately) or give him a call at 231-726-3254. Leave a message at the church office if he is not at his desk. Let's plan to have all reservations called in no later than September 12. Let's start the year out *together!*

Looking forward to seeing everyone on the 15th. Please feel free to invite your friends.

We are calling a meeting in
St. Paul's Church

Wed., April 27 at 8 p.m.

for the purpose of organizing
a Chapter of the A.G.O., and
invite you to communicate with

ARNOLD E. BOURZIEL
ST. PAUL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

1006 THIRD STREET
MUSKEGON, MICHIGAN
and present your application
to be made a Charter Member.

Next Meeting

September 15

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