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HERALD TROMPETTE

The monthly newsletter of the
Lancaster Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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DEAN'S LETTER

SINGING SONGS IN SEPTEMBER

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." ~ Colossians 3:16

Many of us are Church musicians playing the organ for the worship service - prelude, responses, Psalm singing, offertory, hymn accompaniments, choral/solo accompaniments, postlude, (and probably more), but do we know the most important task assigned to us out of that list? Yes, it is playing the hymns! (I'm sure we knew that.) At our March meeting this past spring, Frank Dodd reminded us of that when he said, "Every hymn we play is an opportunity to preach! That is our chance to not only invite the congregation to sing, but to do so heartily."

This September your Program Committee has organized, as our opening event, a picnic and officer installation followed by a community hymn sing at Memorial United Methodist Church in Quarryville. I am digressing here as I ask you to please note Ross Ellison's appeal, later in the newsletter, for players for that service. You may select a hymn or be willing to play some impromptu favorites. Here is your opportunity to expand your hymn playing skills.

In Frank's March meeting, he referred to Methodist John Wesley's "Directions for Singing" (1716). As September's meeting is in a Methodist Church, I am listing them here to encourage us and them in our singing.

That this part of Divine Worship may be the more acceptable to God, as well as the more profitable to yourself and others, be careful to observe the following directions:

1. *Learn these Tunes before you learn any others; afterwards learn as many as you please.*



(Continued on page 2)

- II. *Sing them exactly as they are printed here, without altering or mending them at all; and if you have learned to sing them otherwise, unlearn it as soon as you can.*
- III. *Sing All. See that you join with the congregation as frequently as you can. Let not a slight degree of weakness or weariness hinder you. If it is a cross to you, take it up and you will find a blessing.*
- IV. *Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead, or half asleep; but lift up your voice with strength. Be no more afraid of your voice now, nor more ashamed of its being heard, than when you sung the songs of Satan.*
- V. *Sing modestly. Do not bawl, so as to be heard above or distinct from the rest of the congregation, that you may not destroy the harmony; but strive to unite your voices together, so as to make one clear melodious sound.*
- VI. *Sing in Time: whatever time is sung, be sure to keep with it. Do not run before nor stay behind it; but attend closely to the leading voices, and move therewith as exactly as you can. And take care you sing not too slow. This drawling way naturally steals on all who are lazy; and it is high time to drive it out from among us, and sing all our tunes just as quick as we did at first.*
- VII. *Above all sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing. Aim at pleasing him more than yourself, or any other creature. In order to this attend strictly to the sense of what you sing, and see that your Heart is not carried away with the sound, but offered to God continually; so shall your singing be such as the Lord will approve of here, and reward when he cometh in the clouds of heaven."*

"O come, let us sing unto the Lord: let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation." ~ Psalm 95:1

- Greg Gehman, Dean

CHAPTER PROGRAMS



SEPTEMBER PICNIC, OFFICER INSTALLATION, & HYMN-SING



Sun, Sept 26, Memorial United Methodist Church, Quarryville

This is our first event of the year and is designed to bring us all together for the start of a new season.

Our indoor picnic (for AGO members and families only) will begin at 5:00 p.m. Meat and paperware will be supplied. The rest of the meal is potluck and supplied by you – a salad, vegetable dish, and/or desert – hot or cold. We will eat whatever you bring. **The officer installation will begin around 6:30 pm.** Please email Ross Ellison, mail@universitymusic.com to let us know you are coming and how many.

The main event, a Hymn Sing (open to the public) follows at 7:00 p.m. We are planning on have member organists to accompany many favorite hymns (some you, as player, select) and others called out on the spot. We would love to have you join us in being one of the players – please email Ross Ellison (email above) to let him know as soon as possible.

So the details : The date is Sunday, September 26 with Picnic at 5:00 p.m., Officer Installation at 6:30, and Public Hymn Sing at 7:00. Memorial United Methodist Church is our host this year. They are located at 101 S. Hess St., Quarryville, PA. See you there!

21-22 PROGRAM CALENDAR

Sun, Sept. 26 5 PM / 6:30 PM / 7 PM
Picnic/Officer Installation/Hymn-Sing
Memorial United Methodist Church
101 South Hess St., Quarryville

Mon, Oct. 18 7 PM
Wilbur Held Masterclass (David Schelat)
Church of the Apostles
1850 Marietta Ave, Lancaster

Sat, Nov 13 7 PM
Starlight Tea Concert Series:
Organ/Piano/Harpsichord Duets
Lancaster Church of the Brethren
1601 Sunset Ave, Lancaster

Wed, Dec. 29 7 PM
Christmas at the Organ:
Carol Sing & Recital
Highland Presbyterian Church
500 East Roseville Rd, Lancaster

Sat. Jan 11 8:30 AM - 4 PM
January Jumpstart
St. David's Episcopal Church
763 South Valley Forge Rd, Wayne

Mon, Feb 7 6:15 PM
Member's Recital & Repository Shopping:
Favorite Hymn Arrangements
Westminster Presbyterian Church
2151 Oregon Pike, Lancaster

March - date TBD Time: TBD
Louis Vierne:
The Blind Organist of Notre Dame
Lititz Church of the Brethren
300 West Orange St, Lititz

April - date TBD 7 PM
Silent Movie Night (Don Kinnier)
Location: TBD

Mon, May 9 5:30 PM
Annual Chapter Banquet & Meeting
Lancaster Church of the Brethren
1601 Sunset Ave, Lancaster

June - date TBD 7 PM
Lancaster Summer Arts Festival
Organ Recital
Location: TBD

REMINDERS

- **The Herald Trompette newsletter deadline** is the 20th of each month. Please send all submissions to our Chapter's Newsletter Editor, Frank Dodd: frankdodd1@gmail.com.
- **Membership Directory:** Sometime very early this month, we would encourage you to go online to On-Card and make any necessary updates, corrections, and/or additions to your membership information. We are preparing an updated membership directory later this month. Once we have the first draft completed, we will email it out to members to confirm that their information is correct. If it isn't, we will tell you who to contact to make those changes. By the beginning of October, we are hoping to email you a final, up-to-date, electronic version for 2021-2022.

REPORTS

July Executive Board Meeting Minutes

None—the board does not meet in July.

- Jenny Fritsch, *secretary*

Treasurer's Report

Bank Acct Name:	Balance:
Checking	\$15,680.85
Beginning Organist	\$4,100.04
Lunt/McConnell	\$4,200.03
Concert Savings	\$12,216.95
Check/Donations	\$118.76
Total	\$36,316.63
8/19/2021	

-Patricia Bleecker, *treasurer*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Many boxes of organ and choral music by American composer John Mitcheltree were donated to the Chapter Repository by his surviving niece, Judy Kruse who lives in Lancaster. This collection consists of hundreds of new copies of his compositions and will be made available for free to you—our Chapter Members—at our February 2022 repository shopping meeting. Please contact Frank Dodd (frankdodd1@gmail.com) if you'd like to arrange a look at the music before February. [HERE](#) is a bio/obituary on Mitcheltree.

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Dear AGO friends,

Let me welcome you to share in the memorial service for Carolyn, my beloved wife of nearly 60 years. The service begins at 2 p.m. on Saturday 25 September at Grace Lutheran Church, North Queen & James, with a half-hour prelude starting at 1:30 p.m., to include music performed by our daughters Cindy & Susan and myself and with Dara Burkholder Morales, former student with Carolyn, daughter of our member Donna Burkholder, and now Assistant Principal of the Violin II section of Philadelphia Orchestra. Dr. David McConnell of Grace Church will accompany Dara, play the service, and direct those of the choir able to be present. All baptized Christians are welcome to receive Communion with us. It is likely that, by that time, the pastor will wish everyone to wear masks, especially when singing. Carolyn chose some great hymns for her service. :-)

If you park in the city parking garage at 424 North Queen, a half-block from the church, please ask your usher at the church for a parking ticket to use along with the ticket you receive at the garage, to cover the cost of parking.

I'll miss Carolyn 'till my own dying day, but she is at peace. Therefore I am also at peace.

- Karl Moyer

IN MEMORIAM



Otis Kitchen
1931-2021

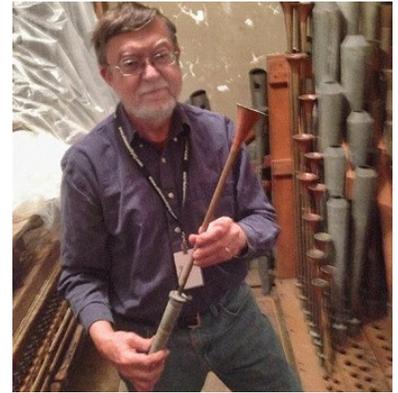
Our Chapter acknowledges and sends our sympathy to the family and friends of Otis Kitchen, a long-time Chapter member, who passed away July 20, 2021.

You can read his obituary [HERE](#).

Raymond Brunner
1949-2020

In case you missed it, Lancaster Co. and the organ building world lost an important figure last November with the death of Ray Brunner.

You can read his obituary [HERE](#).



WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS!

A warm welcome to the following new or returning members:

None to report this month.

SUBSTITUTES & POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Chapter Substitutes List

Please check www.lancasterago.org for the current list. This list is published as a courtesy by the Lancaster AGO Chapter. The Lancaster AGO Chapter assumes no responsibility for the musicianship or reliability of substitute organists.

Positions Available

Please check www.lancasterago.org for the current list. If you wish to list available positions here, please email your info to the Chapter's Placements Chairperson: Dr. Terry Heisey (terryleb@aol.com)

LOCAL EVENTS

The following events are local organ, choral, or sacred music related presentations taking place during coming month. Submission are due by the 20th of the preceding month for inclusion in the newsletter.

Wanamaker Organ Day

More details and evening concert tickets at wanamakerorgan.com



The banner features a background image of a person playing an organ. The text 'Experience' is in the top left. The main title 'Wanamaker Organ Day' is in a large, yellow, cursive font. Below it, 'Our Annual Extravaganza!' and 'Saturday September 25' are in white. At the bottom, there are five small inset images: Peter Richard Conite, Raul Prieto Ramirez, Philadelphia Brass, John Baratta, and Rudy Lucente. To the right of these images, it says 'Full Details and Evening Concert Tickets at wanamakerorgan.com'.

LOCAL EVENTS: cont'd

Sun, Sept 12, 4 PM
Freewill Offering

Organist Eric Plutz in Concert

Grace Lutheran Church
Lancaster, PA

A belated celebration of the Sesquicentennial birth of Louis Vierne (2020). This concert is in conjunction with the one scheduled on September 10, 2021, 7:30 p.m., at Christ Episcopal Church, Reading, PA. Mr. Plutz will perform Symphonies 1, 3, & 5 on Friday, September 10, at Christ Episcopal Church (Reading, PA), and Symphonies 2, 4, & 6 on Sunday at Grace Lutheran. Masks required for Grace Lutheran concert attendance, in accordance with CDC guidelines.



LANCASTER CHAPTER AGO LEADERSHIP

ELECTED OFFICERS

Dean	<i>Greg Gehman ('23)</i>
Sub-Dean	<i>Ross Ellison ('23)</i>
Secretary	<i>Jenny Fritsch ('22)</i>
Treasurer	<i>Patricia Bleecker ('22)</i>
Member-at-large	<i>Deborah Berdos ('22)</i>
Member-at-large	<i>John Zielinski ('22)</i>
Member-at-large	<i>John Kracker ('23)</i>
Member-at-large	<i>Christopher Prestia ('23)</i>
Auditor	<i>Elaine Severein ('21)</i>
Auditor	<i>Roger Kurtz ('21)</i>

APPOINTED POSITIONS

Chaplain	<i>Bob Kettering</i>
Historian/Archivist	<i>Jenny Fritsch</i>
Hospitality	<i>Margaret Marsch</i>
Newsletter Editor	<i>Frank Dodd</i>
Placements/Subs	<i>Terry Heisey</i>
Publicity	<i>Kyle Postlethwait</i>
Registrar	<i>Deborah Berdos</i>
Webmaster	<i>John Zielinski</i>

STANDING COMMITTEES

Program Committee: *Ross Ellison, chair ('23); Margaret Marsch ('22); John Huber ('21); vacant*

Scholarship Committee: *David Schulz ('22); Peter Brown; ('23); vacant*

Nominating Committee:



Lancaster Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
c/o Frank Dodd
817 Eden Rd
Lancaster, PA 17601