

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF

...off the old blockflute



Birmingham Chapter of The American Guild of Organists May 2, 2011



Jamie McLemore, Dean

May 2, 2011

Dear Chapter Members,

I hope everyone has survived these last few days in our state. Many churches in Tuscaloosa suffered damage and our own Nathan Smock lost his apartment and car in the destruction. Please keep everyone in your prayers as they go through the process of cleaning up and trying to recover from this.

We offer our sincere sympathy to Jeff and Amy McLelland, his brothers and their families on the loss of their mother. Her funeral was held on Monday, May 02, 2011 in Hattiesburg.

Our final meeting of the year will be Monday, May 9th at South Highland Presbyterian. Our dinner will be held in the small dining room which is located main floor of the sanctuary. Parking will be available in the back lot. Please enter by the back door and follow the signs to our dinner. We will follow our usual schedule of dinner at 6:00 (cost - \$10.00), business meeting at 6:30 with a work session for our POE to follow. The final preparations for the binders we

will give the students and faculty will need to be made. This is a time consuming job, but with a bunch of hands, the work should be much easier.

Our POE is only 6 weeks away. As of today, we have 19 students who have registered to attend with additional inquiries still arriving. While we may not reach our total of 30, we still anticipate a few more students before the POE begins. However, we do need your help. Also, there will be a sign up sheet for those who would be willing to help bring snacks following Weston Jennings recital on Monday, June 13 at St. Luke's. We will need cookies, brownies, and chips and salsa. If you can help with this, please sign the sheet we will provide. On Wednesday, June 15 Dr. Bradley Welch will be presented in recital beginning at 7:15 at St. Mary's Episcopal Church. All chapter members are invited to this recital. Following his recital, a reception will be held so those not directly involved with the POE will have a chance to speak with the students, faculty, and Dr. Welch.

I would like to personally thank the officers Sherelyn Breeland, Greg Roberson, Charles Kennedy, and the POE Steering Committee: Jim Dorroh, Josh Bullock, Josh Coble, Bill Richardson, Firmon Hardenbergh, and Scott Robertson for meeting monthly since last year to help plan this POE. They have given many Saturday morning hours in the anticipation of hosting this. I cannot thank them

enough for all of their hard and diligent work.

At our last meeting Mike Burt, Mimi Jackson, and Natalie Talley were elected to serve a three-year place on the Executive Board. We thank Stephen Schaeffer and Jeff McLelland for serving the last three years.

Two of our area church choirs will be on tour this summer. The Cathedral Church of the Advent will be gone on their East Coast tour during the week of our POE. Their *Bon Voyage* concert will be on Sunday, June 4 at 4:00 PM. The IPC Choir heads to Prague in the last of June and the first of July. Their concert will be on Sunday, June 19 at 4:00. Please make an effort to hear these choirs sing before they leave and wish them God speed on their travels.

As our year draws to a close, it seems like just last month was the opening hymn festival at Ascension and the quick change of the Epiphany party when we got snowed in during January. If you have any ideas for programs, please forward these to Charles. I always leave the meetings having enjoyed our time together. This is our "Magic City" and one that we can be proud of and excited to be a part of. I look forward to seeing you at SHPC Monday night. Reservations are due by Thursday, May 5 at noon. You can send your reservation to me at jamiemcl@centurytel.net or jmclemor@samford.edu or by calling my cell at 706-0536.

Cheers!
Jamie



Dear Members,

At this time our hearts are very heavy as we come to terms with the reality of the devastating tornadoes in our state, which have caused so much destruction and loss of life. All of us either know some directly affected by this tornado, or know someone whose family or friends were directly affected. As Jamie has mentioned above, one of our chapter members, Nathan Smock, lost his apartment in the Tuscaloosa tornado. It is during such times that those of us who are church musicians are reminded of the importance of the work of ministry that we carry forth. Let us keep all the victims of this disaster in our hearts, our thoughts, and our prayers, and the same likewise for all those who are involved in relief efforts.

I would like to draw your attention our monthly chapter meeting for May 9, which will be held at South Highland Presbyterian Church, following the normal schedule (dinner at 6:00 and business meeting at 6:30). As noted above, please contact Jamie McLemore to make a reservation for dinner. This will be a particularly important meeting, as there will be work session beginning at 7:00, following the business meeting, to help with a number of vital tasks pertaining to the upcoming Pipe Organ Encounter (POE). The POE committee has been working very hard to plan for

what we expect to be an extraordinary week for the up to 30 teenage organ students who will be participating, but, as I've said before, we need your help to make this a success! I really hope that lots of the chapter membership will turn out for the May meeting to help us do the many essential tasks to get various materials ready for the students. Let us do what we can to help make this a real success, and the best POE ever!

I would like to invite all of you to a recital I will be playing at the Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills on Thursday, May 12 at 7:30 p.m. This recital will be my personal offering in memory of my teacher and our beloved chapter member Ted Tibbs. A special feature will be Jehan Alain's *Suite*, to celebrate Alain's centenary year. This work in three movements is not among the more frequently played works of Alain, but it is truly a brilliant work and one of his finest. Also on the recital will be works of Percy Whitlock, Johann Ludwig Krebs, J. S. Bach, César Franck and Charles-Marie Widor. I hope that many of you will be able to attend. More information can be found at <http://www.ascensionepiscopal.org/concerts.html>.

I would also like to draw your attention to two upcoming music events at the Cathedral Church of the Advent. This coming Friday (May 6) will be our annual Broadway Cabaret program, which will feature Jan Hunter, Kristi Tingle-Higginbotham, and Leah Luker (accompanied by Debbie Mielke, piano), in a program of selections from *Jerry's Girls* featuring the music Jerry Herman (with excerpts from *Hello Dolly*, *La Cage aux Folles*, and *Mame*). A boxed lunch is served at 12 noon for those who have made reservations by Wednesday, May 4. To make a

reservation, please call Beulah Fowler (Cathedral Music Secretary) at 443-8553, or me at 226-3505. The other upcoming event at the Cathedral is the *Bon Voyage* concert on Sunday, June 5 (4:00 p.m.) by The Cathedral Choir before it departs for its East Coast Tour (June 12-19). This tour will take the choir to All Saints, Atlanta; St. Paul's, Winston-Salem; Chapel of the Cross, Chapel Hill; St. Mary's, Arlington; Washington National Cathedral; and St. Thomas Fifth Avenue and the Cathedral of St. John-the-Divine, New York City.

Finally, plans for our chapter programs for 2011-2012 are beginning to take shape. At the moment I can tell you that our primary activity for October will be a masterclass at Samford University by Paul Jacobs, who will be performing there in concert.

I look forward to seeing many of you next Monday at our chapter meeting!

Charles M. Kennedy
Sub Dean

Monday, May 9, 2011
Installation of Officers
Work Session for Pipe Organ Encounters
Dinner 6:00 p.m.
Business Meeting 6:30 p.m.
Work Session 7:00 p.m.