

# PIPELINES

NASHVILLE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

AUGUST 2020



## DEAN'S CORNER

As I begin this year as the dean of the chapter, I want to express my thanks and appreciation to our past dean **Marsha Scheusner** for her able leadership last year and her help to me in this time of transition. And my, what a time it is!

I have been working with the Program Committee since summer 2019 to plan programs for this upcoming year—and now we are faced with the likelihood that we will be unable to meet together in person for at least the rest of 2020, and perhaps all of the program year through May 2021. Some of the programs we have planned can be adapted or rescheduled for a virtual presentation (Facebook Live, Zoom, streaming, etc.).

Other programs may take place in the spring of 2021 as we gather in physical space, if it is safe.

I am encouraged by the support of the national office of the AGO and other chapter leadership teams who are sharing new and innovative ways we can adapt as a local chapter to continue to offer performances, networking, education, and fellowship within this new paradigm of social distancing.

As we begin a new year for the chapter, I want to thank several members who have faithfully served this past year and are stepping down from their positions: **Sharron Lyon**, arts calendar coordinator; **James Jordan**, auditor and finance coordinator; **Rhonda Swanson**, membership coordinator; and **Linda Winters**, dinner reservation coordinator. We appreciate all of their work in the past on behalf of the chapter. As I look to fill these positions, please reach out to me if you would like to get involved volunteering with the chapter.

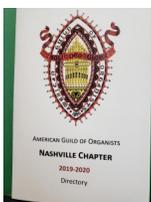
Our first chapter event will be a virtual presentation on Monday, September 14, at 7 p.m. This will be the Evening Prayer program originally planned for May, with a homily by Don Saliers and the installation of officers. Plan to join us via livestream that evening.

As we navigate this time of uncertainty, I welcome your input with regard to ways we can work as a chapter while we cannot meet in our usual manner. The Program Committee will communicate our revised events as they develop and we adjust to changing pandemic conditions.

Wishing you all peace in this time of uncertainty. Stay healthy!

Eric Wyse  
Dean

## 2019–20 MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY



If you didn't pick up your 2019–20 Nashville AGO Membership Directory this past year, or if you want another one, extra copies are available at Lois Fyfe Music. Stop by and get your free copy.

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

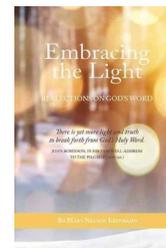
A current list of available positions is available in the Members Area of the chapter website,

[NashvilleAGO.org](http://NashvilleAGO.org)

## EMBRACING THE LIGHT

Grace and peace to you, friends. We are living in a strange and ever-changing world these days. We hear daily reports about the increasing coronavirus pandemic, racial strife, and political divisions. And we were all disappointed with the cancellation of our final two AGO programs this spring as well as the national convention in Atlanta. It was the wise choice to keep us all safe though.

Is there an end to this isolation? Will we ever be able to meet again? Mary Nelson Keithahn, UCC educator, hymn writer, and ordained minister, wrote a book of meditations entitled *Embracing the Light*, inspired by the farewell address of John Robinson to the Pilgrims in 1620. Robinson, beloved pastor of the Separatist Pilgrim group leaving for America, remained behind to care for the remainder of his congregation. He reminded those departing that they needed to be open to new ways of receiving God's Word as they entered the New World. Those Pilgrims must have been at least uncertain and somewhat afraid of what their future held. But, in faith, they were certain that they needed to go forward.



Are we traveling to a new world too? I know I am uncertain and even resistant to new technology that enables us to worship and meet together, but I also know that there are experts who are developing ways of virtually enabling us to see and talk with one another. And I depend on them to help me join in with them. What an inspiration that allows us to learn, teach, and even sing together in a new way! I marvel at these talented techies who are sharing these new ways of communicating.

We can all anticipate traveling via virtual meetings in the coming months in our AGO chapter too. Our first meeting on **Monday, September 14**, will be a revised version of our canceled May meeting. It will be the same evening prayer service that was originally scheduled. We will livestream it from St. Andrew Lutheran Church, and it will still include the homily by Don Saliers, national AGO chaplain, and the installation of officers. Saliers is probably going to have his homily prerecorded from the Emory Chapel in Atlanta. Our **February Flourish** with David Cherwien is still on the calendar, but may be electronically tweaked as well. Eric Wyse is working on revamping the remaining programs for the rest of the year. You will hear more about them later.

Thank you to the members of our Executive Committee for your guidance and insights during my past year as dean. It has been my privilege and honor to get to know many of you better because of my time on the board. My gratitude to many others from whom I sought advice. I give my great admiration to those who are planning new ways for us to meet in 2020–21. You are taking us to a new world of possibilities to gather together!

In closing, here are the timeless words from John Robinson that can still speak to us today:

*Let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred, O God,  
grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your word.*

Embracing the light,  
Marsha Scheusner  
Past Dean

## NEW MUSIC DIRECTOR AT FPC COLUMBIA

First Presbyterian Church, Columbia, has hired a new director of music ministry, **Dale Nickell**, whose first Sunday will be August 9. He has degrees from Colorado State University and the Eastman School of Music. You can learn more about Dale by watching the short video about him on FPC's website:

<https://www.1stprescolumbia.org/>.

## NEW HOME ORGAN

**Nick Bergin** purchased a used Rodgers organ this summer for home practice and has been having great fun using the instrument in tandem with Hauptwerk software. You can see a few recent videos of this on Nick's YouTube channel:

<https://tinyurl.com/nicholas-bergin/>.