

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF
...off the old blockflute

**Birmingham Chapter of
The American Guild of Organists
February 2013**



Charles Kennedy, Dean

A WORD FROM THE DEAN

Greetings to all of you, and a Happy New Year! I would first like to thank Jim Dorroh for graciously hosting our Epiphany party at his home on Friday, January 4. It was a wonderful time of great food and conversation, with a large crowd of some 50 people. I would also like to thank Hospitality Committee chair Nathan Smock for his hard work in coordinating with the caterers and making this event a real success.

New Member

We welcome new member Bruce Ludwick, who comes to us from St. Louis, Missouri, where he served as Director of Music and Organist at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church. Bruce is the new Director Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. Paul (Roman Catholic) here in Birmingham. He looks forward to getting to know us, and to becoming more involved with the chapter.

**Minnie McNeil Carr
Scholarship Competition**

The Minnie McNeil Carr Scholarship Competition will be held at Independent

Presbyterian Church on Saturday, April 6, at 10:00 a.m. In accordance with the chapter operating procedures, the Minnie McNeil Carr Scholarship Competition is open to any Alabama high school student currently studying organ. For more information contact Dan Lawhon at (205) 328-0644 (church), (205) 602-0597 (cell), or dlawhon@bcoc.net. Additional forms and information may be accessed from the *Competition and Scholarship* link on our website www.birminghamago.org.

Grow the Guild Campaign

As part of the national AGO's "Grow the Guild" campaign, a special opportunity is being offered to prospective new members to join the guild at a substantially reduced rate, covering only the second half of the year (through June), but allowing for a subscription to *The American Organist* magazine through the November issue (corresponding to the normal annual subscription schedule for AGO members). An ad with more details will appear in the February issue of *The American Organist*. Look for further updates on this marvelous opportunity to grow our chapter!

**Warren Hutton Pipe Organ Encounter
Scholarship**

The Birmingham Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is pleased to continue the Warren Hutton Pipe Organ Encounter Scholarship. This annual scholarship is in memory of Warren Hutton, Professor of Organ at the University of Alabama for

more than 40 years. Mr. Hutton was also active in the AGO, serving as a past Dean of the Birmingham Chapter, our Regional Councillor, and holding several positions on the National Council. Mr. Hutton passed away in July 2002 while attending the AGO National Convention in Philadelphia. This scholarship is applied to the tuition to an AGO-sponsored Pipe Organ Encounter or Pipe Organ Encounter Advanced.

Eligibility: The Warren Hutton POE Scholarship will be made available to qualified students who *apply to and are accepted by* any POE or POEA sponsored by the AGO. (To attend a POE, basic keyboard proficiency is required but previous organ study is not necessary.) Applicants ages 13-18 must be residents of one of the states comprising Region IV and have the support of a Region IV AGO Chapter.

Criteria for awarding the scholarship: In making the award, the Competition and Scholarship Committee of the Birmingham Chapter will consider recommendations from the applicant's keyboard teacher and the Dean of the AGO Chapter that supports the application, as well as a personal statement from the applicant describing his or her interest in the organ.

Application: Application forms may be downloaded from the Competitions and Scholarships link at www.birminghamago.org, the Birmingham chapter website. Applications must be received by April 25. Scholarship recipients will be notified by May 10 and must confirm their acceptance of the award by May 20. For more information, please contact me at dean@birminghamago.org or kennedy@cathedraladvent.com or (205) 226-3503 (church) or (734) 353-0486 (cell).

University of Alabama Organ Scholarship Competition

Congratulations to chapter member Christopher Henley, who was awarded first prize in the University of Alabama Organ Scholarship Competition, held on Thursday, January 24. Judges for the finals were Jim Cook, Fred Teardo, and myself. As one who has watched Christopher develop and grow as an organist and musician, I can say that I am proud of his hard work, and we all wish him very well as he begins an exciting new chapter in his musical life with organ studies at the University of Alabama.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our next chapter meeting on Monday, February 11 at Shades Valley Lutheran Church!

Charles M. Kennedy, Dean



Dan Lawhon, Sub Dean

Hello everyone,

I hope that all of you had a wonderful holiday season and that your new year is off to a good start. It was a pleasure to see so many of you at the Epiphany Party the first of the month. A special thank you to James Dorroh for opening his home. Also, thanks to Nathan Smock who arranged for the wonderful meal. As always, Shereilyn Breland and Greg Roberson were there to do whatever was needed to make the occasion enjoyable. It was great to

welcome Bruce Ludwick, the new Director of Music and Organist at the Cathedral of St. Paul. Also in attendance were two of our newest members, Fred and Leslie Teardo, Fred is the new Director of Music and Organist at Advent Cathedral and Leslie is the Associate Director/Organist at St. Luke's Episcopal. We missed several of our regular attendees and hope that all is well with those who could not attend.

Shades Valley Lutheran Church on Lakeshore Drive will host our meeting on Monday, February 11th. We will eat at 6 p.m. The menu/cost will be posted soon. Following our meal and a short business meeting, Jonathan Setzer, Co-owner of Lois Fyfe Music, will lead us in a reading session. Jonathan will be sharing both organ and choral music with us. The session will include new releases, top sellers, music for a wide range of abilities, organs, and choral forces. There should be something for everyone. We hope that you can join us.

On a personal note, Noack Organ, Opus 156 installation will begin at the Baptist Church of the Covenant, Monday, February 4 and the organ will be played for the first time (publicly) on Maundy Thursday. The AGO monthly meeting will be held at BCOC, March 11, so that you will have the opportunity to hear from the builder and get a "sneak preview" of this wonderful instrument.

See you soon,
Dan Lawhon, Sub-Dean

GREETINGS FROM YOUR REGION IV COUNCILLOR!
WOM. In marketing circles this stands for "Word-of-Mouth." I recently read *The Face-to-Face Book: Why Real Relationships Rule in a Digital Marketplace* (Keller & Fay, Free Press,

2012). I know, I know: this is not a book that is usually on my reading list! However, I am increasingly intrigued by social media and how the Internet impacts our interpersonal relationships. How is social media impacting the AGO? Do interpersonal relationships still matter? Marketing gurus postulate that word-of-mouth and offline interaction is critical to successful business. Word-of-mouth basics include "being recommendable, easy to talk about, worth talking about, and something people feel proud to share with others." (P34) A quote from Keller & Fay made me smile: "You need current customers to help with the persuasion process if converts are to be won. In other words, preach to the choir, providing them with a melody that can, in turn, help them persuade their friends and family to join your flock of customers." (P104)

Enough of my book report . . . let me highlight a few things of importance for Region IV this spring:

1) "**Grow the Guild**"

(<http://www.agohq.org/membership/grow/>) is an important initiative of the AGO. The goal is chapter growth of 5%. Let's 'preach to the choir' of organists and church musicians that are *not* AGO members and invite them to join us! Wouldn't it be great if all chapters in the region could increase their membership roster?

2) Joining the national office is Bill Valentine, the AGO's new **Director of Information Technology**. Bill comes to the Guild with an extensive background in Information Technology. For fifteen years he worked as a programmer, systems analyst, and project manager developing large-scale Student Information Systems at Columbia University and NYU. The challenges he confronted there are similar to the ones he faces at the AGO—creating systems that simultaneously serve a central administration, local offices, and individual constituents.

3) Get face-to-face with colleagues who are dedicated to the future of quality organ and choral music. Register for the **2013 Columbia**

Region IV Convention today at:
<http://www.regional2013.org/registration.html>

The American Guild of Organists has truly impacted my musical life. Help me spread the word to others about what this fine organization can do!

Keep in touch,
Laura Ellis

E-mail: LRELLIS@ufl.edu

Region IV Blog:

<http://agoregionivblog.blogspot.com/>

Region IV Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/AGO-Region-IV/312313912115500?ref=hl>

Sun., Feb.24, 2:30 pm -The Cathedral of St. Paul, 3rd Ave. No. at 22nd St., will host a recital of Sacred Music featuring Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw - Soprano, Assoc. Prof. of Voice at BSC and Michael Matthes - Cathedral Organist and Prof.of Organ at the Conservatoire National de Troyes, France. Composers on the program include Gorecki, Vierne, Bach and others. Baritone Jeff Kensmoe, Asst. Prof. and Opera Dir. at BSC, will join the performers for Bach's "Mein Freund ist mein" from Cantata 140. Later this Spring Leary-Warsaw and Matthes will be featured in France at the "Night of Cathedrals" festival. The public is cordially invited to attend this free concert. (For more information about the Organist, consult michaelmatthes.com)

Birmingham Chapter Calendar of Events

**February Lois Fyfe Music: Choral
and Organ Music Reading Session**

Monday, Feb. 11, 2013

Shades Valley Lutheran Church

Dinner 6:00 p.m.;

Business meeting 6:30 p.m.;

Program 7:00 p.m.

March Fritz Noack:

The Art of Organ Building

Monday, March 11, 2013

Baptist Church of the Covenant

Dinner 6:00 p.m.;

Business meeting 6:30 p.m.;

Program 7:00 p.m.

April Student Recital

Monday, April 8, 2013

Independent Presbyterian Church

Dinner 6:00 p.m.;

Business meeting 6:30 p.m.;

Program 7:00 p.m.

**Boyd Jones: The Art of Registration
Adaptation**

Saturday, April 20, 2013, 10:30 a.m.

Baptist Church of the Covenant

**May Hymn Festival with Scott Elsholz;
Installation of New Executive Committee**

Monday, May 13, 2013

Sixth Avenue Baptist Church

Dinner 6:00 p.m.;

Business meeting 6:30 p.m.;

Program 7:00 p.m.