

PIPELINES

NASHVILLE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

DECEMBER 2018



Dear Friends,

In my house, the movie *Elf* plays all year. My wife is a massive fan of the Christmas season. Since about two weeks ago, the DVR has been recording Hallmark Christmas movies. We are now up to 15 that Colleen can throw on at any minute. We delve into the muck of saccharine holiday sentimentality, and I have to admit I like it also.

As a 4 on the Enneagram, I find that this sentimentality actually plays straight into my best and worst traits. It helps that this is the busiest time of the year, so I don't have too much time to get carried away by an onslaught of emotions. But, every now and then I'll throw on the Carpenters' *Christmas Portrait*, drive down the road, and get reacquainted with that inner child who still looks forward to running down the stairs to see what presents Santa, or my parents, have delivered.

My mentor used to say, "Christmas is always tomorrow," the implication being that even in February, the Christmas season is a specter that looms over our profession, waiting to devour our time and energy. We have one of the few professions where time with our family during the season is actually at a minimum as opposed to a maximum. I used to play seven services on Christmas Eve and Day. Now I only play two, but I've traded that easy schedule for a special event every Sunday leading up to Christmas. There's a fairly popular picture of me on Facebook giving an organ demonstration to a large group of kids with the caption, "Remember kids, if you want to work both Christmas AND Easter, become a church organist."

Despite all of this, there is something special about this season. There are so many great stories in our lives that come to fruition during this time of the year. There are the stories of family traditions and holiday parties. There are the stories of giving and receiving. There are stories of inclusion that maybe have spoken to you at some point in your life. And lastly, there is the story of the Christ Child, the King of the Universe, born in a lowly manger, not as a King, but as a pauper.

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JANUARY MEETING - MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 2019 - 6:30 PM

AN EVENING WITH DONALD SUTHERLAND & PHYLLIS BRYN-JULSON

Calvary United Methodist Church · 3701 Hillsboro Pike · Nashville, TN 37215

Dinner reservations, **due by January 9**, can be made online at www.nashvilleago.org (click on "Dinner Reservations") or by contacting Linda Winters at (615) 456-2065 or AGOdinner@gmail.com.

Cost of Dinner: \$18.

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And what if this story actually plays out every day and we don't even know it? If God came to earth unexpectedly as a lowly child, maybe Christ is unexpectedly the beggar on the corner, or the lonely person in the back corner pew, or the migrant, or the widow. Maybe the real story of Christmas is that Christ can be anywhere, even now.

In the thick of the season, I try to remember that the story we celebrate for Christmas is everywhere all the time: Sunday after Sunday, day after day. It is a story to celebrate and a chance to live into our greatest traditions and relationships, but it should also shake us a bit. The reality of the Incarnation is both awe-inspiring and formidable, calling us to a sense of purpose that is more Oscar Romero than Hallmark movie. And it's that idea that gives me the energy deep in December: saccharine gives way to mission; sentimentality gives way to resolve.

Christmas is always tomorrow, but maybe not because we fear the avalanche of work; maybe it's because Jesus could be standing next to you at any moment.

Matt Phelps
Dean



MEMBER NEWS

From **Parker Ramsay**: Next September, I am set to record my transcription of Bach's *Goldberg Variations* for the harp. I am most excited for this project, not only because of the repertoire, but because I will be making my debut harp recording in the chapel at King's College, Cambridge. It was at King's that I truly fell in love with Bach and began transcribing his keyboard works for the harp. As the King's College, Cambridge, record label has graciously agreed to pick up the CD, I feel I have the chance to give back to my alma mater and showcase the immense educational opportunity I was afforded as organ scholar.

In order for the recording to be made, I will need to raise \$16,000 to cover the costs of transportation, engineering, recording, and the mastering process. It would mean so very much to me if you would be able to contribute. All donors will receive a complimentary copy of the recording, and US/UK-based donors who donate \$2000 or more will be offered a private recital in their home or in any space of their choosing.

This is the link to the fundraiser for Parker Ramsay's first harp CD: https://www.gofundme.com/flcr94?fbclid=IwAR1zsnfleJxkO-hxRN7N7xaqUVFnUHAAZ2O9IG_35wPuHjiWMp3Ue4ouJ9s

JOB OPENINGS

First United Methodist Church, McMinnville, has an opening for an organist for one Sunday service (10:30 a.m.) and Wednesday night rehearsal each week, as well as any special services during the church year. Salary is negotiable. Contact Donna Campbell, director of music, at (931) 808-8415 or senior pastor Tommy Vann at (931) 473-4419 (church) or (931) 626-9388 (cell).

ARTS CALENDAR

December 2018

12/16/2018, 8:30 and 11:00 a.m.
Service of Lessons and Carols
Based on the O Antiphons
St. Andrew Adult, Youth, and Handbell Choirs
Brian Russell, Director of Music
Darryl Miller, Organist
St. Andrew Lutheran Church
908 Murfreesboro Road, Franklin

12/16/2018, 4:00 p.m.
Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols
Cathedral Choir and Senior Choristers
Michael Velting, Canon for Music
Joseph O'Berry, Assistant Organist and Choirmaster
Christ Church Cathedral
900 Broadway, Nashville

12/16/2018, 4:30 p.m.
Lessons and Carols
Choirs of First Presbyterian Church, Springfield, and
Trinity Episcopal Church, Russellville, KY
First Presbyterian Church, Springfield
200 5th Avenue West, Springfield

12/16/2018, 5:00 p.m.
Carol-Candlelight Celebration
Nashville First Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra
First Baptist Church
108 7th Avenue, South, Nashville

12/19/2018, 9:15 p.m.
Compline
St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville

12/21/2018, 7:00 p.m.
Vocal Arts Nashville
A Christmas Prism
Matthew Phelps, Conductor
Harpeth Presbyterian Church
3077 Hillsboro Pike, Nashville

12/23/2018, 4:00 p.m.
A Festival of Lessons and Carols
Angela Tipps, Conductor
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
315 East Main Street, Murfreesboro

12/24/2018, 5:00 and 8:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Communion
First Baptist Church
108 7th Avenue, South, Nashville

January 2019

1/13/2019, 4:30 p.m.
Organ Concert
Anthony Williams, Organist, Fisk University
Choral Evensong, 5:00 p.m.
St. George's Choir
Woosug Kang, Conductor
Gerry Senechal, Organist
Nara Lee, Organ Scholar
St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville

1/16/2019, 9:15 p.m.
Compline
St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville

1/18/2019, 12:00 p.m.
Mozart Birthday Concert
St. George's Episcopal Church
4715 Harding Pike, Nashville

1/31/2019, 7:30 p.m.
St. Olaf Choir Concert
Tickets: [click here](#)
All Saints' Chapel
Sewanee, The University of the South
735 University Avenue, Sewanee

