



American Guild of Organists

PIPELINE

VOL. 7, NO. 3

November 1990

ELEVENTH ANNUAL HYMN FESTIVAL

First Presbyterian Church

111 7th Street North

Fargo, North Dakota

Sunday, November 18, 1990 7:00 p.m.

Reserve Sunday, November 18, to participate in the American Guild of Organists Eleventh Annual Hymn Festival at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo. The new Presbyterian Hymnal will be explored, with emphasis on the diversity of the hymns found there. We hope all AGO members will join the massed choir which rehearses from 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. A light supper will follow with the festival beginning at 7:00 p.m. Gary Thrasher and Marge Possehl are co-chairing the event with enthusiastic assistance from Carolyn Hensrud, Marlys Herring, Sharon Balcom, Jack Close, Judy Sanders, Rod Rothlisberger, Sue Clambey and others yet to be enlisted. This event has been enjoyed by many area singers and is a wonderful way to share our love of hymn singing with the community. See you on November 18!!

PRAISE HIM



GIVE THANKS UNTO GOD

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Pontoppidan Lutheran Church
October 21, 1990

The minutes from September's Board meeting were reviewed in the October Pipeline and approved. Because these minutes are printed before approval, from now on a reminder of this will accompany each report.

Treasurer, Brad Steen reported that \$969.00 has been sent to New York; this represents National dues from our chapter for 57 paid members as of 10-21-90. Our account balance is \$1565.55. Membership cards have arrived and paid members will receive their card either personally or by mail. Report approved. From now on, a brief financial report will appear in the Pipeline each month.

A spontaneous compliment from a board member about our newsletter was met with unbridled enthusiasm from the rest of the Board. Comments like "...outstanding!", "Very attractive.", "put in lots of time!" were heard. The Red River Valley Chapter Board wishes to commend Editor, Judy Sanders, on the fine and professional job she is doing. It is by far the most attractive and thorough newsletter in the area. This publication represents us to other chapters, individuals in our community, and other offices within the AGO hierarchy. Thank you, Judy!

Dean Michael Olson reports that at the Lake Agassiz Arts Council meeting this past week, mention was made of the detailed coverage given to "Kaleidoscope 1990" in the AGO Pipeline.

Other items discussed:

- **Membership** -- Those who have not yet renewed will be contacted by phone. It was suggested we begin the renewal process in the spring, with a final reminder in September. We determined that we should probably be strongly encouraging church councils to support their musicians; memberships in the AGO. The Board will look towards drafting a letter to promote this action. However, keep on inviting interested people to attend or join.

- **Dues** -- The Board recognizes that dues for many professional organizations come due in the Fall. Please renew as soon as you are able. Before deciding you "can't afford to belong" consider membership at the local level only. This is a very valid alternative.

- **Committee Volunteers** -- There is a dearth of volunteers signing up for committee positions or interest areas. This is crucial for the chapter's functioning. This will be addressed via the phone.

- **Hospitality** -- Do we need goodies at every meeting? The Board suggests a moment to stretch between program and meeting and partake of beverage only. There will be discussion

at a later date as the next couple months will not be affected by a decision.

West Acres Art Fair - need members to staff the AGO booth. Will satisfy this need at the group meeting. Items for display will include information on AGO, newsletters, the Red River Valley Chapter Portativ organ newly completed by Lance Johnson, and posters or pictures or other means of advertising for the upcoming Hymnfest, John Obetz recital and workshop, Young Organists workshop, etc.

Kaleidoscope 1990 - details were reviewed: November 16, 1990, sponsored by Lake Agassiz Arts Council, 6:30-7:30 in Fargo Skyway, 8:00 on-stage performance at the Fargo Theatre (Mike Olson will represent the AGO on the Mighty Wurlitzer.) Tickets are \$9.50 and \$15.00. See last month's Pipeline for more details.

John Obetz - recital is February 18, 7:30 at First Lutheran Church. Workshop in conjunction with F-M Communiversity at First Lutheran Church from 4:30-6:30 (note change) on February 17. The fee is \$3.00. He would like to work with three organists; make your desires known. Dean, Mike Olson will ask the First Lutheran Cathedral Choir to host a reception following the recital.

Young people's workshop - looks good for next summer again; also looking like it will hit the road to Montana.

TAO Chapter News - Becky te Velde will continue to send in news of our activities. Talked again about the invitation to be a featured chapter in the "Chapter of the Month" column.

New Feature - Lance Johnson will begin next month to write a column in the newsletter dealing with organ-building. Mark Dahlberg and Mike Nelson are invited to write also.

Yearbook - the 90-91 yearbook will be stalled a little longer waiting for any last minute members.

These minutes are subject to approval at the next Board meeting

Respectfully submitted,
Marlys Herring,
Secretary du jour

PIPELINE DEADLINE
Friday, November 30, 1990

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

Pontoppidan Lutheran Church
October 21, 1990

The October program was "Children's and Youth Choirs: Problems and Pitfalls". An experienced panel consisting of Gary Thrasher, Mike Prendergast, Judy Sanders, Jack Close, and Ruth Fossum shared music and ideas, all tried and tested. Also discussed were warming-up techniques, use of instruments, voice ranges, inducements, and scheduling suggestions. Some questions and in-put from the audience rounded out a very informative program. Marge Possehl was program chairman and served as moderator. Ruth Fossum was hostess for the afternoon. Thank you, one and all.

Dean, Michael Olson, presided at a brief business meeting. Additional booth-sitters were secured for our display at the West Acres Art Fair, held October 26 and 27.

The question of hospitality - to do or not to do, how much, and who was brought up. For now it is tabled as it is a moot point for November, December, and January.

Yes, there will be an Epiphany Party. Date is January 6 (of course); location will be determined.

As of this meeting, The Red River Valley Chapter has 57 paid members.

Mention was made of the organ dedication by Dr. John Walker of New York in Crookston. It was very well-attended, including a good representation from our chapter.

Marge Possehl, Hymnfest Chairman, gave a report on the details of the Hymnfest to date. Area choirs have been invited to participate, will come from the new Presbyterian hymnal, November 18, 7:00 (preceded by rehearsal at 4:30), at First Presbyterian Church in Fargo.

An announcement of the dedication of the new Nordlie mechanical action organ was passed around. Dr. Michael Farris, 1988 winner of the American Guild of Organists' National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, will be the recitalist. The 53 rank organ is located in First United Methodist Church, 12th and Spring, Sioux Falls, South Dakota. Complimentary tickets are required for the 8:00 p.m. concert and may be obtained from the church, 605-336-3652.

On October 28 at 3:00 a new Johnson organ will be dedicated in Worthington, MN. The 28 rank instrument was voiced by Phares L. Steiner, now with the Johnson Organ company. The recital will be played by Dr. David Fienen, Chairman of the organ department at Gustavus Adolphus.

Silent Movie night is October 27 and 28.

November 16 is the date for *Kaleidoscope* - an arts event sponsored by Lake Agassiz Arts Council. This is their only fundraiser all year. LAAC is parent to the arts in Fargo/Moorhead. This is an important function- lend your support by your presence.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlys Herring

**THE RED RIVER BOY CHOIR**

Presents

THE DICKENSIAN DINNERS

An Evening in the Charming Era of Charles Dickens

We invite you to this concert at:

First Lutheran Church
619 Broadway Street North
Fargo, North Dakota

Performance Dates are: Thursday, December 13, 1990
Friday, December 14, 1990

This festive evening features:

6:30 pm Wassail Social Hour
7:00 pm A Traditional Holiday Dinner
8:00 pm Performance

Cost is: \$25.00 per person for dinner and concert
\$10.00 per person for concert only
\$5.00 per person for concert only for
Seniors and children under 12 years of age.

FOR RESERVATIONS CONTACT:

Red River Boy Choir
P.O. Box 8727
Fargo, North Dakota 58109
(701) 239-8357



A Word from the Dean

Dear Members of the American Guild of Organists - past, present, and prospective:

What a busy time of year it has been! It is good that we all have things to keep us busy, but there are times that I begin to wonder if everything will be accomplished. Somehow, though, we do manage to complete our tasks and find new things to do.

What a wonderful representation from our chapter at the organ dedication in Crookston! It was fun to see the new worship space, to see the beautiful new organ, and to hear John Walker play a most interesting program. Thanks again to all of you who were able to drive there and enjoy the wonderful music! Although I was unable to attend the recital in Jamestown on October 21 because of our AGO meeting here in Fargo, I trust that some of you were able to hear Bill Wojnar's recital. Peter Nygaard also dedicated a new instrument in Rustad, Minnesota on October 21. I was most appreciative to all of you who were able to hear me dedicate Mark Dahlberg's new instrument at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo on October 28. This was my first dedicatory recital, and it was played after three morning worship services and a Rite of Confirmation service right before the recital!

Thanks are in order to those of you who participated in the West Acres Arts Fair on October 26 and 27. Several chapter members took turns sitting at the AGO booth and telling people what our organization is all about. It was fun to have Lance Johnson's new demonstration organ available for people to try. It was also fun to have musical organizations from LAAC (Lake Agassiz Arts Council) perform, including our own AGO Handbell Choir, under the leadership of Judy Sanders. If people complain that there's nothing to do around here, they should have been at West Acres to become informed about the wealth of artistic activities and events in our area!

There are two "big events" this month about which to inform you. *Kaleidoscope*, and event featuring many LAAC organizations (singing, performing, and so forth), will be held on Friday, November 16 beginning at 8:00 p.m. at the Fargo Theatre. I will

be representing AGO by playing the ever-popular "Tocatta" from Symphony No. 5 by Charles-Marie Widor. Since I have never played the organ at the Fargo Theatre before, I am quite excited for my debut. If you haven't yet purchased your tickets for this event, please call LAAC at 237-6133, or stop at 806 NP Avenue and pick up a ticket or two. What an opportunity to hear many performing groups, all at once, all under one roof!

The Hymn Festival, to be held on Sunday, November 18 at First Presbyterian Church, is discussed at greater length on the front of this newsletter. It will be exciting to use the new Presbyterian hymnal as the basis for this Hymn Festival. Please plan on singing in the choir, and invite members of your congregation to come and join us at 7:00 p.m. that evening.

At this point in time, I don't know where our Epiphany Party will be located. Two or three possibilities have been discussed. Wait for your next newsletter, read it, and plan on joining us for a time of food and fellowship. This will take place on Sunday, January 6 - which is indeed the Day of the Epiphany.

At this writing, we have approximately 60 members in AGO. Two other musical organizations of which I am a member - the Fargo-Moorhead Music Teachers Association and the Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club - are also concerned about why people aren't joining these and other organizations. At our last AGO board meeting, we discussed the cost of joining our own organization, and mentioned that \$46 is a lot of money. Perhaps people could consider being simply chapter subscribing members at a cost of \$20. You would be members of our Red River Valley Chapter, but would not be members of the national organization. Therefore, you would not receive a membership to The American Organist magazine. I personally look forward to receiving this magazine and reading it each month - but I also know that the magazine is not for everyone. If you want to join AGO and need an application blank (if you've misplaced your blank from a previous newsletter), just call me at church, 235-7389, or at home, 293-0284. Join AGO and take part in our activities and events!

Thank You

Our hats go off to Marge Possehl for a very interesting October AGO meeting; to Peter Nygaard for a wonderful recital at Hoff Lutheran Church in Rustad, MN; and to Dean Michael Olson for a Fantastic recital at Hope Lutheran Church in Fargo, ND! You all made us very proud of our AGO. Thank you all!!



Please -

Remember to pay your dues!

Organ Demonstrations to Sixth Graders

Michael Olson demonstrated the organ at First Lutheran Church for the sixth graders from Horace Mann Elementary School in north Fargo on Thursday morning, October 25. Here are excerpts from the thank-you letter Michael received from the students:

"Thank you very much for playing your organ for us. You play very good. It must take a lot of practice with all those keys and pedals (their spelling!), it must be very complicated at times. I hope we were a good audience for you.

The church is very nice. Many of us liked the stain glass windows, they are very pretty. The organ is very interesting...Thank you for letting us come to your church. Sorry that some of us had to go early to serve (hot lunch at school). Thank you again for letting us come to listen to the organ."

Sincerely, Sixth Graders from Horace Mann

Financial Report: October 21, 1990

Opening balance July 1, 1990	<u>\$ 755.48</u>
Receipts	2101.00
Expenses	1275.72
Closing balance October 21, 1990	<u>1565.55</u>
Bank service charge	21.00
Interest	5.79

Bank charges and interest are reflected in the closing balance.

Bradley Steen,
Treasurer

The AGO HYMN FESTIVAL folder has disappeared. If you have knowledge of its whereabouts, please inform the Dean - 293-0284 or Marge Possehl 233-7611.



American Guild of Organists

RED RIVER VALLEY CHAPTER
P.O. Box 2223
FARGO, ND 58108

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Carolyn E. Hensrud
130 S. Woodcrest Dr.
Fargo, ND 58102

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PIPEDREAMS SCHEDULE FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 1990

Sunday, Nov. 4, 1990-9:30 p.m. More Time for Tournemire..a reassessment of the immense body of work from the pen of the early 20th century master of mysticism, Charles Tournemire.

Sunday, Nov. 11, 1990-9:30 p.m. The American Way..an iconoclastic sampler of American-made compositions for the King of Instruments.

Sunday, Nov. 18, 1990-9:30 p.m. Going on Record..a survey of some spectacular new recordings of organ music with commentary by Michael Barone.

Sunday, Nov. 25, 1990-9:30 p.m. Fishing for Krebs..in search of tasty morsels from the work of J.S. Bach's illustrious pupil Johann Ludwig Krebs, whom the master proudly called "the best little crayfish in my brook."

Sunday, Dec. 2, 1990-9:30 p.m. Pageant!..a colorful progression of works highlighting American composers and performers recorded in concert.

Sunday, Dec. 9, 1990-9:30 p.m. Franck's Three Chorals..rendering homage unto Cesar Franck in celebration of his December birthday and this year of the centenary of his death.

Sunday, Dec. 16, 1990-9:30 p.m. Preludes to the Christmas Festival..a potpourri of holiday surprises for the organ.

Sunday, Dec. 23, 1990-9:30 p.m. A Carol Celebration..virtuosic embellishments of familiar seasonal melodies.

Sunday, Dec. 30, 1990-9:30 p.m. An Organist's Yearbook..a wide-ranging summary of the past 12 months, with competition winners, new instrument dedications, and memorial tributes to friends and mentors...in particular, E. Lyle Hagert, Douglas L. Butler, and Klaas Bolt.

