

Chiff Chat

DECEMBER 2014

Dean's Message

I am something of a curmudgeon having grown up in social world that died long ago. It was much more tidy and well-ordered society than today. It was a world that did not think of Halloween till mid October, Thanksgiving until after Halloween, and the Christmas excitement didn't start till Thanksgiving was a fading memory. There were no Christmas Carols in November and all Christmas trees remained up and glowing well into the New Year. Yet some blurring of seasonal themes may be a good thing.

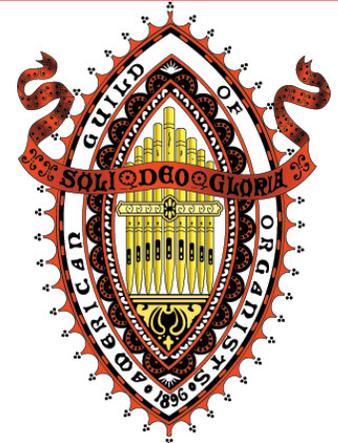
Though Christmas shopping frenzy may intrude on Thanksgiving, the idea of gift giving should be without a season. Since becoming dean, I have been very much thinking of guild membership as a truly great gift. I encourage you to take a moment and think of the organist/music director down the road or in the next town who is not a member. Make a mental note and make a personal commitment to visit them. When you do tell them that no other group is truly dedicated to keeping their art alive, to see that there will be someone to tickle the keys and help people sing when they are no longer there. If they love what they do there is no better way to pass on the joy to another than to join the guild. Tell them of our chapter's commitment to the young through events like Pedals, Pipes, & Pizza, and our desire to host a Pipe Organ Encounter for teens in the future.

Tell them of our collegial help to one another and our programs geared to help each and every one of us improve in some way. Tell them that regardless of background the guild is there for them. It is a place where the lofty and the meek meet, support and encourage each other. Tell them it really is the place for them to be.

So be like Santa. Go make a list, check it twice, and do something nice. Sometime before spring go say hello. Your invitation can open the door for someone today or tomorrow, but the door needs to be open for someone to come in.

Finally, though Thanksgiving Day is past, the season for giving thanks and appreciation is not. As guild members we need to be thankful for all who have help nurture and promote our association. We should be very grateful to our past dean, Donald Hooton; sub dean, Quintin Faulkner, Secretary, Charles Marshall, and retiring board members, Elizabeth Dawson, Lori Bourret, & John Karalekas. Every officer, chairperson, and volunteer have full and busy lives from which they carve out personal time and space to serve you, the guild, and our love of organ & choral music. Know that they did it for you and the music we love.

Ladislaw Pfeifer, dean



Chapter Officers

Chapter Officers

Dean – Lad Pfeifer
 Sub-dean – H. David Pulliam
 Treasurer – Jim Barnes
 Secretary – Martha Sienkiewicz

Board of Directors

Scott Bailey
 Michael Carney
 Joe Geehern
 Sheila Heady
 Mary Jeanne Tash

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Calendar of Events

December Events

2 Dec 10:30am

The **Tuesday Morning Music Club** will host a holiday concert featuring the **Epic Brass Quintet**, Earl Raney, director. The concert will be held at Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Avenue, Springfield, MA.

6 Sat. 4:00pm

The **First Congregational Church of Westfield** will host its annual choral festival featuring **Novi Cantori, Young Singers of Greater Westfield**, and more. Donations accepted at the door. 18 Broad Street, Westfield, MA.

7 Sun. 4:00pm and 7:30pm

Smith College will host their annual Christmas Vespers program in John M. Greene Hall, on the campus of Smith College. A free-will donation will be collected for the Hampshire County Interfaith Cot Shelter Program. The programs are free of charge and open to the general public.

13 Sat. at 7:30pm

14th annual ceremony of Lessons & Carols, a Festival of Light, will be performed by the Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults at The Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel 260 State St, Springfield, MA. This public event is free of charge. For more information call [413-452-0845](tel:413-452-0845) or worship@diospringfield.org

14 Sun. at 3:00pm

The **Music at United Concert Series** at the United Congregational Church of

Holyoke will host a concert featuring the Holyoke High School Choirs, Mark Todd Director. Suggested donation of \$10. 300 Appleton Street, Holyoke, MA. www.uccholyoke.org.

14 Sun. at 7:00pm

Coming Home: Christmas with Novi Cantori, a concert featuring the professional choral group will be held at St. Stanislaus Basilica, 40 Cymen Dr. in Chicopee, MA. Donations will be accepted at the door.

21 Sun. at 4:00pm

Coming Home: Christmas with Novi Cantori, a concert featuring the professional choral group will be held at The Granville Federated Church, 16 Granby Rd. Granville, MA. Donations will be accepted at the door.

21 Sun. at 4:00pm

The St. Mary's (Westfield) Adult Choir will present their annual Festival of Lessons and Carols Service in the Upper Church. All are welcome. *Free admission.*

January Events

9 Friday at 7:30pm,

10 Saturday at

3:30pm and 7:30pm,

11 Sunday at

3:30 and 7:30

Boar's Head Festival, Trinity United Methodist Church, Springfield, MA. Tickets \$25 for adults, \$15 for children, \$10 for Transept seating, (limited view). For tickets call: 413-733-4759 or visit www.trinityspringfield.org.

JOB POSTINGS

St. Valentine's Polish National Catholic Church, seeks an Organist/Choir Director. One weekend Sunday Mass, Wicks pipe organ. Familiarity with Catholic liturgy a plus. Seasonal liturgies as required. Contact Jan Duffe for salary and details (413-527-2193) or ejduffe2@gmail.com.

The Christian Science Society in downtown Northampton is looking for a keyboard player for their Sunday morning services. The service goes from 10:30 - 11:30, and includes a prelude, an offertory, three hymns and a postlude. In addition, you would provide accompaniment for one solo vocal piece. There is a piano and an Allen electronic organ in the church. Either one may be played. Our church does not have a choir. The position start date is flexible. The pay is \$80 per service. (Salary may be negotiable.) To inquire further or arrange an audition, please call Jane at: 413-534-3882 or email christianscience.northampton@gmail.com.

First Church of Monson MA seeks a Director of Music. This part time position (10-14 hours) will be available in January, 2015. Responsibilities include playing for one Sunday service, direction of adult and youth choirs, and coordination of the music program of the church. Instruments available are a three manual 1891 Johnson pipe organ as well as a Yamaha grand piano. Salary is negotiable. Send resume or inquiries to Music Committee /Mary Newland at office@firstchurchmonson.org

PASTOR/ORGANIST DINNER



The Pastor/Organist Dinner was held on November 17th at the First United Methodist Church of Westfield. The guest speaker was John Bishop of the Organ Clearing House.



Visit our website!!!
www.springfieldago.org

JOB POSTINGS (CONT'D)

The First Congregational Church of Dalton, United Church of Christ seeks an enthusiastic and creative organist/choir director for its music ministry. This is a quarter-time position. The candidate should be able to play both organ and piano. The candidate will lead a very good SATB church choir of about a dozen singers. The organ is a three-manual Allen. The organist will play at one service on Sunday plus special services throughout the year. Candidates should submit an audition tape or disk along with a cover letter and resume to the above address. The package should be marked "Music Director Search." Please be sure to put your name on the audition tape or disk if you would like it returned. The total compensation for this position is \$16.5 thousand annually.

First Congregational Church of Dalton,
United Church of Christ
514 Main Street
Dalton, MA 01226
PH: 413-684-1715
E-mail: fcc.ucc.dalton@gmail.com

St. Paul Lutheran Church (ELCA) of East Longmeadow seeks a Minister of Music with the creative initiative to evolve the musical program of the church while honoring the tradition of our heritage. Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Coordinating, planning, and executing the musical program for weekly services and all special events, working collaboratively with the Pastor and worship leaders, maintaining the music library and supervising the use, care, maintenance, and repair for all church-owned instruments, recruiting, educating, and training participants from all age groups to participate in the worship and music life of the congregation, researching, attending, and participating in continuing education opportunities, teaching workshops, or other development opportunities which might foster growth of the musical ministry of the church. Preferred skills and qualifications include: Bachelor's degree in music, instrumental performance, or equivalent training, familiarity with theology, liturgical practices, and use of music in worship, experience in leading assembly singing from the organ and piano, and choral leadership skills. This is a permanent, part-time salaried position starting with an estimated weekly time commitment of 10-15 hours per week, starting in the Fall of 2014.

Compensation will be commensurate with experience, and will include vacation/professional development benefits. Interested candidates should send a cover letter and resume to **Dave Melanson c/o St. Paul Lutheran Church**, 181 Elm Street, East Longmeadow MA, 01028 or at stpaulcel@verizon.net.

Chiff Chat Newsletter

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists
Celebrating 65 years as a chapter.**

To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events, please email Scott Bailey at sbailey@westfield.ma.edu. Submissions are due by the 20th of each month. Also, visit our website at www.springfieldago.org

Next chapter event:

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza: Introducing Young People to the Organ
March 7th, 2015, 10:00am - 12:00pm
United Church of Bernardston
58 Church Street
Bernardston, MA 01337

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this we:

Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
Nurture future generations of organists;
Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

Chiff Chat
American Guild of Organists
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Westfield, MA 01085