

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIEF
....off the old blockflute
Birmingham Chapter of The American Guild of Organists
March 2012



Jamie McLemore, Dean

We enjoyed a delightful dinner and program last month at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church. Eric Mathis, the organist at Dawson and chair of the Church Music Division at Samford University, led us in an informative talk and discussion about the future of church music. The interaction with members at each table was well received. It was good to hear what many are saying about the future of church music. I'm sure this was encouraging to the college and high school students in attendance. I have extra copies of the handout that Eric provided if anyone would like this.

Our March meeting will be held on Monday, March 12 at All Saints Episcopal Church in Homewood. Our schedule is usual with dinner at 6:00 followed by the business meeting at 6:30. The program will begin at 7:00. Please read Charles' article in this newsletter about our program. Cost of the dinner will be \$8.00. I need reservations sent to me by Thursday, March 8th. Please email me at jamiemcl@centurytel.net or jmclemor@samford.edu. You can always call me at home, 655-5233, cell 706-0536, or office 726-2440.

The nominating committee of Pat Fitzsimmons, Natalie Talley, and Paul Mosteller is working on a new slate of

officers for next year. These will be presented in the March meeting and voting will occur in the April meeting with the installation at our final meeting in May. We thank Idabelle Gay, Sam Burke, and Martha Willetts for serving three years on the Executive Board. I have certainly enjoyed my second term as Dean.

Several of our members are heading to Nashville to attend the National Convention July 1-6. If you are planning on attending, please email me with your arrival date using the above listed emails. I would like to take another picture of the entire group for the yearbook and newsletter like we did in DC. I will coordinate the time and place once I hear back from you.

In the last few months our city has been overwhelmed with music events, especially organ concerts, hymn festivals, and the like on Sunday afternoons. Regretfully we cannot attend all of these on the same day – at the same time. For fall planning can we start a calendar **NOW** so we do not have conflicts? If anyone is willing to take this job on as “calendar guru” please let me know. And don't forget that you can always enter your events on our online calendar as soon as they are planned.

We all are in the busy days and weeks leading up to Palm Sunday, Holy Week and Easter. Do try to get some rest – if possible – while you can. I hope all of your extra services and rehearsals go well and that all organs are in tune and choirs are ready! Cheers!

Jamie



Charles Kennedy, Sub Dean

Dear Members,

Our Chapter meeting this month will be held on Monday, March 12, at All Saints Episcopal Church in Homewood. The dinner and chapter meeting will occur, as usual, at 6:00 and 6:30 p.m., respectively, followed by the program at 7:00. For the program, chapter members will be invited to share favorite organ repertoire. It can be something newly published, or something you've found useful for weddings, funerals or other occasions, or something unusual you'd like to share with the chapter, or just simply one of your favorites. All chapter members are invited to participate. Please come and bring something interesting to share!

There are a number of music events for the month of March happening here in Birmingham. On Sunday, March 4, the service of Choral Evensong will take place at the Cathedral Church of the Advent at 4:00 p.m. The music will include the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D by George Dyson, "Hide Me Under the Shadow of Thy Wings" by John E. West, and "Pilgrims' Hymn" by Stephen Paulus. Organ voluntaries will include "Psalm Prelude, Set 1, No. 3" by Herbert Howells, and Arthur Milner's "Solemn Prelude."

On Sunday, March 11, the Birmingham-Southern College Concert Choir, under the

direction of Dr. Lester Seigel, will perform at First United Methodist Church at 4:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Mark Hayes at mwhayes@charter.net, or visit the church website: <http://www.firstchurchbham.com>.

On Sunday, March 18, Dr. Anthony Williams, Associate Professor of Music and University Organist at Fisk University in Nashville, will perform at Sixth Avenue Baptist Church (1101 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive SW) at 4:00 p.m. For more information, please contact James Smith at 321-1147, or jsmith@sixthavebaptist.org.

On the same day at 4:30 p.m., Mark W. Hayes will perform a concert of music for organ and strings at First United Methodist Church. For more information, please contact Mark at mwhayes@charter.net, or visit the church website: <http://www.firstchurchbham.com>.

Finally, on Sunday, March 25, Dr. Stephen G. Schaeffer will perform an organ recital at the Cathedral Church of the Advent at 4:00 p.m. His program will include music by Charles-Marie Widor, Louis Vierne, César Franck, Johann Sebastian Bach, and Dan Locklair. A reception will follow in Clingman Commons. For more information, contact Charles Kennedy at 226-3505 or kennedy@cathedraladvent.com, or visit the Cathedral website: <http://adventbirmingham.org/>.

I hope to see you at our March chapter meeting and at many of these other upcoming music events!

Charles M. Kennedy,
Sub Dean

Programs and Events 2011-2012

Monday, April 16, 2012

First United Methodist Church
6:00 Dinner; 6:30 Business Meeting
7:00 Program Student Recital

Monday, May 14, 2012

Independent Presbyterian Church
6:00 Dinner; 6:30 Business Meeting
7:00 Program Hymn Festival and
Installation of Officers

Communications that we have been asked to share with the chapter

From Faythe Freese:

William Carey University hosted the Clarence Dickinson Organ Competition for beginners and intermediate level organ students on Saturday, January 21, 2012. Congratulations to Christopher Henley, a home-schooled junior in high school from Talladega, AL who won first place and \$300 in the beginner division. Also, congratulations to Jonathan Williams who won first place and \$500 in the intermediate division. Jonathan Williams is a junior BM in Organ Performance at the University of Alabama and studies with Dr. Faythe Freese. Christopher Henley also studies with Dr. Freese through the University of Alabama Community Music School. Christopher is preparing to enter the University of Alabama as a BM in Organ Performance in Fall 2013.

From Laura Ellis:

The organ/sacred music department at the University of Florida invites you to the upcoming Inspiring Worship workshop from May 6-8, 2012. Now in its fifth year, the University of Florida's School of Music is proud to host this continuing education event geared specifically towards organists, choral directors, and church musicians.

This year's workshop features a carillon recital, choral reading session, a hymn festival, and exciting workshops by our nationally recognized clinician Dr. Jan Kraybill, Principal

organist at Community of Christ (formerly RLDS) International Headquarters.

Complete details may be found at: <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/organ/SMW.shtml>

Laura Ellis, DMA

American Guild of Organists
Region IV Councillor/Southeast

<http://agoregionivblog.blogspot.com>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/AGO-Region-IV/312313912115500>

From Virginia McDorman, President of the Arlington Historical Association:

The Arlington Historical Association wishes to express our profound thanks to the Birmingham AGO who, in the spirit of community, shared their talents at this year's Christmas at Arlington... Those talented, versatile musicians included Melanie Couch and the All Saints choir; Dan Lawhon and the Baptist Church Covenant choir, Idabelle Gay, James Dorroh, Pat Fitzsimmons, Karen Krekelberg, Joshua Bullock, Christopher Henley, Mimi Jackson, Ty Thornton, David Renaker and Greg Evenas. The 3 day event was coordinated by Bill McElwee.

Your chapter members' gifts of music and willingness to provide entertainment at this historic house museum for our annual gift to the city, were ever so much appreciated and enjoyed by us.