

BEGINNING A BOLD NEW YEAR

SEPTEMBER 2015

BOLD PROGRAMMING CHANGES
*from Sub Dean Brooks Grantier***Fewer Events**

In the interest of our own personal and professional schedules and out of respect for Michigan winters and their relationship to our chapter's geographic expanse, we will be experimenting with having only six chapter programs in 2015-16. These will be in September, October, December, March, April, and June.

Geographic Variety

Most of the events will be in what we consider to be our chapter's geographic center – Kalamazoo. We will begin our year in Battle Creek and end our year in Marshall. We hope to present our March event twice including a venue in Benton Harbor / Saint Joseph.

Food Fellowship

In the interest of driving home earlier in the evening, food fellowship will begin more often than follow our programs. Dinners are planned for September and June, and pre-event finger food will be offered in October. Two of our traditional programs, however, will end with refreshments as usual: Our private December party in the Musselman home and a public reception for Bach Around the Block in April.

Community Focus

The public will be aggressively invited to half of our events: Our Christmas recital in December, a hymn festival in mid-March, and of course Bach Around the Block in April. The March hymn festival will be our most ambitious program for this season.

Calendar Information

We ask that you enter these AGO evenings in your calendars. Sunday, March 13, is in the afternoon.

Monday, September 14
 Monday, October 26
 Monday, December 7
 Saturday/Sunday, March 12/13
 Monday, April 11
 Monday, June 6

A BOLD FIRST CHAPTER GATHERING
Featuring a Special Catered Dinner

Monday 14 September

St Philip Catholic Battle Creek (112 Capital Ave NE)

6:00 p.m. Social Time

6:30 Full Dinner (by Laura's Catering)

7:15 Program and Organ Crawl

Hear these enthusiastic words from Brooks Grantier, our inspired sub-dean and program committee chair:

Please encourage ALL members to attend, for the usual reason, but also to invite a guest to the program and even offer to pay for their dinner! What better hospitality is there than this, especially if the guest is a prospective member? Your sub-dean plans to invite three such candidates. As Howard Slenk of the Grand Rapids Chapter always says, "Each one, reach one!"

Our host will be Dr. Mark Wells, our former dean. After dinner we will sing a couple hymns and hear two brief organ pieces. Then we'll ascend the loft where we can actually walk amongst the pipes of this wonderful E. M. Skinner instrument. Caution: Don't wear bulky sweaters or fabrics which might snag.

Dinner will cost \$20 payable when you arrive. Our caterer is the same we used for our 2013 regional convention dinner at St. Philip's. ***The menu can be found on page 5; travel directions are on page 4.***

URGENT

**Dinner Reservations
 need to be made by 5 p.m.
 on Wednesday, September 2.**

Please make your reservations with Deb Rafferty at deb_rafferty@hotmail.com or 269 345-8067. Be sure to leave your name and number of reservations. Also, let Deb know if you want a vegetarian meal.

OUR NEW DEAN'S FIRST MESSAGE *from Dr. Stephen White*

It is hard to believe that the summer is winding down and our program year is ready to begin. In preparation, the new executive committee had a lively, informative, and focused meeting at St. Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek at the end of July, and we are resolved to focus our energies on our common mission:

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is **to enrich lives through organ and choral music.**

To achieve this we:

- *Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;*
- *Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;*
- *Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;*
- *Nurture future generations of organists;*
- *Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles;*
and
- *Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.*

You will notice a few differences this year in terms of programming – these changes are intended to help us focus on our common mission, as well as encourage a broader base of membership and community participation. Yes, I said “community” participation – I realize it has not often been stated, but all of our programs are open to members of the community. We, as a board, will do a better job of publicizing these opportunities through local media outlets, etc., however our success will also depend on each of you. I challenge every member of our Guild to invite both a music colleague who is not currently a member, and a new community member to chapter functions – help them get to know us personally and professionally – build bridges and help us fulfill our mission.

Over the next few months, the board will be focused on wrapping up some lingering projects (including the chapter website, creating a unified application for the Katy Loew Scholarship, and determining the best use of funds earned from the regional convention), as well as creating a bigger sense of community within the organization.

[continued in next column]

Each of you (regular members, student members, special members, and chapter friends) are critical to creating an AGO chapter we all can be proud of – one that is known throughout our region and beyond as an organization of action, artistry, outreach, and education. I hope each of you will commit anew to our mission and join us for an exciting year!

Soli Deo Gloria!

A BOLD STEP FOR OUR FUTURE *Smaller Executive Committee*

Those who participated in our annual election of officers may recall that there was also a proposal on the ballot; one that required a chapter vote:

“The Executive Committee of the Southwest Michigan Chapter of the American Guild of Organists currently consists of the four Officers plus six Councillors, with two Councillors elected each year for three-year terms. According to Article VII, Section 4 of the bylaws from National, a Chapter’s Executive Committee shall consist of the Officers plus as many additional Councillors as are deemed advisable. Since it is not mandatory that we have so many Councillors and we feel that chapter business might be accomplished more efficiently with a smaller Executive Committee, the current Executive Committee recommends that the number of Councillors be reduced from six to three, with one new Councillor (instead of two) being elected each year for a three-year term.”

The proposal passed and as a result we now have seven board members instead of ten. We are pleased to once more list our new Executive Committee:

Dr. Stephen White, Dean
Brooks Grantier, FAGO, Sub Dean
Kay Ensfield, CAGO, Secretary
Nathan Mattson, Treasurer
Dr. Carrie Groenewold, Councillor (2016)
Helene Stuurwold, Councillor (2017)
Dr. Thomas Fielding, Councillor (2018)

Other members with appointed duties will be listed in our 2015-16 yearbook/directory which is currently being compiled (more on page 3 as noted below).

NOTE: Please read the first article on page 3 about building our new directory, and also note the directory advertising opportunity article below that

NEW CHAPTER DIRECTORY UNDERWAY *from Editor Carl Doubleday*

For a variety of reasons shared in a previous issue, we did not publish a chapter directory for our 2014-15 guild year. This had a lot to do with national's new online membership renewal system. ONCARD made it difficult for many of our members to renew in a timely fashion last fall, and it made it even more difficult for us to retrieve the information we needed to create an updated directory.

Everything is all better now! Our renewals are going well this summer and I am determined to obtain that information one way or another! To that end:

*** Please watch your email *
(or for some of you the USPS)
for a draft of your directory information.**

You will be asked to proof the information and then let me know if additional updates are necessary. I am particularly concerned with your "current position" details. After a reasonable time, the information will be printed "as is" unless you let me know otherwise.

Thank you in advance!

AN ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY *Help Us Cover Our Directory Costs*

If you, your church, or an affiliated organization you know would like to place a display ad in our new directory, the prices are \$35 (one-third page), \$50 (half page), or \$100 (full page). Contact Carl Doubleday if you would like more information: cdayday@chartermi.net or 269 345-7336.

URGENT

**September 14 dinner reservations
need to be made by 5 p.m.
on Wednesday, September 2.**

with Deb Rafferty at
deb_rafferty@hotmail.com
or 269 345-8067

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL INFORMATION *from the National AGO*

Here is some information which will be helpful if you would like your membership renewal to come up over the summer which is what most of us probably prefer.

Our "Usual" Membership Year

September 1 marks the end of the two-month grace period for anyone with a membership expiration date of 7/1/2015. *Members whose dues are received after Monday, August 31, will have their membership year reset to begin on September 1 or the first of the month in which their dues are received.* See next paragraph.

New "Rolling" Membership Year

The National Council has authorized the National Headquarters to initiate a "rolling membership year" for those who are joining a chapter for the first time or reinstating after their membership has lapsed. This means that a member's expiration date will be one year from the date on which the member joined; i.e., on the anniversary of the join date. Under this plan, all current chapter members will retain their July 1-June 30 membership year as long as they renew by September 1. For new and reinstating members, however, the membership year will commence on the first of the month in which the member joins the Guild.

IN MEMORY OF ALMA R. VISWAT *Our Last Living Charter Member?*

Alma R. VanHeuvelen (Viswat-Weeldreyer) passed away on July 14 at Rose Arbor Hospice. She was 96. She was a 1940 music education graduate of Hope College. She taught in Wayland and Lake Orion before marrying Herman Viswat in 1946. She became a charter member of the Southwest Michigan Chapter on October 29, 1948. In Kalamazoo she was Minister of Music at Second Reformed for 38 years where she was organist, director of choirs, and – like many of us "organists" – much more! She taught piano for over 60 years, accompanied a myriad of young musicians and played for countless weddings often with Herman as soloist. Herman passed away in 2004 after 58 years of marriage. In 2006 at age 87, Alma married Harold VanHeuvelen, a violinist. She is thought to be our last surviving charter member. *Requiescant pace.*

OCTOBER EVENT SNEAK PREVIEW

An Anthem Petting Zoo

Monday 26 October

Second Reformed Kalamazoo (2323 Stadium Dr)

6:30 p.m. Fellowship with Tasty Finger Foods
7:00 *My Favorite Things* Anthem Petting Zoo

Our hostess will be Mary Peterson and we will begin with “finger-good” *hors d’oeuvres* provided either by Second Reformed or a caterer at chapter expense. We are all encouraged to bring copies of not more than two anthems which we have found to be “sure-fire” selections our choirs love and which fit well with the worship and music traditions of our own church. At least one of the two must be unison or two-part; the other can be up to SATB with no (or very little) divisi. Bring enough copies so they can be sung by those present. Sharing your anthem information with Brooks before that evening will allow him to create a repertoire list so others may order the pieces they like.

SHARING A BOLD INTENTION

from Secretary Kay Ensfield

Your new Executive Committee has sincere intentions to share a summary of each of the board’s quarterly meetings. Here is that summary for its July meeting.

- After discussing details of the transition between boards, we examined the mission statement of the AGO at the beginning of the Chapter Handbook. [The mission statement is included on page 2.] We need to do more outreach, both to other organists and to the general public.
- We are taking steps to get the Chapter web page functional and to do more publicity for events which are open to the public.
- We are exploring options for handling the left over money from the convention, and will try to strike a reasonable balance between investing the money for future use and using it to enhance our current activities.
- We are working on procedures to make the Katy Loew scholarship process easier and more transparent. An application form is being updated.
- Brooks is working on a wonderful program for this year. Details TBA.
- Carrie Groenewold has agreed to become our Registrar, so she may be following up with people to complete the dues process.

SOME NOTES OF APPRECIATION

Thanks for Reading Our Email Announcements

From a Community Person

I am happy to report my Baldwin organ you put out the notice about has been given a new home. It went to a lady near Paw Paw who is taking private lessons from an organ professor at Western Michigan and she needed a full pedal organ for practice at home! I am so happy it went to someone who will use it daily. In the whole process and from 4 responses, I not only gave away my Baldwin, but my niece was able to give away an Allen theater organ as well. Furthermore, one of your responding members helped physically to move my Baldwin to its new home! Thank you!

Editor’s Note: My guess is that the “angel” mentioned is Tom Fry. I hope I’m right! ☺

From a Potential New Member

Some of you may remember a message you received about a newly arrived-in-Kalamazoo organist named Elizabeth Bruce. Her name came to us from Dr. Mark Wells, and as well as sending her a warm welcome, we sent forth her name and resume re: her willingness to serve as a substitute. She responded soon after with this enthusiastic note:

Thank you so very much for all of the information! I have heard from two members in the past 24 hours about their substituting needs! It is clear that the SW Michigan Chapter is a very welcoming group of folks! I feel so much more settled in our new home knowing that there is such an active AGO chapter in our community.

Soli Deo Gloria!

To St Philip Battle Creek for September 14

I-94 to exit 98-B. Follow I-194 to its end,
which puts you on Division Street.

Count 4 lights:

Hamblin / Michigan / State / Van Buren.

Left on Van Buren, immediate right into church
parking lot. Dinner is in the Parish Center, a new
building next to the church.

ORGANizer CALENDAR

Please send entries to cdayday@chartermi.net as early as you wish. They will be entered in a master calendar and shared in each issue as space permits.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, September 6, at 5 p.m. in St Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St). Sung by the Choral Scholars. Free will offering.

Philip Brisson Organ Recital on Friday, September 25, at 7 p.m. in St Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave). Philip is organist at Cathedral of the Assumption in Louisville, Kentucky. His program will include works by Bach, Franck, Widor, Locklair, Pardini, and others. The concert will open the 2015-16 Sacred Music at the Cathedral series. Free will offering (\$10 donation suggested).

Michigan Educators Male Ensemble (MEME) on Sunday, September 27, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage St). MEME is an unaccompanied group of eight Michigan college and high school choral directors who come together: ❶ to meet the highest standards in both performance and teaching by exemplifying the connection between them; ❷ to stimulate higher interest in male choral singing throughout Michigan and beyond; and ❸ develop a sense of collegiality among its members. Their program will continue the 2015 Milwood Fine Arts Series. Free will offering.

Choral Evensong on Sunday, October 4, at 5 p.m. in St Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St). Sung by the St Thomas Choir and Treble Choristers. Free will offering.

Steve Flick and Alexis Young Organ Recital on Sunday, October 18, at 4 p.m. in First Baptist Kalamazoo (315 W Michigan Ave). Chapter members Steve and Alexis are both students of Dr. Karl Schrock. The program will include works by Bruhns, Bach, Mendelssohn, Franck, and Vierne. A reception will follow. Free will offering.

David Jones Organ Recital on Friday, October 30, at 7 p.m. in St Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave). David is organist at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago. His program will continue the Sacred Music at the Cathedral series and include works by Handel, Sowerby, and Widor, as well as an improvisation on a submitted theme. Free will offering (\$10 suggested).

Choral Evensong for All Saints on Sunday, November 1, at 5 p.m. in St Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St). Sung by the Choral Scholars. Free will offering.

Faure Requiem Concert on Sunday, November 8, at 5 p.m. in St Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek. Sung by the St Thomas Choirs with strings and organ. Free will offering.

WMU Percussion Ensemble Concert on Sunday, December 6, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage St). Under the direction of Professor Judy Moonert, the large ensemble will present a varied program including sounds of the season. Here is your chance to hear Christmas music played on steel pans (drums)! The program will conclude the 2015 Milwood Fine Arts Series. Free will offering.

Festival of Lessons and Carols on Sunday, December 6, at 5 p.m. in St Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (16 E Van Buren St). Sung by the St Thomas Choir. Free will offering.

URGENT

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on Wednesday, September 2.**

with Deb Rafferty at
deb_rafferty@hotmail.com
or 269 345-8067

Dinner Menu

Boneless Chicken Breast
in a sweet & sour cranberry glaze
Seasoned Redskin Potatoes
House Dressed Salad
romaine with mandarin orange and crunchy onion
Herbed Bread
Fresh Fruit
Vegetarian Entrée
Roasted Veggie Pasta Bake