CRESCENDO VOLUME LXXI, NO. 6

Newsletter of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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Music in the Reformed Synagogue Past and Present

Monday, 9 February 2009, 7:30 pm

Temple Keneseth Israel

Old York Road (Route 611) and Township Line Road, Elkins Park, PA.

Jonathan M. Bowen, organist-choirmaster of Keneseth Israel (KI), will be joined by Cantor Amy Levy to lead us through a brief history and explanation of music in Reformed Jewish Synagogues. They will present music of Rossi, Sulzer, Lewendowski, Helfman, and contemporary composers writing for synagogue worship, performed by the professional choir of KI with Cantor Levy and Mr. Bowen. This will provide a great introduction and insight to musical leadership in Reformed Synagogues for those either familiar with or new to Jewish worship.

CRESCENDO, the official bulletin of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is published monthly, September through June. All material for publication must reach the Editor by the 1st day of the month preceding the date of issue, i.e. November 1 for the December issue. This must be type written and e-mailed (text supplied in an attachment), or mailed. A hard copy should be included for display ads. Submissions become the property of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO and will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. CRESCENDO reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Articles in Crescendo reflect the views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Guild. All advertising must be arranged through the Advertising Manager.

Advertising Rates

Camera-ready:	One-Time	Season
1/8 page:	\$40	\$285
1/4 page:	\$70	\$530
1/2 page:	\$85	\$630
full page:	\$140	
Professional card:	N/A	\$60
(members only; no	phone number	ers)

Composition/Design, add \$95 per hour.

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Visit our website at www.AGOPhila.ora

The deadline for the next issue, March 2009, is February 1, 2009.

FEBRUARY 2009

CRESCENDO VOLUME LXXI, NO. 6

DEAN'S

LETTEI

ave you ever been overwhelmed with the amount of organ repertoire there is to explore from the last several centuries? I certainly have been and continue to be. However, I want to share some tips in helping you approach this



dilemma in a methodical way. You must first decide on an area you want to tackle. This could be a general period (Baroque, Romantic etc...) or a country, or a specific composer. In dealing with the latter, it is important to know the composer's training and influences. I recommend doing some research (easily done with the internet!) on a specific country and musical period. From this you make a list of composers who helped define that period. From these composers you find out who their teachers were as well as their students. It becomes a big family tree — or several trees. Listen to their music and read through the music, too. If you don't have scores, go to the library, borrow from friends, or purchase. Many scores are available for download (many free) on the internet. Also on the internet can be found websites like 'rhapsody.com' which offers 30 free "listens" per month. You can find many performances, some of questionable quality, on 'youtube.com'. But at least it gives you an idea.

In planning such research it is helpful to have a time goal. For example, you can take a collection of J.S. Bach such as the Orgelbuchlein and study it for a month. Divide the number of chorales into the number of days and study accordingly. Some of these pieces are quite short, therefore not requiring much time. Read through them, do research, and make markings in your score from your research. For works of major composers, research material is easy to find and plentiful. In doing such research, you will see how his writing was influenced by other composers such as Buxtehude, Pachelbel etc... You then need to see for yourself first hand how he was influenced. Study similar works by these other composers and note similarities in rhythmic and harmonic treatment. This takes extra time, so you may want to factor that into your goal schedule.

This type of study can be repeated with each of his (J.S. Bach's) collections. Of course this is just an obvious example as there are so many composers to study. But it is fascinating and makes the music more personal and authoritative when learning. After all, if we have nothing to say about a piece, we shouldn't play it.

So use this new year to continue learning. Don't get stuck repeating what you already know. You will be stunned at what all is out there waiting to be studied and played. And you will feel better about yourself for doing it.

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REGISTRAR'S CORNER

REGISTRA LEWIS,

REDUCED DUES PROGRAM FOR NEW MEMBERS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE 08/09 YEAR

Please don't forget that the National Headquarter's REDUCED DUES PROGRAM FOR BRAND NEW MEMBERS is now in effect (Feb. 1st) until March 31st. What a great way for future potential longtime members to get acquainted with the advantages of Guild membership without waiting for our next membership drive starting this May! Nine issues of The American Organist are included with this offer, and note that this is the only dues discount the AGO HQ allows, since dues amounts are not pro-rated. Our Reduced Dues form is currently available on the website <www.agophila.org>, along with an explanation of the details. Please do what you can to help to subscribe new members, since members like YOU are our greatest advertisement! Send me the name of a potential member, and I will mail them a form.

CURRENT MEMBERSHIP

At publication time we stand at 401 members. We hope to have newcomers join based on the January Jumpstart handouts, and more will surely take advantage of the reduced dues program before the end of this month.

AGO NATIONAL COUNCIL APPROVES MODEST DUES INCREASE FOR 2009-2010

As published in TAOs January 09 issue, page 86, the National Council approved an increase for this coming year, which begins July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2010. Several reasons mentioned were higher volunteer mileage costs (up 31%), a 21% increase in TAO mailing costs, and general higher inflation costs of nearly 9% across all levels. The dues increase of 4% will guarantee a continued full array of high quality professional (Guild) services, such as examinations and certifications, competitions and regional/national conventions, employment postings, and group insurance offerings. New rates:

Category	National Portion	Chapter Portion	Total Dues
Regular \$55		\$37	\$92
Special	\$37.50	\$29.50	\$67
Full-time Student	\$24	\$13	\$37
Partner	\$30	\$37	\$67
Dual	\$0	\$36	\$36
Student Dual	\$0	\$15	\$15

Please contact me if you have any questions: 610-935-0895 or registrar@agophila.org . Thank

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Lewis

Registrar@agophila.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

LEWIS, REGISTRAR JOSEPH

Want to join the Philadelphia chapter of the American Guild of Organists? Need to report AGO Directory changes on your current membership? Need to purchase a set of chapter mailing labels for your next music event?

49 North Spring Lane, Phoenixville, PA 19460 Contact our Registrar, Joe Lewis at:

> 610-935-0895 Registrar@agophila.org

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CHAPTER EVENTS

Sunday 21 September, 2008, 5:00 pm

Guild Service and Installation of Officers
St. David's Episcopal Church, Wayne

Sunday 19 October, 2008

ORGAN SPECTACULAR! Multiple events, all free and open to the public, throughout the area including:

AGO Members and Students of Alan Morrison

VERIZON HALL AT THE KIMMEL CENTER

Abington's Spectacular Organists

ABINGTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ABINGTON

Rae Ann Anderson, David Furniss, David Beatty

ST. JOHN'S UCC, LANSDALE

Saturday, 15 November, 2008, 9:00 am

Organ Music on Hymns Modern and Ancient
Gary Garletts, Abigail Palmisano, Bruce Tonkin
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH, AMBLER

Sunday, 28 December, 2008, 4:00pm
"And what happened at YOUR Christmas Pageant?"

Pot-luck Dinner and Christmas Convivialty

Home of Fred Haas and Dan Meyer, 2012 Delancey Sstreet, Philadelphia

Saturday, 17 January, 2009, 8:30 am — 4:00 pm January Jumpstart Bryn Mawr Prespyterian Chirch

Tuesday, 10 February, 2009, 7:30 pm Music in the Reformed Synagogue KENESETH ISRAEL, ELKINS PARK

Monday, 2 March, 2009, 8:00 pm **Legends of Philadelphia: First Baptist Church** Alan Morrison FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, PHILADELPHIA

Saturday, 25 April, 2009 **Hidden Gems of Philadelphia**A local organ crawl, with Jeweler Jonathan Bowen

June (TBD)

End of the Season Celebration

Kimmel Center Presents

Master Musicians: Organ co-sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

Saturday, 25 October, 2008, 3:00
Saturday, 7 March, 2009, 3:00
Saturday, 2 May, 2009, 3:00
James David Christie

Get more information on these events anytime at www.AGOPhila.org

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER PATRONS FOR 2008-2009

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Michael Blakeney

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SUBSTITUTE UST

Allen Popjoy, Coordinator 610-269-7069 ALLEN.POPJOY@AGOPHILA.ORG

This list is published as a courtesy to the chapter membership. Only members of the Philadelphia AGO Chapter available for regularly-scheduled services are listed. Although the AGO assumes no responsibility for the musicianship or reliability of substitute organists, Guild certificates and other degree programs indicate preparation beyond the minimum.

Substitute	Location	Phone Number
Frederick K. Astmann	Cherry Hill, NJ	856-424-3820
Debra S. Bacak	Sellersville, PA	215-257-0553
David Beatty	Hanover, MD	215-518-1025
D. Stephen Cable	Bethlehem. PA	610-865-4984
Barbara A. Cahill	Lansdale, PA	267-263-2902
Linda E. Carlson	NE Philadelphia, PA	215-969-5412
Daryl M. Cross	Bridgeport, PA	610-277-7627
Doris Dabrowski	Philadelphia, PA	215-387-6635
A. David Deery	Phoenixville, PA	610-933-3666
Dr. Michael Diorio	Lawrence Twp., NJ	609-947-5112
Joyce Gambrell Drayton	Philadelphia, PA	215-635-5778
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Jeremy Flood, CAGO	Philadelphia, PA	215-625-2747
Robert E. Fogal	East Norriton, PA	610-279-1947
Robert H. Frederick	Philadelphia, PA	215-755-7648
Charles M. Griffin	Levittown, PA	215-547-7017
T. Desiree Hines	Philadelphia, PA	917-257-6451
Joel E. Klingman	Southampton, PA	215-355-8445
Patrick W. Kreeger	Philadelphia, PA	252-702-7697
Monica Liggins	Wyncote, PA	215-572-6437
Marianne Lipson	Philadelphia, PA	215-923-9132
David Clark Little	Feasterville, PA	215-953-0352
Elizabeth A. Manus	St. David's, PA	610-293-9002
Paul R. Marchesano	Philadelphia, PA	215-287-8955
Fr. Glenn Matis	Doylestown, PA	215-489-2548
Mardia Melroy	Maple Glen, PA	215-646-1975
Scott P. Myers	Wilmington, DE	215-715-1003
Irina Nenartovich	Cherry Hill, NJ	856-321-3465
Patricia A. Pezick	Blue Bell, PA	610-279-9945
Mark L. Rippel	Newtown Square, PA	610-353-2763
Hehsun Chun Smith	Lawrenceville, NJ	609-275-7027
Jane Dougherty Smith	Haddonfield, NJ	856-428-5334
Richard Spotts	Doylestown, PA	267-371-2687
Dennis Charles Stevenson	Philadelphia, PA	267-258-9028
Sonata Stevenson	Philadelphia, PA	267-344-8263
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John Van Sant	Trenton, NJ	609-656-8428
Rev. Curt von Dornheim	New Hope, PA	215-378-6929
Karen Whitney	Philadelphia, PA	215-424-8450







CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TIMOTHY M. EVERS, COORDINATOR 215-348-4004, EXT. 117

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 4:00 PM

"A Ceremony of Carols" at Evensong, sung by the Bryn Mawr Girls Choir. Free-will offering Church of the Redeemer, Pennswood & New Gulph Rds, Bryn Mawr PA 610.525.2486 www.theredeemer.org

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 5:00 PM

Choral Evensong. The St. Martin's Choir, Ken Lovett, director. David Hogan: Evening Canticles (Mt. St. Alban); Lee Hoiby: The Offering. Handicap accessible; childcare provided. Church of St. Martin-in-the-Fields, Willow Grove Ave & St Martin's Ln, Chestnut Hill PA 215.247.7466 www.StMartinEC.org

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 6:45 PM

Evensong sung by the Bryn Mawr Boys Choir. Church of the Redeemer, Pennswood & New Gulph Rds, Bryn Mawr PA 610.525.2486 www.theredeemer.org

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 12:30 PM

Ahreum Han, organist. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Free. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 4:00 PM

"A Night at the Opera" performed by members of the Redeemer Choir . Arias and duets from operas by Mozart, Donizetti, Puccini, Rossini, and more. Tickets available at the door: \$20 regular, \$15 student/senior, under 12 free. Babysitting available. Church of the Redeemer, Pennswood & New Gulph Rds, Bryn Mawr PA 610.525.2486 www.theredeemer.org

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 4:00 PM

Choral Evensong, The Valley Forge Choir of Men and Boys, Free will offering, 150th Anniversary Concert Series. St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, 5720 Ridge Ave., Phila, PA 215.483.1529 www.sttimothydrox.com www.vfboyschoir.org

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 4:00 PM

Gail Archer (Heefner Organ Recital Series). Free admission. Ursinus College-Bomberger Hall, Collegeville PA 610.489.4111 www.ursinus.edu

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 4:00 PM

Johannes Brass, with Brad Winters, organ. Works by Gigout, Ewald, Campra, Albinoni, Mathias, Karg-Elert and de Abreu. Reception to follow. Free admission. Child-care provided. Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington DE 302.478.2575 www.aldersgatede.org

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 12:30 PM

Brian Harlow, organist. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Free. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 12:30 PM

Victoria Shields, organist. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Wednesdays at 12:30 p.m. Free. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.eduwww.princeton.edu/~choir/

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 8:00 PM

Strings and Pipes. University Organist Eric Plutz and harpist Elaine Christy will offer a program of works for harp and organ. Free Admission. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 4:00 PM

Skylark Vocal Ensemble--an ensemble of professional singers which presents a unique program of ancient, traditional, spirituals, and modern works. Free child care provided. Free will offering received. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington PA 215.887.4530 www.apcusa.org

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 7:30 PM

Allegri's *Miserere*; Ash Wednesday Eucharist sung by the Redeemer Choir. Free-will offering Church of the Redeemer, Pennswood & New Gulph Rds, Bryn Mawr PA 610.525.2486 www.theredeemer.org

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FEBRUARY 2009 VOLUME LXXI, NO. 6

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ALLEN POPJOY, COORDINATOR

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DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Grace United Church of Christ 1947 New Holland Pike, Lancaster, PA 17601 717-397-1012 www.gracechurchlancaster.org

Grace United Church of Christ of Lancaster is opening its search for a half-time Director of Music. Regular responsibilities include music leadership for Sunday morning worship and all special services; also leadership and accompaniment for adult, youth and children's choirs. The congregation seeks a musician with strong skills across a wide range of music, with choir directing experience and demonstrated abilities on organ, piano and keyboard. Send resume to graceucc@comcast.net, attn: Musician Search Committee.

ORGANIST/ACCOMPANIST

North and Southampton Reformed Church 1380 Bristol Road, Churchville, PA 18966 215-357-5636

The North and Southampton Church is currently seeking an organist / choir accompanist. The church has a healthy and growing music ministry. The organ is a very fine 3 manual pipe organ, a combination of pipe and Walker digital. Preference will be given to someone who is a qualified organist, but most importantly a very strong accompanist on organ and piano. Excellent sight-reading skills and the ability to play open-score choral parts proficiently are required. The choir sings a wide range of musical styles, including the standard classical repertoire, spirituals, and contemporary works.

Job description:

- Accompany the choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings
- Play for one Sunday service at 9:30 a.m. (and two services on Easter)
- Play for special services during the year (Christmas Eve, Maundy Thursday)
- Occasional extra rehearsals in preparation for special times
- Accompany the children's choir once a month
- Choose, prepare, and play introit, offertory and benediction weekly

Salary within AGO guidelines.

Please contact the church office, 215-357-5636 or email nsrc1710@verizon.net.

ORGANIST/MUSIC DIRECTOR

University Lutheran Church of the Incarnation 3637 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia PA 19104 215-387-2885; www.uniluphila.org

University Lutheran is seeking a well-rounded, versatile musician as organist and choir director with a strong knowledge of Lutheran or Episcopalian liturgy. Organ is a two manual baroque style tracker. One choir (including 2 paid soloists) rehearses Sunday mornings prior to worship. There is a variety of talent, both vocal and instrumental, available in our congregation. There are no regular weeknight obligations other than major festivals and holy days, though some flexibility is desired. We are seeking a candidate who will participate in the spiritual life of the church, and attend occasional committee meetings to assist in planning worship through the year. We are a diverse congregation that eniovs all kinds of music, is open to new ideas and loves to sing -- an inclusive community, sharing Christ on campus (University of Pennsylvania/Drexel University) and the city. Salary negotiable. Position available now To apply or for further information contact by email at unilu@uniluphila.org, or call the church office: 215-387-2885, or mail applications to church address above, attention:Organist/Music Director Search Committee

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

St. Luke Lutheran Church 35 Wilson Avenue, P.O. Box 335, Gilbertsville PA 19525 610-367-9738; www.stlukeELCA19525.org

St. Luke Lutheran Church seeks a part-time, ministry-minded, competent, creative, collaborative organist/choral leader for two Sunday services and collegial planning. Caring congregation, competent leaders and responsive choirs; 3-manual, 59-rank Rodgers, Yamaha professional upright. ALCM/AGO-informed salary range, vacation, education allowance and Musicians in Ministry Fund.

Contact: : Pastor Weidner, St. Luke Lutheran Church, 35 Wilson Ave., PO Box 338, Gilbertsville PA 19525; e-mail: stlukelutheran@fast.net

CHOIR DIRECTOR

Linfield United Church of Christ P.O.Box 4, Royersford, Pa. 19468 610-495-6480

Linfield United Church of Christ is seeking a part-time Choir Director for our small but very dedicated choir. The choir sings from September to May. Our choir director should be familiar with the use of the liturgical calendar and the scriptures to choose music that will enhance our worship. We are an all-volunteer choir with varying levels of musical knowledge who are eager to learn new music. We need a leader with the educational background to be able to teach as well as direct.

Duties include:

 Directing the adult choir for weekly rehearsals and Sunday worship from September to May.

Continued on page 8

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Positions Available Continued from page 7

 Coordinating music for worship on Sundays and for special services such as Lent, Holy Week, Advent and Christmas, and also coordinate special summer music

- Maintaining and expanding the music library.
- Working closely with the pastor and the Music Committee.
- Providing support and assistance for the leaders of the youth choir.

Send resume to address listed above.

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

The United Church of Christ East Goshen 1201 N. Chester Road, West Chester, PA 19380 610-692-7951-fax

The Organist/Choir Director of the United Church of Christ East Goshen should be a musician who motivates the Choirs to achieve their potential. He or she should have proficiency on the piano and organ to adequately present all the variety of

music used in worship, from solos to hymn accompaniment. He or she should possess a practical knowledge of harmony, counterpoint, form, transposition, score reading and musicology. He or she should work well with groups of people and possess an understanding of Christian tradition and worship

The Organist/Choir Director will be the primary person responsible for the following:

- Prepare and lead music in worship at each Sunday service (10:00 am.) and at special services (such as these during Lent and Advent) as they are scheduled.
- Conduct weekly Adult Choir rehearsals from September through mid-June. Rehearse and direct choir on Sundays for same months.
- Conduct Children's/Youth Choir rehearsals as needed for six anthems per year. Accompaniment and support roles are negotiable.
- Meet regularly with the pastor to coordinate music for the worship services.
- Meet regularly with the Music and Worship Committee to plan broader issues related to church music. The Organist/Choir director will serve as an Ex-Officio member of the Music and Worship Committee.
- Determine the budget for the music program and submit it to Council yearly.
- Consult with persons planning special programs involving music.
- Maintain and expand Choir repertoire, including the filing system.
- Rehearse and develop his/her own skills and attend workshops sponsored by professional organizations, denominations or other institutions related to the profession.

Part-time position requiring 8-10 hours per week. Willing to divide the positions of organist and choir director if necessary. Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings at 7:00 PM. Audio tape with resume is welcome and helpful, but not required.

Resumés may be mailed to UCC East Goshen, 1201 North Chester Rd., West

Chester, PA 19380, faxed to 610-692-7951 or e-mailed (MS Word or Wordpad) to music@ucceastgoshen.org

DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church 107 W. Lincoln Avenue, Telford, PA 18969 www. stpaulstelford.org

St. Paul's is seeking a church musician to oversee all aspects of the music program as it pertains to worship.

- Play the organ (22-rank newly renovated pipe organ) for all services throughout the church year (two Sunday morning services, mid-week Lenten services, and other festival services throughout the year.)
- Select and prepare preludes, offertories, and postludes appropriate to the day/liturgical season.
- Provide accompaniments for choirs as needed at rehearsals and services.
- Plan, in consultation with pastor(s), special services such as Thanksgiving, Good Friday, cluster, funerals, weddings, etc.
- Select anthems for and direct four choirs (primary, junior, youth, and adult). Adult choir sings weekly September — June. Children's choirs rehearse weekly and sing in church periodically October — May.
- Strong people skills, and keyboard (organ and piano) skills are a must.
- Hours: approximately 20/week. Compensation: \$20,000. Salary negotiable, commensurate with education and experience.

Contact The Rev. David B. Christensen 215-723-8981 or pastor@stpaulstelford.org

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

Emmanuel Episcopal Church 8201 Frankford Avenue, Phila., PA, 19136 215-624-8520

Pipe organ. One Sunday worship service per week and one evening rehearsal per week. Small adult choir only. Small, growing, friendly congregation. Salary negotiable. Contact Peter van der Spek at 215-357-5107 or Fr. John Keefer at 610-586-9475 for more information

ORGANIST

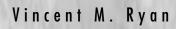
Nantmeal United Methodist Church 359 Nantmeal Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343

One Sunday service, no choir. Pipe organ. Contact church office at 610-469-8655

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Advent Lutheran Church, Harleysville, PA

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FEBRUARY, 2009

Abington Presbyterian Church 1082 Old York Road ● Abington, PA. 19001

HOST ORGANIST: Ethel Geist (church: 215-887-4530)

ORGAN: Moller, 1969, 3 manuals, 65 ranks

RECITALISTS: FEBRUARY

3: Bucky Clark

10: Stephen Schreiber

17: Jacqueline Smith / Andrew Heller

24: Katherine Reier

NEXT MONTH (March): Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church



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Philadelphia, PA. December 28, 2008. "....And what happened at YOUR Christmas Pageant?" Philadelphia Chapter Organists gathered at the home of Fred Haas and Dan Meyer for holiday cheer. This was a sparkling evening during which Members could finally unwind after the season's activities, share their Christmas stories, and toast the New Year. —Elizabeth Cochran







Any organ builder can give you a few pieces of the puzzle...

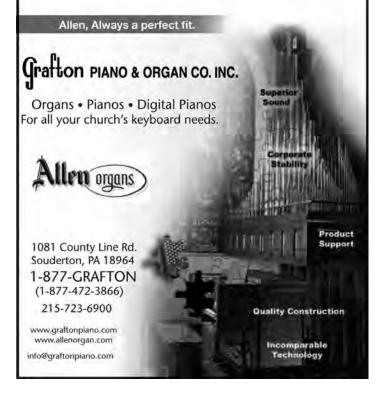


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Church of the Good Shepherd, Rosemont Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Elkins Park American Record Guide

Roy Harker

Church of Saint Asaph

Bala Cynwyd, Pennsylvania

FEBRUARY 2009 VOLUME LXXI, NO. 6

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

REV. BRUCE THORSEN CHAPLAIN@AGOPHILA.ORG

¹⁴You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

- Matthew 5:14-16

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We are in the season of light, Epiphany. The text I have chosen is from the 'sermon on the mount.' This is where Jesus teaches how to be a light in a world which can be dark. In reality, he is taking the law and explaining how to use it in a loving way to live in community.

How we choose to live in community, where we live and work, and spend our time, is where we choose to be a light or contribute to the darkness. Outside we experience cold and many times a lack of sunlight. Can we consider the opportunities we have to be warm? The light that brightens our lives does not always have to be from the sunlight.

I believe God brings people into our darkness to bring us light, to lighten our load, to help us reframe something in a more positive way. As the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO, how can we be a light to each other? First we have to share about the darkness we may be experiencing.

Sometimes it seems money is the only thing that makes the world go around. In many of the places we work, money is tight, budgets may be getting cut, there may be no raises. What is job security?

The light comes when we can look at what and whom we have been given as gifts. How do we show our thankfulness for the gifts we've been given? The light comes into the darkness when we can love and respect each other in community.

We have all been called to be lights to the people we live and work with. When we experience darkness, plug into the light, be recharged to again be a light to others. God only brings light into the world. How will we choose to part of it?

Chaplain Bruce.

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IN PERPETUITY

The American Guild of Organists Philadelphia Chapter's lively concern for education and outreach previously prompted the formation of an Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund is to expand programs for leadership development among AGO members, to educate new organists, and to cultivate new audiences for organ and choral music. This fund is prudently administered by the Chapter's Endowment Committee. T ax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity to produce continuing income support for the Chapter's educational programs and projects. Contributions may be accepted in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, or other assets. You are also encouraged to consider including the AGO Philadelphia Chapter in your will and bequests. Prior consultation with your financial advisor and/or legal counsel is advised. For providing your gifts or seeking further information, please contact the Chair of the Endowment Committee by e-mail at Phil.Gehman@agophila.org.



Katherine Reier, Circulation Coordinator 1936 Guernsey Avenue Abington, PA 19001-3702



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ur Johannus Sweelink was installed almost 10 years ago, and we are enjoying it as much now as the day we first heard it. The rich tones and pipelike sounds have encouraged voices in a congregation such as ours that likes to sing, as well as enjoys listening to familiar hymns on such an instrument. You can almost hear the air through the pipes! We would recommend it as a reliable instrument, and the right instrument for our use in a sanctuary with more than ample acoustics."

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