

# The Prelude

December 2017

The American Guild of Organists, Toledo Chapter

## Dean's Message

Greetings,

As I write this month's column, Thanksgiving has just passed. I hope that your Thanksgiving provided you with good memories and delicious food! And, I hope that you had opportunity to reflect on God's blessings, care and provision.

"Christ the King" Sunday and Advent are just around the corner. This year, the liturgical calendar is a bit different with Christ the King falling the Sunday after Thanksgiving. And, looking ahead, the fourth Sunday of Advent will fall on December 24 (Christmas Eve). Something a little different than usual. As good organists (and I'll include choir directors), we may have to "improvise" a bit!

Our recent Sacred Choral Music Festival was a grand success! It was a wonderful evening of anthems presented by our festival choir under Brad Pierson's (UT's Director of Choral Activities) direction. Fifty singers from four area churches (St. Joseph Catholic, Maumee; St. Michael's Episcopal, Ottawa Hills; Monroe St. United Methodist; and Christ Presbyterian) rehearsed together on a Sunday afternoon (after learning the music in their church's choir rehearsals). Participating choir directors and organists/accompanists were Dennis Johns, Denise Mathias and Mark Mathias. The congregation of 120 was very appreciative and expressed it through their words of thanks, applause and donations (over \$850). A great time of fellowship, delicious cookies and punch at the reception following the service was enjoyed by all.

As we enter Advent, I think of many hymns which we sing during that season. I have many favorites, as I'm sure you do. It was only about 15 years ago that I became acquainted with a hymn that was written by Rev. Philip Doddridge, who lived in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. I am drawn to the lyrics and the tune (CHESTERFIELD) that the Lutheran congregation I served sang it to. (If you want to know more about him or this hymn, go to [hymnary.org](http://hymnary.org).) In closing, I share with you the first stanza and pray blessings on you this holy season.

*Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes,  
the Savior promised long!  
Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne,  
and ev'ry voice a song.*

*Soli Deo Gloria!*

*—Mark Mathias, Dean*



*The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to foster a thriving community of musicians  
who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.*

**Toledo AGO Contact Info**

<b>Mark Mathias, Dean</b>	419-708-6953 msmathias@yahoo.com
<b>Dennis Johns, Sub-Dean</b>	419-344-6905 dennis.johns@stjosephmaumee.org
<b>Melissa Flowers, Secretary</b>	419-455-4408 melissaflowers4@gmail.com
<b>Pam Davis, Treasurer</b>	419-346-0279 pameladavis965@gmail.com
<b>Joan McConnell, Membership Chair</b>	419-455-4666 jmconne@heidelberg.edu

**MEMBERSHIP**

Membership is open to all who are interested in the organ. To become a member of the Toledo Chapter, contact Joan McConnell, Membership Chair.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

To submit articles, news, concerts or vacant positions, contact Melissa Flowers, Secretary.

**WEBSITE**

[www.toledoago.org](http://www.toledoago.org)

**EVENTS FOR THE ADVENT SEASON**

**Advent Lessons & Carols:** Sunday, December 3rd at 4:00 p.m. Featuring the Canticle Choir and Handbell Ensemble of St. Aloysius Catholic Church in Bowling Green. Reception to follow in the church's narthex. Music and readings for the Advent Season. All are welcome!

The public is cordially invited to

***A Season's Evensong: A Service for Advent***— 4:00 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 10, at Monroe St. United Methodist Church. The vocal and handbell choirs of the church with Young Voices of Greater Toledo will be sharing music in a choral vespers for the season which will focus on the joyful expectation of Christ's birth. Congregational singing is also a facet of this event. More information can be obtained by calling 419-473-1167, ext. 230. There is no ticket required, and a freewill offering will be gratefully accepted.



Toledo Chapter AGO Events 2017 - 2018

Fri., Jan. 19, 7 p.m. Service Playing St. Rose Catholic, Perrysburg

This continuing education program, led by members of our chapter, will focus on aspects of playing the organ. It is open to all interested organists. Invite a guest!

Sun., Feb. 4, 4 p.m. Member's Recital Zoar Lutheran, Perrysburg

Members of our chapter will present an organ recital at Zoar Lutheran Church.

Sun., March 11, 3 p.m. Annual Student Recital Our Lady of Lourdes, Toledo

Our student scholarship winners and other organ students of our chapter members will perform on the church's 2-manual, 20-rank Schantz pipe organ.

Fri., April 13 Ghost Pipes TBA

Neil Kraft and Mark Muller will lead us in an organ crawl at area churches. More details TBA.

Sun., May 6, 4 p.m. Recital: Matt Bickett Monroe St. UM, Toledo

Our closing program of the year will feature Matt Bickett in recital. Matt is the 2017 winner of our region's AGO/Quimby RCYO (Regional Competitions for Young Artists). He gave a superb performance at the Winner's Recital in Youngstown in July.



January Program

Dennis Johns, our sub-dean, is organizing our January program, which will be at St. Rose Catholic Church in Perrysburg. This continuing education program, on Friday, Jan. 19 at 7 p.m., will be led by members of our chapter and will focus on aspects of playing the organ, such as organ registration and service repertoire. *All interested organists, members and non-members are invited to join us for this informative evening. Invite another organist to join us!*

February Program

On February 4 at 4 p.m., we are sponsoring a Member's Recital at Zoar Lutheran Church. Chapter members will play solo selections on the 3-manual, sixty-plus stop Rodgers/Ruffati (digital hybrid) organ. This is an opportunity for you to play a piece or two and to invite others to attend! We want to put our best foot forward, so begin thinking about what you might play and begin practicing! Hopefully we will have many who would like to play, so initially performers are asked to limit their selections to a maximum of 5 - 6 minutes (less is fine). To sign-up, contact Mark Mathias. More details about arranging practice time on the organ will be announced in our next newsletter.

# A Season's Evensong

*Music of reflection and of rejoicing*

*with*

**Choirs of Monroe St. United Methodist Church**

*and*

**Young Voices of Greater Toledo**



**Sunday, December 10, 4:00 p.m.**

**Monroe St. United Methodist Church**

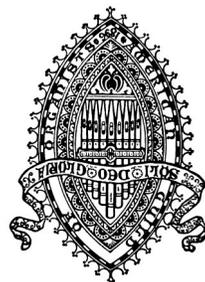
**3613 Monroe St., Toledo**

**419-473-1167, ext. 230**





*Merry Christmas*



Toledo Chapter AGO

THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS