



## **Chiff Chat**

### **June 2021**

#### *Dean's Message*

**Dean:**

**Martha Sienkiewicz**

**Directors:**

**Klaus Becker**

**Lori Bourret**

**Joe Geehern**

**Dianne Rechel**

**Treasurer:**

**James Barnes**

**Secretary:**

**Karen Banta**

**Chaplain:**

**Rev. William H. Wallis**

What a year this has been! All that quarantining still has left many fearful of contact with other people. Our first in-person event, the lawn picnic on June 6, is also the last event of this season. If you haven't rsvp'd, you are welcome to come if you bring your own lunch and lawn chair. There is still time to register by emailing [martha@sienkiewicz.org](mailto:martha@sienkiewicz.org) Dwelling in the past, however, is counter-productive so let's think about next season: our 75th anniversary year. We've signed the contract for Monica Czausz to play a major concert at St. Michael's Cathedral on April 22, 2022 (the Friday after Easter). There will be a banquet and various other activities, including a jazz vespers at Church of Atonement in Westfield on Sunday Nov. 8. Beginning June 1, all membership renewals will be paid for by the chapter, for the following year. This will be an election year and I

hope many of you will consider accepting a position to help run the chapter. Volunteering would be much appreciated and save the time and energy put into "beating the bushes" to fill positions, including Dean. May the coming year be filled with joyful energy, good health, fine music and love.



## **OMG !!!! Monica Czausch invites YOU to her wedding!!**

In a recent correspondence with Monica as we planned her 75th anniversary concert, she wrote:

*Wedding planning is rolling along. I've been meaning to let you know...! We definitely can't afford to have the whole Springfield chapter at our reception, but there's no reason we couldn't have them at the church for the ceremony! At minimum it would be a chance to hear some great playing (Ken Cowan). It'll be at St. Michael's at 11:30am on Sept 4, and I'm happy for you to put the word out there to our chapter members if anyone would like to be there! I still remember the many great folks of my home chapter and all they did for me growing up. It takes a village :)*

Let's put it on the calendar NOW and give her a great AGO presence to wish her well.

Post Scriptum from the editor..... I heard Ken Cowan a few years back at St. Joseph's Cathedral in H'ford CT and I never heard Anyone play that organ in such a colorful captivating manor..... It was so alive.... Go to Monica's Wedding!.. I'm planning on it!



Photo by Haley Stage

1801 x 2560

## ***Member Profiles***

*Our Most Notable Retiree*.... An interview with Becky Isaacson by Martha Sienkiewicz.

Martha: What has been the greatest joy in serving the people of Trinity United Methodist Church?

Becky: I have been blessed to work at a church filled with a loving, caring, and supportive congregation who love church music. And within this congregation are many musically talented, creative, and artistic people who enjoy sharing their talents. My joys have been many and great.

Martha: What benefits have you derived from being in the Springfield Chapter of the American Guild of Organists?

Becky: Being part of the Springfield AGO allowed me to meet with my colleagues and make lasting friendships. I especially miss my dear friend, Charles Page. Trinity Church and Old First Church did many concerts together over the years which were great fun.

Martha: What advice would you give to your successor?

Becky: Any advice I would say to my successor or anyone in the field of church music is to have a good sense of humor and to remember you are working with volunteers. It is important that every choir member of any age and ability feel valued and an integral part of the music ministry. Remember to say "thank you."

Martha: How would you rate your relationship with the clergy over the years?

Becky: I have been fortunate to have worked with very supportive clergy who value and recognize the importance of the music ministry in the life of the church. I was always treated with respect as a professional staff member.

Martha: To what do you attribute the overwhelming success of the Boar's Head Festival?

Becky: This is easy to answer – the Boar's Head Festival is successful because of so many incredibly talented people in the church. This includes not just the singers and musicians but dancers, carpenters, cooks, costume creators, etc. Also the children and youth involved in the Festival bring it energy and freshness.

Martha: Will the Tuesday Morning Music Club and A Little Night Music continue?

Becky: Trinity serves as the home of the Tuesday Morning Music Club and it is my understanding that they will soon be presenting concerts, hopefully beginning in September. My

successor will decide whether or not to continue A Little Night Music or perhaps a different concert series.

Comment: This past year has been a difficult one for everyone due to a worldwide pandemic. We, church musicians, have not been able to perform our jobs in the manner that we were used to. We have not been able to have our choir rehearsals and many of us have been live streaming our Worship Services. It is a poor substitute for the “real thing.” Our churches and congregations have suffered huge loses and much rebuilding will be necessary. It is my fervent hope and prayer that all of you will soon be back to “normal” again – that your singers and ringers will return to rehearsals and that your congregations will fill your sanctuaries.



Please remember that Becky Isaacson wants to spend her retirement ‘a rocking’ and not in a rocking chair so call her if you need a substitute or whatever! Her contact information is: [beckyisaacson@aol.com](mailto:beckyisaacson@aol.com) 413 887-9249

# *Virtual Summer Organ Studies*

## *Oberlin Conservatory of Music*

Dear Friends,

The Oberlin Conservatory Organ Department will be having two weeks of virtual academies this summer, one week entirely devoted to lectures on Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck by 6 members of Oberlin's faculty (honoring the 400th anniversary of his death in 1621), June 14-19, and a second week of the Organ Institute, a week long program of lessons and presentations on all things related to the pipe organ and its profession, June 20-25. The institute will also feature a presentation by Oberlin alumni Dr. Robert and the Rev. Dr. Victoria Sirota, including the premiere of a new work by Robert Sirota entitled, *Prayer*. The institute is open to all ages and levels of study. You can learn more information about both weeks as well as register at our webpage:

<https://www.oberlin.edu/summer-programs/organ-academy>

Despite the challenges of the Covid pandemic, there is great opportunity for educational growth through this virtual format, which allows anyone in any location to join us!

Please feel free to send me any questions or concerns that you might have. You are also welcome to include my email address in your chapter communications ([jmoyer@oberlin.edu](mailto:jmoyer@oberlin.edu) and [jonathanwmoyer@gmail.com](mailto:jonathanwmoyer@gmail.com)). For all of us here in Oberlin, we wish you the very best during these challenging times.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Moyer

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Jonathan William Moyer, DMA

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## [PIPES ALIVE! – SEAN MCCARTHY, ORGANIST](#)

The Pipes Alive! series continues with Sean McCarthy playing the St. John's organ on **Sunday, June 6, 2021 at 12:30pm.**

**Sean McCarthy** is Director of Music and Organist at First Church of Christ in Wethersfield, CT.

**This event will be live streamed, and will be available in-person to a limited audience, with social distancing. Details forthcoming. The event is free admission, donations appreciated.**

### **Positions Available:**

**Parish Organist Wanted.** St. Joseph RC Parish/Shelburne Falls is seeking an experienced church organist who has familiarity with Catholic liturgies and music. Presently two Sunday masses (8am & 10:30am) with Saturday (4pm) to be added in the near future. Flexible repertory with mix of traditional and contemporary. Available immediately. \$125 each mass. Travel time considered in pay. Please contact Fr. Bill Lunney at 413-626-6405. -/-

**Director of Music Wanted.** Holy Family RC Parish/South Deerfield is seeking an experienced church musician to serve as the Director of Music. Organ skills required. Three Masses and choir rehearsal (after pandemic). Must have total familiarity with the Roman Catholic church year and associated weekend and feast-day Masses and Services; Weddings; Funerals. Music is more traditional than contemporary, and Gregorian Chant sung as well. Should be able to cantor and develop and direct choir/cantors. Available June 1, 2021. \$21,000 a year. Please contact Fr. Jonathan Reardon at [fatherjon2008@gmail.com](mailto:fatherjon2008@gmail.com) or 413-665-3254

### **ORGAN ACADEMY**

Our chapter provides financial assistance to anyone wishing to take organ lessons. This might be a good time to consider doing so. We currently have three students of all ages studying through the Organ Academy. They are

Margaret Patel studying with Klaus Becker, teacher

Paul Dinan studying with Joe DeMarino, teacher

Dianne Rechel studying with Scott Lamlein, teacher

If you are interested in applying for the Organ Academy, please contact us through the website with your information and an application will be sent to you. This opportunity is for members only.