

PIPE NOTES

a publication of the Vermont Chapter
of The American Guild of Organists

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COMING VERMONT AGO EVENTS

The Vermont AGO event planning committee is hard at work planning events for this spring and fall. In the works are:

March - Bach Marathon at Christ Church, Montpelier; Lynnette Combs is in charge, but she would welcome volunteers to offer to play and help with the event

April - a tour of Stephen Russell's organ workshop in Chester, Vermont; Dean Vaughan Watson is coordinating this event

May - Artist-of-the-Year Jennifer Bower will play a recital for us at Mead Chapel in Middlebury on May 6; this will be followed by our Annual Meeting

Dates and times for these events are being worked out, so watch for more details in the March issue of **Pipe Notes**.

CHAPTER NOTES

The First Presbyterian Church, Barre, Vermont, has a new pipe organ built by Peter Walker of Walker Pipe Organs in Guilford, Vermont and replaces the church's 1924 Estey organ. Located in the original organ chamber in the front of the sanctuary, it incorporates five ranks of pipes from the Estey whose facade and pipes have been retained and utilized in the design of the new case. The number of speaking stops has increased from 10 to 15, adding additional pipe work by Estey, Casavant, and Moller. The free-standing console and electro-mechanical wind chests are controlled by a new solid-state system.

Peter Walker played the dedicatory recital on November 26, 2017. Additional programs are being planned for Spring, 2018.

The Charlotte Congregational Church is working with the Andover Organ Company to find an older, second-hand tracker organ to replace their ailing Estey. Their organ committee met with the music committee of the Stowe Community Church in September to hear the Simmons organ and to discuss what can be expected in an organ change (how long will it take to set up a "new" organ, how to keep the congregation "in the loop" as this work progresses, any fund-raising that needs to be done, etc.). The Stowe organ underwent a major restoration in 2000 so the Charlotte committee was interested in hearing about their experience.

Several organs in Vermont are celebrating 150th birthdays this year. The planning committee is interested in helping these churches mark these important milestones. If you would like to be part of that, please contact them. The churches and organs are:

Greensboro United Church of Christ - Johnson organ
 Williamstown United Church - Nutting organ
 St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Windsor - S.S. Hamill organ
 Brick Church, Congregational in Grafton - S.S. Hamill organ

There are a number of ways to help the organ world in your own local area. Have you considered:

- inviting organists in your area with smaller, maybe less functional organs to come and play yours?
- inviting organists vacationing in your area to practice on your organ to keep up their organ skills?
- inviting organists in your area to meet at a local restaurant, to just get together and maybe discuss where to get organ and choral music, how to get help repairing and maintaining organs, making ecumenical services better, joys and frustrations organists face, etc.

COMING EVENTS

The **Vermont Bach Ensemble** is pleased to announce their second season with a presentation of **Epiphany Music** featuring music of Bach and Buxtehude. This concert will include Cantata BWV 72 for the Third Sunday after Epiphany "Alles nur nach Gottes Willen", as well as the Epiphany Cantata of Buxtehude BuxWV 4 "Alles, was ihr tut mit Worten oder Werken". There will be chamber music and solo vocal works as well.

The venues are:

Saturday, February 3, 2018 at Our Lady of the Snows Church, Woodstock, VT
 Sunday, February 4, 2018 at Saint Denis Catholic Church, Hanover, NH

North Country Chorus, under the direction of Alan Rowe, will present **"Earth and Sky,"** a program of short, light works on **Friday, February 23** at 7 p.m. at the **Littleton (NH) Opera House** and on **Saturday, February 24** at 3 p.m. at **Court Street Arts at Alumni Hall in Haverhill, NH**. Tickets are available in advance from catamountix.org or at the door. For details visit northcountrychorus.org.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

The deadline for the March issue of **Pipe Notes** will be February 20.