



VOX PRINCIPALIS



The Newsletter of the
Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

February 2015

CHAPTER BOARD

Dean

Dr. Wayne Wagner
wagnerwl@comcast.net

Sub-dean & Program Chair

David Lim
dlim@gustavus.edu

Secretary

Christine Schulz
musicbox@hickorytech.net

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rlshilling1217@gmail.com

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cwinterf@gustavus.edu

Public Relations Officer

Lucas Krogmann
krogmalg@mlc-wels.edu

Members-at-Large

Les Hohenstein
lhohenstein@bevcomm.net

Paul Otte
paul.n.peeters@gmail.com

Web

www.agosioxtrails.org

Email

agosioxtrails@gmail.com

Facebook

www.facebook.com/agosioxtrails

In memoriam: Ames Anderson

from Charles H. Luedtke

The year 2014 came to a sad close with the passing of a Sioux Trails/AGO chapter co-charter member, a dear colleague of many associated with (Dr.) Martin Luther College, and my first office-mate there a half-century ago, **Ames E(kern) Anderson** (1934-2014). He grew up in Minneapolis and was privileged to have been a student at Southwest High School during the years it was noted throughout the city for its premier choral program under the direction of the iconic O. B. Dahle. He earned a Bachelor's, Master's, and Doctorate degree, all at the University of Minnesota, the latter under the auspices of Dr. Heinrich Fleischer, famed recitalist throughout the United States and the University Organist. Ames taught music for a short while at St. Olaf College in Northfield, MN, before accepting a position at DMLC in 1961 where he taught private organ lessons and music-history classes until his retirement in 1998.



Ames Anderson (1934-2014)

During Ames' retirement years we would occasionally get together for lunch at one of the New Ulm restaurants where he would often report about recent trips, elder hostels, and opera performances he and his wife Ruth had enjoyed throughout the U.S. Since Ames and Ruth often entertained me at my December birthday time, it turned out to be unexpectedly fortuitous that I took him to lunch in celebration of his 79½th birthday in April as a kind of surprise. Following upon what was to be his last organ recital in the Sioux Trails/AGO summer series, Ames and Ruth left for what was to be a month-long vacation with their married daughter, Greta, and their twin grandsons to Alaska. The trip was aborted when Ames showed signs of disorientation and returned to Minnesota for medical attention. Over the next six months several diagnoses

were pronounced at local care centers, but no significant improvement shown in what constituted a gradual downward drift to a non-responsive state just a few days before his death on the 23rd of December. Because of his medical condition there would have been no chance of going out to lunch in celebration of his 80th birthday on the 20th of October.

Besides those occasional noontime luncheons, we had collaborated on a number of projects over the years: joint organ recitals, most notably the performance (along with Judith Kresnicka's participation) of the entire corpus of César Franck's 12 major organ works in a one-day symposium; the editing of a *Festschrift* consisting of 12 articles penned by an international cadre of authorities honoring our teacher, Dr. Heinrich Fleischer, in recognition of his 90th birthday; and the publication of a "re-mastered" 2-CD set representing Dr. Fleischer's outstanding organ performances gleaned from tape-recordings made at the Rockefeller Chapel in Chicago during the mid-20th century. Though he is sadly missed by his family and colleagues, all who knew Ames are ever thankful for his presence and contributions to the musical life of south-central Minnesota while on earth, and we rejoice in his eternal sojourn in heaven with Jesus, J. S. Bach, and a host of famed musicians whose works he enjoyed and performed during his earthly pilgrimage. *Requiescat in pace.*

Plainchant workshop

This workshop aims to introduce plainchant to clergy and church musicians new to the practice, and to refresh the practice for those with more experience. Nathan and Lisa Knutson from the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm will lead the workshop. Clergy, church musicians, and laity from all traditions are welcome to attend this exciting opportunity to engage the practices of plainchant.

The workshop will be at the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity in New Ulm (605 N State Street), running from 10.00am to 12.00noon on Saturday, 21 February 2015. We look forward to seeing you there!

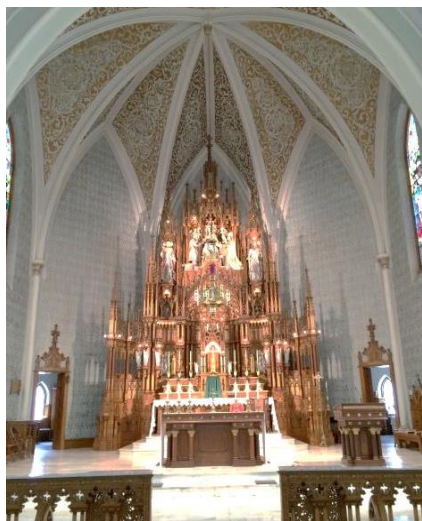
Waking Up for Sleepy Eye

from Mark DeGarmeaux

College students woke up early on a Saturday morning, November 15, 2014 — not for a pub crawl, as one roommate misunderstood — but an organ crawl. A group of 12, mostly organ students and teachers from Bethany, Gustavus, and Martin Luther colleges, explored the mechanics, history, and sounds of organs at St. John's Lutheran and St. Mary's Catholic churches in Sleepy Eye.

St. John's Lutheran (WELS) has a newly renovated and enhanced organ that clearly supports the congregational singing. Some of the pipes are from the church's earliest organ, a Barckhoff from over a century ago. In 1947 a Wicks organ was installed that made use of some of these pipes. In 2014 the organ was expanded, refurbished, and rededicated. It was revoiced and enlarged from 12 to 19 ranks. The restoration story was featured on KEYC-TV news.

Prof. Ron Shilling, the resident organist, told the history of the organ and demonstrated some of its features. Then others had a chance to try out the organ for themselves.



The high altar at St Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Sleepy Eye, MN

The organ at St. Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church resides in a stately church built in 1902. The organ has seen increased use recently with more traditional music for the mass and a more active youth choir.

The organ has a similar history to St. John's organ, being first built in 1907 by Bernard Schaefer, expanded by Wicks in 1947, and then refurbished and enhanced in 2011 by the Moe Pipe Organ Company of Wadena, MN. Through its journey the organ went from 2 manuals and 24 stops to 3 manuals and 58 stops. Participants were able to play on the organ, view the pipe chambers, and hear the organ while touring this beautiful church.

On the return trip the group stopped for lunch at the Ratskeller at Turner Hall in New Ulm. It is always encouraging to see the fine instruments in our area, and it's a good opportunity to get to know fellow organists. We look forward to more ventures like this.

North Central Regional Convention

from Andrew Peters, Convention Coordinator

Have you registered for the North Central Regional Convention yet? The convention takes place June 22-24 in St. Louis. Concerts include recitals by Christopher Marks, Thomas Murray, Anna Myeong, Daryl Robinson, a hymn festival by John Behnke, the St. Louis Children's Choir, the Gateway Ringers of St. Louis, and much more. Workshops presenters include Barbara Adler, Barbara Harbach, Clifford Hill, Marilyn Schempp, James Thomashower, and more.

Register now to take advantage of early bird registration prices through February 28. The registration fee includes transportation during the convention, one lunch, and the banquet dinner. To register, visit www.ago2015.org. Or contact convention registrar Regina Morris at morrisrp@swbell.net or 314-647-0475.

Also be sure to book your hotel room at the Sheraton Clayton Plaza. Room rates start at \$109 per night plus tax. Be sure to book your room through the convention website so that you get the AGO convention rate.

We look forward to welcoming you to St. Louis!

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

from Chad Winterfeldt

In my experience, young musicians love to explore the pipe organ! The knobs, extra keyboards, loud sounds, a case one can crawl in — these are all fascinating aspects of the pipe organ for children of all ages. The instrument itself is a magnificent resource for attracting new performers and listeners to the King of Instruments.

On Saturday, March 14, 9:30 am to 1:30 pm, our chapter will host a Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza for area musicians ages 8 – 18. Beginning at Christ Chapel on the campus of Gustavus Adolphus College and ending at First Lutheran Church in Saint Peter, activities will feature performances, hands-on trials, demonstrations of mechanics, videos, and more! Pizza and conversations with real live organists will end the day.

This is a great opportunity to encourage the young keyboardists in your churches, schools, and communities to explore the pipe organ. Registration, schedule, and other information can be found at www.agosioxtrails.org. The event is free to all. In addition, help from as many chapter members as are willing is desired! Contact Chad Winterfeldt (cwinterf@gustavus.edu) or David Lim (dlim@gustavus.edu) if you are interested in demonstrating, teaching, promoting, or supporting this event.

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