



EN CHAMADE



Winchester Chapter American Guild of Organists

March 2021 Newsletter

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THE DEAN'S MUSINGS

RELATIONSHIP:

*... a mutual engagement of trust that fosters growth and gives support unconditionally.
It is fortified and nourished by active communication.*

I have been thinking during this holy time of Lent about my relationship with God through Christ. More and more I am convinced that I own the responsibility for how the relationship grows. I have chosen several pieces such as "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need" and "If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee" as the central part of several reflections to my parish. These hymns remind us through their texts that we are created to have a relationship with the Divine. We take a huge step towards maturity when we acknowledge that we are ultimately responsible for the relationship. Communication creates the bond that joins us together. Communication in a relationship is two-way: sharing and listening.

Our February program titled **Birthday Boys' Bash** was a great success. We had a young guest, Emma Price, as our narrator for the composer biographies. Emma is a flute student of Charlene Romano. She was ranked as principal flutist in this year's West Virginia All State Band.

We are grateful to **Terry Sisk** and **Jessica Balick**, who performed movements of sonatas by Corelli, Handel and Mendelssohn for organ and flute. His research about the composer biographies added a great deal.

Terry noted that all three composers died wealthy men (so there is still opportunity!). Our birthday cupcake treats have been moved to March when we celebrate Bach's birthday. Just click on the online homepage button to secure a delivered sweet treat.

The March program is focusing on COMMUNICATION. Our monthly program will be **WAGO Online**. It will be a ZOOM meeting on Friday, March 12 at 7:30 and will feature **Terry Sisk**, assisted by **Marilyn Shenenberger** walking us through the new WAGO website designed in collaboration with our web master, **Emily Bengten**. There will be a description of our chapter and welcome on the Home Page, new photo galleries, a current list of meetings, a calendar, and the addition of a copy of our Directory – password protected. It will be an interactive demonstration. The web site is meant to consolidate our data in one place. This program will partner with a new series for which I will give a working title: **Musical Tidbits and Tales of Winchester Churches**. The narratives will feature anecdotes by **Dr. Steven L. Cooksey**. The stories will focus on the church organ and the Music Ministry. The First Presbyterian Church on S. Loudoun Street will begin the series.

March is the one-year anniversary of our pandemic masked and quarantined lifestyle. It is also the anniversary of the separation of our churches with live worship services. Our chapter members have created a virtual concert of favorite hymns. The program is called a **Lenten Hymn Fest**. The performers are associated with area churches. It will be on the website for the entire month.

This month's musings started by talking about relationship and the part that communication plays in maintaining strong unbreakable ties. Our Chapter needs you to help as partners in good communication. Here are some recommendations:

- Read the *En Chamade* newsletter
- Contribute any recommendations for programs or news that would benefit the members to our newsletter editor, **Daniel Hannemann** (misterdan51@gmail.com)
- Come to our Chapter meetings (at least by Zoom!)
- Pass along to friends, family and church members information about our virtual program **Lenten Hymn Fest** (winchesterago.com)
- Send the recital program flier to your church office, governing board and pastor for promotion
- Keep the Chapter Directory up-to-date (send any changes to misterdan51@gmail.com)

Please take several moments throughout the month to think about ways we can build stronger relationships through rich, honest and caring communication. We are an extraordinary group and we are blessed to have each other.

Blessings,

Linda



Linda Beville

Opequon Presbyterian Church Selects a Rodgers Artist 589 Organ

Opequon Presbyterian Church sits on the Kernstown Battlefield next to the city limits of Winchester, Virginia. It traces its roots to the first settlers who established worship there in 1732. As the "Mother Church of the Valley" it is the oldest in Shenandoah Presbytery. The first two houses of worship were of log construction. In 1790 a large formal stone building was constructed. Seventy years later, during the Civil War, the First and Second Battles of Kernstown enveloped the church and surrounding properties; the stone meeting house was badly damaged.

Through hard work and sacrifice, the congregation repaired the extensive war damage, only to see it all erased by a fire on the first Sunday of worship in the restored structure. Having persevered for more than a hundred and forty years, the congregation did not give up. The Methodists across The Valley Pike were kind enough to share their space until 1895, when the fourth sanctuary was dedicated. Built from newly quarried, as well as reclaimed stone from the pre-war building, the small late Victorian structure accommodated worship for the next hundred years, until the growing congregation needed a bigger space. In March 2005, Sunday worship was held in the fifth sanctuary on that site.

Singing that morning, and for the next fifteen years, was accompanied by the Rodgers 790A organ, which had been moved from the former sanctuary, reconfigured, and voiced for the new, much larger space with its amazing acoustics. A few years ago, it was suggested that it was time to plan for a newer, bigger, organ. A few thousand dollars was used as seed money and donations began to flow in. As typical of Presbyterians, a committee was formed, and they recommended the church purchase a three manual Rodgers Artist Series 589.

The organist, **William Heavner**, coordinated the acquisition. He had the same role nearly twenty years earlier when the church replaced their 1972 Allen with the Rodgers 790A. This new Rodgers 589 would be Bill's third organ during his thirty-year tenure at Opequon.

It appeared the organ would be in place on March 22, 2020, for a special worship service, planned to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of the fifth sanctuary of a church in its 288th year. The new organ would be a surprise for the congregation. Surprise because the needed funds had flowed in through early donations even before the formal campaign was slated to begin.

But the new organ was not the big surprise of mid-March 2020. The pandemic put a pause on in-person worship. Fortunately, Opequon had already established a live-stream option for Sunday worship and it seamlessly replaced in-person attendance. Installation of the new instrument was delayed until June and the Rodgers 589 was introduced to the congregation via live-stream and YouTube.



William Heavner at organ

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February Birthday Boys program

Terry Sisk and Jessica Balick prepared a wonderful 15-minute concert, with interesting information on composers with February birthdays, and a brief tutorial on accessing free scores on the IMSLP site. If you missed this program, a few of the Flute and Organ selections will be posted on our website: www.winchesterago.com



Monday, March 1-March 31 Continuous

Our chapter will feature a program of favorite hymns on our website.

A year ago this month, more and more churches went to online services in order to protect their parishioners from additional exposure to the COVID virus. This means that many congregations have been missing the experience of corporate worship and hearing hymns sung by a group of worshippers. In order to bring hymn-singing to all in our community, we will be sharing hymns that many of you are providing your congregations each Sunday morning, supplemented by some chime accompanied hymns sung by 8 of our WAGO members in an outdoor recording session with Jim Moon, along with flautist Rick Pennington.

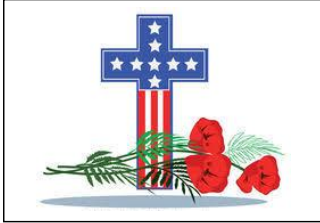


Singers and ringers for March online hymnfest

There is a **Favorite Hymn flyer** in the newsletter, which was also sent to each of you on our mailing list. Please discuss this program with your pastors and Worship and Music Committees, and ask them to promote it to their parishioners. (Flyer IS ON SECOND FOLLOWING PAGE OF NEWSLETTER)

The Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists would like to do our part to ease that loss by bringing you a program of time-honored hymns, and hopefully some of your favorite hymns, sung by musicians and choirs from our local churches.

May Scholarship concert: Saturday, May 15-June 15 Continuous



Our May Scholarship concert will be a virtual memorial concert to honor those who have died from COVID as well as those who died in other circumstances and those who have died defending our nation. Our goal is to bring comfort and healing to those who remain. The title of the concert will be called “In Memory” and will feature performances by our members, scenes of various memorials around the country, along with some Bible verses and poetry. We are looking for pictures from a variety of memorial sights, including beautiful cemeteries, 9-11 memorial sights, and places of worship. Any pictures you may have taken that would fit into one of our 4 categories: Grief, Remembering, Comfort, or Hope would be welcome additions. Please email any photos you think we might be able to use to **Marilyn Shenenberger**: handbelle@comcast.net. If you have any suggestions or questions, please call or text her at 609-502-3642. And, please pass the word to your congregations and friends. See the **In Memory Flyer** included on the second following page of this newsletter.

Doing the impossible is everyday business for God.

Lent, in the Christian church, a period of penitential preparation for Easter. In Western churches it begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter, and provides for a 40-day fast (Sundays are excluded), in imitation of Jesus Christ’s fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry. In Eastern churches Lent begins on the Monday of the seventh week before Easter and ends on the Friday that is nine days before Easter. This 40-day “Great Lent” includes Saturdays and Sundays as relaxed fast days.

A period of preparation and fasting likely has been observed before the Easter festival since apostolic times, though the practice was not formalized until the First Council of Nicaea in 325 CE. It was a time of preparation of candidates for baptism and a time of penance for grievous sinners who were excluded from Communion and were preparing for their restoration. As a sign of their penitence, they wore sackcloth and were sprinkled with ashes. This form of public penance began to die out in the 9th century, and it became customary for all the faithful to be reminded of the need for penitence by receiving an imposition of ashes on their foreheads on the first day of Lent—hence the name Ash Wednesday.

In the early centuries, fasting rules were strict, as they still are in Eastern churches. One meal a day was allowed in the evening, and meat, fish, eggs, and butter were forbidden. The Eastern church also restricts the use of wine, oil, and dairy products. In the West these fasting rules have gradually been relaxed. The strict law of fasting among Roman Catholics was dispensed with during World War II, and only Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are now kept as Lenten fast days. However, the emphasis on penitential practice and almsgiving remains, and many Catholics also observe a meatless fast on Fridays during Lent. In addition, Catholics and other Christians often choose to give up specific pleasures, such as sweets, alcohol, or social media, during Lent as a way to foster simplicity and self-control; many use their cravings or desires for these items as a reminder to pray and to refocus on spiritual matters.

In the Anglican churches *The Book of Common Prayer* prescribes that Lent be observed with fasting. In Lutheran and many other Protestant churches, Lent is observed with various services and practices, though Lent is not formally observed in many Evangelical or nondenominational churches.

-*Encyclopedia Britannica*

Commented [d1]:



CALENDAR



Friday, March 12
7:30 p.m.

Terry Sisk – Simplifying our lives and WAGO
Communication through Streamlined Technology

We are working to centralize chapter communications for our members. Our goal is to expand our web page in the near future by posting a chapter calendar (for meeting dates, various deadlines and committee meetings) and links to archived newsletters and community events. We will provide advance notice of chapter meetings by way of our newsletter (Daniel at first of each month), mail chimp (Heather at a week in advance) and a final email notice 24 hours in advance (Marilyn as ZOOM meeting host). Our March chapter meeting will focus on ways to improve and streamline communications.

And a fascinating, but very brief history of one of our Winchester churches.
Brian Kirk, guest.

April – No Meeting

God bless your preparations for and observance of Holy Week and Easter!

Friday, May 14-
June 14
Continuous

May Scholarship Belated Birthday Bash of 2020,
featuring music of composers with significant birthdays in 2020

Our Scholarship concert will be a memorial concert to honor those who have died from COVID as well as those who died in other circumstances and those who have died defending our nation. Our goal is to bring comfort and healing to those who remain. The title of the concert will be called “*In Memory*” and will feature performances by our members, scenes of various memorials around the country, some Bible verses and poetry.

We are looking for pictures from a variety of memorial sights, including beautiful cemeteries, 9-11 memorial sights, and places of worship. Any pictures you may have taken that would fit into one of our 4 categories: Weeping, Remember, Comfort, or Hope would be welcome additions. **Please email any photos** you think we might be able to use to **Marilyn Shenenberger**: handbelle@comcast.net. If you have any suggestions or questions, please call or text her at 609-502-3642. And, please pass the word to your congregations and friends.

June date TBA

Other Keyboard Instruments

The June meeting will be devoted to study of a clavichord, one-manual Flemish harpsichord, an English Bent-Side Spinet, and a classic forte-piano. Each one of these instruments is constructed differently, and each has its own unique sound. Music from the different eras takes on a new life when performed on instruments from that specific time period. Mozart, for example, takes on a whole new life when performed on a forte-piano instead of the modern one.

A mini recital will end the program. The idea is to make the program informative and interesting. We are lucky to have working reproductive examples of all of these instruments. Plan to join us.

And a fascinating, but very brief history of another of our Winchester churches.

Favorite Hymns

Voice, Flute, Cello
Accompanied by
Chimes, Guitar, Organ

Online during March
Winchesterago.com



Presented by the Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

IN MEMORY

Online May 15-June 15
Winchesterago.com



Presented by the Winchester Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

SMILE!!!

If you can't say something nice, say something clever but devastating.

I wish I had a salary that disgusted people.

I used to call people, then I got into e-mailing, then texting, and now I just ignore everyone.

Have you seen the new sofa store named Shack of Sit?

The church organist was also the church janitor, so he had to watch his keys and pews.

Buy the shoes – no point being the richest one in the cemetery.

Scientists say the universe is made up of protons, neutrons, and electrons. They forgot to mention morons.

My body is a temple. Ancient and crumbling, probably cursed or haunted....

I'm so busy I don't know if I found a rope or lost my horse.

How am I supposed to trust you when you keep running away every time I untie you?

My wife says I have two faults – I don't listen and something else....

The Devil whispered to me, "I'm coming for you." I whispered back, "Bring pizza."

It's weird being the same age as old people.

Life is like a helicopter. I don't know how to operate a helicopter.

Chocolate is God's way of telling us he likes us a little bit chubby.

It's probably my age that tricks people into thinking I'm an adult.

I don't think the therapist is supposed to say "wow," that many times in your first session, but here we are...

I see people about my age mountain climbing; I feel good getting my leg through my underwear without losing my balance.

So if a cow doesn't produce milk, is it a milk dud or an udder failure?

If you can't think of a word, say "I forgot the English word for it." That way, people will think you're bilingual instead of an idiot.

I'm at a place in my life where errands are starting to count as going out..

