Reconnect with the Psalms at November Meeting

The book of Psalms has inspired generations of worshippers – priests in the Old Testament temple, sixth-century monastic communities, sixteenth-century Lutherans and Calvinists, as well as contemporary spiritual communities like Taize and Iona. This collected body of songs and prayers has played a central in Jewish and Christian liturgy, giving voice to ecstatic joy, deep lament, seething anger, tearful confession and simple thanks. The emotional range of the book is staggering and speaks to the depth and richness of our human lives. But there are challenges to keeping the Psalms a central, vibrant part of our congregation’s worship life. The texts can often be confusing or troubling and perhaps our congregations would rather that we focus on more “upbeat” material.

At this month’s meeting on Nov. 27, you have an opportunity to reconnect and re-imagine the Psalms in a unique Psalm Festival. The evening program will include diverse musical settings drawn from many traditions – responsorial, chanted in various languages, choral and spoken. And woven throughout our singing will be brief meditations by local clergy, a poet, and church musicians.

Special guests will include:
- Rabbi Mordecai Miller from Temple Brith Shalom Kneseth Israel in Clayton, who will speak on the central role of the Psalms in Jewish thought and worship.
- Dr. Marvin Marcus, who serves as a cantor at Temple Brith Shalom, will chant a psalm in Hebrew and share in musical leadership.

- Ann Weems, noted author and poet, will read several poetic translations of the Psalms, including a poem from her collection Psalms of Lament.
- Rev. Dr. Christopher Grundy, Professor of Preaching and Worship at Eden Theological Seminary, will speak on how the Psalms help to form and reform our worship.
- Members and friends of the Guild will offer instrumental interpretations of the Psalms.

We hope that this event provides an opportunity for you to creatively reengage with these powerful poems and the spirituality that undergirds them.

Perhaps you will bring a setting or two to bring back to your congregation, and maybe you’ll find a moment of comfort, challenge, inspiration or insight that will renew you in your work as a worship leader. We look forward to seeing you this month!

Planning Ahead

January 29, 2007: AGO National Chaplain Gregory Norton will be our guest at Ladue Chapel. Please invite your clergy-person to attend this meeting with you.

NOTE: This is the last Monday of the month.

— Paul Vasile
**Holidays Offer Opportunities for Hearing Others**

What a pleasure it was to see so many of you at St. Peters on Oct. 23. It was a great way to hear and meet Scott Montgomery, the new AGO Young Artist. Your attendance was also a way to tell Scott that the St. Louis organist community welcomes him and is interested in his career as a recitalist. We're grateful to Chapter photographer Rene Zajner for his pictures that recap this and other of our recent activities.

As the holiday season approaches, there will be many opportunities to attend recitals and programs in the metro area. Some of the events will be perennial favorites in the annual programming of professional groups. But many will be concerts presented by you and your AGO colleagues. I encourage you to scan the Events column of the OPUS and the listings in the Thursday "Get Out” section of the Post-Dispatch. And don’t overlook the Religion section of the Saturday paper where many church events are listed. Select a concert and attend - see a new church, hear a new choir or organ, get some new repertoire ideas. After the concert, stay to greet the organist and performers - it’s a great way to show your interest in a colleague’s endeavors and to draw us together as a community of church musicians.

The next two months will be filled with planning and practicing that culminates on Christmas Eve. I hope that in the midst of making this time meaningful for your congregation, you will find peace and renewal for yourself. May your choir members stay in good voice, may all your pipes be in tune, and may your playing reflect the joy of the season!

— Martha Shaffer

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**Welcome New Chapter Members**

We welcome the following new members who have recently joined the St. Louis Chapter, American Guild of Organists.

Gay Spears  
Gregory Caldwell  
J.D. Brooks  
Cathy Cassy  
Rad Bunting  
Mark Ruff  
David Cohen  
Emily Pearce  
Homer Ferguson  
Brent Johnson  
Michael Bavlsik  
Tyson Wunderlich  
Jean Condron  
Gary Miller  
David Erwin  
Sister Dorothy Venhaus, SSND  
Heather Martin Cooper  
Ju Young Lee  
James Munden  
Benjamin Weston  
Nathan Jackson  
Jim Randazzo  
Katie Ammann  
Bill Stein  
Father Joseph Havrilka  
Richard Jaeggi  
Pamela Stuerke  
Bill Robinson  
Henry Kipp  
Timothy Lyon  
Laura Bollinger

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**Volunteers Needed**

Two people are needed to fill vacancies on the telephone committee. The committee works on an as-needed basis and is a vital link in Chapter communications. Contact Chairperson Regina Morris for details: 314-647-0475 or morrisrp@swbell.net.

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**Free Music On-Line**

Stephen Best, dean of the Central New York Chapter, was commissioned to write a new piece to celebrate the 200th anniversary of First United Methodist Church, Schenectady, N.Y. The church agreed to his suggestion that the piece be made available free of charge to anyone interested in playing it. Mr. Best’s composition, “Celebration!,” which is inspired by “Rejoice” from Handel’s “Messiah,” can be downloaded at [www.evensongmusic.net/celebration.html](http://www.evensongmusic.net/celebration.html). Click on the word “Celebration” and print the music from the pdf file.

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**STUDENT MEMBERS from the POE**

David Ball  
Ben Blasingame  
Jenny Bower  
Evan Culbertson  
Matthew Cantowine  
Rebecca Gee  
Andrew Kenna  
Nicole Reinhardt  
John Schneier  
Helen Schultz  
Ellen Vierse  
Joseph Wentzel

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**The OPUS**

The official publication of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.  
November 2006  
Volume 23, No.3  
Wayne King, Editor  
You are invited to submit material to the editor for publication consideration. Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to opusstlago@aol.com.  
January issue deadline: Jan. 2, 2007
AGO Rising Star Scott Montgomery at October Meeting

Scott Montgomery, Program Chair Paul Vasile and Michael Laubert.

A Bach prelude and fugue on St. Peter’s fine Mander organ.

A rapt “choir” audience…

Summer POE students were special guests. Front row: John Schneier and Andrew Kenney. Back row: Jenny Bower, Scott Montgomery and meeting host Bill Aitken.

ORGAN RECITAL & CHORAL EVENSONG
FIRST SUNDAYS from OCTOBER through MAY
The St. Peter’s Singers - S. William Aitken, Director

Sunday, NOV. 5 – Organ Recital and Evensong
5:00 p.m. – Michael J. Bennett, Organist – Lafayette, Indiana
5:30 p.m. – All Saints’ Evensong – Music of Sowerby, Howells and Victoria

Sunday, DEC. 3 – 5:00 p.m. – Christmas Concert
St. Peter’s Choir & Chamber Orchestra: Dixit & Magnificat – W. A. Mozart
Ceremony of Carols – Benjamin Britten: Magnificat – J. S. Bach

Sunday, JAN. 7, 2007 – Organ Recital and Evensong
5:00 p.m. – Earl Naylor, Organist – Emmanuel Episcopal Church, St. Louis
5:30 p.m. – Epiphany Evensong – Music of Davies, Dyson and Stewart

SAINT PETER’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Warson and Ladue Roads • Saint Louis, Missouri
(One block east of Lindbergh Boulevard on Ladue Road)
‘Crawlers’ Visit Illinois Organs in September to Kick Off AGO Season

Pipes of the Allen/Moller organ at St. Elizabeth’s Catholic Church, Granite City.

Cathy Bolduan tries out the Robert Dial organ at First Presbyterian Church, Alton, under the watchful eye of Henry Evans.

The Martin Ott instrument in the chapel at Principia College, Elsah.

Principia student Lisa Remington demonstrated the carillon at Principia College.

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Volunteers Needed

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In Memoriam

Joseph O’Conner passed away on Thursday, Oct 28. He was a member of the Guild during the 1970s and 1980s. He had studied at Peabody Conservatory and The Julliard School. He was assistant organist at Christ Church Cathedral, organist and choir director at Des Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church. He had a deep interest in the music of Olivier Messiaen. Joe will be remembered as host and recitalist of “King of Instruments,” a series of radio programs which he wrote and produced for KWMU.

Organs Visited

Allen/Moller (2002, 2/72)
St. Elizabeth’s Catholic Church, Granite City, Ill.
Host: Jim Dedera

First Presbyterian Church, Alton, Illinois
Host: Robert Dial

Martin Ott (1992, 2/34)
Jean L. Rainwater Carillon (39 bells)
Casavant (2005, 3/55)
Principia College, Elsah, Ill.
Host: John Near

Special thanks to Chapter photographer Rene Zajner for the photographs of events appearing in this OPUS issue.

SAINT LOUIS CATHEDRAL CONCERTS
Experience Great Music in a Great Space!

REMAINING CONCERTS OF THE 2006-2007 SEASON

Christmas at the Cathedral with the choir of the Archdiocese of St. Louis Sunday, December 10, 2006 2:30 PM SOLD OUT

Missouri Collegiate Choirs Concert with the choir of the University of Missouri, St. Louis University of Missouri, Columbia & Missouri State University Friday, January 12, 2007 8:00 PM

Cathedral Organist John Romer & Tenor Scott Kennebeck Sunday, January 28, 2007 2:30 PM

Paul Jacobs, organist Juilliard Music School Sunday, February 18, 2007 2:30 PM

St. Thomas Choir, New York City Monday, March 5, 2007 8:00 PM

Cathedral Concerts Gala Sunday, March 11, 2007 6:00 PM In the Starlight Roof & Zodiac Room, Chase Park Plaza featuring Susan Slaughter and the St. Louis Symphony Brass Quintet

The Tallis Scholars Sunday, March 25, 2007 7:30 PM

Chanticleer Thursday, April 19, 2007 8:00 PM

Felix Hell, organist Wednesday, July 18, 2007 7:30 PM

Group Rates Available. For tickets or more information call 314-533-7662 or visit www.StlCathedralConcerts.org Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis 4431 Lindell Boulevard
On the Concert Horizon...

Sunday, November 12, 3 p.m. St. Paul United Church of Christ, 115 West B Street, Belleville, Ill. Chamber music concert by St. Louis Symphony Orchestra players. Information: 618-233-3303.

Sunday, November 12, 4 p.m. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington Avenue, University City, MO 63130. Tom Zajac and the Kingsbury Ensemble perform Baroque works for recorder. Admission is free; a reception will follow. Information: 314-725-3840 or www.trinitycity.org.

Sunday, November 12, 5 p.m. Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place (at Taylor), St. Louis, MO 63108. Organ recital by Charles Collins. Program includes works by Bach, Mendelssohn, Rheinberger and Woodman. Free. Information: 314-367-0366 or music@secondchurch.net.


Sunday, November 19, 3 p.m. Graham Chapel on the campus of Washington University. Barbara Raedeke, instructor in organ, performs a concerto by Handel and University Organist William Partridge plays Poulenc’s Organ Concerto and Walton’s Crown Imperial March with the Washington University Symphony Orchestra, Dan Presgrave conductor.

Sunday, November 26, 3 p.m. Emmanuel Episcopal Church, 9 South Bompart Ave., Webster Groves, MO 63119. Organ recital by Earl Naylor. Works by Buxtehude, Guillain, Bach, Dubois, Barber, Manz and Vierne. Admission is free. Reception to follow. Information: 314-961-2393.


Saturday, December 9, 7:30 p.m. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington Avenue, University City, MO 63130. Organ rededication recital performed by Paul Vasile. Program includes works by Bach, Bolcom, Reubke and Messiaen. Admission is free; a reception will follow. Information: 314-725-3840 or www.trinitycity.org.

Sunday, December 10, 3 p.m. St. Elizabeth Church, 2300 Pontoon Road, Granite City, IL 62040. St. Elizabeth Concert Series presents The Gateway Ringers in a special “Holiday with Bells” Christmas concert. Music will include sacred and secular favorites and some surprises. No admission. A free-will offering supports the Concert Series. Information: James Dedera, 618-876-1708.

Sunday, December 10, 5 p.m. Second Presbyterian Church, 4501 Westminster Place (at Taylor), St. Louis, MO 63108. A Concert of Music by Vivaldi. The church choir with orchestra and handbells, Charles Collins, organist and choir director, present Vivaldi’s “Credo” and “Beatus vir.” Free. Information: 314-367-0366 or music@secondchurch.net.

Sunday, December 17, 3 p.m. St. James the Greater Catholic Church, 6401 Wade. Saint Louis Chamber Chorus “A Celtic Christmas”. Carols by Bax, Moeran, and Warlock; commissioned carol from Patrick Zuk. Information and tickets: 636-458-4343.

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.
Positions Available

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 Dougberthy 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.

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.

(Position Available continued on back cover)
Positions Available

(Continued from page 7)

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, directing 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.

Liturgist
St. Joseph Catholic School, Cottleville, Mo, is looking for a liturgist to plan school liturgies for the 2006-2007 school year. For more information please contact Mary Ellen Schraeder, principal, at info@stjoeecot.org.

Minister of Music
Ivy Chapel UCC, 620 N. Woodsmill Rd., Chesterfield, MO 63017, is seeking a part-time minister of music. Duties include playing the organ and piano as well as directing the chancel and youth choirs. Fax resume to 314-434-5077, Attention: Search.