

NOVEMBER / DECEMBER 2014

NOVEMBER CHAPTER GATHERING*Franck Fest Concert*

Sunday 16 November – 4 p.m.
 First Congregational Battle Creek (Martin Ott Organ)
 The Three Organ Chorals of César Franck

As announced in our previous issue, our November chapter program will offer us the opportunity to hear the venerable organ chorals of César Franck. Three of our own chapter members will present the program performing on a fine instrument well suited to this literature. First Congregational Battle Creek is located at 145 Capital Avenue NE 49017. Ample parking is available behind the church. Our host, Al Bolitho, has provided a news release for the event which is being shared with you as **page three of this issue** where you will also be introduced to our three artist/colleagues. Do plan to be with us!

DEANLY PARAGRAPHS*Dr. Mark Wells*

For me, October is one of the most enjoyable months of the year, in part due to the way it encapsulates what is wonderful about the fall season; but it is often the last time of year where traveling is pleasant before the snows arrive. Those chapter members who availed themselves of last month's 'field trip' were treated to some unique and wonderful experiences. Besides, the opportunity to enjoy the fall colors, the warmth and hospitality bestowed on our members at each of the churches confirms my belief that visiting churches should be an essential part of our 'continuing education.' The sumptuous breakfast we enjoyed at Emmanuel Episcopal in Hastings was a perfect way to begin our tour of organs, while the unique character of the four instruments was well worth the travel. While I was somewhat disappointed in the turnout, I hope that this idea can be repeated, encountering other fine, historic instruments, of which we should be aware. This is also an excellent way of interacting and connecting with the members of churches beyond our own immediate circle of AGO organists. These are the very people whose support we should cultivate. Many thanks to Al Bolitho for making the arrangements.

DECEMBER CHAPTER GATHERING*Christmas Program and Party*

Monday 8 December – 7:30 p.m.
 St. Luke's Episcopal Kalamazoo (Dobson Organ)
 Musselman Home Christmas Party Follows

What are you playing for Advent and Christmas this year? Have you located a great piece that you would be willing to share with members of our chapter? Yes? Then call or email Al now at (269) 969-9772 or abolitho@comcast.net to tell him you will play.

For our post-recital fellowship time, we will adjourn to the warmth and hospitality of Bill and Joanne Musselman's home. Please bring one of your favorite holiday treats to share; Bill and Joanne will provide appropriate beverages.

Directions to Musselman Home

From St. Luke's: Take Lovell Street through the first two traffic signals (Park St and Westnedge Ave). Get into the left lane as you approach the third traffic signal (Oakland Drive). Turn left on Oakland and proceed through the first two traffic signals (Oliver St which may be a flashing light only and Howard St) to the third traffic signal at Winchell Avenue. Turn right on Winchell and watch for Aberdeen Drive which is between Winchell Avenue Christian Church and Winchell Avenue School (both on the right). Turn right on Aberdeen to 2106 near the end of the road on the left; the house with six white pillars and a candle burning in most every window!

Deanly Paragraphs*concluded*

Do avail yourselves of our November and December chapter events as presented on this page. If you are familiar with the Franck chorals, you will enjoy the renewed experience from members of our chapter; if you are not familiar with them, it is high time you encounter them! Also, please do contact Al Bolitho as indicated above to let him know what you would like to play for us on December 8.

IN MEMORIAM

Dr. Philip Peter passed away in mid-October from an aggressive form of cancer. As shared earlier in email messages which included his obituary, his memorial service was held on Monday, November 10, at St. Paul Episcopal in Saint Joseph. Flowers from our chapter were sent to the service.

The family of **Joann Cotant** sent this message after her service at Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo on October 24: *Thank you for the lovely flower arrangement that was sent in memory of Joann. Thank you also for all of your thoughts, prayers, visits, phone calls, and cards.*

POSITION POSTINGS

Substitute Organist needed as soon as possible at First Presbyterian Decatur. It could be on a Sunday-to-Sunday basis. The incumbent had to resign due to declining health. Contact Rev. Will Christians at (269) 423-4981 (work), (269) 436-8116 (home), or (269) 512-2018 (cell). *First listing.*

Organist needed at Fairplain Presbyterian Benton Harbor (210 W Napier Ave 49022; 269 925-0041). Worship services include organ music for preludes, hymns, choral accompaniments, and postludes. Choir meets September through early June. Funeral and wedding availability is desired. Interested candidates should send a letter of interest and resume to fairplainpc@gmail.com. *Renewed listing.*

ORGANizer CALENDAR

Please send entries to cdayday@chartermi.net as early as you wish.

The Ss. Peter and Paul Choral Scholars on Friday, November 14, at 7 p.m. in St Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave 49007). Part of the Sacred Music at the Cathedral series, the Choral Scholars from Naperville, IL are conducted by Matthew Sprinkle. The program will include the North American premiere of Thomas Fielding's motet *Anima Christi*. Free will offering.

John Ferguson Hymn Festival on Sunday, November 16, at 7 p.m. in First United Methodist Hillsdale (45 North Manning St 49242). This "Festival of Song" is one of several fall events celebrating the church's 150th year of ministry "in and out of our 1864 building." Free.

A Trombone Christmas on the First Sunday in Advent, November 30, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage Rd 49001). The final event of the 2014 Milwood Series will celebrate Western Michigan University's highly regarded Trombone Choir. The festive seasonal program will be conducted by Dr. Steve Wolfenbarger and include Milwood organist Carl Doubleday. Free will offering.

Messiah Sing on Sunday, November 30, at 5 p.m. in First Congregational Kalamazoo (129 S Park St 49007). Presented by the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music and conducted by Michael Palmer. Free will offering.

Christmas in Kalamazoo on Tuesday, December 2, at 7:30 p.m. in First Presbyterian Kalamazoo (321 South St 49007). The annual concert features the Kalamazoo Ringers, Kalamazoo Brass, and Kalamazoo Male Chorus. Usually a standing-room-only event. Free will offering.

BachFest Christmas on Sunday, December 7, at 4 p.m. in Kalamazoo College's Stetson Chapel. The 45th annual event will feature the Bach Festival Chorus and Orchestra conducted by James Turner with organist Eric Strand and pianist Carl Witt. Tickets via www.kalamazoobachfestival.org or 269 337-7407.

Festival of Lessons & Carols on Sunday, December 7, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St 49017). Sung by the St. Thomas Choir & Schola Cantorum. Free will offering.

Grand Rapids Choir of Men & Boys Lessons & Carols with guest conductor Andrew Nethsingha. In Saint Paul's Episcopal Muskegon at 7 p.m. on Friday, December 12, as well as in Saint Andrew's Cathedral Grand Rapids on Saturday, December 13, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, December 14, at 3 p.m. and Friday, December 19, at 7 p.m. Free will offering.

Kalamazoo Ringers "Carols of the Bells" on Sunday, December 14, at 4 p.m. in Grace Harbor – formerly Westwood Church of God Kalamazoo (811 Gorham Ln 49006). Free will offering.

Community Carol Sing on Sunday, December 21, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St 49017). Free will offering.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, January 4, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St 49017). Sung by the St. Thomas Choral Scholars. Free will offering.

NEWS RELEASE



Three Organists Perform *Three Chorals* of Franck

On Sunday, November 16 at 4 p.m., organists Albert Bolitho, Carrie Groenewold, and Karl Schrock will perform the *Three Chorals* of César Franck (1822-1890). The performance will be at the First Congregational Church, 145 Capital NE, Battle Creek and sponsored by the SW Michigan Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and is open to the public without charge.

César Franck is recognized as one of the great musicians of the 19th century France who was famous as a concert organist and pianist, composer, and music professor at the Paris Conservatory. The *Three Chorals*, written during the last months of his life, display the masterful use of colorful harmonies, development of themes, and emotional intensity of Franck at the height of his creative powers. Although they are not based upon hymns or chants, each Choral seems to reflect a religious fervor that was an integral part of his spiritual and religious life.

Each of the three organists will play one of the Chorals, and there will be a brief commentary about the music and pipe organs known by Franck. Dr. Albert Bolitho is a Professor of Music Emeritus of Albion College and retired Music Director of First Congregational Church, Dr. Carrie Groenewold is Director of Music at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Kalamazoo, and Dr. Karl Schrock is Professor of Organ at WMU and Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Kalamazoo.

Following the concert, a reception will be provided by members of Sunday Afternoon Live, a concert series held at First Congregational Church each year.

For additional information, call the church office at 269-965-1225 or visit the church website at fccbc.org.