

Lehigh Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

December 2015/January 2016

December 2015/January 2016



Chapter Officers 2015 – 2016

Dean: Michael Krentz
610-861-7669
mekrentz@gmail.com

Sub Dean: Andrew Long
610-704-7805
along2214@gmail.com

Secretary: Eleanor Focht
610-782-9386
eeforgan@aol.com

Treasurer: Stephen Bueker
610.438.3766
sfbueker@rcn.com

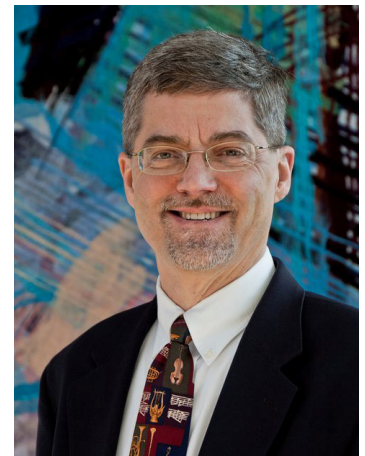
Executive Committee

Gail Hanzl (2016)
Judith Love (2016)
Thomas Busteed (2017)
Matthew Wary (2017)
Aram Basmadjian (2018)
Gloria Snyder (2018)

www.lvago.org

Deans' Mixtures

If all goes according to plan (and if there's any time of the year when plans are necessary, this is one) you will be reading this shortly before Christmas, 2015. I hope that you have found the Advent themes of light, hope, expectation, and peace to be as meaningful as I have this year. With everything that is going on in our communities, nation, and world, Advent has been especially appropriate for me this year. We church musicians have a wonderful calling – we have the privilege of helping people sing their “hopes and fears”, laying them all before God. I commend you all for your work.



I want to call attention to an “extra” program on our schedule this year – an open house Christmas party on January 3, 2016. My wife Linda and I are happy to host all of you this year for some good food, some carol singing, and most of all for some good fellowship with colleagues and friends. Such times of refreshment are very important for all of us, so I hope you can

Continued on page 2

January Meeting

January Jumpstart

Workshops, Plenary Session, Chapel Service

Sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter AGO
Registration \$20 for LVAGO members, Lunch \$15

Saturday, January 16, 8 am to 4 pm
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Avenue • Bryn Mawr, PA

*Dean's Mixtures**Continued from page 1*

attend! Details are in this newsletter.

We have other wonderful events in the coming months, too – the January Jumpstart, then a student recital at Central Moravian in February, and our Bach Plus Marathon recital in March. That will keep us busy until Easter!

Have a very happy Christmas, a happy New Year, and I hope to see you on January 3.

Michael Krentz
Dean

Holiday Social

January 3, 2016
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

hosted by

Michael and Linda Krentz

2014 Amherst Drive
Bethlehem, PA 18015

Catering by Social Tea Caterers
Appetizers, desserts, beverages
(including beer and wine) provided

Spouses/Partners welcome

Cost is \$20/person.

Please send a check made out to
LVAGO by December 21 to
Stephen Bueker, Treasurer
2520 Clark Place
Easton, PA 18040

(Lehigh Valley, Philadelphia, and SW New Jersey AGO members, \$40 for all others), you too can attend this educational event administered by the Philadelphia Chapter at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church.

Held on January 16th from 8:00am to 4:00pm, the day features a wide variety of workshop choices over three sessions, plus a plenary session and chapel service featuring special guests Kent Tritle and Canon Victoria Sirota from the Cathedral of St. John the Divine in New York. Workshop choices include Clergy/Musician Relationships, Dealing with Difficult People, Body Mapping, Harpsichord for Organists, Lesser Known and New Organ Repertoire (presented by Dean Michael Krentz), Pipe Organs 911, a Choral Reading Session, and many more!

If you have attended previous January Jumpstarts, you may remember having trouble narrowing your workshop selections to just three, once you see the plethora of available choices on the schedule. Maybe you'll make a new friend, or run into one you haven't seen in years. You can also spend time at the Young's Music display, and contribute or browse at the Free Used Music Table.

Registration is now open on the Philadelphia AGO website (agophila.org) at the top right under "Featured Events". Lunch is \$15, or you may bring your own. Information regarding carpool arrangements will be forthcoming. Let's have a large contingent from our chapter this year!

Matthew Wary

November Meeting Report

The chapter membership gathered on Saturday, November 21 at Christ Lutheran Church, Allentown (Michael Krentz, host musician) for a workshop, "Hymn Styles and How to Play Them" presented by Dr. Karl E. Moyer. This was the second part of a previous workshop held this past February regarding hymns and the organist's role in leading them in worship led by Dr. Moyer. This was one of the most challenging and enlightening workshops I have attended. The material examined the theology and spirituality that underlies various major hymn styles that appear in most hymnals and through which the organist leads the congregation's singing. Dr. Moyer led the participants through a wide variety

January Jumpstart

Yes, it's cold... it's a Saturday... you have to get up early... and you have to travel an hour to get there, but the AGO January Jumpstart happens just once a year and is well worth the trip! For just \$20

of hymns with lively enthusiasm and the premise that it is important to lead the singing of hymns in worship with informed authenticity. Through singing and demonstration, hymns from plainchant through Lutheran Chorales, Calvinist Psalter tunes, hymns of Lowell Mason, the Mennonites and Church of the Brethren among others were illustrated. Questions asked were: (1) What does the hymn mean spiritually and theologically? (2) How does the congregation best sing each kind of hymn? (3) How should the organist lead the people's singing from the organ to help the singing be the most sensitive toward a heightened sense of the hymn's inner meaning? Dr. Moyer is a retired Millersville University of Pennsylvania music professor and an organist/director of music for several Lutheran and Episcopal congregations. Gail Hanzl arranged for morning refreshments.

Gloria Snyder

November/December Concerts

December 20 (Sunday) 7:00 pm; **Handel's Messiah**; 2nd annual "Sing-a-long" Performance; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; \$10 Donation

December 25 (Friday) 3:00 pm; **Organ Noels**; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; \$10 Donation

December 27 (Sunday) 5:00 pm; **Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols**; Cathedral Choir & Friends; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; \$10 Donation

January 10 (Sunday) 4:00 pm; **Organ Birthday Recital**; Stephen Williams, organ; Cathedral Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem; \$10 Donation

Looking Ahead

Attention all Organ Instructors!

On Sunday, February 21, (2:00 pm) our monthly meeting is being hosted by Becky Kleintop-Owens and some of her organ students at Moravian. The program will feature students currently studying organ. Please consider talking with your student(s) about participating! Any questions, please contact Drew Long at along2214@gmail.com.

March is now Marathon Plus

Have you had a chance to check out the organ renovation at Muhlenberg College, work completed by Berghaus? The March concert will be the perfect time! Our Bach Marathon recital is always a great draw, but some performers remarked about feeling restricted from so many other great works! So, this year we've branched out just a little to see how things go: join us March 13 for Bach plus.

The intent is to, yes, feature some of the countless Bach works out there, but dig up compositions or their composers that have links to Johann Sebastian Bach -- someone he studied or emulated, someone who studied with him, someone who revived his work, someone who wrote a composition based on themes from a Bach work, and the list goes on! Put this event on your calendar, and consider playing! It's amazing how quickly a 15 or 20 minute slot can be filled with great music to share with our audiences. March 13, 2016!

Calling All Subs

Going forward the LVAGO board has decided to have the Organist Substitute List published in the monthly newsletter. If you would like to be included in this list please forward your Name, Contact Information (phone/email) and Availability (Sundays, weekdays, etc) to Stephen Bueker, 2520 Clark Place, Easton, PA 18040; sfbueker@rcn.com

Positions Available

Music Director or Organist

Church: Dinkey Memorial Evangelical Lutheran Church
1742 Dinkey Road, P.O. Box 250, Ashfield, PA 18212-0250, 610-377-4242

Website: www.dmlcashfield.com

Contact: Rev. Anthony Pagotto, Pastor, 610-377-4242
prdinklc@ptd.net

Weekly services: 1 at 8:30 am

Ensembles: Adult Choir — 6, Chime Choir — 10 – 12
Responsible for ensembles if applying for Music Director

Instruments: 2 manual pipe organ

Music budget: \$100

Weekly attendance: 75-100

Position fill date: February 1, 2016
Deadline: Friday, January 15, 2016
Total hours per week: 6.75
Salary: \$6,500 – \$8,200
Weeks vacation: 2
Benefits: book/music allowance, secretarial assistance
Notes: None listed

Director of Music Ministries(2)

Church: United Church of Christ, Greenawalds, 235 Albright Ave., Allentown, PA 18104, 610-435-1763
Website: www.greenawalds.org
Contact: Mark Griffith, 610-435-9901, kgriff5@ptd.net
Weekly services: 1
Ensembles: Adult Choir — 6
Instruments: Organ, baby grand piano
Music budget: None listed
Weekly attendance: 58
Position fill date: December 2015
Deadline: None listed
Total hours per week: 6
Salary: \$10,500 – \$12,500
Weeks vacation: 4
Benefits: None listed
Notes: Currently on a one day schedule where rehearsals and service are both conducted on Sundays.

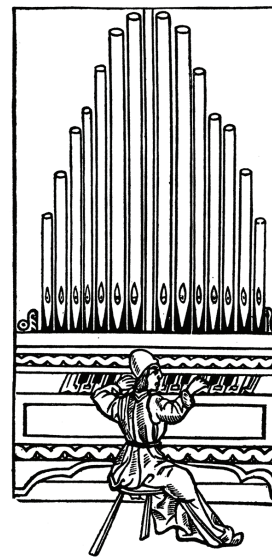
Organist/Choir Director (2)

Church: St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church of Williams Township, 2745 Morgan Hill Road, Easton, PA 18042, 610-252-3571
Website: : http://www.stjohnswilliams.com
Contact: Kathleen Mathews (church Secretary), 610-533-8133 (Leave message), kathleen.mathews@rcn.com
Weekly services: 1
Ensembles: Adult Choir — 3
Instruments: 2 manual tracker pipe organ, upright piano, keyboard
Music budget: \$200
Weekly attendance: 40 – 60
Position fill date: ASAP
Deadline: None
Total hours per week: 4
Salary: \$8,967.00 (starting)
Weeks vacation: 4 weeks
Benefits: secretarial assistance, music library assistance
Notes: Ours is a small country church with most choir members not being able to read music. Weekly Hymns

are chosen by our Pastor. We have a considerable Music Library but prefer Unison or Two-Part Harmonies for our Choral Pieces. We have been losing choir members to aging. We hope to be able to increase the membership of our choir with the addition of a new organist.

Director of Music/Organist (2)

Church: Dryland United Church of Christ, 4415 Newburg Road, Nazareth, PA 18064, 610-759-4444
Website: www.drylanducc.org
Contact: Joyce Hittinger, 610-866-6516, oljer@rcn.com
Weekly services: 1 – 2
Ensembles: Adult Choir — 12, Youth Choir — 4, Handbells — 10 (Not responsible for handbells)
Instruments: Allen Organ, Yamaha Clavinova, Charles R. Walter piano in choir room
Music budget: \$1,200 — all choirs
Weekly attendance: 80 – 100
Position fill date: December 2015
Deadline: TBD
Total hours per week: 6 – 10
Salary: \$12,000 – \$13,000
Weeks vacation: 4
Benefits: None
Notes: None listed



Newsletter Editor and Webmaster: Mark Dennis, 610-867-0385, vmdennispa@juno.com

Placement Service: Please visit the Placement page on www.lvago.org for information and the Placement Service Information Sheet.

Newsletter Deadline: February: Mid January, 2016