



PIPELINE

American Organist Guild—Red River Valley Chapter

Volume 24, Number 1

January 2007

Local Church Welcomes New Organ

St. Joseph Catholic Church of Moorhead, Minn. after a magnificent renovation and expansion of their sanctuary by the Michael Burns Architect Firm of Moorhead, has eagerly and patiently awaited their newly rebuilt and expanded Nelson Pipe Organ. The light filled, lofty nave boasts about 3 seconds of reverberation time, giving the organ an exciting live sound with its 73 stops,

34 ranks and nearly 2700 pipes.

St. Joseph's Church has a variety of service styles including contemporary and traditional liturgical settings. This instrument is at home in either genre and accompanies a modest choir, instrumental and vocal solos with robust voices as well as the most gentle of songs and prayers. Congregational

singing can be accompanied with three separate Principal choruses on each of the three keyboards. Singing in this edifice is truly a transcendent experience with tones blending magnificently without any defined echo effect despite the near parallel walls.

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Message From the Dean

Friends, Happy New Year! Fresh start, renewed goals!

The board has been working diligently to recruit members over the last few years, and you may recall Lance Johnson speaking about the "Each One—Reach One!" campaign from AGO national. According to our directory, the RRV-AGO had 42 voting members and 18

subscribing members in 1996-1997. In 2004-2005, these numbers had dropped to about half, with 21 voting members and 11 subscribing members. This 2006-2007 year, those numbers have increased to 32 voting members and 18 subscribing



members. If you have looked at our financial statements, you know that our main source of income is dues. These dues provide us with the resources to sponsor workshops and performances for our membership and the general public in the Red River Valley area.

There are so many organists and church musicians in the area that are not aware of the benefits of our organization. The board has been working, last year and this year, on compiling a contact list for area churches and organists. This effort will require additional support and man/woman-power from you to complete. Churches and organists from this list must be contacted to inform them of our

existence, and of the benefits of membership. The "Each One—Reach One!" campaign sums it up. This is an organization of organists, not just a 10 member board. There are 107 churches in the metropolitan area. There are another 211 area churches comprised of 29 Minnesota area churches, 49 North Dakota area churches, 30 Fergus Falls churches, 19 Detroit Lakes churches, 57 Valley City / Jamestown area churches, and 27 Wahpeton / Breckenridge area churches. That is a total of 318 churches in the geographic area that we service. Just think of the organists we could meet, the instruments to hear, and the friends to make in that group!

Your participation is needed to reach these fellow church musicians. The project requires telephone calls, mailings, and personal contacts with musicians you know and have yet to meet. Please look over the "Each One—Reach One!" article in this issue. Consider what you are capable of doing, and step forward to do what you are able. If each one of us can bring in one member, we will double our membership, and then just imagine the workshops and programs we could provide! Imagine the strength of the relationships! How we could share the glorious instruments we play with the community! Each One—Reach One!

Regards,

Vicky Wms Sieben, Dean

Take Note! Due to the holiday, the Board did not meet and there will be no meeting notes in this issue.

Organist Guild Lunch Club

- ~First Friday of the month at Noon
- ~Fargo downtown Fryin' Pan Restaurant
- ~Everyone is welcome!

Chapter Officers

- Dean: Vicky Wms Sieben
- Sub-Dean: Robyn Vinje
- Secretary: Ruth Discher
- Treasurer: Lance Johnson

Board Members at Large

- 2007: Brad Steen, Dawn Papenfuss
- 2008: Sue Clambey, Sally Harmon
- 2009: Ruth Strawn, Alpha Roeszler

reach one

American Guild of Organists 

On behalf of the National Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support, you are invited to take the Chapter Challenge! This section and its contents will provide everything you need to take part in the Chapter Challenge - an integral part of the 2006-2007 AGO National Membership Campaign. Each One—Reach One!

In 2005, the AGO launched a comprehensive campaign for membership growth. The goal of the Each One—Reach One campaign was to swell our ranks by encouraging all constituents of the Guild including officers, national committees, and local chapters to focus on the task of membership recruitment and retention. Under the leadership of Director Shirley King and National Secretary Donald Sutherland, the Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support developed extensive documents in the spring of 2005 outlining membership initiatives that could be undertaken by all members of the Guild. The documents were enthusiastically endorsed by the National Council and thus the Each One—Reach One campaign was born.

Because of the success of the original campaign, the National Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support has decided to continue the

campaign for another year. The primary focus of the 2006-07 campaign is the Chapter Challenge.

This challenge promises fun, larger membership numbers, national recognition, and the chance for your chapter to win \$\$\$ to do with as you please. Who could resist?

Here are the four basic steps your chapter will need to accomplish in order to meet the challenge:

CHALLENGE #1: Appoint a Membership Coordinator for your Chapter whose job is to work to retain current members and recruit new members for the Chapter. This office should be separate from the office of the Treasurer and Registrar.

CHALLENGE #2: Implement any three ideas from the list of "100 Ways to Encourage and Maintain Membership in Your AGO Chapter." Each idea should be from a different category of difficulty (i.e. Easy, Moderate, Hard).

CHALLENGE #3: Establish an Internet presence. In this age of technology, having a web presence for your chapter is a must. If you do not already have a website, please take advantage of AGO National's offer of a free webpage. This feature enables each chapter to have, free

of charge, its own webpage and unique Internet address through the official website of AGO National Headquarters. The webpage is hosted on our server. The free webpage is designed on a standard template including the following sections: Message from the Dean, Local Events, Newsletter, Membership, Placement, Certification, Contact Us, and Links.

CHALLENGE #4: Achieve a net increase of 5% to 10% voting membership. The starting number of voting members should be your chapter's year end total for the 2005-06 membership year. The ending date for the increase is May 1st, 2007. For this part of the challenge, determine your total number of voting members at the end of the 2005-06 membership year and increase it by 5% to 10% by May 1, 2007. Remember, voting members only include Regular, Special, Partner, and Student members. If you complete the first three challenges of this program, the increase should come easily.

When your chapter has completed the challenge, you will enjoy the following rewards:

- Each Chapter will receive a certificate signed by the President stating they successfully met the Each One—Reach One Chapter Challenge for 2006-07.
- Each Chapter will have its name listed in The American Organist Magazine stating they successfully completed the Challenge.

Each Chapter that has a net increase of 10% will receive a monetary award. Each chapter that has a net increase of 5% to 9% will be entered in a raffle to win multiple monetary awards.

Link to the full program details on the National AGO website www.ago.org/eachone-reachone/index.html

Editor's Note: We welcome our third son (and potential musician?) into the world!

Christian Wayne Baumgartner was born December 6, 2006 at 12:12 PM. He weighed 8 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21 inches long.

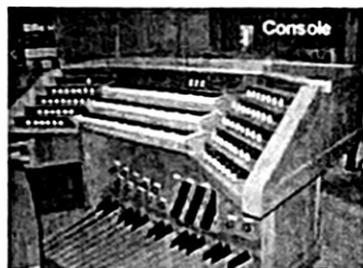
Big brothers Ethan and Avery are very excited that he is finally here. We are all doing well...but keeping busy, as expected!

~Sheila & Marty Baumgartner

(continued from page 1)

Colors from the stained glass windows dance and illuminate the open space with the ever changing angle of the sunlight, giving a welcoming and sparkling invitation to the Masses and prayers of the people.

The organ was originally designed and contracted as a large two manual organ however, after working with Michael Burns, the architect, it was soon apparent that it could be re-envisioned as a three manual. The new organ is located front and center in the church and above the choir where it speaks unencumbered to the congregation. A façade of Principal 16' is prepared for but the budget had very strict constraints. The Great organ is totally open to the church with the Choir and the Swell organ under separate expression with huge double thickness



shutters to hold the vast sonic pressure in the chambers.

A firm and steady wind supply was paramount importance to the project. A 3 horsepower slow speed blower now delivers over 1800 cubic feet of wind per minute under 5" of pressure. It replaces a blower which never could keep up with the demands of the previous configuration and the tones would sag and lose pitch if the instrument would ever be used fully.

Nelson Organ's opus 301 was based on principles of a broad range of dynamics and colors, with a sensitivity to clear, concise, and rich tone. The tonal palette covers a great variety of different pipe construction, from the very wide Great Montre 8' to the "pencil string" named Viol d' Gamba 8' (under high pressure) in the Choir. A plethora of Principals abound at 8', 4', and 2' in each manual

with two crowning Mixtures. The separately scaled Principals insure that the organ can be solidly tuned and maintained, and further allows a large range of blending in the main plenum of the instrument.

Different flutes are constructed of covered wood, open wood, 70% or 90% lead pipes, Chimney flutes, both open and stopped, overlength, overblown, and just open metal flutes. Each has a unique flavor and a different use, color and diversity was the goal. Two very unique stops in the flute family are premiered in the instrument. One such stop is the *Schweizergedeckt* 4'. This stop is actually a triple-length, stopped, metal pipe which is overblown to its second harmonic to give a soft and transparent flute sound yet when added to a full chorus it sounds full and penetrating. Another interesting stop is the *Rohrschelle* 4'. It is a stopped chimney flute that yields a 17th overtone, it is a truly colorful sparkle as an addition to the many chorus possibilities in the Choir.

The reed section has a chorus Trumpet at 16', 8', and 4'. The 16' is full length and though it is under expression it has a powerful effect. In the Swell a *Comopean* 8' and 4' is a strong and bold counter to the Trumpet of the Choir. Yet combined, the reed chorus is fiery and massive without drowning out the flue sounds. The balance will be further complimented with other reed stops which are prepared for as the funds can arrange, an Oboe at 16' and 8' are on the top of the list.

Voicing over the entire instrument is full and rich with the power of the instrument coming from the unison ranks and extra support coming from the 4' range of ranks. The upper work of the organ supplies color and contrasts and a harmonic sheen without screeching and screaming. Each of the mixtures has had a complete voicing to clear up the sounds and purify the harmonic blend. The total corpus of the instrument develops into a powerful sonic force even without any mixture ranks employed, but once they're drawn, a sound brilliance is added to the plenum that's commanding and impressive.

Several additions have been prepared for. A large Cornet 5 1/3' is prepared for in the Pedal which will extend into the Great

at 2 2/3'. And a digital package is prepared for in the near future. This will fill the "need" for two Flue 32' extensions and two 32' Reeds in the specifications to add gravity and dimension, even though the instrument stands well alone without it.



Nelson Organ's Opus 301 employs a terraced three manual console bedecked with exotic woods to clarify to the organist which division the sounds are grouped in. Australian Lacewood denotes the Swell Division, Bocote wood for the Choir, Babinga for the Pedal, and a striking Bloodwood for the Great. Each of the wood faces was covered with multiple coats of Car Urethane to insure long life and protection.

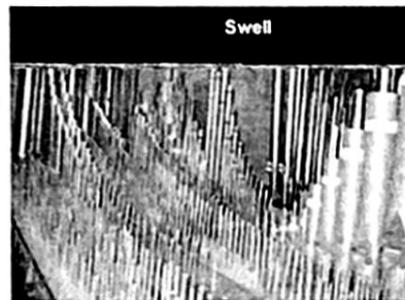
The console design is low profile with an emphasis of clear vision for the organist in any direction. Our design was measured around a number of "different sized" organists and multiple liturgical scenarios. This three manual is actually lower than the previous two manual that just retired. It is a "movable" console and contains the Classic Organ System developed by Artisan builders in Canada and produced by Klann Organ in Virginia. It incorporates an extremely versatile digital system that can be easily modified and added onto in the future and is presently fully MIDI capable. Further, the organ boasts of the largest music rack in town with a whopping 54" of clear Polycarbonate "Glass" to hold any number of books and scores.

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Nelson Organ of Wolverton, Minn. was established in 1980 as an alternative service and pipe organ construction company for the greater F-M area.

After having cared for this instrument for the last 30 years, St. Joseph's Parish awarded us with the honor of rebuilding and augmenting the long ailing Kurtzman organ from the 1970's.



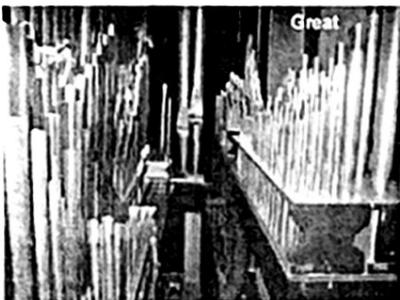
Swell

Michael D. Nelson was the main designer of the instrument, with consultation and collaboration from Douglas Ness (also of Wolverton) over many of the varied projects

required to complete the instrument. Every aspect of this instrument was carefully considered, reconsidered, and expanded to its fullest possibility.

Mr. Ness has been an invaluable member of the crew and has proven meticulous abilities throughout the project. One of his outstanding contributions to the instrument was his own design and construction of a Windchimes assembly. This is no wimpy 4 bells that repeat ad-nosium, rather 32 chimes in two separate keys that glisten with ecstatic joy as they fill the room with an ever changing sound that does not repeat.

There are a number of people that have contributed the design and development of this organ. Michael Sigerud served as Tonal Consultant, Julie Hardmeier as Liturgical Consultant, and a daily prayer group (at noon) who supplied endless support to an often



Great

exhausted couple of workers. The numbers of supporters are too myriad to name, so as to not leave any out, I shall

say "Thank You, to all from the bottom of our hearts!"

The overall impact of the organ is a French-Romantic styled instrument with a large tonal palette that is colorful yet tightly woven together. It creates an awe-inspiring and powerful example of what a rebuilt instrument can be. There are 6 organists (and "Organ-Wannabee's") in the church. This number tripled after the instrument was installed. When one of the organists was asked "How do you like the new organ?" The reply was "I love it, when do we get the 32's?"

A Dedication Concert is in the planning for January or February, we will keep you updated when it has been arranged.

SOLI DEO GLORIA!

PRESS RELEASE



Church Musicians Retreat at Blue Cloud Abbey, Marvin, SD

On Sunday, January 28, 3:00 PM there will be a choral concert at Blue Cloud Abbey.

Marvin, SD, presented by the participants of the Retreat for Church Musicians. The concert, "Upon this Rock I will Build My Church" will feature standard and contemporary choral literature, organ and instrumental solos and hymns celebrating Christ as the Rock upon which the

Church is built. The concert is free and is open to the public.

A freewill offering will be received to benefit the ministries of Blue Cloud Abbey and the South Dakota Chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

The Retreat for church musicians is an outgrowth of the 50th Anniversary celebration of the founding of Blue Cloud Abbey. At that musical celebration it was estimated that over 600 were in attendance. The SD Chapter of the American Guild of Organists began holding yearly three-day retreats for church musicians. Now in its fifth year, this event draws musicians from a five-state area - gathering for worship, retreat and rehearsals. The culmination of the retreat is the public concert on Sunday, January 28. Clinicians Kenneth DeJong, Bellevue, Washington and Paul Klemme, Salem, Oregon will be the guest conductor and organist for this event. The retreat will be January 25-28, 2007 and the cost is \$189.00. Registration is limited to 32 participants with scholarship assistance available from the SDAGO.

Questions and registration requests should be directed to David Salmen, phone 605-354-1694 or email organ2tr@aol.com.

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Event Updates

December Program: Carol Sing-A-Long



Peace Lutheran Church sanctuary



Howard Barlow and Jocelyn Burdick



Vicky Wms Sieben



Members of The Swedish Society



Mary Beth Berg

Marty Baumgartner and Carolyn Hensrud



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Upcoming Events

September 17, 2006, 4:00 PM

Membership Meeting and Music Exchange
Messiah Lutheran, Fargo

October 15, 2006, 4:00 PM

Funeral Music Program
St. John Lutheran, Fargo

December 3, 2006, 7:00 PM

Christmas Hymn Sing
Peace Lutheran, Fargo

February 11, 2007, 4:00 PM

Wedding Music Program
Grace United Methodist, Moorhead

March 25, 2007, 4:00 PM

Piano/Organ Duet Program
First United Methodist, Fargo

May 6, 2007, 4:00 PM

Membership Potluck
Vicky Wms Sieben Home, Moorhead



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