We’ll Focus on Building Pastor/Musician Relationships

This month’s program will focus on an extra-musical but crucial aspect of our work: the relationship between clergy and church musicians. How can we cultivate supportive, creative relationships with our partners in ministry? How do we deal with the tensions and conflicts that sometimes result when there are differing ideas and opinions about music in worship? Can we learn to communicate our musical ideas and values in ways that our clergy colleagues can understand and appreciate? Are we willing to grow in our understanding of liturgy and theology to better understand their perspective?

To guide us in this conversation, we will be joined by the AGO National Chaplain, Gregory Norton. Many of you have read his columns in The American Organist, which bring balance and insight to the role that musicians play in their communities of faith. This unique perspective comes from the fact that he is both an active church musician and an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church.

This program wouldn’t be complete without an invitation to the clergy and staff who we work with from day to day, so you are strongly encouraged to personally oversee a comprehensive and eclectic music program and an established community concert series.

He is active as a conductor, organist, and liturgist. His articles and sermons on church music have been published nationally and two of his musical compositions are published by H. T. FitzSimons Company. He is also music director of The Claremont Chorale, an independent community chorus based in the city of Claremont, California.

A native of Redlands, Calif., Greg holds degrees in conducting from Chapman College and the University of Southern California. He attended the Iliff School of Theology in Denver, and is an ordained minister in The United Methodist Church. Prior to coming to Pasadena Presbyterian Church in 1993, he served in a similar capacity at First United Methodist Church in Boulder, Colo., where he reinvigorated that church’s choir, established a community concert series and founded a resident chamber orchestra.

(See Program, continued on Page 2)
State of the Chapter Report

It’s January, and the start of a new calendar year. For the St. Louis AGO Chapter, January is also the mid-point of the fiscal year, and one-third of the way through the program season. At the August and November meetings, the Executive Committee discussed the current business state of the Chapter. I’d like to share some of the results of those discussions, and how the decisions relate to the calendar schedules.

Financially, the Chapter is doing all right. Our treasurer, Dennis York, has begun using QuickBooks, which allows for more accurate monitoring of spending during the program year. The POE was completed without a deficit and remaining funds returned to the Chapter treasury. Over the years, the long-standing surplus in the savings account has gradually been drawn down. There also is a minimal monthly loss on the catered dinners. The executive committee approved re-establishing a budget committee. That group will make a recommendation on the optimal amount to hold in savings, discuss a possible increase in the dinner price to offset losses, and plan a proposed 2007-2008 budget to be adopted in May.

Chapter membership continues to hold at about 175, with nearly equal numbers of new members and transfers/deaths/withdrawals. This year Registrar Cathy Bolduan processed 24 new student memberships for the POE students – we hope that some of them will continue that membership in following years. Plans are being made for a local “Each One Reach One” effort – please remember that the most effective way to encourage new people to join is by personal invitation.

READ THIS CAREFULLY! The executive committee passed a motion that, beginning in 2007, annual dues notices will be sent out on May 15 with a due date of July 1. This will correct several inter-related problems. In recent years, there has been very little money in the checking account in July and August, the time when arrangements are being made for programs for the coming season. The treasurer has not been able to meet the September deadline for turning in dues to National Headquarters because collection is not complete. Because the registrar’s list is not complete, the Chapter directory doesn’t get printed until October or November.

By starting program committee planning in March and the dues process in mid-May, we can have a proposed program expense list for approval in May, money in the treasury at the start of the new fiscal year in July, the dues sent to New York in September, and the membership list complete in August so that the directory can be compiled and mailed in September. It will take some adjustment from all of us, but with your support and prompt payment of dues on the new schedule, we will start the next fiscal year on a more stable footing.

The by-laws were last reviewed 10 years ago, and some new precedents have been established in that time. Areas of change will be reviewed and discussed. Chuck Peery has graciously volunteered to re-write the by-laws to reflect current standard operating procedures.

The OPUS is now being printed by Gateway Digital Printing. Please remember that the editor, Wayne King, will have completed the current issue of the chapter newsletter for posting on the chapter Web site around the 10th of each month, so that information about the current program is available to you well in advance of each monthly meeting despite unpredictable USPS delivery time.

I will keep you posted from time to time about Chapter business. In the meanwhile, the spring program line-up is impressive, starting with AGO National Chaplain Rev. Gregory Norton on Jan. 29 and recitalist Paul Jacob on Feb. 19. Hope to see you at meetings in the new year.

— Martha Shaffer

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THE OPUS
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Wayne King, Editor
You are invited to submit material to the editor for publication consideration. Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to opusslago@aol.com.
February issue deadline: Feb. 1, 2007

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State of the Chapter Report
Lutheran Theology School to Host Class On Church Music

The Lutheran School of Theology in St. Louis is offering a course titled “What Is Church Music For? Conversations with Robert Bergt.” The six-week session begins Jan. 18.

Enjoy and learn from one of the world’s pre-eminent and most knowledgeable gospel-ed musicians who will explore the hymn, the chorale, organ music, the choir and instrumental music in church services of worship. Additional topics will include how music is used “on concert stage” in service of God, and issues about music as art in service to God and man.

St. Louis AGO Chapter member, Dr. Bergt is artist in residence/Bach organ scholar-lecturer at Concordia Seminary from which he is retired professor of church music and worship.

The class will be held on six Thursdays from 10 a.m. to noon from Jan. 18 through Feb. 22. Venue is St. Mark Lutheran Church, 6325 Clayton Road, Clayton, Mo. Tuition is $81.

You may obtain additional information or register online by visiting www.lststl.org.

On the Concert Horizon...

Friday, January 19, 7:30 p.m. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 115 West B Street, Belleville, Ill. Organ/Harp Recital. Dr. Kathleen Bolduan, organ. Charles Peery, harp. Information: 618-233-3303.

Saturday, February 3, 7 p.m. Dardenne Presbyterian Church, 7400 Highway N, Dardenne Prairie, MO 63368. Organ recital by Dr. Laura Ellis, associate professor of organ, harpsichord and carillon at The University of Florida. Free admission. A reception will follow. Information: 636-561-4347

Annual Handbell Clinic in Belleville

The 7th annual handbell clinic at the First Presbyterian Church, 1303 Royal Heights Road, Belleville, Ill., will be conducted Saturday, Feb. 17, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dr. John Behnke will serve as clinician.

Registration fee is $85 per choir and $25 per individual. Lunch can provided for $4 per person. Participants are encouraged to bring handbells and chimes, pads (covers optional), music and stands, mallets and comfortable shoes.

A repertoire list and additional information may be obtained from Josh Peterson, church music director, at 618-233-0295, or on the Web at www.firstunitedpres.org/.

Players Needed For March Meeting

The March AGO Chapter meeting will be a masterclass conducted by Christopher Young, organ professor at Indiana University. Paul Vasile is looking for 10 members who would like to participate in the class. The masterclass will focus on practice techniques and approaches to learning new literature. You do not need to bring a major recital piece — bring something that you would like to have Dr. Young help you with: critique of performance style, technical problems (fingering or pedaling), registration questions. Contact Paul at 314-725-3840 or paul_tpc@swbell.net.

Concert Listings

This is a reminder to send your February - June 2007 listings for concert series events, recitals and choral programs to OPUS editor Wayne King at opusstlago@aol.com.
**Midwinter Organ Conference At Baylor in Waco, Texas**


**Summer POE in the News**

Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart’s report on our June Pipe Organ Encounter event is featured in the December issue of *The American Organist*, along with Rene Zajner’s group photo taken at Martin Ott’s workshop (p. 60).

*St. Louis Post-Dispatch* music critic Sarah Bryan Miller selected the Pipe Organ Encounter as one of the Classical Music Highlights of 2006, calling it “outstanding summer fun.” Her comments were part of a yearly review of the St. Louis music scene.

Finally, a Rene Zajner photo of October Chapter meeting guest artist Scott Montgomery and several POE students from the St. Louis area appears in the January issue of *The Diapason* (p. 8).

**SMU Master of Sacred Music Program Looking for Students**

Dr. Christopher Anderson, recently appointed associate professor of Sacred Music at Southern Methodist University, is looking for qualified students who have vocational interests in church music and theology.

The three-year Master of Sacred Music program is an interdisciplinary course of study through Perkins School of Theology and Meadows School of the Arts. In addition to music, liturgy and theology classes, students have the opportunity for internships with Dallas-area congregations. More information online at www.smu.edu/theology/academics/degree/msm_revised_cos.html.

**University of Kansas Sponsors Summer Organ Study Tour**

The University of Kansas will sponsor its third European organ study tour, May 22-June 5, under the direction of Professor Michael Bauer. The trip will visit northern Switzerland, Alsace-Lorraine and central Germany. The tour is open to anyone. Cost is $3,600 for non-KU related tour members and includes airfare, all housing, ground transportation and 12 meals. For more information, see www2.ku.edu/~organ/tours.shtml.
Positions Available

Worship Leader
Mt. Zion United Methodist Church, 1485 Craig Road, Creve Coeur, Mo., is seeking a worship leader for a new contemporary service beginning in January. Duties include music selection, play an instrument, attend practices, sing and help the pastor lead the congregation through the service. Contact the church at 314-432-4251 for more information.

Organist/Accompanist
John Knox Presbyterian Church, 13200 New Halls Ferry Road, Florissant, MO 63033, is seeking a part-time organist and accompanist. Duties include playing for the traditional Sunday worship service at 8:45 a.m. and attending Wednesday choir rehearsal from 7:30-9 p.m. Salary is $75 for each service and choir rehearsal. Contact Kim Kolander, director of music, at 314-412-7021.

Organist
Kirkwood Baptist Church, 221 N. Woodlawn, Kirkwood, MO 63122, is seeking a gifted individual to serve as church organist. Responsibilities include two Sunday morning services and a 1-2 hour choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings, occasional special services and other music related responsibilities. The organ is an integral part of the church’s worship life. The organ is a three-manual, 43 rank instrument built by Quimby that has an excellent variety of stops needed for the performance of organ literature from all periods. The organ was updated in the spring of 2003. Required skills necessary for this position: a thorough understanding of worship, excellent musicianship, excellent accompanying skills, diversity and experience in a variety of musical styles as well as a flexible team spirit. A sense of humor is vital! A job description is available upon request. The desired start date is February 2007. Contact Greg Lundberg at 314-965-2349, ext. 20, or by e-mail glundberg@kirkwoodbaptist.org. Visit the church’s Web site www.kirkwoodbaptist.org to learn about the church ministries and activities.

Choir Director
Union United Methodist Church, 3543 Watson Road, St. Louis, MO 63139, seeks to fill a new part-time choir director staff position for the 10 a.m. traditional service. In addition to abilities as a Chancel choir director, looking for someone who is interested in working to develop other parts of music ministry and can work with a team to develop worship. Must be able to accompany choir on piano or organ. Outside Sunday mornings and choir rehearsal, hours flexible. Contact Rev. Dianne Cochran for more information or e-mail resumes to uionumcstl@sbcglobal.net.

Director of Music and Liturgy Coordinator
St. Gerard Majella Catholic Church, 1969 Dougherty Ferry Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122, is seeking a full-time director of music and liturgy coordinator. For more information, contact Father Thomas Molina, 314-965-3985. Resumes can be faxed to 314-965-7650.

Organist
St. Giana Catholic Church, 331 Charity Drive, Lake St. Louis, MO 63367, is seeking an organist. Duties include playing for masses on Saturday at 5 p.m. and Sunday at 11 a.m. Contact Mrs. Paula Brown, 636-561-4669 for more information.

Choir Director
College United Methodist Church, 701 E Main St., Warrenton, MO 63383, is seeking an adult choir director. The position is part-time Sept.-May for the 10:30 a.m. Sunday service. Practice is Wednesday evenings. Resumes and inquiries may be sent to Pastor Christiane Batjer, 636-456-3390.

Choir Director
Gethsemane Lutheran Church, 3600 Hampton, St. Louis, Mo., is seeking a part-time choir director. For more information, contact Pastor Kendra Nolde at 352-8050.
Positions Available
(Continued from page 5)

Choir Accompanist
St. Luke’s United Methodist Church, 2761 Telegraph Road, St. Louis, MO 63125, is seeking a part-time choir accompanist. Candidates must possess good piano skills and be able to work with volunteers and choir director. Experience in leading sectionals preferred. The position requires 1.5-hour choir rehearsal each Tuesday evening (except summer) and two services on Sunday morning at 8 and 11. Additional rehearsals for Christmas, Easter and other performances. Salary negotiable based on experience. Contact Rev. Jon Thompson at 314-892-5595 for further information or mail references and resume.

Director of Music Liturgy
Queen of All Saints Catholic Church, 6603 Christopher Drive, St. Louis, MO 63129, is seeking a director of music liturgy to organize parish music program. Duties include coordinating with the directors of the contemporary ensembles, adult, youth and children’s choirs. Candidate will be expected to play for some of the parish liturgies. Days and times to be determined at the interview. Contact Rev. Joseph Simon at 314-846-8207, ext. 204; fax 314-846-0636, or e-mail to jms@qasstl.org.

Organist
First United Methodist Church, 4349 St. John’s Road, Washington, MO 63090, is seeking an organist/pianist. Duties include playing for Sunday worship at 10:30, accompanying children’s and adult choir rehearsals on Wednesdays from 6 - 8:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9:45 a.m. Salary is $80 per week. For more information, contact the church office at 636-239-4477 or the pastor at 816-510-5283.

Director of Liturgy/Music
Mary Mother of the Church, 5901 Kerth Road, 63128, is seeking a full-time director of liturgy/music. Candidates to be assessed on the basis of their collaborative liturgical competence, keyboard skills on piano and organ and choir direction talent. Salary to be negotiated based on skills and the Pastoral Musicians’ guidelines for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. Resumes may be sent to The Search Team at the church. Fax 314-894-3801; e-mail pastor@mmoc4u.org. Letters of recommendation and references are welcome.

Director of Music
St. Paul’s Catholic Church, 15 Forest Knoll, Fenton, MO 63026, seeks a full or three-quarter time director of music. Duties include playing organ for Sunday 8:30 mass, holy days, funerals, weddings and school masses, direct choirs at 10 and 11:30 masses and planning liturgies. Would like to form two adult choirs, children’s choir and handbell choir as well as develop cantor program. Salary follows Archdiocesan scale. For more information contact Fr. Mike at 636-343-1234, ext. 138 or fax 636-343-4809.