

# CRESCENDO

OCTOBER 2009

VOLUME LXXII, NO. 2

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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*Console, St. Mark's Church, Philadelphia  
Photo by Roy Harker*

## CHAPTER OCTOBER EVENT

**A Weekend with Barry Rose, OBE**

**St. Mark's Church**

**1625 Locust Street, Philadelphia PA 19103**

**Saturday, 3 October, 2009**

11:00 A.M. Open Rehearsal

1:00 P.M. Lunch

1:30 P.M. Lecture

**Sunday, 4 October 2009; 11:00 A.M.**

High Mass: Communion Service in G - C.V. Stanford

4:00 P.M. Choral Evensong and Benediction

Responses: Anthony Piccolo

Service: Evening Service in G - C.V. Stanford

Anthem: O Lord Our Governor - Rose

*Continued on page 9*

**CRESCENDO**, the official bulletin of the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is published monthly, September through June. All material for publication must reach the Editor by the 1st day of the month preceding the date of issue, i.e. November 1 for the December issue. This must be type written and e-mailed (text supplied in an attachment), or mailed. A hard copy should be included for display ads. Submissions become the property of the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO and will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed and stamped envelope. **CRESCENDO** reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Articles in *Crescendo* reflect the views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Guild. All advertising must be arranged through the Advertising Manager.

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D E A N ' S L E T T E R

Merriam-Webster defines infrastructure as:

- 1: the underlying foundation or basic framework (as of a system or organization)
- 2: the permanent installations required for military purposes
- 3: the system of public works of a country, state, or region; also: the resources (as personnel, buildings, or equipment) required for an activity



David Beatty

While not always accurate, the readily available Wikipedia provides the following description:

*Infrastructure can be defined as the basic physical and organizational structures needed for the operation of a society or enterprise, or the services and facilities necessary for an economy to function. The term typically refers to the technical structures that support a society, such as roads, water supply, sewers, power grids, telecommunications, and so forth. Viewed functionally, infrastructure facilitates the production of goods and services; for example, roads enable the transport of raw materials to a factory, and also for the distribution of finished products to markets. In some contexts, the term may also include basic social services such as schools and hospitals. In military parlance, the term refers to the buildings and permanent installations necessary for the support, redeployment, and operation of military forces.*

In general, I believe that we tend to forget about the importance of infrastructure elements until we face performance degradation or outages. We rely on electricity to power lights, appliances, computers, any number of tools, and most organs. We expect running water to gush forth at the turn of a knob, regardless of whether the ultimate source is public waterworks or private well. We trust that the postal service will physically deliver mail every business day. We also anticipate that roadways will be navigable (even if occasionally or frequently congested). Each infrastructure element has an inherent reliability, and we ultimately adjust our expectations depending on our perception of that reliability.

While cellular communication devices have resulted in "instant accessibility", most of us have experienced "dead zones" or battery failure preventing connectivity. As such devices have become more prevalent, measures to prevent abuse have resulted. It is now common to remind concert-goers to silence their communication equipment. Many churches now preface their printed order-of-service with such notices. Use of cellular devices in classrooms is often prohibited, and having business meetings interrupted with ring-tones typically impedes progress. In my daily work, there are areas into which we are prohibited from taking personal communication devices. Ultimately, most of us have adjusted our expectations that each cell phone holder is "instantly available", and we understand that such instant availability is not uniformly prudent.

E-mail is also becoming a ubiquitous infrastructure element, but as its prevalence has increased, its reliability as a communications medium has decreased. In the 1980's and early 1990's, the volume of email was relatively low, and most accounts were business related. For those actively employing the communications medium, it was quite common for responses to be issued within a 24 hour period. As we moved into the late 1990's, and the early part of this century, it became common to separate personal and business email. Users began to maintain many separate accounts. As "junk mail", SPAM, and advertising email increased in volume, the amount of time required for inbox triage increased as radically as the signal-to-noise ratio decreased. Time-constrained users often now resort to periodic declaration of "email bankruptcy." Typical email response time now varies widely from minutes to months.

Sometimes infrastructure systems grow to encompass more elements that can be maintained or supported by their society. Ultimately some elements of the infrastructure become extinct and other elements persist. A century ago, transportation infrastructure focused on four primary means of conveyance: ships, trains, horses, walking. Throughout the twentieth century, the nature of the transportation infrastructure evolved, to now include air travel and automobile (motor vehicle) travel. The prevalence of coast-to-coast train travel has decreased, and trans-continental shipboard transport of people has greatly reduced with the growth of air transit. The infrastructure associated with horse-powered travel is essentially extinct in this geographic

## REGISTRAR'S CORNER

JOE LEWIS, REGISTRAR

*"Through music we may wander where we will in time, and find friends in every century."*

~Helen Thomson

## MEMBERSHIP

As of date of publication we have 359 members in the Philadelphia Chapter for 2009-2010. Through emails and personal telephone contact we have tried to determine the yet unknown plans of a number of last year's members who have still to renew, but our numbers are now down 42 members compared to last year. The National AGO HQ asks that the whole membership process be pretty much complete by September, so that large runs of labels and materials can be done by machines instead of by hand. Sometimes we also get asked why we publish our yearly Membership Directory in January instead of September, but you can see why, since our list is fairly incomplete until then.

## IN MEMORIAM

Chapter member Paul J. Scaer, 63, of East Falls, a school librarian, died of cancer at Hooverwood, a nursing home in Indianapolis, where he had lived since January to be close to family. In 2006 Mr. Scaer joined the staff of the new Science Leadership Academy on Logan Square. Besides being a librarian, he had taught a music class and was setting up a music program at the school. He had been on medical leave since his cancer was diagnosed in February 2008. Mr. Scaer's first vocation was as a Lutheran minister. A native of Van Wert, Ohio, he earned a bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University in Indiana. After graduating from Concordia Lutheran Seminary in St. Louis, he was pastor of Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, N.Y., and later of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Philadelphia. In 1986, Mr. Scaer earned a master's degree in library science from Drexel University and changed careers. A life celebration was celebrated at the Masterman School, 1699 Spring Garden St., and a memorial service was held on July 18 at University Lutheran Church, 3637 Chestnut St., where Mr. Scaer was a member of the Council. Memorial donations may be made to the church's "University Lutheran Feast Incarnate", a church ministry that provides meals for the homeless and people living with HIV-AIDS. Our thoughts and prayers go to his family and friends.

## WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

We welcome Rodney Long of Sewell NJ and Nicholas Mynyk of Newtown PA to the Chapter. Please make them feel at home.

## LANCASTER CHAPTER EVENT WITH EILLEN GUENTHER

This summer I received an invitation from Donna Burkholder, former Dean of the Lancaster PA chapter, to participate in a program on October 17th at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, 10 Delp Road,

*Continued on page 5*PHILADELPHIA  
CHAPTER  
AMERICAN GUILD  
OF ORGANISTS

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<b>TERM ENDING 2012</b>		
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Marcia Mau	610-696-0554	
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...

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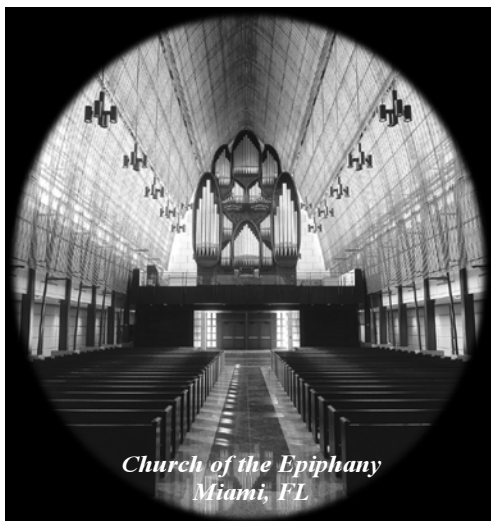
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Need to report AGO Directory changes on your current membership?  
Need to purchase a set of chapter mailing labels for your next music event?

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# TUESDAY NOON RECITALS



ANDREW HELLER, COORDINATOR  
610-789-0146, ANDREW.HELLER@AGOPHILA.ORG

## OCTOBER, 2009

Carmel Presbyterian Church  
100 Edge Hill Road (at Mt. Carmel Avenue), Glenside, PA.  
215-887-1074  
adjacent parking; handicapped accessible

HOST ORGANISTS: Abigail Palmisano, Enos Shupp

ORGAN: 3 manual Austin (1928), enlarged, electronic additions by Walker

### RECITALS:

- OCTOBER 6: Rudolph Lucente
- 13: Jeffrey Fowler
- 20: Students from The Curtis Institute of Music-  
Patrick Kreeger  
Daniel Razionale  
Caroline Robinson  
Joshua Stafford
- 27: Clair Rozier

Registrar's Corner  
Continued from page 3

Lancaster PA. She requested I lead a one hour session on Membership, Recruitment and Retention as part of the workshop portion of the morning. I am honored to represent our chapter at this event featuring our National AGO President.

### THANKS

Many thanks to Yoshiko Seavey and Noble Thompson, who assisted me with the large "member card" mailings this past summer. I appreciate their dedication and hard work.

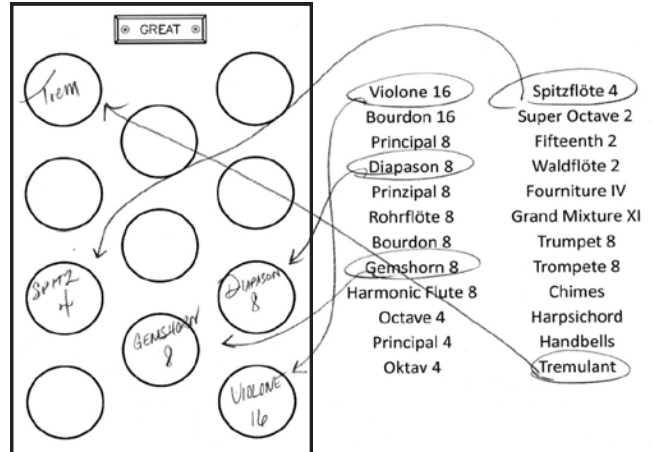
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The American Guild of Organists Philadelphia Chapter's lively concern for education and outreach previously prompted the formation of an Endowment Fund. The purpose of this fund is to expand programs for leadership development among AGO members, to educate new organists, and to cultivate new audiences for organ and choral music. This fund is prudently administered by the Chapter's Endowment Committee. Tax-deductible contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested in perpetuity to produce continuing income support for the Chapter's educational programs and projects. Contributions may be accepted in the form of cash, stocks, bonds, real estate, or other assets. You are also encouraged to consider including the AGO Philadelphia Chapter in your will and bequests. Prior consultation with your financial advisor and/or legal counsel is advised. For providing your gifts or seeking further information, please contact the Chair of the Endowment Committee by e-mail at Phil.Gehman@agophila.org.

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### Vincent M. Ryan

Advent Lutheran Church, Harleysville, PA

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*This list is published as a courtesy to the chapter membership. Only members of the Philadelphia AGO Chapter available for regularly-scheduled services are listed. Although the AGO assumes no responsibility for the musicianship or reliability of substitute organists, Guild certificates and other degree programs indicate preparation beyond the minimum.*

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# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

TIMOTHY M. EVERS, COORDINATOR  
215-348-4004, EXT. 117

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 12:30 PM

Ted Barr, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654  
eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4, 4:00 PM

Wesley Parrott in recital on the Patrick Murphy and Associates organ. Works by Handel, Bach, Mendelssohn, Widor, Durufle, Howells and others. St. Mark's Lutheran Church, 81 North Main Street (rt. 29), Pennsburg PA 215.679.9015

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 12:30 PM

Paul Skevington, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654  
eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 3:00 PM

"A Sampling of Baroque Chamber Music." La Fiocco with Lewis Baratz, recorders; Stephen Berkelhammer, baroque oboe; Amy Warren, viola da gamba; David Clark Little, harpsichord and organ. Music by Loeillet, Williams, Sweelinck, Handel, Telemann, and Bach. First Presbyterian Church, 502 N. Easton Rd, Willow Grove, PA 215.659.5938  
<http://firstpreswg.org>

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 4:00 PM

Robert Plimpton, organ. Civic Organist Emeritus of the Spreckels Organ in Balboa Park, San Diego, CA. Cornel Zimmer Organ (2004). Works by J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Widor, Tournemire, Paulus and Elmore. Free-will offering. Child care provided Aldersgate United Methodist Church, 2313 Concord Pike, Wilmington DE 302.478.2575 www.aldersgatede.org

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 4:00 PM

Nathan Laube, organ. Full recital free and open to the public. Works by Bach, Strauss II, Widor, Jongen. Lehman Memorial United Methodist Church. 300 South York Road, Hatboro, PA. 215-675-2110.

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 15, 12:30 PM

Tom Sheehan, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654  
eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 8:00 PM

Wister Quartet. Performing Haydn's *String Quartet in G Minor, Op. 74, No. 3* ("The Rider"), Gesensway's *Five Russian Pieces*, and Beethoven's *String Quartet in B flat Major, Op. 18, No.6*. Free will offering. Reception following. Carmel Presbyterian Church, Edge Hill Rd at Limekiln Pk (rt. 152), Glenside PA 215.887.1074 www.presbycarmel.org

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 9:00 PM

Silent film, "Hunchback of Notre Dame" accompanied by organist Michael Britt. Admission: \$10, Students: \$2 Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

## SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17, 10:00 AM

Hymn-a-thon, 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. Hymn-a-thon is a fundraiser for the music program. Throughout the day hymns will be sung and there will be improvisations on favorite hymn tunes. Free Admission. Kevin O'Malia, organist. First United Methodist Church of Germantown, 6001 Germantown Ave, Philadelphia PA www.fumcog.org/music

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 3:00 PM

Cameron Carpenter, organ. This concert is to celebrate the church's 200th anniversary. Free-will offering. First Presbyterian Church, 35 W Cheltenham Ave, Germantown 215.843.8811 www.fpcgermantown.org

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 4:00 PM

Mainstreet Brass Quintet featuring brass quintet literature from the 17th century to Fats Waller. Free child care provided. Free will offering received. Handicapped accessible. Abington Presbyterian Church, 1082 Old York Rd, Abington PA 215.887.4530  
www.apcusa.org/MusicatAbington

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18, 5:00 PM

Choral Evensong sung by the Cathedral Choir School of Delaware. St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 22 E Chestnut Hill Ave, Philadelphia PA 215.242.2055 www.stpaulschestnuthill.org

## THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 12:30 PM

Daniel Stipe, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654  
eplutz@princeton.edu www.princeton.edu/~choir/

## FRIDAY, OCTOBER 23, 6:00 PM

Joanne K. Owen, organist. "Tunes from the Crypt" -- a recital of "spooky" organ music. (Salem City's "Ghost Tour" follows the recital.) Free admission. St. John's Episcopal Church, 76 Market Street, Salem NJ 856.769.3212

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 4:00 PM

Duo Piano Concert. Music of Grieg, Mozart, Rachmaninoff, Bach and Chabrier. Mary Jane Riley and Joseph J. Lewis, duo-pianists. Free will offering. Reception to follow. St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church, 355 St John's Cir, Phoenixville PA 610.933.3947

## SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 4:00 PM

Scott J. Breiner and H. Ray Hunsicker. A Recital of Piano and Organ Music. Free Admission. Reception following. Calvary Lutheran Church, Rosedale Ave & New St, West Chester PA 610.696.2475

## POSITIONS AVAILABLE

ALLEN POPJOY, COORDINATOR

610-269-7069 email: allen.popjoy@agophila.org

### ORGANIST

St. Paul's Presbyterian Church  
433 Park Avenue, Laurel Springs, NJ 08021  
856-783-1839  
www.stpaulspres.org

The family of St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Laurel Springs, New Jersey, is looking for an integral addition to our Music Ministry Team. 10-15 hours weekly, including two Sunday morning services and weekly choir rehearsal.

Send resume to: Jane Emely-Roach, Director of Music, at stpaulspres@aol.com or by fax at 856-303-0502.

### ORGANIST

St Luke's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
20 Church Rd., Hellertown, PA 18055

St Luke's Church at Old Williams is looking for a part-time organist for an average of 6-10 hours a week, to include one choir practice and one Sunday service. There may also be special festival services throughout the year.

Organist is to provide preludes, offertories and postludes appropriate to the day / liturgical season. We need a person who can work as a team member and minister of music with the pastor and worship and music committee and choir director to assist the congregation to engage in worship through music.

The instrument is a three-manual Allen Renaissance organ, and includes a MIDI unit. Church also has a Yamaha Clavinova which is used for choir accompaniment. Organist may also serve in other capacities in future. This is a salaried position. Send resume and three references. Inquiries at 484-661-1927.

### ORGANIST/CHOIR ACCOMPANIST

St. Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ  
1193 Clover Mill Road, Chester Springs, PA 19425  
610-933-6419  
www.stpeterspikeland.org

St. Peter's Pikeland UCC is a family-oriented church with a highly valued music ministry. We are seeking a part-time Organist/Choir Accompanist to join our music ministry. St. Peter's, located in Chester County near Philadelphia, has an established music program supporting a traditional worship service with Adult and Children's Choirs.

Responsibilities include providing traditional worship service music and accompanying the Adult and Children's Choirs; One traditional 10:00 a.m. service; Thursday evening Adult Choir rehearsal; Sunday morning Children's Choir rehearsal; Availability for other services as needed, including weddings and funerals. Instruments include an Allen 2-manual Digital Organ, piano, and Clavinova CVP30. Other opportunities exist for musical leadership, such as a Handbell Choir. Compensation is in the \$10,000-12,000 range and is based upon experience. A complete job description is available from St. Peter's Pikeland UCC, and more information about our church is available at our website, www.stpeterspikeland.org.

For further information and to apply, write St. Peter's Pikeland United Church of Christ, Attn: Organist/Choir Accompanist Search Leader, 1193 Clover Mill Road, Chester Springs, PA, 19425; or email St. Peter's at stpetersuc@verizon.net ; or phone the Church, office at 610-933-6419.

### ORGANIST

Trevoze United Methodist Church  
4937 Church Ave, Langhorne, PA 19053  
(215) 357-0481

Trevoze United Methodist Church, located at Brownsville Road and Church Ave. in Trevoze, is seeking an organist for one Sunday service (11:00 a.m., 10:00 a.m. during the summer, July 4 to Labor Day.) There are two services on Christmas Eve. No choir rehearsal; Allen organ. Salary based on experience. Please send resumé to the church address above.

### DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

St John's United Church of Christ  
315 Gay Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460  
610-933-5311

St. John's United Church of Christ is seeking a Director of Music with full responsibility for the music program including: playing the organ for 10:45 am service and for special services throughout the church year, selecting and preparing preludes and postludes appropriate to the day / liturgical season and selecting anthems for and directing the adult chancel choir, a youth choir, and a handbell choir. Church has a two manual Austin pipe organ. Current salary is \$14,500.00 with paid vacation. Applicants should send a resume and letter of interest to Organist Search c/o Ruth Brobst, St John's UCC, 315 Gay Street, Phoenixville, PA 19460 or reply via e-mail: gruber@stjohnsucc.com

### ORGANIST/CHOIR DIRECTOR

St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church  
Folcroft, PA  
610- 583-4977

St. John's is seeking a church musician to provide musical leadership to enhance our worship experience.

Responsibilities include:

- Playing the organ or electric piano for all services throughout the church year (one Sunday morning service, mid-week Lenten services and other festival services throughout the year)
- Selecting and preparing preludes, offertories and postludes appropriate to the day/liturgical season
- Planning, in consultation with the pastor and worship and music committee, special services (i.e. Thanksgiving, Good Friday, weddings, funerals etc).
- Selecting anthems for and directing the choir.

The position involves approximately 6-10 hours per week (Sunday morning along with evening choir rehearsal during the week). Interested candidates should contact Pastor Cindy Ray at the number above.

### ORGANIST

Nantmeal United Methodist Church  
359 Nantmeal Road, Glenmoore, PA 19343

One Sunday service, no choir. Pipe organ. Contact church office at 610-469-8655.



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

REV. BRUCE THORSEN CHAPLAIN@AGOPHILA.ORG

**M**arty Haugen wrote a hymn with this theme. It speaks of building a house where love can dwell and all can safely live. When I read our new dean's first column, I appreciated how he highlighted the diversity in our organization. Regardless of our training, ability, or experience, we welcome all people who have a desire "to promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide a forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members." (taken from the mission statement of the AGO)

Each one of us is a unique individual created by God. Sometimes our personalities do not mix well, but hopefully we can treat each other with respect. Many of us work in houses that worship God. Some are welcoming of all, and others have guidelines of who is welcome, both spoken and unspoken. This summer at least 2 major church bodies, the Episcopal and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, have made decisions to be more welcoming and affirming to gay and lesbian people and more specifically to rostered people in same-gender, life-long monogamous relationships. The Episcopal raised its ban on gay bishops.

These decisions are welcomed by some and not by others. The AGO is not discriminating about one's orientation. Unfortunately there are some GLBTQ church musicians working in places that are not welcoming and affirming. I believe if the place where you are serving is welcoming and affirming, then it would further proclaim this by having a statement saying that. In some places this is not possible, but there are supportive church groups such as Lutherans Concerned, Dignity, More Light, and others that are a safe place of love for all.

As people of God I believe I feel we are called to be open and affirming. I celebrate that the AGO is one place that is. More of the places we serve already are or are working toward it. As a rostered leader in the ELCA and one who is in a same gender, life-long, committed relationship, I thank God that the ELCA has opened the door for me to be truthful as to who God created me to be and to be open about the man, John, God has brought into my life to share it with.

"All Are Welcome" says God.

Chaplain Bruce

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Chapter October Event  
Continued from page 1



Barry Rose, OBE

**O**n Wednesday 29 July 1981, millions of television viewers around the world tuned in to the live telecast of a service from St. Paul's Cathedral in London. The event was a royal wedding, and the memorable choral works, reverberating through the cathedral and into living rooms everywhere, were conducted by Barry Rose. Aside from a renowned tenure (1974 – 1984) at St. Paul's, Rose has also been Master of Music at Guildford Cathedral, Master of the Choirs at the King's School, Canterbury, and Organist & Master of the Choristers at St. Albans Cathedral, from which he retired in 1997. His discography is impressive, with outstanding representation of the finest in cathedral music, as well as lighter crossover fare. (The album, *Jubilate! Golden Favourites from St. Paul's Cathedral*, with the incomparable performances of "O for the wings of a dove", "My Way", and "I'd like to teach the world to sing" acquired a cult-like following in certain circles.)

It is seldom that we have the opportunity to learn from such luminaries of the profession. Attend all, or as many, of the events as your schedule permits. We are most grateful to be able to co-sponsor the Saturday portions of this weekend with Barry Rose, sponsored by St. Mark's Church, Matthew Glandorf, Organist and Choirmaster.

[To facilitate appropriate provisioning for the brief light lunch on Saturday, we ask that you notify David Beatty, [dpbeatty@erols.com](mailto:dpbeatty@erols.com), 215-518-1025, no later than Sunday 27 September, if you intend to partake of the physical food. The entire weekend will provide you with abundant spiritual food.]

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Calendar of Events  
Continued from page 7

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 4:00 PM**

Commemorating the life and musical legacy of Sir Hubert Parry with a lecture, concert and a service of Choral Evensong. Directed by Dr. Rieyhee Hong with special guest and Parry Scholar, Dr. Jason Farris, lecturer and organist. Philadelphia Cathedral (Episcopal), 3723 Chestnut St (38th & Chestnut), Philadelphia PA 215.386.0234 x104 [www.philadelphiacathedral.org](http://www.philadelphiacathedral.org)

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7:00 PM**

New Jersey MasterChorale will present an evening of light-hearted music to benefit Respond, Inc. which helps Camden citizens. Featuring patriotic numbers and Rodgers and Hammerstein's A Grand Night for Singing. Tickets: Free, call the church. Haddonfield United Methodist Church, 29 Warwick Rd, Haddonfield NJ 856.429.0403

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 12:30 PM**

David Pickering, organ. After Noon Concert Series: 30-minute recitals on Thursdays at 12:30 p.m. Princeton University-Chapel, Nassau and Washington Rds., Princeton NJ 609.258.3654 [epultz@princeton.edu](mailto:epultz@princeton.edu) [www.princeton.edu/~choir/](http://www.princeton.edu/~choir/)

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 8:00 PM**

Witchcraft. Singing City, Jeffrey Brillhart, Music Director. Works by Brahms, Ravel, Verdi and Wolf and selections from the Broadway hits *Sweeney Todd*, *Wicked*, *Les Miz*, and more. Tickets available at the door or [www.singingcity.org](http://www.singingcity.org) St. David's Episcopal Church, 763 Valley Forge Rd, Wayne PA 610.688.7947 [www.stdavidschurch.org](http://www.stdavidschurch.org)

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2:00 PM**

Boo! Singing City, Jeffrey Brillhart, Music Director. One-hour program includes spooky Broadway music, surprising works for solo voices, and Count Dracula playing terrifying selections on the pipe organ. Costumes are encouraged. Tickets at door or web. St. David's Episcopal Church, 763 Valley Forge Rd, Wayne PA 610.688.7947 [www.stdavidschurch.org](http://www.stdavidschurch.org)

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Dean's Message  
Continued from page 2

area, but a ubiquitous infrastructure supporting automotive transport thrives. Such evolutions in infrastructure can be driven by conscious decision or by economic necessity.

The life cycle of infrastructure elements typically involves four major activities: establishing the infrastructure, maintaining the infrastructure, improving the infrastructure, retiring the infrastructure. The prioritization of these elements comes from a fifth activity, which will be ongoing throughout the lifecycle: assessment. Without maintenance, elements pass quickly into retirement or extinction. While not always essential, without improvement, elements typically will become obsolete and then extinct.

As an itinerant organist, from church to church, I have observed wide variety in both the infrastructure elements and the reliability or health of the existing elements. The infrastructure for a church music program secures (and ensures

payment of) the musical forces (organ, instrumental, vocal) for services, incorporates music (and musician) listings in weekly bulletins or service leaflets, maintains the music library, ensures that in-house equipment is working properly, schedules facility usage, etc. At some locations, all those functions are the responsibility of a single part-time individual. Other places, these functions will be distributed among many employees, volunteers, and sub-contractors. When these infrastructure elements are robust, they facilitate efficient time usage. Time scheduled for rehearsal can focus on rehearsal (and not on administration). However, effecting robust infrastructures can be costly.

When faced with funding challenges or resource limitations, some institutions defer infrastructure maintenance, often without adequate assessment of the implications. There is often the hope that maintenance can be resumed before the elements become extinct. However, I have recently observed several cases wherein the maintenance never resumes at adequate levels. Rehearsals become inefficient and frustrating to all participants. Instruments become unreliable or unplayable (or produce unpleasant and unwanted sounds).

Within the American Guild of Organists, the infrastructure elements are provided by dedicated volunteers and a very small number of paid individuals at the National Headquarters. Within our chapter, the infrastructure element associated with membership is handled by the registrar, Joe Lewis. A large number of people contribute to the communication infrastructure element that produces this fine chapter newsletter, most notably the Communications Coordinator, Roy Harker, and the *Crescendo* Editor, Carl Gedeik. The circulation coordinator, Katherine Reier, assisted by several volunteers, ensures that the printed material is posted (after which the US Postal Service, a federal infrastructure element, ensures delivery). As with all infrastructure elements, we often take these uncompensated volunteer efforts for granted until we observe performance degradation or outages.

One key aspect of critical infrastructure elements is redundancy or backup provisions. Critical power systems are equipped with backup generators. Aircraft contain dual-redundant navigation systems. When the fabric of infrastructure is personnel, it is important to effect succession planning to allow the infrastructure provisioning to continue uninterrupted.

Here in the Philadelphia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the time has come for us to examine our infrastructure, to determine which elements should be maintained and which should be retired, to understand if we need to create new elements or if improvement is needed in current elements. At a recent meeting of the Executive Committee of this chapter, we were alerted to near-term need for succession planning. If we are to retain certain elements of our infrastructure, this critical maintenance must be performed. In order to avoid particular infrastructure challenges that we have faced over the past few years, instrumenting dual-redundancy measures may be necessary to prevent failure of essential subsystems.

Maintaining our infrastructure must leverage the resources of the entire chapter. The Executive Committee of this chapter needs to understand what skills you possess that could help us in solidifying the future of this chapter. Who among you are project managers, financial analysts, graphic artists, investors, publishers, or are willing to undertake such endeavors? Let us know where you believe you can fit in the infrastructure fabric of this chapter. Without necessary infrastructure maintenance actions, some of our chapter offerings may face extinction. The future of the fabric of the chapter is among you. Help us to learn about your other skills!

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Congregation Adath Jeshurun, Elkins Park  
American Record Guide

## Roy Harker

Church of Saint Asaph  
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# CRESCENDO

NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILADELPHIA CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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