



Central Hudson Valley Chapter
of the
**American Guild of
Organists**

Newsletter - March 2005

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Letter from the Dean

Dear Friends,

It doesn't seem possible that I'm writing the March newsletter and we are actually halfway through Lent. And naturally looking forward to the feast of the Resurrection. Somehow I am always amazed at the ease with which many of our churches breeze through the penitential season, celebrate the triumph of Palm Sunday and move blithely on to Easter. More than ever, we seem as a society unwilling to endure discomfort until God chooses to comfort us in his own way. As much as I may complain about practically living in church during Holy Week, I really do cherish those ancient rituals, even when they take on modern forms, because they remind me that I need to go through the difficult moments of life to become part of Christ's resurrection – truly a new dimension of existence.

And what does this have to do with practicing the hymns, finding a brass player or a group that will not use up the music budget from now until 2009, rehearsing the choir, finding exciting

descants – all the nitty-gritty that is part of our job? Possibly nothing. But I know that when my head and heart are in the right place, all those extra hours become a joy and I am inspired to find a new hymn harmonization, try some different little thing (this year we're doing meditation music in place of the postlude during Lent, and encouraging the congregation to use the time for that purpose), communicate something of my conviction to choir and congregation and yes, even develop some patience with people who think that Easter is mostly about new clothes, sunshine and birdsong (they could have a shock this year). So a joyous Easter to all of you. Christ is risen and we are glad indeed!

The convention is moving along nicely. Last month I talked about the convocation choir. If you have people who are interested, please be in touch with me or Laura Russell or Maris Kristapsons as follows:

- John Sullivan: 845-454-7150 or e-mail: jtsul@earthlink.net
- Laura Russell: 845-452-8220 or e-mail: lrussell@hvc.rr.com
- Maris Kristapsons: 845-635-8837 or e-mail: mariskr@yahoo.com

We may do a mailing on this later in the season, but it would be good to know how many people we're expecting. The schedule is as follows.

- Thursday evenings at Christ Church, Poughkeepsie, 7:30 PM.
 - May 26
 - June 2
 - June 9
 - June 16
- Dress rehearsal, Monday, June 20, Vassar College Chapel, 7:30 PM.

The works will include:

- *Te Deum*, Maris Kristapsons
- *Psalm 150*, Cesar Franck
- *Psalm 148* Gustav Holst
- A newly commissioned hymn by Don Filkins
- Other hymns arranged by the organist, Dr. Thomas Schmidt of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, NYC.

I'd invite all of you to sing too, but you're going to be busy doing other things, like attending the convention and being gracious hosts to all our out of town guests. *Right? Right!*

Finally, get out those duets and find a partner for the Members' Recital. We are on for the third of May at Grace Episcopal Church in Middletown, at 3:00 PM. Invite your choir, congregations, friends. It will be a really fun time.



Membership News

- Do you know someone who would like to join the chapter but hesitates to pay the full fee this late in the season? Suggest that they become a Chapter Friend now, and then upgrade to Regular Voting Member status later during our spring membership campaign. Contact Mary Caskey, Treasurer, at 845-534-2938 for more information.
- A new printable edition of the membership roster has been posted in the Private area of our web site. If you need to be reminded of your username and password, please contact Susan LaGrande at 845-226-6496 or SUSANEL2@HOTMAIL.COM.
- Eric Hepp has a new address:
24 Lormar Court
Wappingers Falls, NY 12590-2198
845-790-3381 or 845-489-2625
e-mail: erhepp@us.ibm.com

Please note that Eric's name has been added to the sub list. He is also looking for a regular place to practice. If you can offer time on your instrument, please contact him directly.

- Jennifer Geibel has a new e-mail address: jgmus@yahoo.com.
- Welcome to our newest member!
Bob Browne
20 Wantaugh Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
845-485-8374
e-mail: brownekaton@aol.com

Obituary – Nora Z. Strudwick

Chapter member Nora Zeller Strudwick of Wappingers Falls, NY passed away on February 12th, 2005 with her family by her side. She was born November 5th, 1933 in New York City, NY and has resided in Wappingers Falls since 1962. She married Thomas Hyde Strudwick, her high school sweetheart, on June 20th, 1954. They recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. In addition to her husband, she is also survived by four daughters and a son, as well as ten grandchildren.

She was well known in the area, having worked as a school nurse at Sheafe Road Elementary School from 1977 until her retirement in 2003. She was also a dedicated member of the First Presbyterian Church of Wappingers Falls, where she served as a Deacon and on the Session. As leader of the coffee hour for twenty years, she took pride in the Church's support of many children through Christian Children's Fund. She loved the organ and pursued this passion following her retirement, often playing at services on Sunday mornings. She studied organ with Gregory Citarella and was a member of this chapter.

Her funeral was held at the First Presbyterian Church on Elm Street in Wappingers Falls on Wednesday, February 16th, 2005. Memorial donations can be made to the Lustgarten Foundation for pancreatic cancer research at www.lustgartenfoundation.org, or to the Dutchess County SPCA, 636 Violet Ave., Hyde Park, NY 12538.

Obituary – Nancy Plummer Faxon

Nancy Plummer Faxon, 90, of Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts, composer, widow of organist George Faxon and mother of violinist Emily Faxon, died Tuesday, February 1st, at New England Baptist Hospital (Boston), after a brief and unexpected bout with leukemia.

Born November 19, 1914, in Jackson, Mississippi, Mrs. Faxon studied composition with Max Wald. Then, as a student of Nelli Gardini she won first prize in the National Composer's Clinic (1941). Although she continued to compose, it was singing, teaching and playing the piano and organ which dominated the next phase of her career. Among her major works are: *Romans XII* (1950), *Toccata* (1958), *Prelude for Violin and Organ* (1963), *Lament of the Women Following After Joseph of Arimathea* (1965), and *Magnificat* from *A Christmas Fantasy* (1975).]

A nearly-complete catalog of her compositions can be obtained at www.citylightsmusic.org (website maintained by her older daughter). A CD of some of her works is available at www.hhpstore.com.

Position Openings

Editor's Note – Position openings are listed without charge for three months unless an extension is requested. If you would like to place a listing, please contact the editor, Susan LaGrande, at 845-226-6496.

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

LYALL MEMORIAL FEDERATED CHURCH - MILLBROOK, NY

Availble April 1. One Sunday service at 10:30 AM, with additional seasonal services. Choir rehearsals Monday evening. Work with choir director, accompany adult choir (10-15 members), youth choir, and junior choir. Pipe organ, in good condition. Upright piano. Handbells and chimes also available. Salary: \$10,000/year with vacation time provided. Weddings and funerals extra compensation. Lyall Memorial Federated Church, 30 Maple Avenue, Millbrook, NY 12545 Contact: Muriel Verdebello, 64 Stanford Road, Millbrook, NY 12545 Tel: 845-677-5279 Fax: 845-563-3603 e-mail: mverdi@rcls.org 2/9/2005

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY

Available April 1. One Sunday service at 10:00 AM, preceded by choir rehearsal at 9:15 AM. Occasional mid-week seasonal services. Small adult choir. Electronic organ, two manuals and pedal, good condition. Occasional flute and viola soloists. Salary: \$6000/year. Weddings and funerals: extra compensation. Contact: Nan Smith, 51 Lincoln Drive, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601 Phone 845-297-4984, Fax 845-452-6832 e-mail: tomputtnchip@cs.com 2/8/2005

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)

SAUGERTIES REFORMED CHURCH - SAUGERTIES, NY

Filled 2/26/05

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

ST. MARGARET'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH - STAATSBURG, NY

Filled

MUSIC DIRECTOR (Part-Time)

BRIARCLIFF CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH - BRIARCLIFF MANOR, NY

One Sunday service at 10:00 AM, preceded by short choir rehearsal, plus additional seasonal services. Volunteer adult choir of 20+ members, plus youth choir. Thursday evening choir rehearsal, plus occasional additional rehearsals following Sunday service. Three-manual [Austin Pipe Organ](#) (opus 1245) constructed in 1924, in excellent condition and well maintained.

Steinway grand piano. Salary: \$20,000 per year. Weddings and funerals: extra compensation; music director has right of first refusal. Four weeks paid vacation during the months of July and August. [Click here](#) for detailed job description. Contact: Calvin Reynolds; Chair, Music Committee; [Briarcliff Congregational Church](#); P.O. Box 290; 30 South State Road; Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510 Home phone 914-941-1324 E-mail: calreynolds@verizon.net Church fax: 914-941-1513

2/4/2005

ORGANIST/DIRECTOR OF MUSIC (Part Time)

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH – POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

One traditional Sunday service at 10:00 AM, with 3-4 hymns, prelude and postlude, with additional seasonal services as per church calendar. Sunday morning rehearsal with small adult volunteer choir for Sunday anthem. No choir in summer. Summer services begin at 9:30 AM. Extra compensation for weddings and funerals. Three-manual pipe organ, 43 ranks [Click here](#) for specifications. Friendly and supportive congregation. Salary is negotiable based on experience. Paid vacation. Please send resume to Linda Connors, Council Vice President, First Lutheran Church, 326 Mill Street, Poughkeepsie, NY, 845-452-6050 or e-mail letter of intent and resume to Connors@msmc.edu.

Filled

ORGANIST (Part-Time)

THE REFORMED CHURCH OF BEACON - BEACON, NY

One Sunday service at 11:00 AM. Traditional service with 3 hymns, prelude, offertory, postlude, Gloria Patri and Doxology. No choir. Ryder 2-manual tracker organ in good condition, with work recently completed on pedal division. Compensation negotiable. Contact: Ed Hawkins, V.P. of Consistory, at 418 Rock Cut Rd, Walden, NY 12586 Tel: 845-566-1488

Renewed 2/14/2005

ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR (Part-Time)

CHRIST CHURCH UNITED METHODIST – BEACON, NY

One Sunday service at 10:00 AM. Traditional service with 3 hymns, prelude, postlude, and offertory. Small (5 adults) volunteer choir. Anthem most Sundays. Choir rehearsal Thursdays at 7:30 PM. May consider having one anthem per month to get more participation. Instruments: Electronic organ and a piano. We occasionally welcome different instruments to add variety to service. Salary: \$6,200 per year; 3 weeks off with pay; no benefits; paid semi-monthly. Contact: Pastor Tony Beck, Christ Church United Methodist, Beacon, NY, 845-831-2068, or email or email tonybck@aol.com.

Renewed 2/1/2005

List of Organ Substitutes

Elena Belyayeva	845-452-2069	<u>For Weddings and Funerals Only:</u>	
Richard C. Ehlenberg	845-658-9746	Joe Bertolozzi	845-831-0695
Eric R. Hepp (available after April 1)	845-489-2625 / 845-790-3381	Judie Brown	845-888-5318
Lois Hoger	845-229-7404	Alice Cann	845-223-5344
Janet Nickerson	845-561-0763	Greg Citarella	845-297-7693
Jeff Parries	845-297-6870	Jennifer Geibel	845-658-3218/973-769-1462
<u>No Sunday Morning Services:</u>		Larry Hazard	845-452-0119
Maris Kristapsons (no weddings)	845-635-8837	Boyd Herforth	845-255-5298/973-783-8798
Jimrae K. Lenser	845-427-5884/914-388-6641	Erna Loerch	845-226-8094
Pat Maimone	845-446-2395		
Beverly Simmons	845-463-1249		

Editor's Corner

This newsletter is published by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. The editor is:

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Contributions to this newsletter are always welcome. We have been very pleased to offer a member profile in previous issues. If you would like to be profiled, you may write your own biography (up to 500 words) or contact the editor to arrange an interview.

Calendar of Events

Please note: Due to space considerations, this Calendar of Events may exclude the following:

- Events taking place outside the area served by the Central Hudson Valley Chapter
- Events which conflict directly with chapter sponsored events

Such events may be listed on the Local Events page of our chapter web site at www.chvago.org.

Please contact the editor if you have an event to be publicized.

Boxed items are Central Hudson Valley AGO Chapter events.

Names listed in bold face are chapter members.

Saturday, March 5, 2005
8:45 AM - 5:00 PM

Retreat: "Music, prayer, praise, thanksgiving and scripture in your worship life"

Sponsored by [St. John's Lutheran Church](#), Poughkeepsie
[Mount Alvernia Retreat House](#), Delavergne Avenue, Wappingers Falls, NY

Closing Service at 4:00 PM

Retreat Leader: [John Ylvisaker](#), composer of [Borning Cry](#) and other hymns, a well-known author of worship resources, and an experienced and dynamic retreat leader.

March, 2005

Page 6

Adults \$30, Youth (13-17) \$30, Family Maximum \$75; includes lunch and snacks

Registration and payment due to Church Office by Sunday, February 13, 2005

Registration refundable up to 1 week prior to retreat

Info: Call Cheryl Croulet at 471-8534

Please make checks payable to St. John's Lutheran Church

Saturday, March 5, 2005

8:00 PM

(Snow date: Sunday,

March 6, 2005

4:00 PM)

"Mozart Magic" Choral Concert

Newburgh Symphonic Chorale Concert & Greater Newburgh Symphony Orchestra - Woomyung Choe, Music Director; Claudia Cummings, Choral Master. Works by Mozart: *Organ Sonata No. 7 in C Major, K. 336* (Gordon Shacklett, organ); *Ave Verum Corpus, K. 618*; *Requiem in D minor, K. 626* (dedicated to the memory of the tsunami victims - Eun Kyung Kim, soprano; Lucille Beer, Mezzo Soprano; Charles Sololowski, Tenor; Elex Lee Vann, Bass-Baritone)

Grace United Methodist Church, 468 Broadway, Newburgh, NY
Tickets: \$10, available at the door. Info: 845-562-5381

Sunday, March 6, 2005

3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Meredith E. Baker, MA, FAGO

AGO District Convener for the Metropolitan and European Chapters (Region II)

Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point.

Music:

- Bach (JS and son, CPE - a Jean Langlais edition)

- Franck: *Piece Heroique*

- Wyton

- Vierne: the *Final* of Symphony #6

- **Premiere:** Baker: *Partita on "Unity"* - a hymn tune by Lowell Mason

Program Notes by Meredith Baker: The hymn tune *Unity* "...was mentioned in the PBS special "The Spirit of West Point", as having been sung by the graduating officers as they departed West Point to fight in the Civil War. This prompted numerous calls to the Academy, requesting it for use at Memorial Services, etc. But - none of us had ever heard of it! Finally, a copy was delivered to the Chaplain's office, and sent to me. *When will we Meet Again* was composed by the first music teacher in an American school, often called the "father of American Church Music", Lowell Mason. This song was recognized by USMA graduates up through the 1970's, but must have been put aside shortly thereafter. The text and tune were evocative enough that I began a set of variations which developed into the seven-movement work that will be presented for the first time on the 6th."

Free. Info: 845-938-3544

Sunday, March 13, 2005
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Cherry Rhodes
First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. Ms. Rhodes was the first American to win an international organ competition (Munich, Germany). She has played recitals at Notre Dame Cathedral in Paris, at international organ festivals throughout Europe, and at numerous National and Regional Conventions of the American Guild of Organists.. She is an Adjunct Professor of Organ at the Thornton School of Music, University of Southern California.
Free. Info: 518-374-4403

Sunday, March 20, 2005
3:00 PM

Bach's 320th Birthday Party
Come celebrate Bach's Birthday with *Pat Maimone* at [St. Mary-in-the-Highlands Episcopal Church](#), 1 Chestnut Street, Cold Spring, NY. Also featuring: Michele Eaton, soprano soloist; Jennifer Ponzoni, alto soloist; Nicole Golay, Oboe/English horn.
Info: 845-446-2395 or patmai@juno.com

Week of March 28- April 2

Practice for Annual Members' Recital
Grace Church, Middletown. The church is open 9:30 AM – 12:30 PM on weekdays, other times by appointment.
Call the church at 845-343-6101 to schedule practice times or for directions

Friday, April 1, 2005
8:00 PM

Organ Recital by Robert McCormick
Vassar College Chapel (Gress-Miles organ, 4 man., 106 ranks, updated 2004)
Program: Widor, *Symphonie I (Op. 13)* and an improvisation based on submitted themes.
Robert McCormick is organist at St. Mary the Virgin, NYC.
No admission charge. Info: 845-437-7294

Sunday, April 3, 2005
4:00 PM

Annual Members' Recital
Theme: Duets of All Sorts
Organ and voice, organ and piano, organ and glockenspiel ...
You name it!
Grace Church, 58 North Street, Middletown
Free. Info: 845-534-2938

Sunday, April 10, 2005
3:00 PM

Recital Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Dr. Davis'
Appointment as USMA Organist/Choirmaster
featuring *John A. Davis, Jr.* and *Thomas Sheehan*
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY Free. Info: 845-938-7352

Sunday, April 17, 2005
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by *Jimrae K. Lenser*
North Congregational United Church of Christ, 157 Linden Avenue, Middletown, NY 10940
(Parking access in the back of church on North Beacon Street.)
Freewill offering. Info: 845-343-6688

March, 2005

Page 8

Sunday, April 24, 2005
3:00 PM

Organ Recital by Vincent Dubois
First United Methodist Church, 603 State Street, Schenectady, NY. Born in 1980, Vincent Dubois began organ studies at age 11 in the organ school of the Cathedral of St. Briec, France, then studied at the national Conservatory of Angers. He won the Recital Gold Medal at the 2002 Royal Bank Calgary International Organ Festival and Competition, and most recently the 1st Grand Prix in the 2002 International Competition of Toulouse. At the age of 16, Vincent was named titular organist of the Cavallé-Coll organ at the Cathedral of St. Briec. He is the organist at the Cathedral of Soissons, France.
Free. Info: 518-374-4403

Friday, April 29, 2005
7:00 PM
Saturday, April 30, 2005
9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Christopher Walker, Composer (Out of Darkness, etc.)
at St. Henry's in Averill Park (near Albany/Troy)
<http://www.sainthentry.net/>
Friday: Evening of Prayer and Song
Saturday: Retreat For All Who Minister on Sunday
Registration \$10.00 per person
Brown Bag lunch on Saturday. Dessert and Coffee will be provided.
Contact: Sr. Rosemary Ann Cuneo 518-674-3818
sisterro@sainthentry.net

Sunday, May 8, 2005
3:00 PM

Class of 1936 Distinguished Organists' Recital
featuring James Welch, Organist, Santa Clara University
Cadet Chapel, USMA, West Point, NY Free. Info: 845-938-7352

June 22 – 25, 2005
Less than 4 months to go!

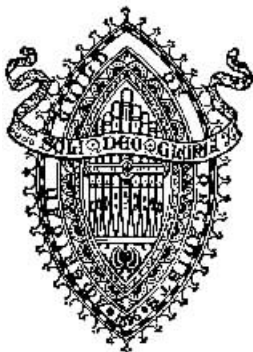
Region II & III AGO Convention
Hosted by our own Central Hudson Valley chapter
Call a board member today to see how you can get involved!

September 11-14, 2005

American Guild of Organists
National Pedagogy Conference
University of Notre Dame
Notre Dame, Indiana
Reyes Organ and Choral Hall
DeBartolo Performing Arts Center
The Pedagogy conference will be part of the year-long events to celebrate the new Fritts Organ, 2-35, 2004
The conference will focus on works of Dieterich Buxtehude in anticipation of the Buxtehude year in 2007.
More info to follow.



Central Hudson Valley Chapter – AGO
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