

SEPTEMBER 2014

TRIPLE PLAY EVENING TOGETHER
Emergency Aid / Food / Chamber Music

Monday 22 September
First Presbyterian Kalamazoo

6:00 p.m. Member Renewal Assistance
6:30 p.m. Comfort Food Dinner (reservation required)
7:30 p.m. Chamber Music *Sans* Organ

All of the activities mentioned above and described below will take place in the Gathering Area of First Presbyterian Kalamazoo (321 W South Street 49007). Enter through the glass doors across from Bronson Park. The handicap accessible Gathering Area is up one floor through that entrance.

Part the First

Membership Renewal Assistance (begins 6 p.m.)

The AGO's new online membership renewal system challenged some of our members. As of August 30 only 37 of last year's 84 members had renewed their affiliation with our chapter. Two weeks ago, a special mailing was sent to those who had not found their way through the new cyberspace jungle. This packet offered renewal assistance at our first meeting where tech savvy members will be laptop ready to help them complete their renewals on the spot! If you are one who wishes to do so, please remember to complete your homework and bring those yellow pages as well as your credit card of choice or checkbook with you. Assistance will be available beginning at 6 p.m. and continue periodically throughout the evening.

Part the Second

Catered Comfort Food Dinner (begins 6:30 p.m.)

A casual meal of Shepherd's Pie with roasted root vegetables and Champ mashed potatoes accompanied by breads and beverages is being offered for only \$10. A vegetarian option will be available. You are asked to email/phone your reservation by 5 p.m. on Friday the 19th to steven.m.lieberman@gmail.com or 269 369-1668. Your email or voice mail message needs to include your **name** as well as the **number of reservations**; request vegetarian if that is your preference. Please be prepared to pay for your dinner(s) when you arrive.

Part the Third

Chamber Music Program (begins 7:30 p.m.)

After dinner we will be treated to a musicale featuring soloists and piano. Our performing members and guests will include Joe Lekan (saxophone) and Kory Heitzig, Carolyn Hiestand (flute) and Tom Fielding, Austin Shook (tuba) and Steve White. Mark Wells and Brooks Grantier will also grace us with a piano duet. Informal fellowship and membership renewals will continue after the recital.

IMPORTANT FOR YOUR CALENDARS***Preliminary Program Dates***

September 22 (Monday Evening)

Full details on this page

October 25 (Saturday Morning/Afternoon)
Historic Organs Crawl in Hastings and Ionia
Preview on page 2

November 16 (Sunday Afternoon)
The Three Organ Chorales of César Franck
First Congregational Battle Creek

December 8 (Monday Evening)
Members Christmas Recital, followed by Party at the Musselman Home, Kalamazoo

January 19 (Monday Evening)
Presentation on composer R. Nathaniel Dett
Hopefully at WMU in Kalamazoo

February 16 (Monday Evening)
"Hidden Gems" (seldom heard organ works)
TBD

March 16 (Monday Evening)
Compositions by Guild Members
TBD

April 20 (Monday Evening)
Bach Around the Block in Kalamazoo

May 19 (Monday Evening)
Probably Kalamazoo

June 1 (Monday)
Dinner and Officer Installation
TBD

DEANLY PARAGRAPHS

Dr. Mark Wells

I trust that the new school/church year is beginning well for you. Although the summer break was most welcome and needed – I still shiver thinking about last winter – I always enjoy the first rehearsal of my choirs. It is a reminder to me of the importance of the music ministry in which many faithful volunteers contribute, as well as an incentive for the future.

For a variety of circumstances, both our membership renewal ritual and our program year planning have encountered special challenges this year. Please excuse the redundancy, but I feel it important to highlight some of the things already mentioned on page one.

Our first gathering is to be held as described at First Presbyterian Kalamazoo on Monday, September 22.

Do note the instructions for the **5 p.m.**
dinner reservation deadline
on Friday, September 19.

If you have not renewed your membership and are somewhat computer-challenged by the changeover to online registration, we are happy to offer face-to-face assistance at this meeting. Do remember to come prepared to take advantage of this opportunity.

Bring the completed **yellow worksheets**
you received in the mail.
Bring your **credit card or checkbook.**

Our new Subdean, Dr. Al Bolitho, is in the midst of planning a most interesting variety of events for our program year. I hope you will find the current outline on page one to be tantalizing. It would be my pleasure to see and talk to you on September 22 as well as at future meetings as they occur. *MW*

CURRENT NATIONAL OFFICERS

President – John Walker
Vice President – Christian M. Lane
Secretary – Mary V. Stutz
Treasurer – Barbara Adler
Conventions Councillor – Michael Velting
Education Councillor – Don Cook
Membership Councillor – David K. Lamb
Great Lakes Region Councillor – Karl Bruhn

OCTOBER EVENT PREVIEW

Historic Organs Crawl

Because our October 25 chapter event encompasses a Saturday morning and afternoon, we would like to pique your interest early enough for you to make the necessary plans in your schedule. Car pools will be planned or you can drive independently. A breakfast feast awaits us at our first destination. No group lunch is planned. More details will be included in our October newsletter. **Mark your calendars!**

7:45 a.m.

Drive from Kalamazoo to Hastings (47 minutes)

8:30 a.m.

Full breakfast at Emmanuel Episcopal
(no charge but donations welcome)

9:15–10 a.m.

Time with the Odell (1867) at Emmanuel

10:00 a.m.

Drive from Hastings to Ionia (42 minutes)
All remaining instruments are in Ionia

10:45–11:30 a.m.

Lyon & Healy (1901) at SS Peter & Paul Catholic

Brief break and drive to Well Church

12–12:45 p.m.

Hook & Hastings (1892) at Well Church

Brief drive to First Christian Church

1–1:45 p.m.

J. W. Steere & Sons (1893) at First Christian

circa 1:45 p.m.

Depart for Kalamazoo (90 minutes)

MEMBER NEWS NOTES

Kent Hill is retiring from Prince of Peace Lutheran in Portage. See the first calendar entry on page 3 about a special event.

Britt McDermott has moved to Charleston SC. Her email address will remain mcdermottbritt@gmail.com

Nancy Steele suffered a stroke back in the spring and at last report was doing fairly well in rehab.

Dr. Florence M. Stith passed away in June of 2013. Please see a tribute to her on page 4.

INTRODUCING CARRIE GROENEWOLD

Now at Saint Luke's Kalamazoo

Dr. Carrie Groenewold has begun her appointment as Minister of Music at St. Luke's. She and her family have moved here from Lawrence, KS. Her husband, Jevon, works at Lowe's Home Improvement in Portage. They have two children, Levi (age 7) and Adelyn ("Addie", age 5). Carrie has transferred her AGO membership to our chapter, and she has given your editor permission to share this summary of her professional preparation and background.

Carrie recently completed a D.M.A. in Church Music (Organ emphasis) at the University of Kansas, where she studied organ, conducting, and harpsichord with Michael Bauer. There, she also studied carillon with Elizabeth Berghout and improvisation with Kevin Vogt. Her research on J. P. Sweelinck's Genevan psalm settings was presented in a lecture-recital which included a performance of three parallel psalm settings for keyboard and chorus. While at KU, she held a graduate teaching assistantship.

Carrie earned a Master of Sacred Music degree from the University of Notre Dame, where she studied organ with Craig Cramer. During her Master's degree studies, she served as a graduate assistant to the Women's Liturgical Choir in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart under Gail Walton and Andrew McShane. She also accompanied the Suzuki Violin School of South Bend and Granger, IN.

She began private organ study while in grade school with Dr. Joan Ringerwole at Dordt College in Sioux Center, IA, where she later received a B.A. in Organ Performance and Church Music. Recent performances include recitals at Dordt College, Goshen College (IN), and First Presbyterian ("Lincoln's Church") of Springfield, IL; organist in the Liszt Festival at KU; and a featured organist on Pipedreams Live!. Carrie has served a number of churches as organist and choral conductor, and is delighted to be at St. Luke's.

We welcome her warmly. She hopes to meet many of you at our September 22 gathering.

POSITION POSTING

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 by October 1 if possible.

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.

"Kent's Favorite" Hymn Fest and Reception on Sunday, September 21, at 4 p.m. in Prince of Peace Lutheran Portage (1747 W Milham 49024). In recognition of Kent's retirement, we have been invited to join the congregation in celebrating his lifelong ministry. *Soli Deo Gloria!*

Rhonda Edgington Sider Organ Recital on Friday, September 26, at 7 p.m. in St Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave 49007). Part of the Sacred Music at the Cathedral series, the program features the Farrell Ballet Theatre and *Les Corps Glorieux* by Olivier Messiaen. Free will offering.

WMU Piano Showcase on Sunday, October 12, at 3 p.m. in Milwood United Methodist Kalamazoo (3919 Portage Rd 49001). A continuation of the 2014 Milwood Series, the program will celebrate faculty artists and students/alumni from the All Steinway School at Western Michigan University. Featured are jazz pianist Jeremy Siskind and Drs. Silvia Roederer and Leslie Tung performing duets from Stravinsky's *Petrouchka*. Free will offering.

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.

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 nationally regarded Trombone Choir. The festive seasonal program will be conducted by Dr. Steve Wolfenbarger and include Milwood organist Carl Doubleday. Free will offering.

Thomas Fielding Organ Recital on Friday, February 13, at 7 p.m. in St Augustine Cathedral Kalamazoo (542 W Michigan Ave 49007). Part of the Sacred Music at the Cathedral series, the recital will feature works by Tournemire, Franck, and Willan. Free will offering.

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Our chapter has had a virtually unknown member in Covert MI who first appeared in our 2002-03 directory. A couple years ago Steve Lieberman learned that she was being cared for in her home and was unable to get out and about. Not knowing that she had already passed away, I (Carl D) sent her a convention tote bag and program book in the fall of 2013. We became suspicious when her name did not appear on the listing our National Headquarters sent this summer as part of the new online renewal system. It was Kay Ensfield who followed through on our hunch and found her remarkable obituary. It is included here in its unedited form. Before passing, by the way, she had already renewed her membership for 2013-14.

Dr. Florence Stith, 92, of Covert, went to be with her Lord on Monday, June 10, 2013. Dr. Florence Marie Madison Stith, organist, pianist, cellist, conductor, composer, arranger and teacher of organ, piano, harmony and theory was the only daughter of the late Roger and Beatrice Madison. Florence was born and reared in Anderson, Indiana. She was the oldest child of a musically gifted father and mother ... beginning her musical training from them. By her early teens, she possessed a wealth of versatility which opened many doors for her as an excellent instrumentalist and accompanist. At the Anderson College of God Theological Seminary and Musical College, which is now known as Anderson University, she began her professional studies with the eminent Professor Cecil Hartselle, who "spotlighted" her into many featured concerts where no other African-American Student would be considered in those times.

Leaving Indiana and settling in Chicago, Illinois, she traveled a short time with the Edward Lango Jubilee Singers, gaining a wealth of evangelistic and spiritual experience.

After leaving the Jubilee Singers, she enrolled in the Chicago Musical College of Roosevelt University to complete her education, with pipe organ and church music being her primary majors. The eminent Dr. Robert Reuter was her mentor. She also began to work with several churches in Chicago as an organist and with her extraordinary skills, techniques, dependability, and musical sensitivity, she subsequently was hired at the Greater Bethesda Baptist Church ... first, as organist and later as choir master, playing the pipe organ and directing the renowned sanctuary choir.

As director and organist, Florence was able to provide quality leadership in the tradition of their former choirmasters. Under her baton, the sanctuary choir performed many choral works, such as Haydn's "The Creation"; Michael Tippett's "A Child of Our Time"; Mendelssohn's "Saint Paul"; Schubert's "Mass in G";

Bach's "Motet Mount of Olives"; Gaither's "Alleluia A Gathering of Praise"; and annually, Handel's "Messiah" with professional soloists and orchestra. The sanctuary choir was also known for their "Outstanding and Exciting" renditions and interpretations of their singing of Negro spirituals under her direction, especially receiving plaudits at the national Baptist congress when it met in Detroit in 1991.

Florence also shared her talents with other choral and chamber groups. She was the director of the distinguished chorus - The Choral Silhouettes. She was always in demand to accompany singers - concert and operatic. In addition to all of these accomplishments, she operated the Flo-Mar Piano and Organ Studio where she taught all age groups, focusing on the broadening of their musicianship in piano, organ, harmony, and theory.

She received many honors, a myriad of newspaper reviews and feature stories. She held several offices with both regional and national music organizations. Two of her distinguished honors were an Honorary Doctor of Humanities from the McKinley Theological Seminary in Jackson, Mississippi and a Doctorate of Church Music from the Gospel Theological Institute in Houston, Texas.

Florence was affiliated with many organizations, including the National Association of Negro Musicians, INC.; the Chicago MJSIC Association; The American Guild of Organists; the Chicago Club of Women Organists; The American Choral Director's Association; The Illinois and National Music Teachers Association; MU Phi Epsilon Sorority; The Lakeview Musical Society; the Monday Music Club, Inc. of St. Joseph, Michigan, and a life member of the American Federation of Musicians-Local 10-208.

Florence was the wife of the late Marshall F. Stith, Former chairperson of the building fund committee and usher at the Gospel Tabernacle Baptist Church of Covert, Michigan. They were the parents of the late Marshall W. Stith who was the assistant conductor of the Philharmonic Orchestra of Bogota, Colombia, and grandparents of one grandson - Marshall A Campo de Stith, also deceased.

Dr. Florence Madison Stith was a dedicated Christian, sharing her talents with dedication, humility, and love. She was a phenomenal woman as written by the Testimonial Presentation Committee at the "Dr. Florence Madison Stith Day" celebration in 1995 in Chicago, Illinois.

She leaves to mourn her passing, three sisters in law, three brothers in law, several nieces and nephews, cousins and many friends.

Soli Deo Gloria