



PIPELINE

VOLUME 15, ISSUE 3

OCTOBER, 1998

Attention: Notice the Change in Venue

On Sunday, October 18 at 4 pm there will be a chapter business meeting at **Gethsemane Cathedral** to further discuss the 2001 regional convention. Due to illness the regularly scheduled program will not be held at this time.



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!!

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY UPDATES



We need your renewal or new membership NOW!!

We need YOU to be included in the 1998-99 YEARBOOK!!

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The Membership & Yearbook Committees



LETTER FROM THE DEAN

MARK M. RING



RRVC-AGO DEAN

Congratulations and sincere thanks to everyone who worked so hard to make the Diane Bish recital such a resounding success! It is so exciting to see an organ recital draw a packed house. It helps give all of us a shot in the arm as our church year gets rolling. Our special thanks to First Lutheran Church, the Masther Chorale, the Praire Wind Brass, host organist Michael Olson, and all those who spent so much time and effort in bringing about such a grand event. As colleagues and friends we owe you much! Please join us for our meeting on October 18 at Gethsemane Cathedral, as we will be strategizing for the year ahead and making some more concrete arrangements for the 2001 convention. This is a very important time for us to bring our best ideas and best efforts to the table. In a time when we may feel stressed by the beginning of our program year and by the unfortunate worship climate that exists in many churches, it is all too easy to become blasé, cynical, or at worse apathetic. Instead, take a moment to think with me. Think back to the time when a much-younger you first stood transfixed by the sound of earth's mightiest instrument. Maybe it was in your home church, maybe you were visiting a nearby town or on vacation in some major city; the location isn't important. What is important is the pure magic you felt; there were no politics, no mortgages, no stormy polemics to get in the way, there was only you and the music that went through you as you listened. We are older now; there are hurdles to cross each day. But, if we will listen deeply enough, there is still that music that first grabbed us and wouldn't let us go. And when we privileged ones sit at the console, we are now the ones to bring about that magic. Maybe, just maybe, there's someone there listening as we first did years ago - with wonder and awe. And nothing can take that away from us.

Soli Deo Gloria
Mark M. Ring

Announcements

FARGO FIRM TO CONSTRUCT LARGE

PIPE ORGAN: The Johnson Organ Company, Inc. of Fargo, ND has been commissioned to build a new three manual, forty rank pipe organ for Voorhees Chapel at Jamestown College. The organ was made possible by a gift by the Schlossman family in memory of William A. Schlossman, founder of West Acres Shopping Center and George Black, father to Mrs. Schlossman, who owned a department store in Fargo. The organ will be one of the largest in North Dakota.

This organ will have a unique feature of reflecting the tonal designs of the three major schools in organ building (English, French, and German) geared to help organ students understand how the various schools of literature are to sound.

The organ will be fully computerized and will be used for chapel services, ensembles, concerts, and organ instruction.

With the completion for the fall of 1999, the project is the largest ever undertaken by the Johnson firm which is in its forty-fifth year having begun operation in Fergus falls.

Organ Workshop and Organ and Trumpet

Recital: The Missouri Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is pleased to invite you to an organ workshop on Thursday, October 15, 1998, at the First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck, ND. The workshop will be held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m. at a cost of \$15.00 for adults and \$10.00 for students. A light supper is included in the registration fee. The guest clinician will be Paul Klemme.

On Saturday, October 17, 1998, Dr. Klemme will be joined by trumpeter, Gerald Webster, to present a trumpet and organ recital at 2:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church in Bismarck. The duo concert, entitled "Musical M&M's" will feature music by Martini, Mendelssohn, Plog, Mahler, Moureau. Admission for this afternoon concert is \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students.

The Red River Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the following supporters for its 1998-99 program year:

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A Treasure in Our Congregation

Excerpts from an article by Pastor Mark Strobel in the "Glyndon Lutheran Chronicles" October 1998.

During the past summer, Alan Ball, our organist, and I were talking about the history of our church's pipe organ. Alan knew that the organ had been installed at Norwegian Lutheran Church in Portland, ND at the beginning of the 1900's. Beyond that, there was little information about its history and how it came home here in the late 60's. Thanks to the internet, The Organ Historical Society (OHS) has given us some more information. The organ was originally built for Norwegian Lutheran Church in Portland in 1920. The Boston company Hook & Hastings built the organ. Jerry Morton from OHS says, "You are lucky to have an organ by the firm of Hook & Hastings, which is arguably the finest organ building firm this country has produced. The company was in its prime from the 1860s through the 80s." Hook and Hastings closed in 1933.

Sometime in the 50's the church replaced the organ and Phil Felde in Moorhead purchased it. Lance Johnson, a Fargo organ builder and the man who installed the organ here in the church, says that Mr. Felde had the organ in his garage and used to invite friends over for organ concerts. Our congregation bought the organ and installed it in 1966. The original contract for the organ lists a price of \$2250. When we bought it used in 1966 we paid \$2200. What surprised me was to hear from Mr. Morton of OHS that the replacement cost of the organ "would probably be in the neighborhood of \$200,000." The labor costs of a local organ building firm might be less and Mr. Johnson believes that replacement cost of the organ might be in the neighborhood of \$125,000.

If you have any information on an organ in the area that would be of interest to the public, please feel free to submit the information to the PIPELINE to be published.

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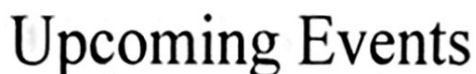
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Letters to the Editors

- ⇒ Every Wednesday: Michael Olson and other organists will present weekly recitals starting at 12:45 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Fargo. If you wish to participate, please contact Michael at 293-0284.
- ⇒ Friday, October 16, 8:00 p.m.: Eugenia Slezak, cello, accompanied by Jay Hershberger, piano, in recital at Concordia College.
- ⇒ Monday, November 2, 7:30 p.m.: Fargo-Moorhead Area Music Club presents Organ Music for a November Evening at First Lutheran Church.
- ⇒ Sunday, November 8, 7:00 p.m.: Michael Olson will be presenting an organ recital at Wesley United Methodist Church in Grand Forks.
- ⇒ Region VI Convention: June 27-30, 1999 in Omaha, Nebraska.
- ⇒ Celebrating a New Century: National AGO Convention in Seattle, Washington. July 2-6, 2000

OUR CHAPTER OFFICERS:

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Congratulations to all who were responsible for bringing Diane Bish to Fargo. What a delight to hear her but more importantly she showcased the versatility of the organ so well with her selections. I was moved by her music as I think many were. We were breathless and speechless by the end of the concert. Thank you to each one who made this presentation possible and for all your hard work.

Sincerely,
Lucille Kingsley

Dear AGO Members:

My husband and I attended Diane Bish's divine performance and were thrilled to have that opportunity.

On Tuesday morning (9-15) God took my beloved Fritz to be with Him as suddenly as Christ will reappear to gather all of His children one day.

Thanks to the efforts of everyone involved in planning the concert we enjoyed a wonderful taste of heavenly music. Fritz purchased a CD of Ms. Bish's organ music which I've played each day this past week and have found comfort in the glorious sounds of the great organs around the world.

I am a former member of AGO having served as a church organist for 48 years. Recently I "retired" from serving on a regular basis. I guess God wanted to give me time to get through the days ahead. But I certainly will continue to serve my Lord with the musical gifts He gave me when I'm able to.

May God be with you as you continue in His service in so many ways.

In His love,
Judy Buegel

Publication Title: PIPELINE

Issue Date: October 8, 1998

Statement of frequency: monthly except June & July

Authorized organization's name and address:

Red River Valley Chapter

American Guild of Organists

P.O. Box 2223

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Issue Number: Volume 15, Number (issue) 3

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PIPEDREAMS

- October 11: "A Mexican Organ Odyssey" With organologist and restorer Susan Tattershall, we explore the musical legacy of the Spanish conquest of the New World, visiting historic instruments in the regions of Oaxaca, Tlaxcala, and Mexico City.
- October 18: "Sonora Nova" Fred Swann, Craig Cramer, Florence Jowers, Jonathan Biggers, Ansely Fleming, and David Hill sample six recent organ installations in Washington, California, Arkansas, Florida, and North Carolina.
- October 25: "Capitol Investments" Whether bullish or bearish, music in Washington, D.C. is enlivened by the sounds of instruments we explore at the National Cathedral, St. Paul's Parish, "K" Street, and St. Patrick's Church.

Don't forget about the Region VI Convention in Omaha, NE, June 27-30, 1999!!!

To register contact: Ruth Hahn, registrar
PO Box 27525
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