

The Prelude

Summer 2009



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

DEAR FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES,

Well, IT'S HERE !!! At last, Summer has safely arrived. And, already I am hearing the usual complaints about it being "too hot!"

I asked some of my singers to work on a little piece ("Summer Days") based on a poem by Samuel Longfellow, the younger brother of the celebrated poet, from something he called "Summer Rural Gathering." It is set to an adaptation of a hymn tune ("Jordan") by William Billings which is found in Hatfield's *Church Hymn Book, 1872*.

The summer days are come again;
 Once more the glad earth yields
 Her golden wealth of ripening grain,
 And breath of Clover fields,
 And deepening shade of summer woods,
 And glow of summer air,
 And winging thoughts, and happy moods
 Of love and joy and prayer.

The summer days are come again;
 The birds are on the wing;
 God's praises, in their loving strain,
 Unconsciously they sing.
 We know who giveth all the good
 That doth our cup o'er brim;
 For summer joy in field and wood
 We lift our song to Him.

A number of years ago, Byrd Taylor and Peter Parnall created a book for children (*The Other Way To Listen*) telling about two young people who not only learned to listen, but also found a new relationship to the living world of nature. When you know "the other way to listen," you begin to hear things most people never hear - like wild flowers bursting open, rocks singing or mountains murmuring.

Music is said to be a gift of God.

According to Greek mythology, remember, Orpheus was given a lyre by the God Apollo and was instructed in its use by the muses (from which comes the term "MUSIC"). For Orpheus, music was a means of worshipping the gods. And, according to the myth, with music he had the power to move and enchant humans, beasts, trees, and even rocks. (Have you ever thought about the concept that everything in the universe is vibrational in nature?)

Even before the strings of Orpheus' lyre were plucked to make an audible sound, those strings - the atoms and molecules in them - were vibrating with incredible velocity. A well-known chemist from Johns Hopkins University, Dr. Donald H. Andrews, wrote in his book called "*The Symphony of Life*," that "if we had the right ears, we could hear those atoms humming and singing."

Mark Hayes added music to the thoughts of Isaac Watts in the words to his anthem:

"The Music of God."

What wakes the sun each morning,
 the moon and stars each night?
 The universe was founded on its theme.
 You hear it in the rustling leaves.
 You feel it in the falling rain.
 You see it in the crystal mountain stream.

The music of God is the source of life,
 beginning and end of all that is to be.
 As we unite our voices,
 glad harmonies we raise,
 Joining in the symphony of His eternal praise.
 How grateful and blessed we are
 to sing the music of God.

continued on page 2

A LOOK INSIDE

page 2

Dean's message con't
 Taylor gets CAGO
 Scholarship News

page 3

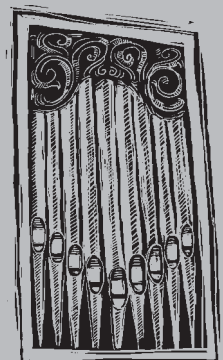
Farewell Recital

page 4

Available positions
 and organist

insert

Music Under the Stars



Check-out our
 webpage at
www.toledoago.org

The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historic evolving roles to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certifying of Guild members.

Dean's Message Continued from Page 1

In a recent edition of *The Christian Century*, columnist Rodney Clapp quotes a few lines from a book by Steven Pinker (*How The Mind Works*) where Pinker states that music was "useless" in terms of human evolution and development. He dismissed it as "auditory cheesecake," a trivial amusement that "just happens to tickle several important parts of the brain in a highly pleasurable way, as cheesecake tickles the palate." Mr. Clapp suggests, rather, that music is the very heart of humanness. Gets you to thinking.

More of that at a later date. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you'll hear the latest from Terry Brassell about our participation in a "Music Under The Stars" program July 19. He will be needing some help. There is also an important announcement about a proposed trip to visit three organ companies. You will want to check your calendar and see if you would like to support something like this. Our year's schedule is being firmed up. There will be a picnic-type gathering in September with an extensive table display of music for swapping out. The time and place will be announced soon! Scholarship Auditions are scheduled for Sunday, October 11 at Community of Christ Lutheran Church in Whitehouse. For details, contact Pam Davis. Many other truly exciting events are in the making for the chapter. Stay tuned!

Stay well . . .

IN HARMONY,

Rev. William O. Gill, Dean

WOGill@aol.com ❖ 419-536-1924

**JACOB TAYLOR AWARDED CAGO**

The committee for professional certification of the national American Guild of Organist has awarded Jacob Taylor of our chapter the Colleague Certificate. Jacob took the examination in May and passed both sections with a grade of A. The requirements for this level are rigorous to say the least. The current regulations are given in the July issue of *The American Organist* on page 41, for those interested in the scope of the examination. Our chapter should be proud of any member who passes this test, but we can be particularly pleased that one of our student members has achieved this honor. There are very few high school students in the county who can match this accomplishment. Well done, Jacob! The Toledo Chapter is to be commended for having supported your organ study over the years through the scholarship program.

SCHOLARSHIP/EDUCATION NEWS

Maybe you have heard that the Toledo AGO has established a formal Scholarship Endowment Fund for which a portion of your annual chapter dues will be dedicated. The board recently designated \$3000 towards the establishment of this fund. In the past your Executive Board has allocated \$1000 each year from dues for scholarship awards. This will continue, but now we will have a separate bank account for such funds, plus at the end of each program season the board will put aside 30% of unspent program monies for the growing of our endowment.

To run such an endeavor takes an **Endowment Committee**, and Pam Davis, our scholarship chairperson, is in need of volunteers for such a committee. **The first order of business will be deciding where to put our money!** After investigating how other AGO chapters around the country handle their scholarships and endowment funds, she has decided she can not, nor should she be expected to, take on such a responsibility by herself, so please give her a call if you want to be a part of this exciting project, or if you know of someone well-suited for this committee. Persons involved could be members, spouses, or AGO supporters. You can reach Pam at music@commofchrist.org or 419-472-1003.

TOLEDO AGO SCHOLARSHIP AUDITIONS will be held on Sunday, October 11 at 2pm at Community of Christ Lutheran Church, 6517 Finzel Rd (corner of Dutch and Finzel) in Whitehouse, OH. Application Forms and official rules will be posted this summer at www.ToledoAGO.org. Auditions are open to 7th-12th grade students, and those auditioning for the first time may play their audition on the piano. Scholarships awarded are for those studying with or wishing to study with an area organ instructor approved by the Toledo AGO, and monies awarded are paid to the teacher for private lessons. Award winners are expected to participate in the Scholarship Winners Recital on Sunday, March 21, 2010 at Community of Christ Lutheran Church. Questions may be directed to Pam Davis, music@commofchrist.org, 419-472-1003.

FAREWELL RECITAL BY JACOB TAYLOR

Jacob Taylor will perform a final organ recital in the Toledo area before heading to Wheaton College this fall. The recital will include a full array of masterworks from prominent organ composers such as J.S. Bach, Cesar Franck, and Charles-Marie Widor.

The recital, held at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Sylvania, Ohio, will feature the newly restored and expanded organ. All are invited to attend Sunday, August 2 at 3:00 p.m. This event is free and will last approximately one hour. Following the performance, all are welcome to attend a reception.

Jacob has been studying the organ for over 11 years, and will continue to do so at Wheaton College, located in the greater Chicago area. He is a student member of the Toledo Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO), and has annually won scholarships from the guild to study with his current organ teacher, Mr. Randolph Currie. Jacob graduated from Patrick Henry High School in Deshler this spring and was named the class Valedictorian. His musical awards include the Toledo Chapter's Mary Anderson Scholarship, the AGO Service Playing Certificate and the Colleague Certificate (CAGO). In addition, early this year Jacob placed 3rd at a national high school organ competition at Oklahoma City University.

WORSHIP SYMPOSIUM AT CAMP ARCADIA IN MICHIGAN – OCT. 4 – 7, 2009

*Worshipping Because it Matters:
Centering Worship on the Triune God*



PRESENTERS:

Mark Bangert, Barry Bobb,
Scott Bruzek,
and Stephen Starke

This retreat is aimed at those attentive to congregational song: pastors and their principal parish musicians (especially as a team), organists and choir directors and other musicians, teachers and students, and those parishioners who love and support their church's musical worship heritage.

For more information visit this website.

[http://www.camp-arcadia.com/
VacationWorshipSymposium.htm](http://www.camp-arcadia.com/VacationWorshipSymposium.htm)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Rev. William O. Gill, Dean 419-536-1924
wogill@aol.com

Terry Brassell, Sub-Dean 419-877-6070
TSGCOC@aol.com

Jack Gerding, Secretary 419-381-7251
jack.gerding@toledostpats.org

Sr. Mary Ellen Nagle, Treasurer 419-539-0222
cecile_nagle@yahoo.com

Rev. Ronald J. Diener, Chaplain 734-847-2416
rjdiener@buckeye-express.com

Anne Doerfler, Yearbook/Directory 419-474-9143
ad7440@sbcglobal.net

Kevin Cischke, webmaster 734-755-2728
webmaster@toledoago.org

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Membership is open to all interested in the organ. To become a member of the Toledo Chapter, contact Kathy Dennis at: kldennis926@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER & E-MAIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you have articles, news, concerts, or vacant positions please submit them to: Ed Duling at: ed.duling@utoledo.edu or ebd2140@aol.com AND Jack Gerding at: jack.gerding@toledostpats.org.



Picture from the May Banquet honoring Dr. Wolcott

Available...



First Presbyterian Church, 120 South Park Ave., Fremont OH 43420 seeks a Music Director. Responsibilities include conducting mid-week choir rehearsal, directing the chancel choir on Sunday mornings, and working with the pastor to plan music for a blended worship service. Experience with a broad range of Christian musical styles (including traditional choral music and contemporary praise songs) is highly desired. Contact Dr. William J. McConnell (pastor) at pastor@fremontfpc.org.

The First Presbyterian Church, Findlay, OH seeks an interim part-time choir director. Responsibilities include directing the adult choir and the youth and adult handbell choirs for rehearsals, regular worship services and other special worship services as necessary. Strong candidates will have relevant training and at least three - five years experience with preference in a church setting. This interim position begins August 1, 2009 and may extend through April 2010. For more information, please log onto our website at www.findlayfpc.org. If interested, please send your letter of application, 3 personal references (with contact information for each), and a current resume to music@findlayfpc.org.

Elizabeth Kent, a choral music education/ organ major at Indiana University, will be available as a substitute organist during the summer months. She is a former recipient of the Toledo Chapter AGO's Mary Anderson award, holds an AGO service playing certificate, and has performed organ concertos with the Toledo Symphony and the Toledo Youth Orchestras. She will be available to play Sunday services, weddings, funerals, and special events from May 17th through August 15th, including these dates. Her phone number is 419.377.8226 (cell) and 419.893.4342 (home), and her e-mail address is ejkent@indiana.edu. **Please use this e-mail as the one in the directory no longer exists.**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Toledo Chapter
c/o Kathy Dennis
3348 Indian Road
Toledo Ohio 43606

THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Toledo, Ohio
Permit No. 706