



# Chiff Chat



October 2015

## Dean's Message ...

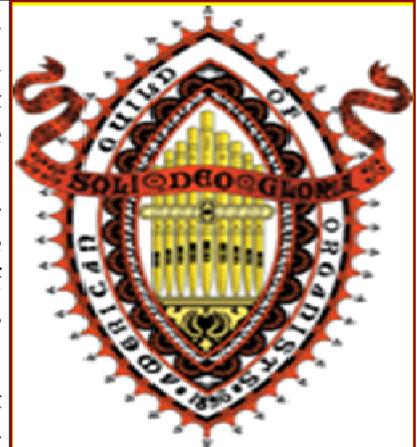
Odds n Ends ... sometimes we may not have a clear vision of what to do with our life, our music, or even our day off. We may know what we need "to do," but we just lack the inspiration to get it done. When I lose my inner drive it's obvious. I not only procrastinate—a trait for which I could win awards—but I also end up doing the most inane things. A few minutes ago I finally cleaned out the toaster after finishing the dishes. I've been noticing its need for attention for weeks and kept putting it off, being more focused on greater issues than a lot of burnt crumbs.

Today I need to write a Dean's Message and have been procrastinating for days. Yesterday, while thinking that I only need to do this once a month, I was starting to marvel at the clergy who have to write a homily every week. After a while, comparisons between their professional lives and ours crept into my mind. They prepare a weekly message; we prepare music to carry that message and bring it home. They visit and tend to their

flock; we meet with our musicians, take care of their pastoral needs, and go after the lost sheep who miss rehearsals. The clergy spend time in prayer, even if it's just a fleeting remembrance; we do the same when we offer up a word of thanks or remember another's need.

I generally don't make a habit of marveling at ordained ministers, and ministers don't generally spend their waking minutes marveling about us either, but my lack of inspiration opened a door to look at them with fresh insight. It's easy to say the clergy and musicians are fellow laborers in the same vineyard, but we often lose sight of our common bonds. We get absorbed in petty things surrounding liturgy, use of time, budgets and annoying personal habits. We lose sight of the common vision and purpose. It's very easy for clergy and musicians both to fall victims to these devilish snares.

So once you give it a little thought, find new admiration and camaraderie with your clergy, and then do something positive about it. Invite them to



## Chapter Officers

**Dean:** Lad Pfeifer  
**Sub-Dean:** H. David Pulliam  
**Treasurer:** Jim Barnes  
**Secretary:** Martha Sienkiewicz

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Klaus Becker, PhD  
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 The Rev'd Dr. John Hooker  
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## In This Issue

Dean's Message	Pages 1,2
Obituaries	Pages 2,3
Brick Church Series	Page 3
Calendar of Events	Page 4
Open Positions	Page 4
Our November Events	Page 5
November bios	Page 6
RVW Birthday Fun	Page 7

the Pastor/Organist Dinner, the conclusion of our Chapter Celebration Weekend! It will be a good meal with a glass of wine if one chooses and speaker of real merit, The Rev. Joseph O. Robinson. Fr. Robinson is both musician and priest, with an active career on both sides of the sanctuary. His background includes many active years as a cathedral Precentor in charge of all the music, as well as being rector of a parish on the other side of the chancel. He is currently Rector of Christ Church, Cambridge (Harvard). He is certainly a man who can speak, challenge, and inspire us all. You'll be glad you invited your pastor or fellow laborer in God's vineyard.

Another aspect of our Chapter Weekend Celebration is the artist reception following the Jack Mitchener concert at the United Church in Holyoke. We are a chapter with talent! I was amazed to find out that every Friday one of our members baked bread. In recent years, I've been in charge of our household kitchen, and I stand in awe of anyone who can enter a kitchen and whip something up! You can easily make me a member of your perpetual adoration society by offering to create something for the reception following the Mitchener concert. It can be simple, or it can be a *tour de force*, but while the thought of doing it is still in your mind contact David Pulliam at [pulliamd@msn.com](mailto:pulliamd@msn.com) or at (413)736-2742.

To complete this message of Odds 'n Ends, here's a closing historical note. Our chapter newsletter was originally not the *Chiff Chat*. When we hosted a convention in 1967, Virginia Ring, our Dean, published a daily newsletter of what's up and going at the convention. She called it the *Chiff Chat*. It obviously struck the right chord: after the convention our board made it the chapter newsletter name.

So make plans to make our Chapter Celebration Weekend one you'll gladly remember. Invite someone! And if you're culinary, create!

Faithfully yours,  
*Lad*

### Susanne Spingler (1927-2015), *RIP*

G. Susanne McHugh Spingler, 88, wife of W. Douglas Spingler for 63 years, died Monday, August 31, 2015. Born in Springfield, MA, May 28, 1927, the only daughter of the late J. Gladwin McHugh and Alma G. (Steere) McHugh, she was a resident of Longmeadow for 48 years. She graduated from Technical High School and later studied at American International College and Springfield College.

Always interested in music, she studied both piano and organ and served as a substitute in a number of local churches. She later worked in the office of Spingler Insurance Agency, founded by her husband. She was a member of the Springfield Chapter of American Guild of Organists, the Tuesday Morning Music Club, and Ahlem Temple #84, Daughters of the Nile, as well as a volunteer at the Shriner's Hospital for Children in Springfield. She was predeceased by her son, Jerry A. Spingler in 2008 and her husband in 2009. She leaves members of the Spingler family in New York State, a daughter-in-law Susan Spingler in Fargo, ND, and many and caring friends in the area.

Visiting hours were held on Thursday, September 3rd at Forastiere Smith Funeral Home, 220 North Main Street, East Longmeadow, followed by a service at the funeral home. A committal service at Hillcrest Cemetery, Springfield followed. Contributions may still be made to Shriner's Hospital for Children, 516 Carew Street, Springfield, MA 01104. For more information, visit [www.forastiere.com](http://www.forastiere.com).

**Elizabeth Phelps Bolton (1926 - 2015), RIP**

Elizabeth Bolton, 88, formerly of Taft Avenue, Greenfield, and previously of Northfield, died peacefully at Charlene Manor Extended Care Facility in Greenfield, May 28. She was born June 23, 1926 on Huckle Hill Farm in Bernardston, the daughter of Austin and Florence Phelps. Educated in Bernardston and Northfield schools, she also attended Westminster Choir College and Greenfield Community College, and she graduated from Smith College in 1973. She studied organ with Harriette Richardson for many years. A long-time member of the American Guild of Organists, she earned the Colleague's certificate in 1980.

Betty was married to Arthur Bolton for 55 years until his death in December 2004. Betty and Art enjoyed square dancing, playing cards, and visiting museums. They went to York Beach, ME, each year, and crossed the U.S. several times by train to visit family on the West Coast.

She had a long career as an organist, serving Congregational, Episcopal, Baptist, Methodist, and Roman Catholic parishes from 1952 to 2003. Among these were Greenfield's Holy Trinity and Second Congregational, as well as Centre Congregational in Brattleboro. She also taught piano and organ for many years and was a valued supply organist.

Services were held Thursday, June 4, 2015 at both Kidder Funeral Home in Northfield and at Blessed Sacrament Church, Greenfield, with interment at Pentecost Cemetery. Donations in her memory may be made to either Charlene Manor Activity Fund, 130 Colrain Road, Greenfield, MA 01301, or to the Hospice of Franklin County, 329 Conway St. Suite 2, Greenfield, MA 01301.

*The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God.  
May both Susanne and Elizabeth rest in peace and  
rise in glory.*

**The Brick Church Music Series****First Church of Deerfield**

71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA  
Jean Pitman Turner, *Artistic Director*

*Sundays at 3:00 PM—\$10 Donation*

**Richards, Fowkes, Inc. Organ Op. 13****Michael Dierks, *Organ***

**Sunday, October 25, 3:00 PM**

German-born organist of St. Gertrud's Church, Stockholm, Sweden, plays works of J.S. Bach, Bruhns, Düben, Krebs, and Danksagmüller.

**Farela Duo**

**Sunday, November 15, 3:00 PM**

**Tanya Anisimova**, Russian-born Cellist and Singer with **Pi-Hsun Shih**, Pianist, perform works of Beethoven, Schubert, Locatelli, and Anisimova



**Calendar of events ...****Sunday, 17 October 2015, 2:30 PM**

**“Beyond Beat Patterns: Truly Musical Gestures,”** A Choral Workshop presented by the Berkshire Chapter AGO and the Cantilena Chamber Singers; Trinity Episcopal Church, 88 Walker Street, Lenox, MA; \$10 Registration fee, with pre-registration preferred. Concert at 7:30 PM follows: \$20 adults, \$15 students/seniors, \$12 AGO members, free for children under 12. *Register at <http://www.berkshirechapterago.org/>*

**Sunday, 25 October 2015:** The lovely service of **Compline** sung by the **Choirs of Christ Church Cathedral**, 35 Chestnut Street, Springfield, ends the day at 6:00 PM, preceded by a wine and cheese reception at 5:30 PM.

**Friday, 6 November:** [La Belle France, our spectacular opening festival weekend begins with a recital of French Organ Music](#) by **Jack Mitchener** at 7:00 PM, French wine, cheese, and pastries follow: United Congregational Church, 300 Appleton Street, Holyoke, MA.

**Sunday, 8 November:** [our spectacular festival weekend continues](#) at St. Andrew’s Episcopal Church, 335 Longmeadow St, Longmeadow, MA, **Pastor/Organist Dinner:** 5:00 PM Installation of Officers, 6:00 PM Dinner; reservations required, *see p. 5*.

**Sunday, 8 November 2015, 3:00 PM,**  
**Recital** by French Organist, **Vincent Dubois**, at **Salisbury Congregational Church**, 30 Main St, Salisbury, CT. Admission free, but donations accepted to benefit the Albert Sly Guest Musicians’ Fund.

**Saturday, 12 December 2015, 7:30 PM**  
**The Cathedral Choir of Boys and Adults sing Advent-Christmas Lessons and Carols** accompanied by Organ, Strings, Handbells, and Percussion led by Ladislav Pfeifer. Highlights include Purcell’s “Rejoice in the Lord always,” Handel’s “For unto us a child is born,” Delibes’s *Gloria*, Biebl’s “Ave Maria,” and the Corelli *Christmas Concerto*.

**Positions available ...**

**Acting Minister of Music, First Church of Christ, Congregational, Suffield, CT.** This is an interim, two to six month position, for an energetic, organist/pianist/choir director:

- A progressive, caring parish with a magnificent 37-stop Gress-Miles tracker organ
- Planning and preparing, in conjunction with clergy, for 10 AM Sunday worship
- One adult choir rehearsal per week; one youth choir rehearsal per week; both choirs combine on Sunday. Short choir rehearsal prior to Sunday service
- One weekly staff meeting
- Approximately 15-18 hours per week; \$500 weekly salary; this position would be considered for the permanent 25-30 hour position.

Email resumes to [tpsuffield@gmail.com](mailto:tpsuffield@gmail.com).

**Federated Church of Willington, CT.** Part-time Organist-Choir Director:

- Welcoming, friendly congregation that favors traditional church music with some contemporary music, too
  - Available November 2015 (possibly earlier)
  - Two-manual Austin organ
  - One Sunday morning service; 3 special evening services during the year
  - Small choir rehearses either Sunday mornings or weekday evening, to be arranged
  - \$9,000 per year with 2 Sundays off; weddings and funerals are contracted separately
- Contact Rosanne Parizek, [jerryparizek@att.net](mailto:jerryparizek@att.net).

**Mittineague United Methodist, West Springfield, MA.** Part-time Organist-Director of Music

- One Sunday service at 9 o’clock, as well as other special services throughout the year
  - Proficiency in hymns from *Methodist Hymnal* and *The Faith We sing*
  - \$100 per service
- Contact The Rev. Bruce Arbour, (413)788-0304 or [AFDChaplain@juno.com](mailto:AFDChaplain@juno.com).

*Don't miss our spectacular Springfield AGO Weekend!*

*La Belle France ... an evening of  
French music, wine, cheese, & delights*

*United Church of Holyoke – 300 Appleton Street  
Friday evening, November 6, 2015*

6:30 PM – Arrive in time to sample French Crepes  
from a street vendor

7:00 PM – Recital of French Organ Music on the Mighty  
E.M. Skinner Organ by virtuoso

**Jack Mitchener**

7:45 PM – Meet the artist as you sample French wine,  
cheese, and other delights

*Free will offering taken*

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*Sunday evening, November 8, 2015*

**The Annual Pastor/Organist Dinner**

5:00 PM – Installation of Officers in the Church

6:00 PM – Dinner in St. Andrew's Great Hall – Reservations  
Required – \$20 each with complimentary wine

*The Rev'd Joseph Robinson, Rector, Christ  
Church, Cambridge – Speaker*

**Return this form with your check for \$20 per plate to by October 31:  
James Barnes, Treasurer, 27 Carriage Lane, Westfield, MA 01085**

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places at the Annual Pastor/Organist Dinner for:

\_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name

" We have lined up some of the finest talent anywhere for our spectacular  
 " November Springfield AGO opening weekend ... just take a look at  
 " what is in store for us!  
 " "



**Jack Mitchener** is the new Director of the Townsend-McAfee Institute of Church Music, Associate Professor of Organ in the Townsend School of Music and University Organist at Mercer University in Macon, Georgia. He also serves as Organist/Choirmaster at

historic Christ Episcopal Church in the same city. A former faculty member at the Oberlin College Conservatory of Music, he also has served on the faculties of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, Salem College, the Eastman School of Music (Community Education Division) and the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School.

Dr. Mitchener has concertized widely and received critical acclaim for his “expressive and original playing” and “poetic style” (*The American Organist*). He has given recitals, lectures, and master classes for national and regional conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Organ Historical Society, the Music Teachers National Association, the Association of Anglican Musicians, the Presbyterian Association of Musicians (Montreat Conference), the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada, the Society for Seventeenth-Century Music, and the Historical Keyboard Society in North America. He has performed in notable venues such as the Church of St. Sulpice and the Cathedral of Notre Dame in Paris, St. Thomas Church, New York City, the Augustinerkirche (St. Augustine’s) in Vienna, the St. Jacobikirche in Lübeck, Germany, and the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. [Read more at <http://www.jackmitchener.com/web/bio.aspx>]

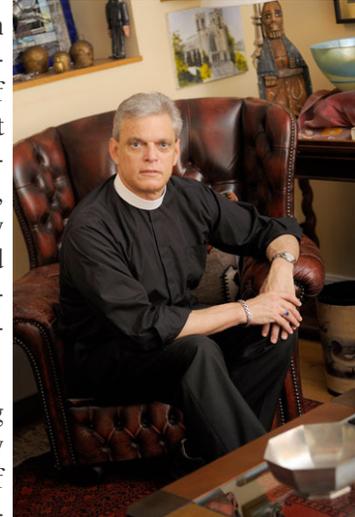
**The Rev’d Joseph O. Robinson** became Rector of historic Christ Church, Cambridge, in April, 2006. In February 2012 he celebrated the 30th anniversary of his ordination to priesthood.

After graduating from the Seminary at the University of the South in Se-

wanee, Tennessee, Joe served in two congregations in his home state of Mississippi before becoming the Canon Precentor at St. John’s Cathedral in Denver Colorado. He returned to the South in 1996 to become the Dean of St Andrew’s Cathedral in Jackson, Mississippi. His last position before moving to New England was as Director of Camp Coast Care, a distribution point for the Lutheran/Episcopal Disaster Response to Hurricane Katrina on Mississippi’s Gulf Coast.

With an undergraduate degree in Music and broad interests in Theatre and Art, Joe’s passions in the church include the design of inviting public worship that includes many traditions and artistic forms. Teaching and Pastoral Care in various forms are very important to his understanding of ministry, but its center is found in “our ability to accept God’s love as life-changing and one another’s love as life-giving. The Church, provides an arena to live our lives, learning and celebrating the strength and value of real community.”

Cooking, playing the piano, artistic endeavor, and good times with friends round out his other activities.



*And now, just a bit of fun to celebrate the birthday of one of our best composers, ever ... enjoy!*

## Sing of Ralph Vaughan Williams

A Hymn for the 12th Day of any October

Text: John L. Hooker; copyright 2014, all rights reserved

Tune: *Wir pflugen*, Johann Schultz

Joyously  $\text{♩} = 54$

1. From Dar - wins and from Wedge - woods sprang bless - ed Un - cle "Rafe," Whose name his wid - dow  
 2. He claimed to be Ag - nos - tic, but that was hon - est doubt; He lived true spir't - u -  
 3. O "Sal - ve fes ta di es" makes glad our Eas ter Day, And "Come down love's" "Down  
 5. We all play "Rho - sy - med - re," and some play "Hy - fry - dol," But "Bryn Cal - far - ia's"  
 4. A Fan - ta - sy on Tal - lis first brought his name to fame, And works from "Lark" through

Ur - su - la says we must rhyme with "safe," But "Ralph" is what un - learn - ed per - sist in say - ing  
 a - li - ty and swept the hum - bug out. He shaped "The Eng lish Hym nal," as well as "Songs of  
 Amp - ney" with - out a "p" we say, When All Souls' make hearts ten - der with thoughts of faith - ful  
 real - ly hard with all its fol - de - rol! "A Wed - ding Tune for Ann's" a sweet piece for all the  
 "Ho - di - e" con - firmed for all the same. His ash - es now by Stan - ford a - wait the glo - rious

wrong; No mat - ter what we call him, we sing this cheer - ful song:  
 Praise," and with "The Ox ford Car'l Book," we hal - low di - verse days.  
 dead, "For all the saints" gives cour - age to fol - low where Christ led.  
 flock, But don't ne glect "Ro man za" up on "The White Rock!"  
 Day, When ran - somed souls in Hea - ven with us will chant and say:

Blessed Ralph Vaughan Wil - liams through you our voi - ces raise With an - gels' song through a - ges long, God's great e - ter - nal praise.

## *Chiff Chat Newsletter for October, 2015*

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
Celebrating 65 years of life!**

*To submit information regarding positions, upcoming concerts, recitals, or area events,  
please email John Hooker at [revdrhooker@comcast.net](mailto:revdrhooker@comcast.net).*

*Submissions are due by the 20th of each month.*

*Visit our website at [www.springfieldago.org](http://www.springfieldago.org) & "Like" us on Facebook!*

*We need your help!*  
*Volunteer for the Program Committee!*  
Contact our Dean, Lad Pfeifer, at [ljep@diospringfield.org](mailto:ljep@diospringfield.org)

Springfield Chapter American Guild of Organists  
*Chiff Chat* Monthly Newsletter  
John L. Hooker, *editor*  
235 State Street #306  
Springfield, MA 01103