



AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

Les Bois Chapter Newsletter

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*The mission of The American Guild of Organists
is to enrich lives through organ and choral music*



DOWNTOWN BOISE CHRISTMAS CHURCH WALK

Thursday, December 26, 3:00-5:30 pm



The self-guided walking tour is for the community to be able to look at the Christmas decorations, hear special music and view the various architectural styles of the eight participating churches. What makes this event special is that all the churches are within walking distance of each other. The event is free and open to the public. You are invited to bring your friends and house guests, and the Walk can begin at any of the churches.

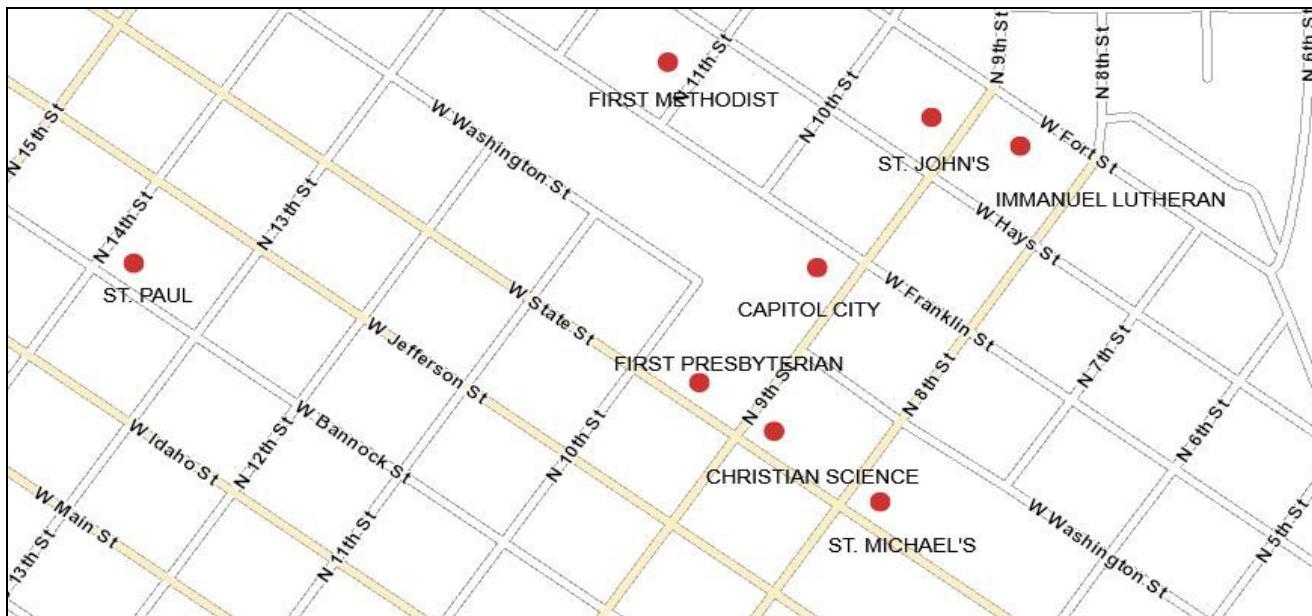
Be sure to let your friends know that visitors will need to arrive at St. John's Cathedral by 5:10 if you want to see the colors of the cathedral's stained-glass windows. The windows, as well as the outdoors, go dark at 5:30.

CHURCH WALK CHRISTMAS CAROL SING AT ST. JOHN'S CATHEDRAL Organ & Trumpet Accompaniment

5:30-6:00 pm



2013 CHURCH WALK PARTICIPATING CHURCHES





January 4, 9:00 am - Noon

Pedals, Pizza and Pipes

This is the time to promote this wonderful event with your students

Welcome New Les Bois Member

Joel Bejot of Ketchum

He has transferred his membership from Denver.

OUR DEAN'S MESSAGE
DR. RAPHAEL MORVANT

“Noel,” “Noël”—the word rings out in churches, malls, media, and even in the streets hailing the arrival (or anticipation) of Christmas. The word itself is Latin natalis by way of the French filter and means, as one would expect, “the birth.” The name “noël” was applied to French carols and eventually associated with Christmas, although their antecedents and relatives include songs used in pre-Christian celebrations and pieces connected with other Christian feasts. As a result of a relaxation of liturgical rules in French churches since the late 12th century, greater liturgical freedom was allowed for Midnight Mass in permitting the singing of noëls.

From the latter half of the 17th C, (as has often happened with popular secular vocal styles—even to this day) instrumental pieces in the spirit of the vocal noëls, were commonly designated to be played during the Christmas service. Most such noëls are for organ; a few are for instrumental ensemble. Many consist chiefly of variations on then current popular Noël melodies. While there are great collections of noëls for organ by Lebègue, Gigault, and others, the name perhaps associated most with noëls is Daquin.

Louis-Claude Daquin was born in Paris on the 4th of July, 1694 and was an infant prodigy: he played before Louis XIV at the age of six; two years later (age 8!) he directed his Beatus vir for large chorus and orchestra. He appears to have had little formal music training. At age 12, he turned down an offer of the post of organist at the Sainte-Chapelle in favor of Petit St. Antoine. He later successfully competed with Rameau for a post at Saint-Paul-Saint-Louis Church.

Daquin’s noëls held a large attraction for Parisian church-goers and the majority may be played, as the composer himself says, “on violins, flutes, oboes, etc.” It has been claimed that Daquin’s Noëls were so popular and played so often that legislation eventually forbade their performance. It is, however, safe to do them today and they are a perfect addition to the organist’s Christmas repertoire.

Undergraduate Sacred Music Fellowships

Two new undergraduate sacred music fellowships are being offered through the Florida State University College of Music. These fellowships are renewable for up to four years; the total award would be \$8,600 and \$12,600, respectively. These are the first two of several fellowships being developed for undergraduate and graduate students applying to or enrolled at FSU. More postings will follow in the coming weeks.

Jonathan Hehn, Dean, AGO Tallahassee Chapter

jonathan.hehn@gmail.com

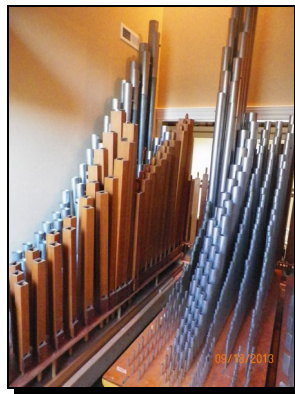
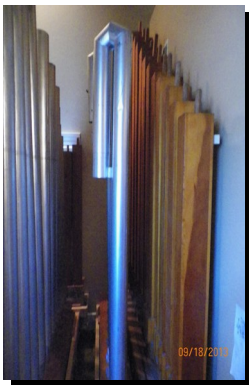
850-980-2812 - www.saint-luke.org

Newsletter: Michael Civiello, SPC, civiello2@hotmail.com

Ron Thurber's Pipe Organ

by Michael Civiello

During mid September I met with Ron Thurber at his home because I wanted to feature the pipe organ he has installed in his home. Entering the front door leads directly to the console and above that behind the stairs is the unenclosed pipe chamber. The console is from a church near Chicago and the pipes are from a church north of Denver. It consists of nine ranks of which four ranks still need installation work. It has an AGO pedalboard. A friend at Wicks Organ Company helped Ron acquire the components. This organ was originally installed in 1980 in their previous home.



As a teenager Ron took lessons for two years from the new man-in-town, Griff Bratt, and while at the University of Idaho Ron studied organ for one year. His initiation into the world of organ ownership began in 1975 when he worked with others to initially save the organ at the Egyptian Theater which was going to be demolished. They wound up buying not only the organ but the theater as well. To help promote the silent movie *Wings*, Ron had the idea to hang a Sopwith Camel plane from a crane in front of the theater to attract attention – which it did and the movie was sold out.

Ron has also collected three very unique working antique music boxes, 1880 -1900

