

# THE COUPLER

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2019 ISSUE

*The Newsletter of the Southwest Florida Chapter  
of the American Guild of Organists*

## The Dean's Corner:

Greetings to all! I hope that everyone had a great and relaxing summer. I have a lot of exciting news about the happenings with the SW Chapter of the AGO that I am anxious to share with you all.

Due to some complications with the Oncard system, this year's directory will not be available for the October gathering. I will email it to you when it becomes available.

It's here!! After long anticipation, the Orgelkids has arrived! We can't wait to show it off to all of you. On **Saturday, October 26, 2019**, at Grace Lutheran Church, 860 Banyan Blvd, Naples, FL 34102, beginning at 9:30 AM, we will premiere the Orgelkids. It promises to be a fun and educational event. I am even coming out of my sabbatical leave a few days early to see this! This gathering is too great to miss. I look forward to seeing you all there!



Your executive board has been hard at work in preparing an exciting year as we enter our 61<sup>st</sup> anniversary. Here is a lineup of our other events for this year:

**October 26, 2019, "Orgelkids"** at Grace Lutheran Church, 860 Banyan Blvd, Naples, FL 34102, beginning at 9:30 AM, we will premiere the Orgelkids. It promises to be a fun and educational event.

**December 7, 2019**, An Advent hymn festival featuring guest organist/clinician Benjamin Kolodziejski. There will be an Orgelkids workshop and rehearsal for the children and youth and a morning rehearsal for the adult singers beginning at 9:30 AM. Following lunch and final rehearsal, the Advent hymn festival will be at 3:00 PM. The Orgelkids organ that the children put together will be featured during the festival! This event takes place at Grace Lutheran Church, 860 Banyan Blvd, Naples.

**January 3, 2020**, Brought back by popular demand, we will celebrate an Epiphany party at Steve Brittain's house beginning at 7:00 PM. More information about that will come out closer to the event.

**January 24, 2020**, A Hymnfest of *Community and Peace* featuring guest artist/Clinician Mark Mummert at Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Myers.

**February 21, 2020**, AGO Member's Recital at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Fort Myers, Florida.

**May 1, 2020**, End of the year AGO Banquet and election of officers. New Hope Presbyterian Church, Fort Myers, Florida.

The board and I met and communicated several times throughout the summer to plan some wonderful events for this year.

Soli Deo Gloria,

*John Renfree*

Dean, SWFL Chapter  
of the AGO

The executive board is in the process of forming a nomination committee to serve during the 2020/2021 season.



If Paula or I call on you to either serve on the nomination committee or if the committee call on you to serve as an officer or board member, please take the request seriously! Our chapter cannot function without dedicated members. If the committee calls you, please

know that they have given serious thought to adding your name to the list of candidates. Also remember that we will gladly add your name to the list if you wish to volunteer! We will also open up nominations from the floor at our May meeting. Please note that I do not plan on running for office for the 2020/2021 year.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!:

Please join me in welcoming our newest member, **Ms. Caitlin O'Reilly**. Caitlin presently serves as the choir director to Lamb of God Lutheran Church in Estero, Florida. Welcome, Caitlin!

In an attempt to make our communications better, the board voted to subscribe to "DialMyCalls". Starting in October each member will get a brief reminder notification of our upcoming activities.

Programs and concert dates left off the October Coupler-

## **-CONCERT DATES-**

### **New Hope Presbyterian Church**

10051 Plantation Rd, Fort Myers, FL 33966

November 27, 6:30pm, Community Thanksgiving Service

**(NOTE: if you would like to sing in the mass choir please contact Ben Ball  
ben@newhopefortmyers.org or 443-745-2642)**

December 1, 3pm, Fort Myers Symphonic Mastersingers and City of Palms Youth Choir in a Concert of Christmas Lessons and Carols

December 15, 3pm, SWFL Handbell Ensemble (Michael Helman, director) Christmas Concert

January 19, 3pm, Inaugural/Dedication Recital of the new Allen Pipe-Digital (fice manyal, 150+ digital ranks, 8 pipe ranks presented by organist Jason Payne

February 23, 3pm, Hymn Festival led by Ben Ball on the new organ

**(NOTE: if you would like to sing in the mass choir please contact Ben Ball  
ben@newhopefortmyers.org or 443-745-2642)**

# St Luke's Episcopal Church

2635 Cleveland Ave, Fort Myers, FL 33901

Calendar 2018-2019

Solemn Liturgies and Concerts 2019-20

Please mark your calendars for these exciting events featuring the St Luke's Choir and local artists!

November 3, 4pm, Evensong for All Saints Sunfay

December 22, 3pm, Lessons and Carols with High Tea

January 5, 4pm, Astralis Chamber Ensemble with Angela Massey

February 2, 3pm, the City of Palms Youth Choir, Matt Koller, conductor.

February 11, Dulcimer workshop with Larry and Elaine Congers

(Saturday all-day workshops followed by a 5pm concert. Registration fee applies).

February 21, SWF AGO Members Recital

March 1, Evensong for the First Sunday in Lent

March 22, 4pm Evensong for Good Shepherd Sunday

July 5, 3pm, Patriotic Concert

Faith Concert Series – 2019-20

## Faith Presbyterian Church

4544 Coronado Parkway, Cape Coral 33904

November 17, 4pm Symphonic Chorale

Ticket sales through [symphonicchorale.org](http://symphonicchorale.org)

December 3, 7pm, Southwest Florida Handbell Ensemble

Free-will offering

The SWF Handbell Ensemble under the direction of Michael Helman returns for a wonderful concert of holiday music. Join un and come alive with the Christmas spirit!

December 15, (all-three worship services)-

Faith Choir Christmas

Faith Choir with members of the SWF Symphony will present a program entitled "The Blessed Angels Sing."

January 24, 7:30pm, SWF Symphony

Ticket sales through [SWFLSO.org](http://SWFLSO.org)

Stradi-various – Mir Kabaretti, conductor will be joined by Violin, Gilles Apap and Caroline Sikuta, violinists in the Bach “Double Violin Concerto”. Also on the program is the Handel “Organ Concerto No.6” with Michael Helman, organist.

February 21-22, Symphonic Chorale Sing-in Free Concert

February 28, 7pm – Six Appeal – Tickets are \$20

Six Appeal is a world-class vocal ensemble that combines musical prowess and sharp comedic timing with the energy and vitality of a rock band. The award-winning vocal band will take you on a journey that covers multiple decades and genres of music-performing classic oldies current chart toppers, and catchy original tunes – completely a cappella.

March 29, 4pm, Fort Myers Children and Youth Choirs

Free-will offering

April 3, 7pm, Fort Myers Mastersingers “Celebrating Beethoven”

The concert will feature the 85-voice adult chorus and Festival Orchestra performing Beethoven’s Mass in C in celebration of Beethoven’s 250<sup>th</sup> birthday as well as the winning composition of the 2019-20 Sanibel-Captiva Trust prize in Choral Competition. Tickets are \$25/adult, \$15/students and are available at [www.mastersingersfm.com](http://www.mastersingersfm.com).

## The **HYACINTH CONCERT SERIES** at **The Moorings Presbyterian Church**

791 Harbour Drive, Naples. Phone (239) 261-1487 [www.mooringschurch.org](http://www.mooringschurch.org)  
(free-will offerings accepted).

November 10, A Salute to Our Veterans by Company B & Melbourne Swing Lite Band

November 17, Alexandra Carlson, piano

January 24, 7pm, DuoMusArt Barcelona

Featuring Raul Pietro Ramirez, organ, and Maria Teresa Sierra, piano

February 23, Kassia Ensemble featuring David Dash, Mary Bowden and a string quartet

March 6, 7pm, Concordia Choir, an 80 member choir

March 29, Trio de Napoli

We will publish *The Coupler* before each of the events for next year rather than monthly. Many thanks to Bill Pomeroy for his editing skills and his work in making this newsletter available to you.

Thank You for your contribution to our newsletter.

Please make submissions to: William Pomeroy [mr\\_bill41@juno.com](mailto:mr_bill41@juno.com)

([mr\\_bill41@juno.com](mailto:mr_bill41@juno.com)).

### **What to contribute:**

We would like to build this newsletter to include items of importance to our membership. New sections for which we need information from you include:

**Noteworthy-** in this section we would like to include member news, appointments, achievements, etc.

**Sub-list-** Please include your name, phone number, email, and availability (*Please be as specific as possible.*)

**Upcoming Events-** it's important that support each another in our church music endeavors. In an effort to avoid double booking concerts on the same day/time whenever possible, please submit dates for the next six months (*or more*) for events taking place in your community/church.

**Positions Available-** in addition to following the online job placement page of the TAO website, please include local positions that may not be listed. Include as many details about the position as possible in addition to contact information.

**For Sale-** information regarding organs, pianos, and other music instruments for sale.



## **-Let's update the Substitute List-**

**Please check for accuracy and update any information you have.**

### **-SUBSTITUTE LIST-**

- ♪ **Ben Ball**—Teaches organ; available sub for Weddings, Funerals, Saturday and weekdays services—[ben@newhopefortmyers.org](mailto:ben@newhopefortmyers.org)—443-745-2642 (cell)
- ♪ **Jonathan Birner**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays—239-352-3350—[birnerj@yahoo.com](mailto:birnerj@yahoo.com)
- ♪ **Karl Cole**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-732-5773—[concertonthekeys@aol.com](mailto:concertonthekeys@aol.com)
- ♪ **Martha Cox**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays—239-458-0721
- ♪ **John Fenstermaker**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-262-6581 (ext. 207)—[johnfenstermaker64@gmail.com](mailto:johnfenstermaker64@gmail.com)
- ♪ **Alden Gatt**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays—239-601-6722—[adlenpiano@gmail.com](mailto:adlenpiano@gmail.com)
- ♪ **John Geib**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-728-8550—[johnfgeib@yahoo.com](mailto:johnfgeib@yahoo.com)
- ♪ **Connie Hartt-Hitchcock**—Funerals, Saturdays—239-225-7281
- ♪ **Michael Helman**—Weddings, Funerals—239-542-2858 [michael@faithcapecoral.org](mailto:michael@faithcapecoral.org)
- ♪ **Robert Herrema**—Weekdays, weddings and funerals—570-575-5622—[bob@robertherrema.com](mailto:bob@robertherrema.com)
- ♪ **Richard Jaeggi**—Weddings, Funerals, Teaches organ lessons—239-454-7970 [rdmej@aol.com](mailto:rdmej@aol.com)
- ♪ **David Jozaities**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-841-0263—[mrorganboy@yahoo.com](mailto:mrorganboy@yahoo.com)
- ♪ **Robert Kirchner**—available for any and all services, weddings, funerals, etc.—727-674-5118—[floridakeymaster@yahoo.com](mailto:floridakeymaster@yahoo.com)
- ♪ **James Kreger**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays—[jlkreger@hotmail.com](mailto:jlkreger@hotmail.com)
- ♪ **Paula Leighton**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays (Oct.-May)—508-769-3713—[paulaleighton@comcast.net](mailto:paulaleighton@comcast.net)
- ♪ **Ronald Lemke**—Available for all types of services (comfortable in all denominations)—847-265-1589—[ronaldlemke2@yahoo.com](mailto:ronaldlemke2@yahoo.com)
- ♪ **Deborah Louth-Martin**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-598-2228—[dlmusa@hotmail.com](mailto:dlmusa@hotmail.com)
- ♪ **Elena Melnikov**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other [weekdays—239-248-3810](tel:239-248-3810)—[Mmelnikov3@aol.com](mailto:Mmelnikov3@aol.com)

♪ **Joseph Nigro**—Weddings, funerals, weekend services. Piano/organ teacher—914-318-3268—  
Treasurehousemusic@gmail.com

♪ Available for weddings, funerals, weekend services. Piano/organ teacher

♪ **Judith Ollikkala**—Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays (Nov.-Jan.)—239-992-0318—  
jollikkala@netscape.com

♪ **Douglas Renfroe**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays (choral)—941-587-1140—  
srodolor@aol.com

♪ **David Speir**—substitute staff singer—203-912-8168—speirdavid@netscape.net

♪ **Judy Weaver**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-693-5436—  
jedijudy@comcast.net

♪ **Becky Weese**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Other weekdays—239-594-3411—  
BeckyWeese@msn.com

♪ **Priscilla Wonkka**—Weddings, Funerals, Saturdays, Sundays, Other weekdays (Oct.-Apr.)—239-  
432-9285—rpwonkka@aol.com

**NOTE:** If you would like to be added to or removed from this list, or if your information needs to be updated, please contact the newsletter editor.



**American Guild of Organists**

Southwest Florida Chapter

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Messiah Lutheran Church

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Cape Coral, FL 33909

**To:**