

The CYPHER

Volume 27, Number 5

March 2009

The Newsletter of the American Guild of Organists — Southern Arizona Chapter

NEXT EVENT IN THE CHAPTER

End-of-Year Potluck/Entertainment

MAY 17, 2009, 5:00 p.m.

Home of Dusty Johnson, 2215 East 2nd Street

Relax, feast, laugh, and celebrate another successful program year.

RSVP to Dusty at dustyky@cs.com or Mary Lou Barker at marloub@q.com

CANCELLED

April 26, 2009

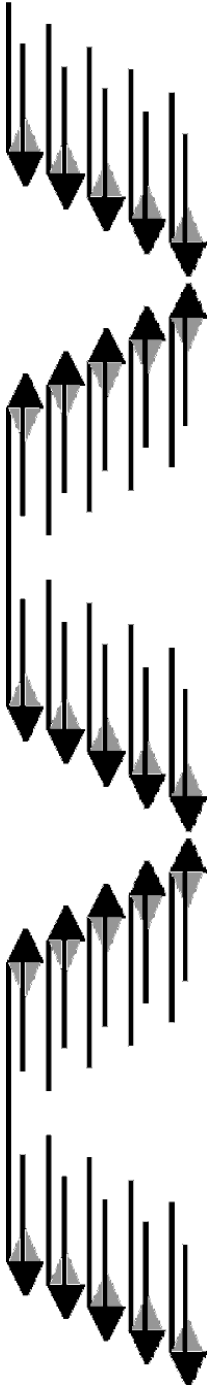
**Richard Proulx's *Paschal Mass: Teaching and Learning*
St. Margaret Mary's Catholic Church,**

CANCELLED

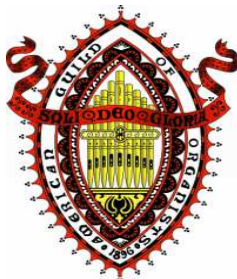
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international
year of the
organ
2008-2009

American
Guild of
Organists



**AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS
SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER
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Dean's Message

We are truly blessed to be living in the South-west. Many of us have relatives in other parts of the country who are just now coming out of a harsh winter season. Although for us "transplants" there is a nostalgia for the four seasons, with spring being a particularly beautiful time in places that are coming out of a winter slumber, we must surely rejoice in the abundant sunshine, and spectacular sunsets that turn the mountains purple, and usher in the full moon and clear night skies.

We have undergone much change and renewal in our own center. Many of us enjoyed a fabulous Hymn Festival, led by Dr. Paul Westermeyer, and coordinated superbly by Ken Kelley and his committee. Green Valley was host to the amazing Felix Hell. We have been treated to a wonderful Bach Marathon at St. Philip's, and a superb organ recital by Robert Bates at the University. Many choral programs in church and community alike continue to inspire us, including the magnificent work being done by such choirs as the Tucson Chamber Artists, and the various University choral groups. Our board members are hard at work planning a wonderful program for next season, working in partnership with other organizations to meet the goals of presenting outstanding recitalists and inspiring programming.

There is much work to be done in focusing
Cont. on p.3

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Dr. Frances Nobert
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Dean's message From p.2

and challenging our membership to take a more active role in our community undertakings. We need to forever be "pro-active" and not "re-active" if we are to build on the legacy of past organists and church musicians, in promoting the organ as a rightful partner of the piano, violin, the voice, and any other instrument, in the cultural awareness of

our community in Tucson. This time of spring renewal may mean just that for ourselves and our congregations.

We have been very fortunate in having long-serving members of the board work tirelessly on our behalf. They have given of themselves above and beyond the call of duty, and we all take our hats off to them, as they step off the board into new opportunities for service. Please join me in wishing Larry Grove, membership chair, and Shirley Lockard, placement chair, a well-deserved "retirement", and heartiest thanks for jobs well done!

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the May pot-luck dinner (May 17, 5:00 p.m.). More details inside!

Jeffrey Campbell

Phoenix Rising

Region IX Festival 2009 (June 22-25)

Phoenix Rising promises to be an event you'll not want to miss. Register now! Regular Registration (or spouse/partner) is \$345, and Special Registration (over age 65) is \$295. Registration Forms are available online at www.agoinphoenix.com/registration.htm. While online checkout the Biltmore Resort link and reserve your room at our Five-Star Jewel of the Desert, the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa! You'll also want to arrive early for the Festival and plan to stay a little longer! Peter Conte, Court Organist at the world-famous John Wanamaker Store, will perform one of our pre-Festival recitals, on Sunday, June 21, 7:00 p.m. at La Casa de Cristo Lutheran Church, Scottsdale. The recital will feature the church's new 92-rank, 4-manual Berghaus organ in its complete state. A post-Festival organ tour will feature world-renowned artists on two of the valley's finest home organ installations, the Bigelow organ in the Biltmore Estates home of Susan and Samuel Robinson (www.mlbigelow.com/mlb/organs/27/stopList.cfm) and the Midmer-Losh organ in the Phoenix home of Adrian Phillips (www.midmerlosh.com/specification.htm). So make plans now to Feel the Heat and Catch the Fire at Phoenix Rising, the Region IX Festival 2009! Act now; spaces are filling quickly! -Dr. Mark D. Ramsey, Program Chair

FEBRUARY HYMN FESTIVAL.

The well attended February 22 event held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church was a big success. A choir of 80+ singers representing numerous area churches was conducted by Dr. Paul Westermeyer, Professor of Church Music at Luther Seminary in St. Paul Minnesota. Organists, Drs. Norene Walters and Kenneth Kelley, played Prelude and Postlude and accompaniment of the hymns. In addition, a bell ensemble and a brass quintet with timpani supplemented the organ in some places. The Festival used as worship resource *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and introduced three newly composed hymns alongside more traditional favorites. Dr. Westermeyer with his comments put the hymns in context and provided new meaning for the congregation and choir.

FROM THE HYMN FESTIVAL, FEBRUARY 22, 2009



Dr Norene Walters and Dr Kenneth Kelley, Organists



Danny White, Singer, Handbell Player and Custodian



DR. PAUL WESTERMEYER ,CONDUCTOR
with DR. ROSELLA DUERKSEN



CONGREGATION MEMBERS



CHOIR with Ken Kelley

CHAPTER HAPPENINGS

Music for Organ and Brass

John T. Brobeck, Organist, with the Tucson Skyline Brass Quintet

April 5, 4:00 p.m.

Northminster Presbyterian Church

2450 E. Fort Lowell Road

John T. Brobeck, organist, and the Tucson Skyline Brass Quintet will present a program featuring music for solo organ, for brass quintet and for combined organ and brass, mixing styles and periods. John will perform works by Bach, Vierne, Dupré and James Biery's Elegy, the work commissioned by this chapter, with added violin descant.

POSITION AVAILABLE

Organist position available at Desert Hills Lutheran Church, 2150 S. Camino del Sol, Green Valley, 85622. Desert Hills Lutheran Church is a large church of about 1200 members and has a very active music program. The organist will be needed to play for the 8:00 am liturgical service, and the 9:30 blended service every Sunday. There will be extra services to play for during Easter and Christmas, as well as memorial services. The church would require the organist to be a year round resident. Please call Al Saterbak at 399-9339 or e-mail @ saterbak@cox.net for more information.

SUMMER EDUCATIONAL & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES.

After you have been inspired by the AGO regional conclave, Phoenix Rising, in June how about participation in an additional growth opportunity. Below you will find some possibilities.

The American Guild of English Handbell Ringers will hold its 2009 National Seminar in Tucson from July 15 to July 18. Classes include offerings for Directors, Ringers, Church Musicians, Music Educators etc. For details visit www.agehr.org/tucson.

The Hymn Society will hold its annual conference at St. Olaf college, Northfield, MN from July 12-16, 2009 for which the theme will be "A Little Child Shall Lead Them". Further information is available at www.thehymnsociety.org/

CHAPTER MEMBERSHIP REPORT

The new membership year began on July 1, 2008. As of March 16, we have 98 members. The membership is broken down by category and reconciled to last year's membership totals as follows.

National & Local:

Regular 23
Special 36
Partner 1
Student 6
Dual 5

Local Chapter Only:

Regular 10
Special 15
Honorary 2

Total 98

Reconciliation to Last Year:

Last year's total 103

Deletions:

Haven't renewed - 12
Death - 1

Additions:

New members 5
Reinstated members 2
Membership Transfer 1
This year's Total **98**

We welcome the following new, transferred and reinstated members. Their contact information is in the Directory or Membership Updates in *The Cypher*. Andersen, Lars E. – New ; Cheek, Rev. John – New (Chaplain); Davis, Grahame – Reinstated; Holtan, Eric H. – New; Horr, David – Transferred from Huntington, WV, Chapter; Mitchell, Robert – Reinstated; Pickens, E. Gene – New; Taggart, James B. – New.

Larry Grove, Membership Chair

2008-2009 Membership Directory Updates

Page 6: *Add new member*

+HORR, DAVID 395-1940; C: 822-7808; F: 395-1945

dahorr@comcast.net

7245 E. Camino Bacelar, PO Box 31511

Tucson, 85751-1511

New Member transferred from Huntington WV Chapter

CHORAL MUSIC FOR SALE

20 SATB copies of "Rise, O Church, like Christ Arisen, arr. John Ferguson, used at the Choral Festival. Originally \$1.75 each, now \$1.00 each.

Contact Maxine Fifer, wetypefast@aol.com.

Inside:
Hymn Festival Report
Chapter Happenings
Membership Report
Dean's Message

Publication Information: ***The Cypher*** is a bimonthly newsletter published by the **Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**. It is distributed to chapter members, organists of churches in Tucson and surrounding communities, and deans of all chapters in Region IX (Arizona, California, Hawaii, and Utah). **Southern Arizona Chapter members who do not request the printed version will receive *The Cypher* via email.** Send information for publication to Derek Redmore, 5646 N. Genematas Dr., Tucson, AZ 85704-5934, or to email address derekredmore@msn.com. Please type "Cypher" in the subject line. Views expressed in any of the pieces herein are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the Southern Arizona Chapter—AGO, its officers or members.

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