



Chiff Chat

September 2022

Dean:

Todd Beckham

Directors:

Lori Bourret

Kell Julliard

Dianne Rechel

Martha Sienkiewicz

Treasurer:

James Barnes

Secretary:

Karen Banta

Chaplain:

Rev. William H. Wallis

Dean's Message:

It is such a pleasure to greet all members of the Springfield MA chapter of the American Guild of Organists as your incoming dean. I am Organist-Choirmaster at Christ Church Cathedral in Springfield and I look forward to getting to know more colleagues in the area and the guild. Following in the steps of Martha Sienkiewicz is an honor and I value her ongoing leadership as the director of our successful Organ Academy. Board members Diane Reichel, Kell Juilliard, Karen Banta, Jim Barnes and Lori Bourret have worked together with our academy director to update our policies regarding our lesson program soon to be published.

Program year 2022-2023

EVENSONG AND INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS:

Sat, 9/17 at 4 pm

Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield. Rev. Barbara Headley, sermon. Reception.

MONICA CZAUSZ BERNEY CONCERT Munson MA:

Sun 10/16 at 3 pm.

PIPESCREAMS: Date TBD. Michael Carney and Larry Picard. Trinity Methodist, Spfld.

NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION AND ORGAN

DEMONSTRATION: Sun 11/20 at 4 pm,

Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst.

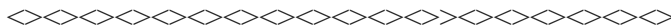
ALL SAINTS WORCESTER CHOIR EVENSONG: Sun 3/19/2023 Pre-service organ recital by Todd Beckham All Bach at Christ Church Cathedral.

NATHANIEL GUMBS CONCERT: Sun 3/26/2023 at 3 pm, Brick Church, Deerfield. We are co-sponsoring.

CHORAL FESTIVAL: Sun 4/30/2023 Time TBD at Trinity Methodist, Springfield. Chapter member composers with a Festival Choir of our choir singers.

I invite all of our members to join together for a service of Evensong and installation of officers on September 17 at 4 PM. Music will include works by Francis Jackson, Thomas Tallis, Betty Pulkingham, Queen Lili'uokalani of Hawaii, Richard Ayleward and Arthur Somervell. Please join us for this great musical occasion.

Happy pipings!



Two reviews of the July 29th concert at the First Church of Monson

A review by Gay Paluch

On the very warm evening of July 29th, the First Church of Monson held a dinner and organ concert. The program was presented by two organists: Kiel Krommer and Mira Cieslak. When his friend Mira called Kiel and said she was coming stateside from her home in Germany, the two decided to present a recital. Kiel played music by American composers beginning with the Virgil Fox arrangement of the USA National Anthem. Other pieces presented by Kiel were “Elegy” by William Grant Still; “Flute Toot” by Robin Dinda; “Homage Suite” by Craig Penfield; “Arioso” by Daniel Gawthrop; and “Joy Song” by Carson Cooman. Mira’s program of German and Polish selections began with the Polish National Anthem, composed by Jozef Wybicki and sung by Mira’s mother. Other pieces chosen by Mira were “Toccata, Adagio, and Fugue in C Major BWV “by J.S. Bach ;” Prelude and Fugue Op. 13 No. 2” by Jan Gawlas; and “Fuga-Bolero” by Maria Sawa. One hundred twenty-five music lovers attended the concert and when they departed asked when the next concert would be! First Church is blessed to have a following of organ lovers and always thanks the Springfield AGO for its encouraging support.

A review by Lori Bourret

It was a hot and steamy night, and the pipe organ at the First Church of Monson was smokin! While I saw few organist colleagues that I recognized, a sizeable number of appreciative listeners gathered on this sultry evening to hear two organists exhibit the rich tones of the Johnson and Son organ on July 29. (Many of us enjoyed a delicious meal before the concert also.)

Kiel Krommer, Director of Music of this church and his friend Mira Cieslak, visiting from Germany performed beautifully. Kiel played pieces composed by United States composers and his selections nicely displayed the wide spectrum of the organ’s tone colors. The concert began with the national anthem, majestically arranged by Virgil Fox. Kiel’s program continued with “Elegy” by William Grant Still, the delightful “Flute Toot” by Robin Dinda, “Arioso” by Daniel Gawthrop and “JoySong” by Carson Cooman. “Homage Suite” by Craig Penfield were 5 movements composed in the styles of Vivaldi, Mozart, Schubert, Vierne and Penfield.

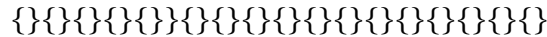
Mira played pieces by European composers. Her fluid touch flowed from her fingers and feet. Mira’s performance was precise, polished, and expressive and began with the Polish national anthem sung beautifully by her mother. Next came the seemingly flawless “Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C Major BWV 654” by J S Bach, “Prelude and Fugue Opus 13 number 2” by Jan Gawlas and the stunning “Fuga-Bolero” by Maria Sawa.

This special evening concluded with a sparkling duet

Meet a New Member



Deborah Colageo, a Massachusetts native who hails from Westminster, MA., has moved to Westfield and taken the organist/choir director position with St. John's Lutheran Church there. Deborah became a pianist at an early age, is a singer and has studied voice. She spent many years as a homemaker and mother, while accompanying various singing groups; then at age 54 she took her first organ lesson when introduced to the organ by a friendly organist at Our Savior Lutheran where she attended. Deborah is delighted to be a part of the Springfield Chapter AGO and is beginning organ study with Scott Lamlein. Along with her position at St. John's, she has also accepted a position with Our Lady of the Cross (former Holy Cross) in Holyoke to play all masses that don't interfere with her primary position. Her long term goal is to be the best organist and choir director that she can be, while mastering Bach beyond the Eight Little Preludes & Fugues. The Guild wishes you all the best, Deborah, as you begin this great adventure.



Help! There's No room at the Inn. One of the problems of retirement is letting go of things one has enjoyed over the years. I am currently offering my harpsichord of two manuals (FF-g'') & three choirs to any individual or institution that would enjoy having it. It is currently in Spfld. and can be seen at any time. Please contact Lad Pfeifer / call or text 860 227 6961 / ljep@diospringfield.org

A Memorial Gift Thank You

On behalf of St. Mary's Parish, thank you so much for your recent donation in memory of Joe Geehern. Please accept our sincere condolences for your loss. We know that Joe will be greatly missed and appreciate your donation of \$100.00 to St. Mary's Parish in memory of him. Blessings,

Robin Jensen, St. Mary's Campus Executive Director



Memorial Mass
Joseph J. Geehern, Jr.

Thursday, May 12, 2022

On Thursday May 12 family and friends gathered at St. Mary's Church in Westfield for a Memorial Mass for Joe Geehern. Joe was Music Director there for 49 years, long time AGO member, and former Dean. Among the many clergy participating was our Chaplain, the Rev. William Wallace. Will Lucardi, a Westfield native, was the guest organist for the mass. During the offertory the gifts were brought forward by AGO members, Jim Barnes and MaryJean Tash. The following highlights are from the eulogy presented by Rob Lepage.

When you consider all the clergy and musicians in this room, we've been part of thousands of funerals in our careers. Somehow this one feels different. There isn't a person in this room who wasn't touched by Joe Geehern.

Someone recently told me he was always so struck by Joe's simplicity. And there's something to that: Joe had simple pleasures, he never saw friendships as complicated, he always took the high road. But Joe was as deep and profound as a philosopher. The simple joy which radiated from him came from a deep well of faith.

Joe's been sick for a while. You may not have known much because he didn't make a fuss over himself. He faced his illness with those quintessential characteristics we would have expected. He was vulnerable and strong, emotional and determined, worried and joyful. He lived his life on his own terms until the end. He was here with us playing "The Palms" on Palm Sunday and rehearsing for the Triduum on Tuesday. He cried when he told me he didn't think he could come for the Easter Vigil but smiled when he said he'd be here with me Easter Morning. But that was Joe's last night with us.

And, finally, to the musicians who are here tonight: you all meant something to him. There are so many who couldn't come and yet those that are here shared their talents in an extraordinary way. Can you even imagine what he would say if he were sitting here right now? Looking around knowing all of this was for him. You know how much he would have loved it.

Joe played for thousands of people over the last 49 years. He wasn't an entertainer. He didn't play Madison Square Garden. He gave his talents back to God who he loved with all his heart. He inspired and edified. He helped people to pray. Joe was a once-in-a-lifetime friend. There's no one in this community quite like him which means it'll be more than 50 years before someone can say these words again. It's our job to inspire the next Joe Geehern. Let's remember to live those values he held so dear and stay faithful to the God who animated his life and gave it meaning.

Next Chapter Events

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Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield. Rev. Barbara Headley, sermon. Reception.

Sun 10/16 at 3 pm MONICA CZAUSZ BERNEY CONCERT
The First Church of Monson Monson MA: *Please open attached flyer for posting!*

PIPESCREAMS: Date TBD. Michael Carney and Larry Picard. Trinity Methodist, Springfield.

Sun 11/20 at 4 pm NEW MEMBERS RECEPTION AND ORGAN DEMONSTRATION: ,
Grace Episcopal Church, Amherst.

Sun 3/19/2023 EVENSONG WITH ALL SAINTS WORCESTER CHOIR: Pre-service all Bach organ
recital by Todd Beckham, Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield

Sun 3/26 NATHANIEL GUMBS CONCERT: at 3 pm, Brick Church, Deerfield. We are co-sponsoring.

Sun 4/30 CHORAL FESTIVAL: Time TBD at Trinity Methodist, Springfield. Chapter member composers
with a Festival Choir of our choir singers.

Other Events



St. John's Episcopal Church, 679 Farmington Avenue, West Hartford, CT
860-523-5201 ext. 324

Please visit the following link for more details: <https://www.reddoormusic.org>

SEPTEMBER 25, 2022 @ 5:00 PM.

CHORAL EVENSONG – COME AND SING!

The ancient and beautiful service of Choral Evensong is presented on the fourth Sunday of selected months at St. John's. Join us on September 25 at 5:00pm for this time of music and worship. Do you love to sing Evensong? Join us at 3:00pm to be part of the choir! Please send message saying "I / we are planning on joining the choir."

OCTOBER 14, 2022 @ 7:30 PM

BOYD MEETS GIRL: LAURA METCALF, CELLO; RUPERT BOYD, GUITAR

Join us for a beautiful chamber music concert on Friday, October 14, 2022 at 7:30pm by Boyd Meets Girl: Laura Metcalf, cello; Rupert Boyd, guitar. Ms. Metcalf is no stranger to our series, having grown up at St. John's Church. We're very excited about this return engagement.

OCTOBER 16, 2022 @ 2:00 PM

NEW WORLD TRIO: ENSEMBLE-IN-RESIDENCE AT THE RED DOOR

Join us on Sunday, October 16, at 2:00pm, for New World Trio, Ensemble-in-Residence at Music at the Red Door. These concerts are free admission, suggested donation \$20. Checks payable to New World Trio. Details at www.newworldtrio.org Anahred Stowe, violin Peter Zay, cello David Ballena, piano

OCTOBER 23, 2022 @ 5:00 PM

CHORAL EVENSONG – ST. JOHN'S CHOIR SCHOOL & ADULT CHOIR

The ancient and beautiful service of Choral Evensong is presented on the fourth Sunday of selected months at St. John's. Join us on October 23 at 5:00pm for this time of music and worship. Sung by the St. John's Choir School & Adult Choir; Scott Lamlein, organist/choirmaster. This event is free admission, donations welcomed.

NOVEMBER 6, 2022 @ 12:30 PM

PIPES ALIVE! – ALAN MURCHIE, ORGANIST

The Pipes Alive! series opens with organist Alan Murchie playing the St. John's organ on Sunday, November 6, 2022, at 12:30pm. The concert is free admission – donations welcomed.

DECEMBER 4, 2022 @ 12:30 PM

[PIPES ALIVE! – SUSAN CARROLL, ORGANIST](#)

The Pipes Alive! series continues with organist Susan Carroll playing the St. John's organ on Sunday, December 4, 2022, at 12:30pm. The concert is free admission – donations welcomed.

DECEMBER 11, 2022 @ 3:00 PM

[CANDLELIGHT FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS](#)

A “must” to center your soul during the Advent season! In the tradition of King's College, Cambridge, prepare your soul for the Christmas miracle with carols for choir and organ. This event is a long-standing tradition at St. John's – arrive early to get a good seat!

Please visit the following link for more details: <https://www.reddoormusic.org>

October 22, 4:00 PM.

Rare special events happen once in a blue moon. A blue moon event is on the horizon for Saturday, October 22, 4:00 PM.

The 1929 Austin pipe organ, restored in 1989 in the Mortensen Hall at the Bushnell Center for the Performing Arts, 160 Capitol Avenue, Hartford Connecticut will be featured with the Hartford Symphony Orchestra! It is one of the finest instruments built by Austin. Grammy Award-winning organist, Paul Jacobs and Alexander Pattavina will be performing “Once Upon a Castle” by Michael Daugherty and “Symphony Number 3 in C minor” by Camille Saint-Saens.

The massive Bushnell organ is only rolled out in performance on special occasions, and this is one of them. You don't want to miss this unique event. AGO members receive 10% discount using code ASOFHSO. Student tickets are available for \$10.00 with the purchase of an adult ticket and valid student identification. Complete rules can be read at <https://hartfordsymphony.org/concerts-tickets/tickets/student-tickets>. Additional information may be obtained by emailing HSOticketservices@hartfordsymphony.org

Ways to get *your* tickets include calling the Bushnell box office at 860-987-5900/ phoning HSO Ticket Services 860-249-5430

See you there! Lori Bourret

Brick Church Concerts/ Sundays at 3:00 71 Old Main St, Deerfield

Sept 25th Nathan Laube, professor at Eastman/ music by Bach, Böhm, Mozart, & Mendelssohn
Please Open the attached flyer for posting! (Suggested donation \$10-20)

Oct 30 Sirena Huang, violin & Pi-Hsun Shih, piano

March 26th Nathaniel Gumbs, organ

April 16th Frisson Wind Trio & Piano

December 11 2:00 pm **Novi Cantori / Todd Fruth, director**, St. Rose de Lima Church, Chicopee, MA

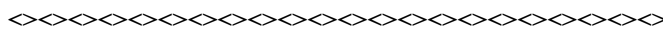
December 18 2:00 pm Novi Cantori / Todd Fruth director, Granville Federated Church, Granville, MA

The Board has revised the **Organ Academy guidelines** and application form now that the 75th anniversary year of free lessons has ended. It is hoped that the \$60 per lesson hour stipend is generous enough to inspire anyone who wishes to continue learning organ skills. These forms will also be available through the website: agospringfieldma.org Send completed forms to martha@sienkiewicz.org or submit through the website.

ORGAN ACADEMY SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES Springfield (MA) Chapter, American Guild of Organists

1. The Purpose of the Organ Academy Scholarship is to encourage the development and proficiency of the individual organist. All applicants, regardless of age or economic status, who demonstrate a genuine interest in the field of organ music are welcome to apply.
2. The Organ Academy administrator will accept scholarship application forms for approval by the board. The application form can be found on the website: agospringfieldma.org
3. To receive the Organ Academy subsidy, students are required to be regular, special, or student members of the Springfield chapter and are strongly encouraged to attend and participate in various chapter events. Following the student's acceptance into the Organ Academy, the Chapter Treasurer will make the necessary arrangements with the teacher designated on the form. The teacher also needs to be a member of the American Guild of Organists, Springfield Chapter.
4. The total Organ Academy allocation and the scholarship per student are subject to annual Board review. Currently, the subsidy is set at \$60 per lesson hour per student, not to exceed \$1560 for the academy year which runs from June 1 to the following May 31. The student is responsible for the remainder of the cost of each lesson hour which the student pays directly to the teacher.
5. The per lesson hour subsidy is paid directly to the teacher when the Treasurer receives written request from the teacher which includes student name, hours and dates of lessons.
6. All Organ Academy participants will be expected to perform once annually either at a chapter student recital or some other venue approved by the board.
7. Students need to re-apply yearly by 1 June if they plan to continue.
8. These are Guidelines that the board has voted to follow but if any applicant has extenuating circumstances which make it difficult to comply, please notify the academy administrator. There may be possible solutions for special circumstances.

revised 8/2022



Positions Available

Organist/Choir director wanted. Must be familiar with the Roman Catholic liturgy. Two weekend Masses (4pm Sat; 10:30 Sun) with brief choir rehearsal prior to the 10:30am Sun mass. Beautiful Cassavant organ and grand piano. \$250/week. Contact Fr. Michael Twohig, Pastor, St. Theresa Parish, South Hadley, MA, 413-262-3310/cell & text.

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Central Congregational Church of New Salem

Part-time Organist/Choir Director

Central Congregational Church (UCC) of New Salem, MA, a small rural congregation in the North Quabbin area of Western Mass., seeks an experienced musician to play an historic 1860, one manual Tracker organ and piano for weekly Sunday morning worship services from Labor Day through the end of July; The Choir sings an Anthem two Sundays each month and for special seasonal worship services) and practices for 45 minutes prior to the worship service on those Sundays/Services when they sing. This part-time position has a salary of up to \$10,000 depending on the candidates training and experience. Please submit a cover letter, resume and three references to: nsccc22@gmail.com or Central Cong. Church of New Salem, attn. Rev. Jim Ewen, 22 South Main Street, New Salem, MA 01355

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Director of Music Christ the King Epiphany Church (Lutheran/Episcopal) Wilbraham. The responsibilities of this part-time position include (but are not limited to): choosing and playing hymns and other music that are appropriate for church season and accompanying liturgy for Sunday worship services; coordinating and collaborating with other musicians to enhance worship including the redevelopment of a choir as possible.

Minimum Qualifications:

Mastery of piano and willingness to become proficient on the organ, Good written and oral communication skills; Ability to work individually and as part of a team; Choral experience.

Salary range: \$12,000-\$15,000 (~10 hours/week) commensurate with experience

If interested, please provide cover letter, resume and recordings/links as possible to the attention of Liz Tousignant at music@ctkephany.org.

part-time principal accompanist United Church of Christ in Enfield.

The principal accompanist is the central figure ensuring the quality, substance, and appropriateness of the music that serves an integral part in the pastor's and the church's vision of ministry. The candidate for this position should demonstrate an ability to have a good working relationship with the pastor, have proven experience in organ and piano performance, and preferably experience in an ecumenical Christian tradition. Enfield's organ is an Allen Electronic.

Compensation:

- \$25,000 per year with some professional development funds available.
- 2 weeks paid time off

For more information, please contact:
The Reverend Dr. Greg Gray, Pastor

