

DECEMBER 2016

[www.SWMichiganAGO.org](http://www.SWMichiganAGO.org)**DECEMBER CHAPTER EVENTS*****Christmas Recital and Party***Tuesday 6 December – 7:00 p.m.First Congregational Kalamazoo – *345 W Mich Ave*  
Musselman Home Christmas Party Follows

This year's program is filled to capacity! Performers include two students, Heidi Ordaz and Alexis Young, as well as Kay Ensfield, Brooks Grantier, Monica Padula, Tom Fielding, Steve White, Dick Stultz, Thomas Britton with trumpeter Keith Geiman, Janet Hill with flutist Laurel (last name not available), and finally our host organist Kory Heitzig. **The recital is open to the public.**

Performers should call the church at 269 343-1549 to arrange practice time. The concert will help celebrate First Congregational's *newly moveable* organ console; we will all enjoy a better view of the performers.

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 festive beverages.

**Directions to Musselman Home*****2106 Aberdeen Drive***

Go east to Rose St and turn right to get over to Lovell. Turn right on Lovell to drive past Saint Luke's and behind First Presbyterian. Stay on Lovell through two traffic signals (Park and Westnedge). 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 just after Winchell Avenue Christian Church and before 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! In case you need it – 269 344-1433. This is a special time together. **Do join us!**

**OUR DEAN'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE*****Stephen White, PhD***

It is difficult to believe that the month of December is already upon us – often the busiest month for those of us who play the pedals and pipes. Not only busy with our own worship responsibilities, but also with plans/preparations to make sure everyone around us has an enjoyable holiday season whatever their belief. From family gatherings and holiday parties, gift giving, meal preparations, and decorating the house/yard to “beat” the neighbors, this is an exhausting time. I do hope that when all the dust (or perhaps snowflakes) settles – in the mystery and awe of Christmas – you will each find time to reflect on what a gift you are to the many people (often unnamed) who hear the music you create – those who are overwhelmed, saddened by circumstance, or otherwise not in the “mood” for Christmas. And for those in our chapter who may not play the organ, but are fervent supporters and friends of our work, please know what a gift you are to those of us on the bench. Your continual gifts of support and confidence sustain us more than you may be aware.

Amid all the frenzy of the season, I do you hope you will plan to attend the annual member's Christmas Recital at First Congregational Church on Tuesday, December 6, and then join with your AGO family for a bit of holiday merriment at the home of Bill and Joanne Mussleman. We are ever grateful for their delightful hospitality and always have a very enjoyable time socializing with one another.

My wish is that you experience all the blessings and joy of this season. Do have a Happy Christmas and a Blessed and Healthy New Year. **Soli Deo Gloria!**

**This is our last 2016 Newsletter**

The next issue will be for January/February.  
Additional email announcements  
will be shared as needed.

## CHAPTER FINANCIAL UPDATE

*from Treasurer Nate Mattson*

We started our AGO year on July 1, 2016, with funds totaling \$25,700. We have received income of \$2,400, largely from membership dues. We have spent \$2,700. The largest expenditures were for co-sponsoring two artists; one with St. Augustine's Sacred Music at the Cathedral concert series, and the other with the Michigan Festival of Sacred Music. We were able to provide one \$750 scholarship from the Katy Loew Scholarship Fund. As of October 31, we have an operating fund balance of \$25,400.

Note that the Katy Loew Scholarship Fund is in addition to the operating fund. The Katy Loew Fund is on deposit with the Kalamazoo Foundation and only the earnings are available for us to award scholarships. We are in great financial shape!

## IMPRESSIVE WEBSITE NEWS

*from Webmaster Tom Fielding*

Our Chapter website has a new look! In response to many constructive comments that we have received and also to improve the sites internal functionality for those of us who have access to its maintenance, we have now launched a redesigned site with a new and more inclusive web address:

[www.SWMichiganAGO.org](http://www.SWMichiganAGO.org).

The address is not case sensitive. Both of the domains of our previous site, [www.AGOKalamazoo.org](http://www.AGOKalamazoo.org), are now automatic redirect links to the new site and address. This will remain in place until mid-2017. At that time, the old domains will be permanently discontinued.

You will want to update any browser bookmarks that you have created to include this new address. Much of the content is the same, including our monthly Dean's column, concert calendar, venue list and contact form. Please feel free to take a look at this site to proof read content that is relevant to you as some of it may have become distorted in the transfer of information from one management system to the other. Also, please know that I am in the process of updating some of the "cosmetic" aspects of the site as well, so I will ask for your patience on the issue of fonts and the like.

As you browse the site, if you have comments or find errors, please let me know.

[TFielding@stakalamazoo.org](mailto:TFielding@stakalamazoo.org)

## UPCOMING 2017 CHAPTER EVENTS

*from Sub-dean Elizabeth Bruce*

We will have three more chapter events in the second half of our 2016-17 season.

### **Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza**

Dr. Karl Schrock will host this event on Saturday, February 4, from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in Dalton Center at WMU.

### **Bach Around the Block XXX**

Our 30th (!) annual collaboration with the Kalamazoo Bach Festival Society will begin at 7 p.m. on Monday, May 8, in First Congregational Kalamazoo.

### **Year-End Dinner**

We will dine (dinner at 6 p.m.), have our officer installation ceremony, and then a choral reading session on Monday, June 5, in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo.

## CHAPTER DIRECTORY AND YEAR BOOK

*2016-17 Edition Distributed*

Much ado was made this summer/fall about how we would decide who would be included in our annual membership directory. National's new "revolving" membership renewal system inspired this dilemma. In June we made the decision to include all those who were members-in-good-standing on October 1. Many messages re: this new system were sent out over the summer. During September **Carrie Groenewold**, our registrar, did her best to follow up with all who did not meet this requirement.

We had an excellent renewal response. The new directory was mailed to all members-in-good-standing in early November. It includes 78 members in these membership classifications: 26 regular, 25 special, 9 student, 1 partner, and 17 chapter friends.

NOTE: More good news. In addition to feeding your editor all the necessary membership data from the National AGO, Carrie kindly assumed the additional responsibility of recruiting advertisers. This effort raised more money than it cost to print and mail the directories. **Soli Deo Gloria!**

BTW: In case you did not notice it, the ads include two full-page spreads on Cameron Carpenter who will make not one but two appearances in Kalamazoo yet this season: March 25 and April 1. Details are on the ads in your new directory. Do consider supporting our advertisers and experiencing this phenomenon.

## **ORGANizer CALENDAR**

Please send entries to [cdayday@chartermi.net](mailto:cdayday@chartermi.net) as early as you wish. They will be entered in a master calendar and shared in each issue as space permits. Chapter member names are noted in **SMALL CAPS**.

**Michigan Festival of Sacred Music Messiah Sing** on Sunday, November 27, at 4 p.m. in First Congregational Kalamazoo. This popular collaboration gives all a chance to lift their voices to the music of George Frideric Handel. Professional soloists and a full orchestra add to this festive event. Bring your own score if you have one; some additional copies will be available. Free.

**Christmas in Kalamazoo** on Tuesday, November 29, at 7:30 p.m. in Centerpoint Church Kalamazoo (2345 N 10th St). This popular concert features the Kalamazoo Ringers, Kalamazoo Brass, and Kalamazoo Male Chorus, as well as special seasonal arrangements for the combined ensembles. Freewill offering.

**Burdick-Thorne Quartet** on Sunday, December 4, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage Rd). Concluding the 2016 Milwood Series, this concert by the Kalamazoo Symphony's resident string quartet will include music from the Hampton String Quartet's long-ago-popular "What if Mozart wrote *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*" album. Freewill offering.

**Festival of Lessons and Carols** on Sunday, December 4, at 5 p.m. in Saint Thomas Episcopal Battle Creek (15 E Van Buren St). Sung by the St. Thomas Choir directed by STEVE WHITE. Freewill offering.

**Bachfest Christmas** on Sunday, December 4, at 4 p.m. in Stetson Chapel at Kalamazoo College. A community tradition since 1970, the concert will feature the Bach Festival Chorus conducted by James Turner, the Arcato Chamber Ensemble conducted by Andrew Koehler, and organist ERIC STRAND. Ticket information at [www.KalamazooBachFestival.org](http://www.KalamazooBachFestival.org) or 269 337-7407.

**WMU Choral Christmas** on Sunday, December 4, at 4 and 7:30 p.m. in First Presbyterian Kalamazoo. Choirs (and conductors) include University Chorale (Kim Adams), Cantus Femina (Dee Gauthier), and Collegiate Singers (Ken Prewitt). Instrumental collaborators will include organist KARL SCHROCK. Tickets (\$15/\$12/\$5) are available at the Miller Auditorium ticket office as well as "at the door."

**Kalamazoo Ringers Christmas Concert** on Sunday, December 11, at 4 p.m. in Grace Harbor Church Kalamazoo (811 Gorham Lane). Under the direction of Jan Van Valey, this year's program is titled "Christmas Journeys." Freewill offering.

**WMU Brass Celebration of Christmas** on Sunday, December 18, at 3 p.m. in the Dalton Center Recital Hall. This longtime holiday favorite features the Western Brass Quintet and Friends. Tickets (\$15/\$12/\$5) are available at the Miller Auditorium ticket office as well as "at the door."

**Ss. Peter and Paul Choral Scholars** on Friday, February 3, at 7 p.m. in St. Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave). Under the direction of Matthew Sprinkle, this choral ensemble from Naperville, IL, will be presented by St. Augustine's Sacred Music at the Cathedral concert season. Freewill offering.

**Kennedy's Kitchen Celtic Music Ensemble** on Sunday, March 5, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage Rd). Joined by the Celtic Fire Stepdancers, Kennedy's Kitchen will open the 30th season of Milwood Series fine arts events. Freewill offering.

**Organist THOMAS FIELDING** on Sunday, March 26, at 5 p.m. in St. Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave). This Lenten recital will conclude the 2016-17 Sacred Music at the Cathedral season. Freewill offering.