



PIPELINE

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 25, Number 4

April 2008

Organ Crawl Set in Fergus Falls

Many chapter members will remember the fun we had at the Crookston organ crawl a few years ago. The next crawl will take place in Fergus Falls, on Sunday, May 4.

Fergus has a rich history in church organ music, and has more pipe organs for a town its size than most. In 1919, an F-4 tornado (cyclone) tore through and destroyed two-thirds of the city, along with most of its churches. In the twenties, four of these built new churches and included new pipe organs in the plans. Three of them were Möllers.

The first visit will be Augustana Lutheran which moved out of their downtown location in the early 1970s

and built in a residential area in the south part of town. They brought their Hillgreen-Lane organ with them and had it enlarged. In ca. 1978, they purchased a two-manual, 13-rank tracker. Our second stop is First Lutheran Church which acquired a three-manual, 16-rank organ by Votteler, Holtkamp & Sparling in 1926. The church had the organ enlarged and re-deployed in 1973.

Bethlehem Lutheran, only a block away, commissioned M.P. Möller to build a two-manual, 12-rank organ in 1921. When the church was expanded in 1951, they sold the organ to a country church and bought a used two-manual, 16-rank organ, and installed

it behind a heavy curtain in the chancel. Member Lance Johnson moved it to the balcony while a Concordia student in 1962. In 2007, the organ was completely rebuilt, and put into a Gothic case. Peter Nygaard will accompany a hymn on each visit, with an open console to follow, time permitting.

The final stop will be at The Center for the Arts (nee Fergus Theatre) for a visit to its three-manual, 13-rank Mighty WurliTzer pipe organ. Following the tours, the group will meet at the Pizza Ranch for supper.

(Continued on page 2)

Message From the Dean

Friends,

This is a busy time! The board is working diligently to complete all the projects we have underway, as most of us will be completing our term in office June 30th. The board has been working on completing a contact list for area churches, to allow us to inform those who are not members of the programs we offer. We are finalizing a survey to be used at our programs to gather feedback from attendees and provide data in support of grant applications.



We continue to support the two programs completing this program year: the pianist/organist "Enhancing Worship" workshop April 5th at Dilworth Lutheran, and the May 4th Organ Crawl in Fergus Falls.

The nominating committee is finalizing the election slate for May board elections.

The program committee is busy putting

together a full program year for 2008-2009, including our participation in the International Year of the Organ and the national October 19, 2008 Organ Spectacular concert.

April 1st is the start of recruitment for the upcoming membership year, and you will see a new application in your mail this year. We are working to bring our operations into compliance with AGO national schedule, and so you will be asked to renew your membership a little earlier than you may have become accustomed to doing so. The membership year is July – June, and I urge all of you to be prompt in getting your applications back to the treasurer, so we can get all the reports in on time.

We live in a time when we all seem to fill our days with so many activities. I hope you can fit the RRV-AGO into a few of them.

~Vicky Wms Sieben, Dean

First Friday Luncheon Who Everyone is Welcome!

When First Friday of the Month at Noon

Where To Be Announced
Each Month

Chapter Officers

Dean: Vicky Wms Sieben

Sub-Dean: Robyn Vinje

Secretary: Ruth Discher

Treasurer: Ruth Strawn

Board Members at Large

2008: Sue Clambey, Sally Harmon

2009: Sonia Carlson, Alpha Roeszler

2010: Gaylord Fagerland, Steve Eneboe

(Organ Crawl, continued from page 1)

We hope to see a big turnout for this event. The public and ATOS chapters will be invited also.

Organ Crawl Schedule and Driving Directions

(NOTE: Fergus does not have numbered streets.)

3:00pm: Augustana Lutheran Church

308 E. Douglas

Van Daalen 2/13 tracker 1980

Take the Highway 210 exit at Fergus and go east (left) to downtown. Go right on Mill street to Douglas and turn left. Church will be about three blocks on your right.

3:25 PM : Depart for First Lutheran Church. Go west on Douglas and turn right onto Mill street. Turn left on Junius for one block and church is on corner on Mill and Court. Turn left onto Court and turn right into parking lot. Entrance to church is off parking lot and faces south.

(alternative parking place would be in Junius between Bethlehem and First Lutheran)

3:30pm: First Lutheran Church

402 West Court St.

Rebuilt Votteler Holtkamp & Sparling 3/27
1926, 1972

3:55pm: Depart for Bethlehem Lutheran

4:00pm: Bethlehem Lutheran Church

102 Junius

Rebuilt M. P. Moller 3/25, 1906, 2007

4:30pm: Depart for A Center for the Arts (Fergus Theatre)

Proceed north on Court Street to Lincoln Avenue (Main street). Turn right on Lincoln and theatre is third building on left. Park either on Lincoln or in lot in back of theatre.

4:35pm: A Center for the Arts

124 West Lincoln

Wurlitzer organ, 3/12, installed 1994

5:00pm: Depart for Pizza Ranch restaurant

604 Frontier Drive

Drive west on Lincoln towards I-94. Just before you hop onto I-94, turn right on Western Avenue and then left onto Frontier to restaurant.

*Organists: Augustana, First Lutheran - Keith Melberg
Bethlehem - Carol Andstrom
The Center for the Arts - Jan Stenger*

We thank Peter Nygaard for being our tour demonstrator for the three churches.

~Lance Johnson

Northern Valley Concert and Workshop

Dr. Christopher Anderson will be giving a recital for Pro Musica at 7:30pm, Thursday, April 17, at First Presbyterian Church, 5555 So. Washington, Grand Forks.

Proceeds from this series go to ongoing renovation of our Aeolian-Skinner - the last one the company made. Tickets are \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for students.

He will also be giving a workshop on service playing at First Presbyterian on Saturday, April 19 from 9:00am-12:00pm.

Upcoming Concordia Concerts

Monday and Tuesday, June 9 & 10:

Immanuel Lutheran Church in Eden Prairie, MN
(where Gary Thrasher, formerly of First Presbyterian Church in Fargo, serves as Director of Music)

Wednesday and Thursday, June 11 & 12:

Trinity Lutheran Church in Moorhead

Sunday through Thursday, June 15-19:

Young Organist Week for middle school and high school students (those with no organ background at all and those who have been "pressed into service" because of their piano skills)

Brochures should be available soon on these workshops. If you have questions or would like a brochure mailed to you or to someone else, please contact the Office of Church Relations at Concordia College, 218.299.3146.

Peggy Johnson to Present at National Convention

Peggy Johnson presenting workshop at 2008 AGO National Convention.

If you were deciding which workshops to attend at the AGO National Convention in Minneapolis in June, and noticed Peggy Johnson as one of the presenters, YES! That is the Peggy Johnson who is a member of the RRV-AGO, and also the North Dakota Convenor!

Board Meeting Notes

March 27, 2008: The meeting of the RRV AGO was called to order at the Boulger Funeral Home by Dean Victoria Wms Sieben.

Those present were: Sonia Carlson, Ruth Discher, Sally Harmon, Alpha Roeszler, Victoria Sieben, Ruth Strawn.

Sonia moved to accept the Board Meeting Minutes from February, 2008 as posted in the March *Pipeline*. Sally seconded the motion and it was carried.

Treasurer's Report

The savings account balance currently stands at \$4,677.14, including \$8.43 of interest earned in February. The checking account activity included receipts of \$50.00 (payment for advertisement in the *Pipeline*) and expenses paid of \$119.68 for postage and printing for the Workshop mailing, resulting in a checking balance of \$1,288.34. The CD balance is \$5,242.76.

Assets as of March 27, 2008 total \$11,208.24. Alpha moved to accept the Treasurer's report as reported at the meeting. Sally seconded the motion and it was carried. The verified membership printout was sent in to National on February 20th.

Program Committee

April 5, 2008 Enhancing Worship Workshop - Vicky and Carolyn sent a press release to the Forum ("Take a Class") and to the LAAC calendar. Approximately 250 posters were mailed to local and surrounding area churches. Alpha has promoted the event at music club meetings.

May 4, 2008 Organ Crawl in Fergus Falls, MN - Posters will become available for this event in early April. Vicky and Carolyn will place announcements in surrounding area papers to advertise the event. Augustana Lutheran, Bethlehem Lutheran, First Lutheran and the organ at the Center for the Arts in Fergus Falls are on the schedule for the crawl. The event will run from 2-5pm.

Old Business

1. List of Churches/Contacts - List will be updated through the planned promotional mailing for upcoming program in April.
2. Membership Drive - Still encouraging "each one-reach one".
3. Some suggestions for questions to include on a survey form were submitted and briefly discussed. Board members were encouraged to e-mail more suggestions to Vicky for continued discussion at the next meeting.
4. RRVAGO Membership Application form - Sally moved to accept the format presented for the membership form. Sonia seconded the motion and it was carried. Any additional discussion of the form will continue at the next meeting.

5. Treasurer Position - Discussion was tabled at this time.

6. Nominating Committee Appointments - One Member-at-Large position remains to be filled with a nominee; all other positions have one nominee for the '08-'09 season. Committee is in the process of formulating the final ballot for mailing around 5/15 so election can be completed by 5/31. Vicky will contact Dawn Papenfuss, chairperson of the nominating committee, to review the final ballot.

7. The Board discussed increasing the membership dues for '08-'09 to come up to the recommended amounts published by National with some minor local exceptions. The rates will be as follows: Voting Members - Regular, \$88; Special, \$64; Student, \$36; Student Dual Primary, \$14; Partner, \$64; Dual, \$35. Non Voting Members Local only - Chapter subscribing, \$36. Sally Harmon moved to accept the changes. Ruth D. seconded the motion and it was carried.

8. Program Committee - '08-'09 committee members will be Michael Olson, Marty Baumgartner, Bill Tweten, Sally Harmon, Mavis Tjon, Carolyn Hensrud and Dawn Papenfuss.

9. There was no feed back on the AGO National members non-affiliated in ND list.

10. First Friday Lunch venue for the April 4th noon lunch will be at the Old Broadway (OB). Another suggestion of the Garden Pavillion will be explored for a possible meeting place.

New Business

1. There is a need for articles each month for the *Pipeline*. Sally Harmon was encouraged to write up her profile for the next *Pipeline*.
2. It was suggested to look into the possible role of delegates to the National Convention from our chapter.

Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

The next AGO Board meeting will be Thursday, April 17, 2008 at Boulger Funeral Home at 4:00pm.

A motion to adjourn was raised by Alpha. Ruth S. seconded and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Discher, Secretary

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Upcoming Events

September 15, 2007, 10:00 am

Paul Jacobs Master Class
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

September 16, 2007, 4:00 pm

Paul Jacobs Recital
First Lutheran Church, Fargo

October 14, 2007, 4:00 pm

Membership Meeting/Potluck/Music Exchange
Messiah Lutheran Church, Fargo

December 2, 2007, 7:00 pm

Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long
Good Shepherd Church, Moorhead

April 5, 2008, 4:00 pm

Piano to Organist Workshop
Dilworth Lutheran Church, Dilworth

May 4, 2008, 4:00 pm

Organ Crawl
Fergus Falls, MN

Contact Information

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