

Requiem Aeternam Dona Ei, Domine

✠ *Eternal Rest Grant Unto Them, O Lord* ✠

JOHN BOESENHOFER

1914-2009

Longtime AGO member John Boesenhofer passed away on September 28, 2009.

John would have been 95 in Nov. - born Nov. 14, 1914, in Philadelphia PA, but grew up on a farm in Bucks Co. PA.

Before he entered Westminster Choir College in 1950, he worked on the farm, stitched major league baseballs, and was employed at the Perkasio post office. He also served part-time as organist-director at two Lutheran churches.

He completed his masters Minister of Music degree from Westminster in 1954, then held positions of organist-choir director in VA, TN, PA and Toledo, OH, where he served at Augsburg Lutheran, Christ Presbyterian, and Holy Cross Lutheran, retiring in Dec. 2008.

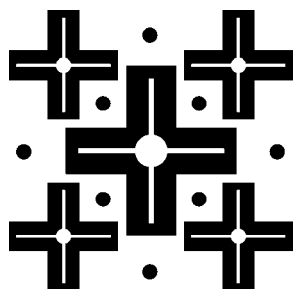
On his 90th birthday John gave an organ recital celebrating a lifetime of service to his Lord.

John was also very active in sports, including bowling, softball, track, high and long jumps, pole vaulting, shot put, javelin. He organized a senior bowling league in Toledo and bowled nearly every week until this fall. He participated in various aspects of area, state, and national Senior Olympics where he won many awards for his age category, and created several world records. At the 2007 National Games he won six medals. In July 2009, he was inducted into the State of Ohio Senior Olympic Hall of Fame.

John was buried in his home town of Perkasio PA, at the cemetery of St. Andrews Lutheran Church where he first began to play the organ.

His daughter, Julie Ann, of Toledo, survives.

Submitted by Barbara Craig



HERBERT WILLIAM GREUNKE

1917-2009

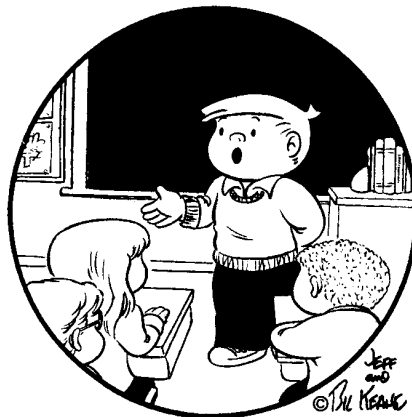
Herbert Greunke, longtime AGO member and organist at St. Peter Lutheran Church-Blackberry Corners passed away on September 25, 2009, at the age of 92. Herb served St. Peter's as their organist/music director for more than 60 years. A musical fixture in NW Ohio, Herb taught music in the Genoa, Hamler, and Delphos school districts, after serving in the US Air Force during WWII. Herb's musical influence touched many hundreds of lives (including mine), but one in particular was rather special. In 2004, St. Peter Church decided it was time to celebrate Herb's many years of service with a surprise "Herb Greunke Day" during the Sunday worship service. Many special guests were invited, including most all of the pastors that served St. Peter's during Herb's years as organist. Also on hand were his surviving siblings, nieces and nephews, etc. I was asked to serve as guest organist for this special service and humbly obliged. Herb was indeed surprised at all the fuss, and the many folks who came to be there for the surprise event. Some spoke of Herb's musical skills, others his infectious smile, while others shared humorous anecdotes of his teaching career. Pastor Monte Kauffman read aloud a letter he received from a guest who was unable to attend. The letter recalled the writer's earliest memories of Mr. Greunke babysitting for him and his little brother in their Hamler, Ohio home. "Herb would sit at the piano and place his hands over our hands while pressing the keys. This was my very first piano lesson and it was magical! It began a love for music that has brought tremendous joy to my life and I owe much of my musical success to the early influence of Herb Greunke. Thank You Herb!" The letter was signed "Chip Davis" (founder and musical director of the famous group, Mannheim Steamroller). At Herb's funeral service, music and song filled the church, and many of those in attendance at "Herb Greunke Day" were also on hand, including Chip Davis, who flew back from Hawaii just to attend the funeral. Most of us have served our church music programs for a number of years. Trudging through the snow on cold February mornings, surviving warm June wedding rehearsals, and all that goes with the job. Imagine 60 years of commitment to a single church. Herb Greunke was an exceptional man, who will be missed by nearly everyone who had the pleasure to meet him. The lives that he touched are forever changed for the better. God bless you Herb.

Submitted by Terry Brassell

Pictures from the September Organ Crawl



THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"The Pilgrims wore black and white because that was their football team's colors."

from JoyfulNoiseletter.com
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