

THE BIRMINGHAM CHIFF ...off the old blockflute

The Birmingham Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

October 2016

A Word from the Dean

Greetings friends and colleagues,

I hope things are going well for you this church/school year. Our September meeting at Independent Presbyterian was a most enjoyable event. We had a delicious meal followed by a business meeting. Dr. Bill Carl brought a very insightful talk which paralleled preparing and presenting music with preparing and presenting a sermon. He reminded us of the high calling that we have to weekly share the love and awesomeness of God.

You should have received a postcard calendar of events for the rest of the year so that you can keep it in a convenient place, so as to remind you of the upcoming events. We have a wonderful workshop scheduled in October which will be beneficial to organists, directors and children's choir leaders. We hope that you will take advantage of this program. As you can see on the schedule, we have a wide variety of opportunities to share time together, see some new organs, learn more about the inner workings of the organ and hear some fine playing. We hope that you can be a part as we strive to strengthen our bonds as fellow organists/organ enthusiasts and provide opportunities for growth.

Sincerely,
Dan Lawhon

OCTOBER CHAPTER MEETING

Please join us Monday, October 10th at the Cathedral Church of the Advent as we focus on Professional Development.

The evening begins with dinner from Jason's Deli at 6:00 PM followed by a business meeting at 6:30 PM. The program subject is Professional Development and will have mini-clinics in three areas: Children's and Youth Choirs (led by Beth Middleton of IPC), Adult Choirs (Brian Kittredge of UAB), and AGO certifications (led by Leslie Teardo). Each mini-clinic will last 20 minutes and will be repeated once. You will be able to select two of the three topics to attend.

The dinner menu is penne pasta topped with marinara sauce, meatballs and Asiago cheese and served with toasted herb focaccia bread. We'll have an assortment of beverages and cookies available for dessert. Cost of each meal is \$11.00.

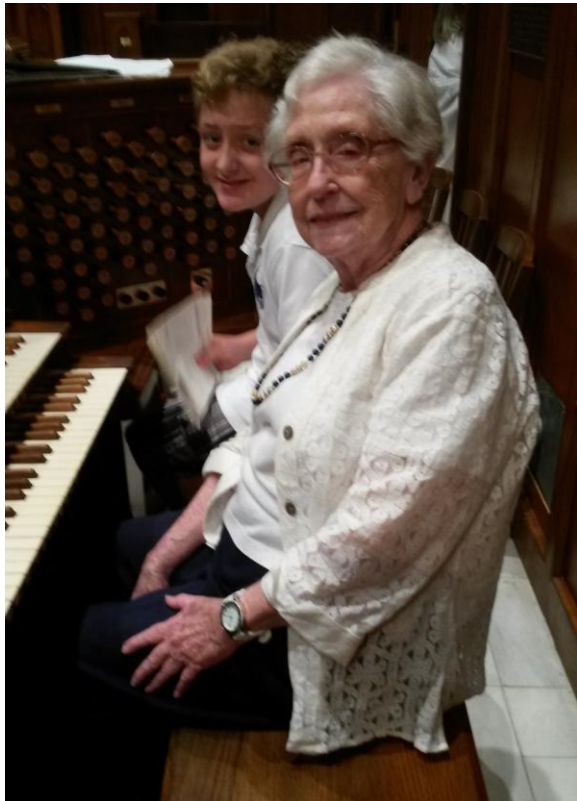
Dinner reservations are due by midnight next Thursday, October 6th and may be made online via <http://www.birminghamago.org/>. You'll find the dinner reservation link on the left of the page.

We look forward to seeing you at this enlightening evening!

A MUSICAL HERITAGE

For many of us, our early musical experiences involved family members. Whether those interactions were trips to orchestra, band, or choral concerts our parents or siblings played in, or were actual music lessons taught by a parent or other family member, there's no doubt that the support and encouragement of family has quite an influence on the success and continuance of a child's musical endeavors.

On a recent Sunday afternoon, long-time chapter member Idabelle Gay took her great-grandson to an Evensong service at the Cathedral Church of the Advent. Below is a picture taken that day and a write-up provided by Bill McElwee.



Idabelle Gay and her great-grandson Ethan Rogers, at the Church of the Advent console

Mrs. Gay was organist and choirmaster at the Advent from 1973-1986. During her tenure, the Church became a Cathedral. The chancel was enlarged and its marble floor was put in place. At her suggestion, the carpet was removed from the nave, exposing the original hexagonal tile floor, which greatly improved the acoustic quality of the space.

The choir grew in number and quality, and became one of the finest in the city under her direction. A major concert series was also initiated. The E. M. Skinner organ was purchased from the University of Montevallo. The organ replacement project, which ultimately resulted in the Advent's magnificent Grieb-Williams organ of 100 ranks, was begun in earnest and completed brilliantly by Mrs. Gay's successor, Stephen Schaeffer. The results of her early, tireless efforts and leadership at the church can be heard, seen and enjoyed to this day in the capable and gifted hands of Fred Teardo and Charles Kennedy.

REMINDER: SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION

Our Birmingham chapter **Minnie McNeil Carr Scholarship** is available again this year to a deserving high school student who is currently studying the organ. The competition for this \$500.00 award will be held on Saturday, April 22, 2017 at 2 PM at The Episcopal Church of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills.

Deadline for applications is April 1, 2017. All competitors must play a piece by J. S. Bach and a piece written after 1800. Competition guidelines and application forms may be downloaded from <http://www.birminghamago.org/Scholarships.html>.

For further information, please consult the above website or email Ms. Natalie Tally at ntally@me.com.

THIS AND THAT

Four job openings now posted on our website

Organists are needed at these Birmingham area churches: First Presbyterian, First United Methodist, Shades Crest Baptist, and Meadow Brook Baptist. Log onto our website for details: <http://www.birminghamago.org/OpenPositions.html>

Last chance to submit a correct entry identifying the organs and locations and chapter member pictured in the September newsletter which is posted online. The winner receives free dinner at the October chapter meeting. Email your response to newsletter@birminghamago.org by Friday, October 7th.

UPCOMING OPPORTUNITIES

See Online Calendar of Events for Complete Listing

October 2, 2016: 4:00 PM

Aram Basmadjian, Organ Recital – Riverchase United Methodist Church

Dedication of the new 4 manual, 89 rank Allen organ

Info: jeff@riverchaseumc.org

October 16, 2016: 4:00 PM

Choral Evensong Service for World Food Day and Recital – Independent Presbyterian Church

IPC Camerata, Jeff McLelland, and Brent Nolte

Info: <http://www.ipc-usa.org> jmcllelland@ipc-usa.org

October 23, 2016: 3:00 PM

Choral Evensong – Cathedral Church of the Advent

Cathedral Choir, Fred Teardo, Director and Organist, Charles Kennedy, Associate Director and Organist

Info: <http://www.adventbirmingham.org/>

kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

October 23, 2016: 4:00 PM

Voice Recital – Christ Episcopal Church, Tuscaloosa

Dr. Susan Williams, soprano; Dr. Kevin Chance, piano

Info: <http://www.christchurch1828.org/>

tcanonico@christchurch1828.org

October 28, 2016: 12:30 PM

Mid-Day Music: Sadie Frazier, soprano; Beth McGinnis, piano – Cathedral Church of the Advent

Info: <http://www.adventbirmingham.org/>

kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

October 30, 2016: 9:00 AM

Hymn Festival – Mountain Brook Baptist Church

K. Lee Scott, conductor; Kely Hatley, director; Paul

Mosteller, organist; Mountain Brook Baptist Choir

Info: kely@mbbc.org

November 1, 2016: 7:00 PM

Hymn Festival – Hodges Chapel, Samford University

K. Lee Scott, conductor; Kely Hatley, director; Paul

Mosteller, organist; Mountain Brook Baptist Choir

Will include presentation of 19th century

Reformation engraving to Beeson Divinity School

Info: kely@mbbc.org

November 1, 2016: 7:30 PM

Cathedral Choir in Concert– Cathedral Church of the Advent

Maurice Duruflé: *Requiem*, Opus 9

Cathedral Choir, Fred Teardo, Director and Organist,

Charles Kennedy, Associate Director and Organist

Info: <http://www.adventbirmingham.org/>

kennedy@cathedraladvent.com

2016-17 Chapter Calendar of Events

Monday, Oct. 10 Professional Development Clinics

Choral Work: Brian Kittredge

Children's & Youth Choirs: Beth Middleton

AGO Certification: Leslie Teardo

Venue: Cathedral Church of the Advent

Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;

Program 7:00 PM

Saturday, Nov. 19 Masterclass

Clinician: Wolfgang Rubsam

Venue: Baptist Church of the Covenant

10:00 AM

Friday, Jan. 13 Epiphany Party

Venue: Home of Stephen Schaeffer

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Monday, Feb. 13 Organ Maintenance and Repair

Speaker: Mark Hayes

Venue: Samford University

Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;

Program 7:00 PM

Monday, March 6 Student Recital

Venue: Southside Baptist Church

Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;

Program 7:00 PM

Monday, April 3 Organ Tour and Talk

Speakers: John Schwandt and Barry Norris

Venue: East Lake United Methodist Church

Dinner 6:00 PM; Business meeting 6:30 PM;

Program 7:00 PM

Saturday, May 13 Tuscaloosa Organ Crawl

Sunday – Friday, June 25 – 30 POEA

Venue: University of Alabama School

of Music and area churches