

Principal Pipings

March 2019, Vol. 74, Issue 8



Dean's Message

Happy March!

It certainly doesn't feel like March with the weather out there, but Ash Wednesday is next week and for most of us, it's already time to start preparing for Easter!

Last month, we hosted a Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza event at First Presbyterian Church and Christ Church Cathedral. We had nine students and it was a fun and informative time, even for the adults. Special thanks goes to Tina Wagoner, Lisa Hall, and Erich Balling for hosting our program, as well as a big thank you to everyone else that volunteered or sent students.

Our March program will be at Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church in Lexington on Saturday, March 30. This is called a "Lenten Lunch and Learn", and will be similar to our January Jubilee we held last year. We will begin the morning with three speakers – Brian Hunt will present Zoom recording technology, John Webb will discuss professional development and updates from AGOHQ, and David Schroth will teach about organ maintenance. We will then have an organ reading session, and then gather for lunch. Lunch is free to all attendees, but please RSVP to me no later than March 14th. After lunch we will have a choral reading session, and will be done between 1:30 and 2:00pm. If you'd like to volunteer to play, please let me know. We need one more player for the organ reading session, and could use another one or two accompanists for the choral reading session.

I hope you'll be able to join us for our March program, and I hope to see you around at one of the events listed in the calendar.

James

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Upcoming Events

- 03.17.19 **Dr. Robert L. Bozeman, organ, Louisville, KY, and Lisa Lewis, organ, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Anchorage, KY (3:30pm) Evensong with the Cathedral Choir (4:00)**
Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, KY
- 03.23.19 **Bach Marathon**
Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY
- 03.26.19 **Jane Johnson, organ**
12:20pm Ransdell Chapel, Campbellsville University, Campbellsville, KY
- 03.30.19 **Lenten Lunch and Learning (9:30am gathering, 10:00am workshop, lunch provided)**
Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY
- 04.09.19 **Wesley Roberts, organ**
12:20pm Ransdell Chapel, Campbellsville University, Campbellsville, KY
- 04.14.19 **Gabriel Faure's Requiem with the Choir of Men and Boys and Instrumental Ensemble**
4:00pm Christ Church Cathedral, Lexington, KY
- 04.18.19 **Colleen Ames, Graduate Recital, organ**
8:00pm Ransdell Chapel, Campbellsville University, Campbellsville, KY
- 04.27.19 **Now Once, Now Forever – Lexington Chamber Chorale**
7:30pm Second Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY

GREAT MUSIC

at Christ Church Cathedral
2018-2019



Concert & Evensong

SUNDAY, MARCH 17

3:30pm

4 Hands, 4 Feet, 2 Organists, 1 Bench

Organ Duet Concert

Robert L. Bozeman, Louisville, KY

Lisa Lewis, Anchorage, KY

4:00pm

Evensong with the Cathedral Girls Choir



Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*

PALM SUNDAY, APRIL 14

4:00pm

The Choir of Men and Boys

Erich Balling, Conductor

Kathleen Balling, Associate Conductor

Lisa Hall, Organ

Curtis Streetman, Bass Soloist

Sally Kelton, Harp

Clyde Beavers, Cello

Anna Hess, Violin

David Davenport, Timpani

Childcare is available.



Please visit www.ccclex.org to view the complete list of events.

166 Market Street • Lexington, Kentucky • 40507

February Event Report

On February 2, the Lexington Chapter hosted a “Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza” for piano students interested in the organ. We had a great turn out with nine students present. Starting at First

Presbyterian Church, host Tina Wagoner told the history of the organ and presented “Rex, King of Instruments” along with narrator James Humlong to demonstrate all the features of the organ. After getting to crawl inside the pipe chambers, students heard from organ builder David Schroth, who showed and explained how the pipe organ works. The students were then able to play piano pieces they had prepared on the organ. They were all excellent players!

The group then walked across the street to Christ Church Cathedral, where they met hosts Erich Balling and Lisa Hall. Erich told the very interesting history of the Holtkamp organ, and then he and Lisa gave a demonstration of the organ. Lisa led the students into the pipe chambers, where they were fascinated with the swell shutters and the large pedal reeds. Also showcased was the portative organ that is co-owned by the chapter and the Kentucky Bach Choir and



A student trying out the Cathedral Organ with the assistance of Lisa Hall



David Schroth teaching about the organ

stored at the Cathedral.

After the students finished playing the organ at the Cathedral, the group walked back to First Presbyterian where they had a great pizza lunch provided by Hospitality Committee Co-Chair Angela Hurley. Grant Holcomb shared about his experience of being an organ student at UK. The day was finished with the students playing the chapel organ at First Presbyterian.

Special thanks to all those who volunteered the day of the program as well as those who sent information out on behalf of the chapter to help spread the

word about the event – we had students from the greater Lexington area as well as northern Kentucky. Each student received a book entitled “A Young Person’s Guide to the Pipe Organ”, supplied by AGOHQ, as well as a folder with pencils, organ pictures, and CDs from the Buzard Organ Company, and an organ pipe from Schuyler Robinson. Thank you for encouraging our next generation of organists!

This is our second in a series of articles from our international chapter members. Last month, we heard from John Linker in New Zealand, and this month, we hear from Carolyn Craig. Carolyn studied organ at Indiana University as well as in Vienna, Austria, and has performed several recitals in Lexington. She is currently the organ scholar at Truro Cathedral in Cornwall, England. She talks about her experience there with Lessons and Carols, which originated in Truro Cathedral.

Chapter News

Special Report

The cathedral bells toll 18:30, and the half-hour organ prelude begins. It is December 23rd, 2018. A rustling crowd, now quieting, is gathered here, just as a crowd gathered here in 1880 for the very first service of nine lessons and carols in history. The lights dim as a single treble sings the opening verse of "Once in Royal David's City." Tradition comes to life.

Carol services happened long before 1880, but the nine lessons we know so well, and the structure of interspersing lessons with carols and hymns, were the innovations of the bishop of Truro, Bishop Edward White Benson. According to FWB Bullock, a carol service held in the cathedral in 1878 was partially motivated by the desire to get folks out of the pubs on Christmas Eve; Christopher Gray, the Organist of Truro Cathedral, gives many more plausible and less amusing reasons for the 1880 nine lessons service, such as the strong tradition of Cornish caroling, the Victorian Carol Revival, and the educational and spiritual vision of Bishop Benson. In addition to selecting nine lessons that told the Christmas Story and framed Christianity as a journey, Bishop Benson also chose readers to reflect this journey, starting with a lowly chorister, and ending with the bishop himself. We continue to observe this custom; this December, I was honored to read the second lesson.

Historically, Lessons and Carols was sung by our choir of men and boys, but since the introduction of our girls' choir in 2015, we have had two Lessons and Carols services each year, one with the boys and back row (which is now mixed gender), and one with the girls and back row, on the 23rd and 24th of December. This year, between the two evenings, which feature different repertoire, we had three world premieres. One, by Sasha Johnson Manning, used a Christmas text written by the two head boy choristers; they stayed after rehearsal one day and wrote a poem together. The girls and back row sang premieres by Alexander Campkin and Neil Cox, both of whom were in attendance. My favorite carol between the two evenings was one that the girls and back row sang, "The Christmas Truce" by Graham Fitkin, commemorating the Great War 100 years after its end. Tradition and newness – not only our own tradition at Truro, but the wider lessons and carols tradition, with the Willcocks descants and classic anthems – captured the serenity and the expectation of this holy season.

Continued on next page...

Chapter News

Special Report Continued

It was an absolute thrill to get to play the 1887 unaltered Father Willis for much of the organ prelude, and then to sit back and watch the incredible Assistant Organist, Joseph Wicks, accompany the service beautifully. The choirs, under Christopher Gray, are simply fantastic. And although the adults of the choir did adjourn to the pub afterwards, I'm sure they would all agree that, no matter the reasons Lessons and Carols began in Truro, we're all glad that it did.

- Carolyn Craig

You can hear the Truro Cathedral Choirs online following these links –

Girl's service -

<https://soundcloud.com/truro-cathedral/sets/2018-festival-of-nine-lessons-and-carols-1>

Boy's service –

<https://soundcloud.com/truro-cathedral/sets/2018-festival-of-nine-lessons-and-carols>

More Pictures from the Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza



Left: Erich Balling demonstrates the sounds of the Cathedral Organ



Above: A brother/sister duet in the chapel at First Presbyterian Church



Left: Lisa Hall shows the students the portative organ stored at the Cathedral

Chapter News

Around the chapter...

Please remember to RSVP for our March 30th program, "Lenten Lunch and Learn" no later than March 14th so we can have an accurate count for lunch. If you have any dietary restrictions, please let us know that as well. RSVPs can be made to James Humlong at james.humlong@gmail.com.

Don't forget to think about heading to Grand Rapids to the 2019 Regional Convention. In addition to almost a dozen organ recitals and concerts, they will feature handbells, brass, carillon, and the theatre organ. There will also be some familiar faces to the Lexington Chapter, including recitals by Nicole Keller, Katelyn Emerson, and Ken Cowen. You can find more information on their website at www.grago2019.org. **NEW THIS MONTH** – Several scholarships are available for young organists (30 or under). Applications can be found at <https://grago2019.org/scholarships/>. This is provided through the Grand Rapids Chapter.

Do you know a young organist that wants to further their organ skills with great teachers around the country? Consider a Pipe Organ Encounter! Early registration is now open for several of these POEs around the country in Cape Cod, Massachusetts, St. Louis, Missouri, and Seattle, Washington. For the first time, there will also be a POE in Europe, in Helsinki, Finland. Also available are a POE Advanced for high school students already well versed in the organ, held in Houston, Texas, and a POE Technical for those ages 16 to 23 that are interested in learning about organ building. More information can be found through links available on www.agohq.org.

As a reminder, it is always free to list a community event in the Calendar of Events in the newsletter as well as the website, and these can be sent to James Humlong or Scott Heydinger. If you would like a separate email sent out to the chapter or would like an ad or special article in the newsletter about your event, this is also an option available for the small fee of \$30 for the first month and \$20 for the same ad each month thereafter. You have seen Christ Church Cathedral do this every month on page 3 of the newsletter, as well as many other churches and groups on occasion. This was decided by the Executive Committee in 2017, as there were so many wonderful events going on it became too difficult to send a special email out for every single event. If you would like more information about this, you may contact James Humlong directly. As always, if you have non-event related articles you think the chapter would be interested in, or you have ideas for the newsletter, feel free to let James know.



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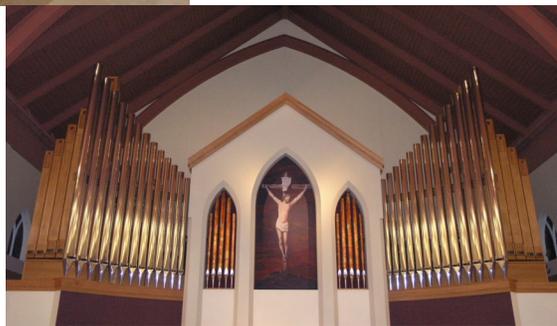
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