

# The Bellows

Greater Lansing Chapter - AGO

March/April 2017

From the Dean

## Barbara Hiranpradist

During this season of Lent I would like to share with you a prayer that has sustained me throughout the years. It was written by Keith Kent and has been adapted by Saint "Mother Teresa."

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered. **Forgive them anyway.**  
If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish, ulterior motives. **Be kind anyway.**  
If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends and some genuine enemies. **Succeed anyway.**

If you are honest and sincere, people may deceive you. **Be honest and sincere anyway.**

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight. **Create anyway.**  
If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous. **Be happy anyway.**

The good you do today, will often be forgotten. **Do good anyway.**

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough. **Give your best anyway.**

In the final analysis, it is between you and God. **It was never between you and them anyway.**

Our thanks go to Darlene Greenman-Ross for organizing our January Winter Brunch held in Williamston. Our Pops Concert for this year, Celebrate Music, was beautifully organized – with much appreciated attention to detail – by Susanne Hoekzema, Brian Fowler, and Darlene Greenman-Ross with additional logistical assistance from First United Methodist Church. This concert not only featured our organ scholars Timothy Bohan and Timothy Nechuta, but some new performances including solo flute and the First UMC handbell choir. The February record-breaking temperature of that day made the occasion all the more delightful and our Organ Scholarship Fund netted \$878.

Be sure to contact Brian Fowler at [bmforgans@aol.com](mailto:bmforgans@aol.com) by March 14 to reserve a spot for the March 18 Organ Crawl to Olivet and Charlotte. We all meet at in Olivet at 9 a.m. The event also includes the Michigan Southwest AGO Chapter. I am constantly amazed by outside interest in the AGO, having received numerous inquires as to the inviting of friends and family members to join us for the crawl. Of course, this is a wonderful outreach to attract folks interested in the organ and to possibly gain new members for our Guild.

If you read TAO, you will have seen an event that occurs annually in each of the AGO regions. It is entitled January Jubilee, and this year it was held in the quaint Illinois town of LaGrange. Karl Bruhn, our Great Lakes Counselor, convened the event which was sponsored by the Fox Valley and Southwest Suburban Chicago AGO Chapters.

I was fortunate to attend the event along with Stephan White, the Dean of the Southwest AGO Chapter. There were 10 workshops presented that offered appealing ideas for future Chapter programs.

Of special import to me were the presentations on Organ Registration and Music (free or otherwise) available on the internet.

## Chapter Events

### March 18, 9 a.m.

Organ Tour with SW Michigan Chapter, Towns of Olivet and Charlotte  
Convener – Brian Fowler

### May 2, 6:15 p.m.

Banquet and Installation of Officers  
Mason First Presbyterian Church, Mason  
Convener – Darlene Greenman-Ross

There will be no Chapter event in April.

The End-of-the Year Banquet will occur May 2 at the First Presbyterian Church, 131 E. Maple Street, in Mason. Hors d'oeuvres will be at 6:15, and the dinner will follow at 6:30. The cost of the dinner and the musical program will be announced shortly.

## Change in Dues

AGO-National has notified local chapters of a small dues increase that will take effect for members whose renewal date is on or after July 1, 2017. Local chapters will get a portion of this increase. The increase for most membership categories is \$5; however, if you choose to receive *The American Organist (TAO)* magazine electronically instead of in print, you will get a \$3 reduction in dues.

The ONCARD form with the new dues structure is not yet available, so we will all be surprised together. Please contact Ed Corey, Membership, ([lynn12@juno.com](mailto:lynn12@juno.com)) with any questions.

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American Guild of Organists



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From the Chaplain

## **Pastor Bob Higle**

As we wrapped up the season of the Epiphany heading into the season of Lent, we here at Plymouth Congregational Church were treated to the tune titled “Picardy,” also known as “Westminster Abbey” among other names. The words most associated with this tune are “Let all Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.” It is a haunting connection to the words from the prophet Habakkuk 2:20 “But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.” (English Standard Version).

This hymn is one of the earliest hymns still in common usage. Its roots date back to the fourth century and is based in part on the Greek text found in the “Prayer of the Cherubic Hymn” within the Liturgy of St. James.

We started our time in Epiphany with God’s voice at Jesus’ baptism saying “This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.” Those same words were echoed again during the Transfiguration at the end of Epiphany with an added phrase “..., listen to him!”

I found it interesting that as we ended our time in Epiphany we were called to keep silent. Silence is a vital element in worship and gift that can enrich the life for our worshipping communities. The rests in music are just as important as the notes, and they must be counted and honored in the same way that sounds are made. In a similar fashion, silence deepens the experience of the words, music, and actions of worship.

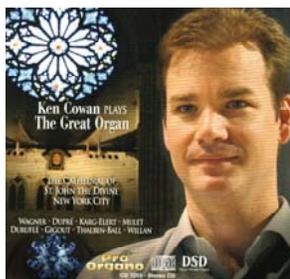
As we enter our Season of Lent within our respective communities of faith, I invite you to ponder in silence the great mystery of the Divine and the inner workings of the Holy Spirit as you rehearse and practice the music to unite us all to sing, ponder, and reflect in community.

In Christ’s name – Amen.

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## CD Review

### **Ed Corey**



The Great Organ of the Cathedral of St. John the Divine is considered by many as the greatest work of G. Donald Harrison during his tenure at Aeolian-Skinner. *Ken Cowan Plays the Great Organ* was recorded after the organ restoration done by Quimby Pipe Organs following the tragic fire of 2001. Ken Cowan’s selections

demonstrate the vast tonal resources of this installation from the lyrical “Elegy” by George Thalben-Ball to the powerful “Tu Es Petra” by Henri Mulet. A perennial favorite of mine is the “Grand Choeur Dialogue” by Eugene Gigout. In this recording of the “Gigout,” Cowan shows off the organ’s most famous stop, the high pressure State Trumpet mounted on the west wall. It’s too bad this CD is not video because the “Variations on a Theme by Paganini: A Study for the Pedals” by Thalben-Ball is a visual treat. There is an [online video](#) of Ken playing this number on another instrument, which is worth watching to see this amazing organist in performance. I highly recommend this disc be added to your collection of what is certainly one of the most famous installations in the country performed by one of today’s most prominent organists. It is available from PRO ORGANO cd-7253.

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