



Chiff Chat

March 2022

Dean:

Martha Sienkiewicz

Directors:

Klaus Becker

Lori Bourret

Joe Geehern

Dianne Rechel

Treasurer:

James Barnes

Secretary:

Karen Banta

Chaplain:

Rev. William H. Wallis

Dean's Message

Happy 75th anniversary, Springfield Chapter! The Anniversary Membership Directory is in the mail to you. Alas! there are a few errors and a note tells you which ones we've discovered so far. Please make the corrections. We've taken the information from the national website but needed to key it in by the fallible human hand. There are 88 of you —and we love you all and the spirited work that you do to keep the organ alive.

Here are two major events coming up: mark your calendars!!

"USING TECHNOLOGY TO ENHANCE ORGAN PERFORMANCE" Saturday, March 26 11 AM by David Kidwell via Zoom

75th Anniversary Concert with Monica Czausz Berney Friday, April 22 7 PM St Michael's Cathedral 260 State St. Springfield

a reception will follow

Hope to see many of you at each of these.

The Anniversary Concert is open to the public and we urge the membership to advertise it for us by putting it in church bulletins and hanging the flyer we sent.

Anyone can request extra

flyers...agospringfieldma.org Please send us your special events during this Lent and Easter season so we can return the favor and publicize them on our website and in our newsletter. Soli Deo Gloria

Meet David Kidwell

Minister of Music at Edwards Church in Northampton and conductor of the Holyoke Civic Symphony, David Kidwell is a fine musician...but that just scratches the surface of his many interests and talents. David holds a Masters Degree from Hartt School in music composition. During the pandemic, he has released a volume of hymn improvisations for church piano entitled 'How Sweet the Sound'. You can buy a copy through his website: <https://www.davidkidwell.net/> If you go to the Lorenz website and type in his name, you'll find a whole list of published choral and organ works. He has often accompanied musicals for local theater groups and did so for Goodspeed Opera House in CT for some years. He is currently an accompanist for the Hartt School of music. Hit by Covid like the rest of us, his church has gone hybrid, the choir rehearses and records until they can sing 'live' again. His facebook page reveals that he is also a photographer, a cook, and a Blue Sox fan.

The Holyoke Civic Symphony is planning to go 'live' on May 1 with a program that includes "Rhapsody in Blue" played by David himself in celebration of his 25th season with them. Mark your calendars, you won't want to miss it. Speaking of marking your calendar—Please reserve Sat. March 26 at 11 am for a virtual event in which David will demonstrate his methods for using technology at the organ (including page turning!) It will be a zoom event, details will come soon: watch for it. The Guild extends a warm thank you ahead of time for bringing an event to us and wishes David continued success in all his various endeavors in the future.



David Kidwell

Next Chapter Events!

Saturday, March 26th at 11:00 A.M. Zoom in event with David Kidwell The link will be sent to all in early March and again on Friday March 25. David plans to show his digital page turning method among other ideas to enhance your organ playing and end with a question and answer session. Mark your calendars now. (see interview in newsletter)

Springfield Chapter AGO is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: David Kidwell "Using Technology to Enhance Organ Performance"

Time: Mar 26, 2022 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88087723626?pwd=MW1DYnZUVU9qbGxRMUZxejNXcm9DZz09>

Meeting ID: 880 8772 3626

Passcode: 317061

One tap mobile

+13017158592,,88087723626#,,,,*317061# US (Washington DC)

+13126266799,,88087723626#,,,,*317061# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 669 900 9128 US (San Jose)

Meeting ID: 880 8772 3626

Passcode: 317061

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88087723626>

Organ Pedal Pipes Project

Calvary Presbyterian Church in Enfield, Connecticut recently purchased insurance. It is not just any insurance. Thanks to funding from the late Arlene H. Howes, Music Director Emeritus, and the fine work of Messrs. Czelusniak et Dugal, Inc. the Schantz pipe organ (opus 1430, 1977) has significantly lowered its risk of malfunction and is once again in excellent condition.

Previously every now and then while playing the organ I would hear a “whoosh” coming from the pipe chamber behind me. A 16-foot bourdon pedal note which sounded rich and smooth earlier now merely wheezed wimpy air. The stopper had slid from the top of the pipe all the way down to the bottom! A few other stoppers of the same rank had sagged from their optimum positions also.

The Church’s Building Superintendent, Evans Farrell learned some basic organ first aid from Bill and crew, and this was a time to use those skills. Evans and an assistant carefully raised the sunken stopper. This emergency operation paved the way for the church to act on a permanent solution.

The wooden pedal pipes were removed and brought to the shop in Northampton, MA for renovation. The original neoprene packing deformed and hardened strangely and was removed from the stoppers. New felt and leather were applied. Some pipe stoppers were originally constructed with wood grain going in the wrong direction. Shellac was applied to these surfaces as a humidity barrier. The stoppers were precisely fitted to the pipes, the pipes were returned to the pipe chamber, then tuned in place. Protective ties were strung on the pipes in the back row as a precaution against future slippage.

The organ sounds divine once again! The church has peace of mind and assurance that the wooden pedal stoppers will slip and slide no more.

Lori Bourret



Editorial note: one organ technician at a church far far away after applying new felt/leather to a stopper and having securely put it in place he proceeded to drive a wood screw through the pipe into the stopper to forever hold it in place.... It is not something I recommend but it did seem to work.

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Positions Available:

The First Unitarian Church of Worcester Mass is seeking an Interim Music Director to direct the choir and provide keyboard (preferably organ) music for Sunday services during a transition following the retirement of our long-term Music Director. The term for the Interim Director will run from September of 2022 through June of 2023. The First Unitarian church has a large membership drawn from the greater Worcester area who attend in-person and on-line religious services. Music is a very important part of services at First Unitarian. The choir, comprised of 30 volunteer singers who are members of the congregation and professional singers, provides anthems and hymn support for three Sundays per month. Their repertoire ranges from classical to southern gospel, and they are frequently joined by guest instrumentalists. Keyboard instruments available at First Unitarian include an Aeolian Skinner 4-manual organ, twin Steinway B7 Grand pianos and a 2-manual harpsichord. Detailed information about the position and the environment at First Unitarian is available online.

(<https://www.firstunitarian.com/music/interim-director-of-music-search/>).

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.