

**Dean's Message:** Dear Springfield Chapter AGO Members and Friends: Greetings from your Chapter Board! This letter is a collaborative effort by your incoming Dean, Joe Geehern, your outgoing dean, Larry Picard, and your secretary, Martha Sienkiewicz. Martha will be the host for our opening event on September 30 at 3:30 p.m. (not September 23 as previously announced) which will include the installation of our officers and board members. Martha and Lori Bourret will also present a program titled "Creative Music Ideas for the Small Church," and the reception afterward will feature a viewing of "Organ Stop Pizza," a short documentary about an unusual venue in Mesa, Arizona. Details about this event and others coming up during our program year can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. And, speaking of this newsletter, we are trying a new approach, one that we hope will continue to keep you informed while lessening the burden on our shrinking board to produce content. Just as Martha, as the host of our first event, is one of the contributors to this letter, so in an issue you will receive sometime in October, Roberta Morkin will be sharing news and observations in collaboration with Dean Joe. She will be the host of our second event, a silent movie screening on November 3 at 7 p.m. at United Church Holyoke, accompanied by none other than Peter Krasinski at the console of the mighty E. M. Skinner. Chiff Chats published after the New Year will contain contributions by other board members who are hosting or in charge of our scheduled events.

You may also notice that you won't receive a Chiff Chat every month, although there will be some months when we will publish a shortened version in the form of a calendar of area concert events. Our spring programs include an

anthem reading in Westfield in March, a joint organ/choral concert in April or May presented by three Springfield downtown churches, and, of course, our year-end banquet in June. Full-length Chiff Chats will be published in advance of those events. And now the really important stuff. This year has been designated by our board as an "evaluation" year, in response to our difficulty in recent years finding people to participate actively in our governance. We hope you will read upcoming Chiff Chats carefully and think about the questions we can be asking ourselves that can have an impact on the future of the Chapter. What does it mean to me to be part of a formal network of colleagues and enthusiasts of the organ? Should the AGO be a means to share ideas and support others in the field or is it just a source of information about events and job listings, and a way to receive *The American Organist*, our national magazine? Are we too widespread geographically to serve everyone in the Chapter? Is a formal board with officers an effective way to advance the goals and objectives of our membership or is there another, simpler way to do it? This last question is moot, in a way, since the structure of the entire organization requires a formal board, but the fact remains that we are having more and more difficulty getting people to participate on it. Let's start with the first question - "What does it mean to me to be part of a formal network of colleagues and enthusiasts of the organ?" We would love to print some of your responses in our next issue, and you can email them to us, joegorganist@gmail.com, lpicard@sococh.org, and/or martha@sienkiewicz.org.

Joe Geehern Martha Sienkiewicz  
Larry Picard



**Dean: Joseph Geehern**

**Directors:**

**Larry Picard  
Diane Rechel  
Karen Ducharme  
Roberta Morkin**

**James Barnes, Treasurer**

**Martha Sienkiewicz, Secretary**

**Rev. William H. Wallis, Chaplain**

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS, 2018-1029  
AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS, SPRINGFIELD CHAPTER**

**SUNDAY SEPT. 30, 3:30 pm**

“Creative Musical Ideas for the Small Church”

Installation of Board Members

Wine and Cheese Reception

DVD showing “Organ Stop Pizza”

**Grace Lutheran Church**

**1552 Westfield St.**

**West Springfield, MA**

(Martha Sienkiewicz and Lori Bourret, presenters)

**FRIDAY NOV. 2, 7 PM**

Silent Movie (yet to be named) with Peter Krasinski, organ improve

Posters will follow for members to publicize

**United Congregational Church of Holyoke**

**300 Appleton Street**

**Holyoke, MA**

(Roberta Morkin, Host)

**An Anthem Reading for March (Date to be determined)**

**Second Congregational Church**

**487 Western Avenue**

**Westfield, MA**

(Karen Ducharme, Host)

**Spring combined choral/Organ Event in Downtown Springfield**

**Date to be determined**

**Larry Picard, South Congregational Church**

**Robert Hansler, Christ Church Cathedral**

**Lad Pfeifer, St. Michael’s Cathedral**

**(Hosts)**

**End of Year Banquet/or Picnic**

**Early June**

**The Board is looking for suggestions and/or Volunteer Hosts**

**Contact Joe Geehern, Dean**

**Joegorganist@verizon.net**

# THE FIRST CHURCH OF DEERFIELD

71 Old Main Street, Deerfield, MA

presents

## “THE BRICK CHURCH” MUSIC SERIES

### “PULLING OUT THE STOPS”

September 23, 2018

3:00 p.m.

### Anniversary Organ Concert

with



**THOMAS POUSONT**

Director of Music  
and organist at  
The First Church of Deerfield,  
Director of the Choral  
Program and Organ Instructor  
at Deerfield Academy.



**CHRISTA RAKICH**

Concert and Recording Artist  
performing widely  
throughout Europe, Japan,  
and North America.



**LARRY SCHIPULL**

Professor of Music  
at Mt. Holyoke College  
in South Hadley, MA,  
and has appeared as soloist  
on four continents.

Suggested donation \$10 to \$20    Reception following concert

Jean Pitman Turner, Artistic Director

Information: 413-774-2657

[www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org/music/the-brick-church-music-series/](http://www.firstchurchofdeerfield.org/music/the-brick-church-music-series/)

***Jazz Bones in Concert***  
***September 29, 2018***  
***7 p.m.***

**September 29, Saturday**-- David Neil will be bringing Jazz Bones to First Church of Monson on Saturday, September 29<sup>th</sup> at 7 P.M. Jazz Bones is a unique trombone ensemble playing music arranged for five part harmony in a repertoire consisting of swing, jazz standards, blues, rock, Latin and funk. The ensemble is backed by a first class rhythm section-a real crowd pleaser. This concert is underwritten by the Massachusetts Cultural Council. The Music Committee is planning a dinner before the concert at 6 P.M. The menu will be meatball grinders, salad, and brownie sundaes for dessert. For reservations, call Gail Pelletier at 267 -4818 or email her at



[gail.pelletier73@gmail.com](mailto:gail.pelletier73@gmail.com) The concert is free and open to the public. Cost for the dinner is \$12.00; proceeds will be for the benefit of the music program at First Church. Please mark your calendar and enjoy this wonderful community event.

**AGO OPENING EVENT 2018-2019 SEASON**

**SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 30 3:30 PM**

**GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
1552 Westfield St.  
West Springfield, MA

*"Creative Musical Ideas for the Small Parish"*  
*Lori Bourret and Martha Sienkiewicz, presenters*

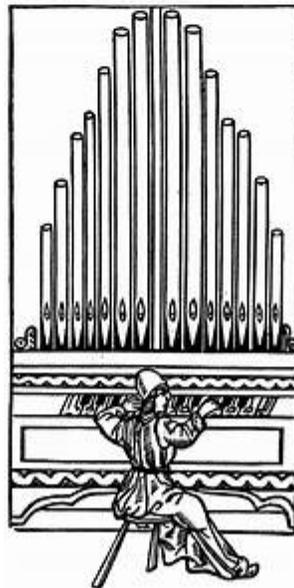
Come and join us interactively for a presentation, demonstration and discussion of  
organ with other instruments  
easy ideas for small choirs  
ways to involve the congregation in the musical theme

This is going to be a kind of "best practices" presentation and each subject will be open to audience discussion and participation. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please bring them with you to share. There will be a swap table for music.

**Installation of the 2018 Board of Directors**

**Wine and Cheese reception**

**"Organ Stop Pizza"...**the evening will end with a showing of this iconic DVD showing by contrast a very creative idea for an extremely large organ with deep resources located in Mesa, Arizona.



# **Music at the Cathedral**

*The Cathedral Choir of Boys & Adults  
With instruments*

## **Viva Italia!**

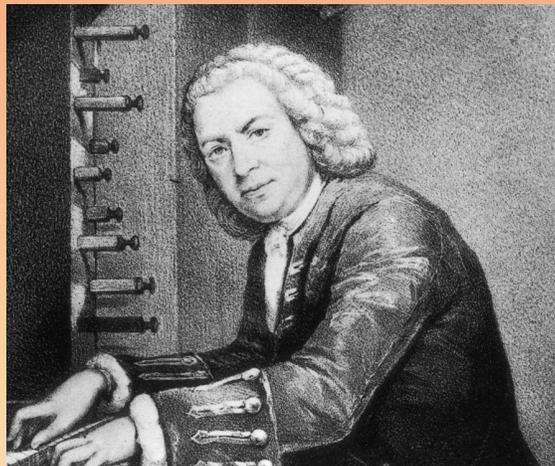
October 13<sup>th</sup> 7:30 PM  
Baldassare: Trumpet Sonata

Marcello: Psalm 18 'I Cieli Immensi'

Vivaldi: Concerto for two oboes  
'Jubilate e Gloria' RV 588

Cathedral of St. Michael the Archangel  
State Street, Springfield

Contact [orship@diospringfield.org](mailto:orship@diospringfield.org)



Diane Rechel, our newest Board Member, is featured in this little article from the Hartford AGO newsletter: Does anyone have 20 choir robes they are not using to donate to this newly formed choir? (email: [martha@sienkiewicz.org](mailto:martha@sienkiewicz.org))

Operating out of Hands on Hartford's Manna soup kitchen on Church Street, this is a choral program designed to serve a population experiencing homelessness and or food insecurity. In the basement of Christ Church Cathedral. there are talented, creative individuals who gather each weekday for a free noonday meal. Cuatro Puntos, as part of its musical outreach program, created a program to offer this segment of the population an ongoing musical experience. The idea is that they come for lunch and stay for choir. In the process they are building a sense of purpose, belonging, community, and have access to a means of artistic expression. Each week after rehearsal they perform for the patrons in the lunch room before sitting down with them to enjoy a meal and talk about the experience...

Dianne Rechel, an area Real Estate agent, organist, choral and music director and community organizer, has been working with them for about six weeks. "I already see that the numbers have tripled; their enthusiasm is wonderful, and they are a great group to work with. For many of them, this is the first choral opportunity of their lives" says Rechel. They are learning about music, accompanying themselves with rhythm instruments, and are showing improvement in choral singing. "They are a blast to work with!"

One of the goals of the program is to foster inclusion and interaction between this population and the city at large. They will be participating in a Downtown Arts Day as featured performers (our first gig!), creating a music video that we hope will be the next YouTube sensation, singing Christmas carols on street corners in December, and contributing to the cultural enrichment of downtown Hartford.

### **Job Opportunities**

This growing progressive Christian congregation seeks a part-time Minister of Music (Organist and Choir Director) to assist in worship by directing a 20+ person (4 part) volunteer choir, playing the 1936 E.M. Skinner & Son organ for prelude, postlude, hymns and accompanying choir, and the preparatory work to produce the same, including weekly staff meeting. First Churches in Nothampton also has a 3 octave Malmark handbell set and participating instrumentalists to augment/accompany music. Usage of a variety of music genres is essential. Anticipated start would be August/September, 2018. To apply, please send letter of interest and resume to [PastorTodd@firstchurches.org](mailto:PastorTodd@firstchurches.org) .

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Organist and Music Program Director needed for the FCC church in Hampden, MA, including Sr. and Jr. choirs. For more information please call 413-566-3711.

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Immanuel Lutheran Church of Amherst, Massachusetts is seeking a Director of Music Ministry to lead the musical life of our congregation.

We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America, New England Synod. Founded in 1962 as a campus ministry, Immanuel has grown over the years and now serves the wider communities of Amherst and the Pioneer Valley. We are a diverse congregation drawn from a variety of cultural and faith backgrounds and celebrate this through our worship and music. Our ongoing commitment to music has made Immanuel a cultural center in the community, welcoming outside musicians into our space.

#### POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Director of Music Ministry is responsible for the administration and direction of a high quality musical program as an integral part of the worship life of the congregation. The Director of Music Ministry must have a heart for the church, the ability to relate positively to a wide variety of people in a sensitive and caring manner and be able to manage volunteers. The Director of Music Ministry should have an understanding of the role of the choir as supporting and leading assembly song, including anthems, hymns, and leadership in other parts of the liturgy. The Director of Music Ministry should have advanced organ, piano and choral skills and be able to lead the congregation in song.

The Director of Music Ministry should be familiar with a diverse body of music styles including knowledge of sacred music and liturgical music; have experience in choral conducting; and be able find a balance between tradition and creative innovation. Applicants should hold at least a Bachelor's degree, preferably with an emphasis in church or organ music, have a commitment to the Church and a familiarity with western liturgical tradition.

This is a part-time position requiring an average of 20 hours per week. Salary and benefits commensurate with experience based on Association of Lutheran Church Musicians guidelines.

#### SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Director of Music Ministry will develop, direct and oversee the musical life of such choirs and ensembles (including instrumentalists) as are needed and desired to provide for a wide variety of musical involvement and expression within the congregation.
2. The Director of Music Ministry will serve as the principal musician (organist, pianist, and choral director) for all regular and festival liturgies, and will arrange for a qualified and capable substitute musician when on vacation (such vacation time to be cleared with the pastor).
3. The Director of Music Ministry, in concert with the pastor and the worship team, will be responsible for liturgical planning, including the selection of hymnody and other music for worship, including contributing to the production of worship

## **Position Description: Organist and Choirmaster**

### **St. John's Episcopal Church**

**35 Park St., Williamstown, MA 01267**

[www.saintjohnswilliamstown.org](http://www.saintjohnswilliamstown.org)

There is a long history of enthusiastic choral and congregational singing at St. John's. We count on our music program to feed, inspire, and support the vitality of the congregation. The adult choir currently has over 20 members. Recently we have introduced a RSCM Voice For Life Program with junior choristers.

The following description presupposes an average work week of 20 hours over the course of one year. Neither choir rehearses or sings in the summer.

#### Basic Responsibilities

1. Play the organ and piano and direct the parish choirs at Sunday services. Three vacation Sundays will be provided, the parish paying for substitutes.
2. Direct the parish Adult Choir, preparing them to sing on every Sunday from the Sunday after Labor Day through the middle of June, and on Christmas Eve and Maundy Thursday.
3. Direct the Choristers (children chorus) utilizing the RSCM's "Voice for Life" curriculum, and work with the Music Scholar Assistant Director. The Choristers sing in church one Sunday a month October – May.
4. Play the organ for Christmas, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil services, as well as other special services from time to time as agreed upon with the Rector.
5. When available, play the organ at funerals and weddings, with honoraria to be paid by families at a rate determined by the Organist and the Rector. The organist will have "first refusal" for such services. When not available, he or she may be asked to assist in finding an organist.
6. Arrange for one selection of special music at monthly Vespers, and either play for these services or arrange for someone else to play.
7. Select choir anthems. With the Rector, select service music and hymns for Sundays and other services noted above. Assist with preparation of service leaflets.
8. Maintain the parish's music library.
9. Oversee the maintenance of the organ and the parish's four pianos.
10. Oversee the parish's music budget.
11. Arrange for guest musicians and volunteers from within the parish and the community to occasionally enrich our worship services.

12. Arrange for substitute organist/accompanist when needed.
13. Support efforts to make the parish's worship accessible and effective for all our generations, including participation in occasional worship forums, collaboration with parish staff, and utilization of the parish's various means of communication.
14. Share with our Coordinator of Special Events responsibility to respond to requests to use St. John's as a concert venue. As needed and available, share responsibility to attend and host such concerts.

Other Information

1. Safe Church Training must be completed within four months of employment and renewed every three years.
2. Employment is contingent upon clearing a CORI check.
3. The Organist/Choir Director reports to the Rector and works collaboratively with other program staff.

Compensation: Competitive. Commensurate with experience.

**Springfield, Massachusetts Chapter of the  
American Guild of Organists  
70th Anniversary**

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

**Dear Members:**

**If you have e-mail, please consider receiving the  
monthly Chiff Chat at your e-mail address. It is easy to  
access. It never gets lost or misplaced and will put  
some of your yearly dues to another use. We are very  
happy to mail a Chiff Chat to anyone who is not on the  
internet and needs a hard copy. You can e-mail Lad  
Pfeifer or Elizabeth Zellmer if you wish to change from  
snail mail to e-mail.**

**Thank you.**

**Springfield Chapter American Guild of Organists  
Chiff Chat Monthly Newsletter  
Elizabeth Zellmer, Editor  
601 Northampton Street  
Holyoke, MA 01040**