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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

In Pursuit of Life's Passion

*5 Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.
6 In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths.
~ Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV)*

I grew up in a General Conference Mennonite Church. I make that remark because that meant that the music in our services was provided and accompanied by the organ. That's in contrast to most Mennonite Churches in Lancaster County. At some point in my early years the sound of the organ became appealing to me, but I thought, "Well, that's something I'll probably never do." As I grew, I always loved hearing the organ. I started piano lessons in third grade, but by eighth grade I stopped in order to work pumping gas at my dad's gas station, however, I did continue to play on my own. The real opportunity came when I was 24 and our organist retired. I was asked to consider playing which I did and started lessons and even bought a console organ with the 25 pedals.

A few months back, Jenny Fritsch handed me an article that her late husband, Rick, had saved from Family Circle magazine from May 2004, pages 28-30. She intended to pass it along for someone to respond to and that finally happened when the Board met at her house and the article was conveniently handy. It was titled, "In Pursuit of Life's Passion" by Katrina Kenison.



Katrina writes about her young son's choice to study organ. In seventh grade and writing in a journal required by his teacher, he chose to write about choices. That fact was his dad and mom have made most choices



(Continued on page 2)

for him. This year, for the first time, some of those choices would be falling to him. Would he play soccer along with nearly every boy in his grade or would he forgo the team and take organ lessons instead? Should he ski on Thursday afternoons with his classmates, or use that time for music practice? Should he drop his cello and concentrate on organ and piano, or should he juggle all three? And the choices continued. What he chose would have a big impact on his life, then as a young boy and later as an adult.

This is the "Year of the Young Organist." I'm wondering what choices and perhaps challenges are "our young organists" facing? How can we encourage them to feed their souls, work at things that matter, how to bring shape and meaning to their lives? Perhaps, high up in the organ loft, they are hearing a call - a call to be true to themselves, to choose well, and say "yes" to the challenges ahead.

2 All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits.

3 Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established.

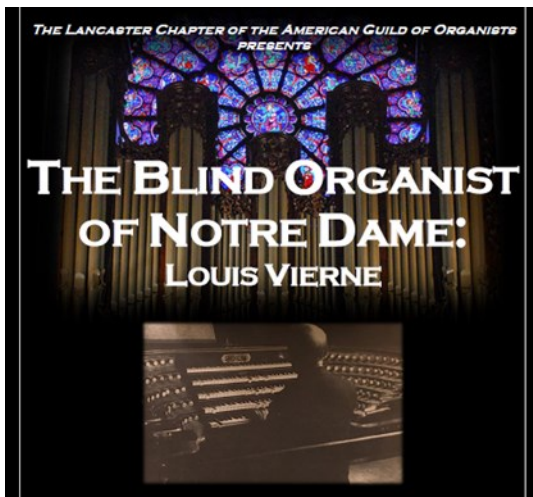
~ Proverbs 16:2-3 (KJV)

- Greg Gehman, *Dean*

CHAPTER PROGRAMS

MARCH MEETING

The Blind Organist of Notre Dame: Louis Vierne



March 20 will be an important date for our chapter -- the long-awaited program on the life of Louis Vierne. This program was originally scheduled for the spring of 2020, to commemorate the 150th anniversary of Vierne's birth. However, the appearance of the coronavirus necessitated our rescheduling this program several times. Here it is, two years later than originally planned, but largely intact. This program will feature a combination of narration, slides, and the music of Louis Vierne. Chapter members who are playing include Mark Herr, Deb Berdos, Ross Ellison, Chris Prestia, John Zielinski, and Margaret Marsch. Music for harmonium, organ, and piano will be featured, including several movements from Vierne's organ symphonies and his

beloved Carillon de Westminster. This wonderful program will take place at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 20, at Lititz Church of the Brethren. Their large 4-manual Gundling/Walker instrument will serve well to showcase Vierne's organ music. The program is open to the public, and we encourage all of our chapter members to attend as well as to promote this program in their respective churches. A \$10 donation is suggested for enjoying the presentation.

See the end of this newsletter for a full-size, printable poster of this event that we encourage you to post at your places of worship and/or to distribute within the community.

PROGRAMS CONT'D

APRIL MEETING

Silent Movie Night with Don Kinnier

April's meeting will provide us with a different perspective of organ playing. Don Kinnier will be accompanying a silent film on First Church's Mohler pipe organ. Don will be accompanying the silent film, "Sherlock, Jr.," starring Buster Keaton and Catherine McGuire. The film runs 45 minutes. It is a romantic comedy, made in 1924, and features some of Keaton's best visual trickery. The film will be followed by a discussion about playing for silent movies - what goes into turning the action that you see into music that you hear. The date is Friday, April 22 at 7:00 pm. First United Methodist Church is located at 68 North Church Street, Ephrata. We hope by then that First Church's organ will no longer be "under arrest" - see picture.



(Don explains, "The slide in the picture was the first illustration for the Pastor's sermon on the importance of rest (as in the Sabbath, but also rest in general). The techies were checking the slides for the day and that was on the wall when I got there to play for church.")

UPCOMING

FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

There are two upcoming events planned for young organists. Contact local organ teacher and Lancaster Chapter Member, Margaret Marsch, to sign-up or for more info. Her contact information is below.

- 1. Open Console Day at Longwood Gardens—Sat., April 23 is Open Console Day at Longwood Gardens - young organists can sign up to play for five minutes on the massive Longwood organ. Let me know if you're able to do this as I'd like to sign us all up in a block if possible. I believe Longwood entrance is \$16 for students, \$22 for adults.*
- 2. Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall Auditorium Organ Tour—Rudy Lucente, the Longwood organist who will do the registration on the Longwood Organ Day, has also offered to give us an inside tour of the humongous Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall Auditorium Organ. This is the largest pipe organ in the world with 7 manuals, and over 33,000 pipes, including a full 64' rank! I'm hoping this will be a Saturday in June. He's checking with the staff there to give us a date.*



These are some pretty nice opportunities for our young organists!

Margaret Marsch

717 341-1724

margmarsch@gmail.com

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 15 8 AM - 4 PM
January Jumpstart
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue, Bryn Mawr, PA
19010
Register in November at agophila.org
Cost: AGO members - \$40, None-members -
\$60, Students - \$10, lunch included

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

Sun, Mar 20 4 PM
Louis Vierne:
The Blind Organist of Notre Dame
Lititz Church of the Brethren
300 West Orange St, Lititz

Fri, Apr 22 7 PM
Silent Movie Night (Don Kinnier)
First United Methodist Church
68 North Church Street, Ephrata

Mon, May 9 5:30PM doors open
6PM banquet 7PM meeting
Annual Chapter Banquet & Meeting
Lancaster Church of the Brethren
1601 Sunset Ave, Lancaster

Thurs, Jun 9 7 PM
Lancaster Summer Arts Festival
Organ Recital
Historic St. Mary's Church
119 S. Prince St, Lancaster

IN MEMORIAM

- Lancaster Chapter member, Harold "Skip" Rhodes, Jr. passed away on Wednesday, February 9, 2022. His obituary can be read [HERE](#). Harold was the father of Jenny Fritsch, our Lancaster Chapter Secretary.

REPORTS

March - Executive Board Meeting Highlights

1. Nominating committee now filled, to begin search for open positions
2. Need players for Summer Arts concert
3. Board members met with John Dixon, Elizabeth George of National AGO, received advice for investing funds
4. Repository sales of \$213 to be deposited in Beginning Organist Scholarship fund.

- Jenny Fritsch, *secretary*

Treasurer's Report

2/20/22

Bank Acct Name:	Balance:
Checking	\$18,177.65
Beginning Organist	\$4,278.27
Lunt/McConnell	\$4,438.28
Fritsch Concert Savings	\$13,487.65
Checking/Donations	\$118.76
Moyer Concert Fund	\$20,000.65
Total	\$60,501.26

-Patricia Bleecker, *treasurer*



IN OTHER NEWS

Pipe Organ Encounter Plus (POE+)

Registration is now open for the **Pipe Organ Encounter Plus (POE+)** hosted by the Lehigh Valley Chapter AGO. The dates are **June 12-17**. It is open to keyboard players 19 and older who want to play the organ or currently play the organ in a church or synagogue. This is a rewarding opportunity to learn about the pipe organ and its construction, receive instruction from experienced faculty, visit, hear and play outstanding instruments, and meet and interact with peers who share an interest in the King of Instruments. Participants should have achieved an intermediate level of keyboard proficiency. Previous organ study is not required. AGO membership is not required. All are welcome! This POE+ takes place in the Allentown, PA area with housing and meals on the campus of Muhlenberg College in Allentown. Rooms are single occupancy and hotel accommodations are possible as well as commuting. A brochure is available at www.lvago.org under the **POE+** heading. More information including pricing and steps for registration will be found there.

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.

Fri, Feb 25, 2022, 7:30 PM

Market Square Presbyterian Church

Internationally renowned concert organist Ken Cowan will present a dedicatory recital on the new 4-manual, 86-rank LeTourneau organ. He will play works by Bach, Saint-Saens, Wagner and Widor. Admission is free, but tickets must be obtained in advance at www.marketsquarechurch.org/concerts. Seating is limited and masking is required. Parking is available in the adjacent Market Street Garage. For more information, contact the church's organist, Tyler Canonico, at 717-257-1270, ext. 18, or canonico@marketsquarechurch.org.

Sat, Feb 26, 2022, 7 PM

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Lancaster

Westminster Music presents the 45-member Grove City College Touring Choir performing a concert of choral masterpieces and sacred anthems. The choir is under the direction of Dr. Katherine Mueller. Freewill offering.

Sun, Feb 27, 2022, 6 PM

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Lebanon

Choral Evensong and Concert by *Mozart and Friends* Woodwind Ensemble Freewill offering.

*THE LANCASTER CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
PRESENTS*

THE BLIND ORGANIST OF NOTRE DAME: LOUIS VIERNE 1870-1937



A CONCERT TRACING...

...the tumultuous story of
Louis Vierne through a multimedia
presentation including pictures, narration,
and live organ music played by local organists.

STEVE & DORIS NOLT, *NARRATORS*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 20
2022**

- 4:00 PM -

**LITITZ CHURCH OF THE BRETHERN
300 WEST ORANGE STREET, LITITZ**

\$10 SUGGESTED DONATION

WWW.LANCASTERAGO.ORG

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 ('22)</i>
Auditor	<i>Roger Kurtz ('22)</i>

APPOINTED POSITIONS

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

STANDING COMMITTEES

Program Committee: *Ross Ellison, chair ('23); Margaret Marsch ('22); John Huber ('22); Tom Berdos ('24); Karl Moyer ('24)*

Scholarship Committee: *David Schulz, chair ('22); Peter Brown; ('23); Christopher Prestia ('24)*

Nominating Committee: *John Kracker, chair; Frank Dodd; Mark Herr*



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