



PIPELINE

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 24, Number 9

November 2007

No Ordinary Sunday

This was my 6th substitute gig at Atone-ment Lutheran in Bloomington, and my first with communion. Seldom have I had a communion service as memorable. Their "traditional" service is at 8:30, attended by a cluster of faithful octogenarians. (Some who are DST-challenged had even arrived an hour earlier.) As I was about to begin my prelude, the pastor arrived and came over to the organ to tell me of a special item occurring today. It was All Saints Sunday, so he would be reading the names of those who had died in the past year. After each name I was supposed to play a chime. They actually have a set of orchestral chimes standing against the back wall a few steps away. He explained this would happen after communion was done, just before the benediction.

But when the sermon had concluded, and then the Creed and the offering, instead of going into the Words of Institution, he started into something else. It was hard to pick up what his bass-booster, electro-amplified voice was saying, but then I realized I had just heard the first NAME being announced, followed by pause. Holy hammer! I guess this is where the chimes come! I scampered over and struck a bell for Elroy. Then #2 through #5. He concluded with a memorial prayer, as I returned to the organ to try to sort out what had just happened.

Next thing, I heard him give the BENE-DICTION, and announce the closing hymn. In the stunned silence that followed, a voice came out of the congregation: "Hey! Aren't we gonna have communion?"

I think the altar guild may have had some cleaning up to do on the carpet where he had been standing. But at least if he was going to have a senior moment, I figured, that was the group to have it in. To his credit he acknowledged responsibility for the error. I wasn't sure pastors around here could do that. :-) *I can say that because I'm retired.*

~Warren Elness, former organist/choir director at Hope Lutheran Church, Fargo.

Submitted by: Beth (Larsen) Mangold, former voice instructor at Oak Grove Lutheran School, Fargo and Michael Olson, Minister of Music, First Lutheran Church, Fargo.

Message From the Dean

Friends,

Our membership meeting took place October 14th, we didn't have a quorum. I am sure you meant to be there, something else was going on, or you forgot. I was recently looking on the web, through some of the support tools available to the RRV-AGO from the National AGO. I was contemplating member participation, how to provide value to our members, and to present programs that will attract new members, and I found this in the Each One - Reach One Program.



ASKING THE DIFFICULT QUESTIONS

1. Do current members believe and find value in the organizations purpose?
2. Are we creating a meaningful purpose through our programs and services?
3. Are meaningful tasks and associated work creatively shared and carried out?
4. Is our original purpose enhanced or hampered by changes in our economy, technology and/or society at large and are we meeting those challenges in a productive way?

5. If our organization (i.e., our chapter) went away today, would it make a difference?

The problem I have experienced in my time serving on the RRV-AGO Board is that it is very difficult to get feedback. Often, we ask for suggestions. We ask for submissions to the newsletter. We ask for suggestions for programs. Lack of response is not a problem intrinsic to the RRV-AGO, it happens in other organizations as well, but it hinders our ability to offer what members consider to be worthwhile programs and provide value to an individual's membership. Do yourself a favor, consider the questions asked. What are your answers? Print the questions, complete them and return them by mail to our PO Box. Unless you sign your name, it's anonymous. You are welcome to email suggestions and comments to rvago@hotmail.com at any time. It is hard for the board, which currently acts as all of the committees combined due to lack of member participation, to divine what you are thinking. Give us a piece of your mind.

Soli Deo Gloria

~Vicky Wms Sieben, Dean

First Friday Luncheon Who Everyone is Welcome!

When First Friday of the Month at Noon

Where Fryin' Pan Restaurant (Fargo)

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

Have You Heard?

Have you heard of Victor Hammerel, composer? Viva Marimba will be performing a piece by Victor Hammerel, titled Prelude:Prayer, in the upcoming Concordia Percussion concert December 9. Dr. David Eyler is seeking information about Victor Hammerel and this piece, which appears to be part of a larger composition. Victor Hammerel is listed online as an organ composer. If you have any information, please contact Dr. Eyler at eyler@cord.edu

Welcome New and Returning Members!

Voting Members

Mary Beth Berg
Gaylord Fagerland
George French

Subscribing Members

Donna Atherton
Paul Donner
Susan Knorr

Upcoming Northern Valley Chapter AGO Programs

Monday, December 17, 2007, 7:30pm

Michael Olson in Recital
First Presbyterian Church, Grand Forks, ND
Pre-recital membership dinner at 6:00pm

Saturday, January 26, 2008, 10:00am

Lenten Music Sharing Session
Crookston, MN (location TBA)

Thursday, April 17, 2008, 7:30pm

Christopher Anderson in Recital
First Presbyterian Church, Grand Forks, ND

Saturday, April 19, 2008, 9:00am-12:00pm

Service Music Workshop with
Christopher Anderson
First Presbyterian Church, Grand Forks, ND

'Tis the Season

Michael Olson announces his Christmas organ recitals for 2007.

Monday, December 17 at 7:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Forks (yes, this recital IS during the Vikings/Bears football game for those diehard football fans)

Thursday, December 20 at 7:30 pm at First Lutheran Church in Fargo (there is an NFL game that evening as well, but it's on satellite TV)

Besides playing a number of arrangements of Christmas carols, there will be several opportunities to sing some familiar (and perhaps less-familiar) Christmas carols. Refreshments will be served following the Fargo concert.

Take some time during the week before Christmas to enjoy the beautiful music of the season. First Presbyterian Church in Grand Forks is located at 5500 South Washington Street. The easiest way to get to the church is to take the Thompson exit (#130) off I-29, head east, and then head north on old Highway 81. You won't miss the church!

Save the Date(s)!

Be sure to mark the following dates on your calendar.

**National AGO Convention*
Minneapolis-St. Paul
June 22-26, 2008

**Regional AGO Convention*
Wichita
June 15-18, 2009

For Your Listening Pleasure....

*The Wednesday Midday Recital Programs at First Lutheran Church in Fargo will feature two RRV AGO organists as guest musicians during the month of November. Ruth Strawn will perform at the midday program on Wednesday, November 7, at 12:45 pm. Ruth Discher will perform on Wednesday, November 21 at 12:45 pm. Take a break during your day to enjoy the sounds of the fine Austin organ at First Lutheran each Wednesday. All are welcome.

*Paul Jacobs, who awed us with his virtuosity in his recital performance at First Lutheran on September 16, will be performing as part of the Sunday Concert Series at Augustana Lutheran Church, 1400 So. Robert Street in West St. Paul, MN on Sunday, November 4, 2007 at 7:00 pm. A group AGO members are planning to travel to West St. Paul to hear the performance. If anyone is willing/able/interested in traveling with the group for the event, it will be another unforgettable performance! A masterclass led by Paul Jacobs is also scheduled on Saturday, November 3, 2007 beginning at 9:30 am for anyone who would be interested in attending. The organ at Augustana is a 39-stop, two manual Glatter-Gotz/Rosales pipe organ, installed in 2005. More information can be found at the following website: www.augustana.com/ministries/concert_series.htm

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Susan Knorr,
Robert Asp Elementary School
Teacher of the Year!

Board Meeting Notes

October 18, 2007. 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, Alpha Roeszler, Victoria Sieben, Ruth Strawn, Robyn Vinje.

Robyn moved to accept the Board Meeting Minutes from September 20, 2007 as posted in the October *Pipeline*. Sonia seconded the motion and it was carried.

Treasurer's Report

The money market account balance stands at \$4,617.99 (includes the \$3,000 transfer in from the checking account). The CD balance is \$5,242.76. After all expenditures were made (including all expenses for the Paul Jacobs recital event and the \$3,000 transfer out to the money market account), the checking account balance is \$1,115.78. Alpha moved that the Treasurer's report be accepted as read. Robyn seconded the motion and it was carried.

Recorded Music Committee

No activity planned until this winter.

Program Committee

October 14, 2007 Potluck/Membership Meeting/Music Exchange was held at Messiah Lutheran Church. Several large musical events were also scheduled on this date within the FM area and were thought to have contributed to the low attendance at the meeting. Minutes from the business meeting will be published in the November *Pipeline*.

December 2, 2007 Carol Sing-A-Long will be held at Good Shepherd Lutheran, Moorhead. Carolyn Hensrud is working on the program. Dean Sieben will check with Carolyn about poster distribution for the event.

February 3 or 10, 2008 Organ/Instrumental Program – location and date is still undecided. No response from Gerald Parker. If no word from Mr. Parker by October 31st, other planning for the event will begin.

April 5, 2008 Piano to Organist Workshop conducted by Sue Knorr will be at Dilworth Lutheran. Johnson Organ Company will be sponsoring the event. An outline of the workshop content has been distributed to the Board by Dean Sieben. The time for the workshop will be 1-4pm on Saturday, April 5. Discussion centered around publicity – it was suggested that we place an announcement in the Forum's "Take a Class" section, as well as to contact piano/organ teachers in the community through the music teachers organizations and high school/college music departments who might have young students with an interest in learning about the organ.

May 4, 2008 Organ Crawl in Fergus Falls, MN – Sue Clambey and Lance Johnson continue plans for this event.

Old Business

1. List of Churches/Contacts – no activity reported.
2. Membership Drive – membership currently stands at 31 voting members and 13 subscribing members.
3. Dean Sieben asked that we contribute our suggestions for a Survey Form soon in order to insert a survey into the December Carol

Sing-A-Long program. Dean Sieben also pointed out the important role that community feedback plays in obtaining grant monies for events.

4. Ruth Strawn reported that another P.O. Box key has been purchased.

5. *Pipeline* ad payments – Payment for only one advertisement was collected last year. Vicky e-mailed an invoice for the ads last June and had no responses. The Board suggested mailing a paper copy of the invoices and following up monthly if no payment is received. Vicky will send out a paper copy of the e-mail invoices.

6. New RRVAGO Membership Application form – The Board will review the current form and discuss changes and improvements for approval at the November 15th meeting.

7. Treasurer Position – There was discussion regarding how to delegate some of the current Treasurer responsibilities. Some suggestions were: 1. Turn the grant writing responsibilities (currently assumed by the Treasurer) over to the Grant Writing Committee. (Lance Johnson was contacted and consented to assume this responsibility as part of the Grant Writing Committee, but would like additional assistance with this task); 2. Have the Membership Committee assume responsibility for collecting names of new members and keeping the membership lists current for the directory; 3. Have the annual membership application/dues sent directly to the Treasurer's home address (rather than to the downtown post office) in order to record/deposit/track and report membership information more quickly and efficiently; 4. Mail a letter with annual membership application forms earlier in the spring and be clearer about the deadline for returning apps and dues.

New Business

1. Michael Olson has obtained some written and audio information about Daniel Sullivan (Truckenbrod Artists) to consider as a possible (affordable) guest recitalist for the future. Mr. Sullivan was very highly recommended by Paul Jacobs. Ruth Strawn will ask Michael Olson to get performance date information on Mr. Sullivan.
2. Michael Olson will be playing an organ recital on December 17, 2007 at First Presbyterian Church in Grand Forks, ND. The recital begins at 7:30 pm.
3. Ruth Strawn will be playing as guest recitalist at First Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 7, 2007 at 12:45 pm.
4. Ruth Discher will be playing as guest recitalist at First Lutheran Church on Wednesday, November 21, 2007 at 12:45 pm.

The next AGO Board meeting will be Thursday, November 15, 2007 at Boulger Funeral Home at 4:00 pm.

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

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Discher, Secretary

Event Updates

Membership Meeting

October 14, 2007 – 4:00 pm, Messiah Lutheran Church

The annual membership meeting of the Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists was called to order by RRV Chapter Dean, Victoria Sieben.

Members present were Ruth Discher, Michael Olson, Alpha Roeszler, Bill Tweten. Guest present: Jim Geury.

Vicky opened by stating the purposes of the American Guild of Organists.

The new RRV AGO Board members for 2006-2007 were then introduced:

Dean - Victoria Wms Sieben

Sub dean - Robyn Vinje

Treasurer - Ruth Strawn

Secretary - Ruth Discher

Board Members-at-large - Sue Clambey 2008, Sally Harmon 2008, Sonia Carlson 2009, Alpha Roeszler 2009, Steve Eneboe 2010, Gaylord Fagerland 2010

A "thank you" was extended to each member whose service on the Board ended this past year: Lance Johnson, treasurer and grant writer; Dawn Papenfuss, member-at-large; Brad Steen, member-at-large.

Ruth Discher was called on for the Secretary's Report –

A brief review of the 2006-2007 program season:

—Membership Meeting and Music Exchange, Messiah Lutheran 9-17-06

—Funeral Music Workshop, St. John Lutheran, 10-15-06

—Christmas Carol Sing-A-Long, Peace Lutheran 12-3-06

—Wedding Music Program, Grace United Methodist, 2-11-07

—Piano/Organ Duet Program, First Presbyterian, 3-25-07

—Potluck Supper at the Dean's home, 6-6-07

—Paul Jacobs Master Class and Recital, First Lutheran, 9-15&16, 07

In Ruth Strawn's absence, the financial report for the Paul Jacobs Recital was given by the Secretary: Total receipts for the program were \$5,005.00 (included \$1870 Lake Region Arts Council grant, \$1,000 F-M Area Foundation grant, \$2,135 from

ticket sales). Expenses totaled \$4,295.71, leaving a balance of \$709.29 after all bills were paid. Donations in kind for the event totaled \$1,231.60.

Copies of the Treasurer's Report were distributed by Dean Sieben. Assets as of July 2006 totaled \$7,412.38. Total income for the past year (July '06 – June '07) was \$7,680.07. Total expenses for the year were \$2,515.76, leaving a balance of \$12,476.69 as of June 2007. There was an increase in assets of \$5,064.31.

Dean Sieben provided a brief history of membership over the past few years. July '06-June '07 membership total was 32 voting members and 18 subscribing members. Membership as of October '07 stands at 31 voting members and 13 subscribing members.

Dean Sieben drew our attention to the fact that 2008 has been declared the Year of the Organ and we should be thinking about ways to increase exposure to the community and particularly the youth. There was some discussion about looking into a "Meet the Organ" Community class to be offered during their 2008-2009 season.

Other suggestions for future programs/events were discussed briefly including the scheduling of another piano/organ duet program (due to the success of the program last year) and also possible consideration a workshop on relaxation techniques for musicians.

The meeting was adjourned, dessert was enjoyed and music browsing continued.

Respectfully submitted,

Ruth Discher, Secretary

A very special thank you to our supporters ...



HANSON - RUNSVOLD
FUNERAL HOME
215 S. 7th St., Fargo, ND 58103
West Side of Island Park

Is Proud to Support
The American Guild of Organists

(701) 232-3222 (800) 598-3223

SINCE 1954

Johnson Organ Co., Inc.
Pipe Organ Architects & Builders

LANCE E. JOHNSON, PRIC.
806 N.P. AVE.
FARGO, ND 58102

FACTORY: (701) 237-0477
RES. (218) 261-2671
FAX: (701) 237-5823

RODGERS
CLASSIC
ORGANS

Good Shepherd
Lutheran Church
Clearbrook, MN
Rodgers 788, Sept. 2007

Peggy Bartunek
1-800-962-6989
Bartunek@gl.mn.net
www.rodgersclassicorgans.com



WHEN WORDS FAIL,
MUSIC SPEAKS.



KORSMO
funeral service

Serving When the Need Is Greatest.

409 S. 8th St. • Moorhead
(218) 233-1533 • 1-888-799-1533
www.korsmofuneralservice.com



Boulger
FUNERAL HOME

is grateful for the joy your music brings to our community.

123 South 10th Street, Fargo, ND
237-6441 or 1-800-393-6441

For more information on services and charges, visit our website at:
www.boulgerfuneralhome.com



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 Shepard Church, Moorhead

February 2008, 4:00 pm

Organ/Instrumental Concert
TBA

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

American Guild of Organists
Red River Valley Chapter
PO Box 2223
Fargo, ND 58108-2223
rrvago@hotmail.com

Publication Title: *Pipeline*

Issue Date: November 2007

Statement of Frequency: Monthly, except June and July

Editors: Sheila Baumgartner & Marty Baumgartner

If you are interested in getting the *Pipeline* delivered right to your email box, please send a message to rrvago@hotmail.com and include the email address that the newsletter should be sent to. For those without email, we will send a printed copy. Please send your information to the address above. We encourage feedback as well as submission of articles for publication. Please send your articles by the 20th of each month to rrvago@hotmail.com. We reserve the right to accept, reject, edit or modify any submission.