



AMERICAN GUILD  
OF ORGANISTS  
Les Bois Chapter Newsletter  
October 2016

[www.agoboise.org](http://www.agoboise.org)



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

**Dean's Message**

**Water Aerobics and the Organ**

Have you ever had a social engagement that you looked forward to and dreaded at the same time? Have you ever talked yourself out of attending something you knew you'd probably enjoy once you were there? Maybe it had something to do with feeling like you didn't know anyone else that would be attending. Or worse, thinking everyone but you knew everyone else.

I recently experienced all the above, plus a few more dynamics related to a water aerobics class. Ugh. I hate chlorinated water. I hate wrestling into a swimsuit. I hate locker rooms. I *really* hate not knowing anyone when everyone else knows everyone else. As it turns out, the workout is good and I always win the swimsuit wrestle. Beyond the physical logistics, I decided to learn everyone's name in the class so I could speak to them easily. Speaking is a good first step toward friendship.

It's been a few weeks now and the whole class is aware of my goal to know their names. I'm doing pretty well and my name mission has started a bunch of conversations. I even look forward to aerobics days. The water is still chlorinated....

If you've ever stayed away from guild events because you feel like you don't know anyone, I invite you to give the water aerobics method a try. In fact we'll help you along by sharing board member bios in upcoming newsletters. You'll be delighted at what you learn, both in and out of the organ realm and I bet you'll be curious to know more. Now there's a conversation in the making! We are quite a diverse group with a complete spectrum of organ training and experience. The fact is, we love our amazing instrument and delight in sharing it with other like-minded souls.

Read on in this newsletter with your calendar close by so you can mark the dates, times and places of our upcoming events. Hope to see you at Listen and Lunch on November 12<sup>th</sup>.

Ann Reed  
Chapter Dean

**What's Happening in and near  
Les Bois Land**

**October 22nd & 23rd**

**Master Class and Recital**

**Todd Wilson**

St. John the Evangelist, Spokane

**Friday, October 28th**

**Halloween Recital**

**Tyler Carlisle**

**7 PM**

First Presbyterian Church  
950 West State Street, Boise

**Saturday, November 12th**

**Listen and Lunch**

**10:30 AM**

First Presbyterian Church  
Immanuel Lutheran Church

**Look for an invitation in the mail in October!**

**Next Board Meeting  
Tuesday, October 25th**

**7 PM**

**Ann Reed's home**



Thanks, Gary Stringham, gifted punster, for this great meme!

## Coming Events

Saturday, October 22nd, 10 AM — Master class with Todd Wilson, St. John the Evangelist, Spokane

Sunday, October 23rd, 4 PM — Recital with Todd Wilson, St. John the Evangelist, Spokane

Tuesday, October 25th, 7 PM — Board meeting, Ann Reed's home

Friday, October 28th, 7 PM — Halloween recital with Tyler Carlisle, First Presbyterian Church, Boise

Saturday, November 12th, 10:30 AM — Listen and Lunch, First Presbyterian Church (Listen);  
Immanuel Lutheran Church (Lunch)

Look for an invitation by mail soon. Menu: Lasagna and Garden Salad.

RSVP to Kirk Higginson by November 5th.

Friday, December 2nd, 6:30 PM — Christmas Social, Glenn & Gaye Poole's, 11277 Verde Lane, Boise

Monday, December 26th — Church Walk

Saturday, January 21st — Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

### Les Bois Chapter Executive Committee

Dean: Ann Read, annreed1959@gmail.com  
 Sub-Dean: Tyler Carlisle, tyler@fpcboise.org  
 Treasurer: Kirk Higginson, SPC, treasurer@agoboise.org  
 Membership  
 Coordinator: Sheryl Hillman, SPC, sheryl\_hillman@hotmail.com  
 Website: Ryan & Robyn Henrie, ryan@henrie.org  
 Newsletter: Jerry Wagner, SPC, jerry\_k\_wagner@yahoo.com  
 Members-at-Large:  
 Myra Miles, rod1-myra2@msn.com  
 Norma Stevlingson, njstevling@gmail.com  
 Susan Pohl, susanpohl@juno.com  
 Glenn Poole, lpol83712@gmail.com  
 Chaplain: Sean Rogers, sean@seanrogers.org

Please check out and join our Facebook page at this link: [AGO Les Bois Chapter](#)

Or just search Facebook for "AGO Les Bois Chapter"



## **Good Shepherd Lutheran Church Organ Dedication Recital by Kantor Dr. Stephen Hoffman**

Attending this organ recital on Sunday afternoon, September 18, 2016, I was expecting a concert of organ literature typically played of music which I was familiar with. However, after arriving and reading the program, the music for this concert was all improvisations on hymns of Martin Luther. I was excited knowing that everything I was about to hear was new with the exception of the hymn tunes.

Dr. Hoffman is Kantor at two Lutheran churches in Wyoming as well as Lecturer in Music at the University of Wyoming offered a program of improvisations on some of Martin Luther's hymns. The program was divided into segments of the church year-Advent, Christmas, Passiontide, Easter, Pentecost and ending with the great Reformation Hymn "Ein Feste Burg." Hymns from each of these church year parts were the basis of the improvisations. Reference hymn numbers were in the program so texts could be followed in pew hymnals. Dr. Hoffman's style of improvisation was sometimes very contemporary but very interesting and each improvisation reflected hymn texts. Many of the various organ stops/sounds of the Johannes organ were explored in the improvisations. The hymn tunes became evident in most of the improvisations, though I had trouble hearing the hymn tune during the improvisation of "Savior of the Nations Come." Words were printed for two of the hymns in the program. Dr. Hoffman sang in German the first verses of these hymns with the audience singing the remaining verses. This same program will be offered this month by Dr. Hoffman on the Occasion of the Dedication of the newly restored Castle Church (where Luther posted his Ninety-five Theses) in Wittenberg, Germany. Dr. Hoffman will return to Wittenberg a year from now to present two additional organ recitals as part of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation.

After Dr. Hoffman's program, everyone remained for Evening Prayer which is a lovely sung service of prayer, petitions, psalms and evening hymns. Typically Evening Prayer is sung early evening and is a service asking God to guide and protect one throughout the evening and night. One of the additional psalm settings was written by Dr. Hoffman in celebration of the dedication of the new organ at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church and was sung by the choir at Good Shepherd. This Evening Prayer Service seemed very fitting and appropriate to end an enjoyable afternoon/evening of good music.

Kirk Higginson

### **Meet the Board**

#### **Kirk Higginson**

Kirk Higginson is currently organist at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church where he has held the position for the past 30 some years and hopes to see the planned upgrade/enlargement of the 22 rank Schoenstein/Balcom & Vaughn organ in the next couple of years. He majored in Theory and Composition at Boise State University and has studied organ with Ruth Barrus, John Balka, Donald Oakes and Susan Matthews.

Mr. Higginson is active in the Les Bois Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, currently holding the treasurer's position, but has served as Dean and Sub-Dean of the Les Bois Chapter and Planning Committee for the 2011 Region VIII Convention. He holds the Service Playing Certificate in the American Guild of Organists. He is an active member of The Association of Lutheran Church Musicians (ALCM). Mr. Higginson is retired after 39 years with Boise Independent School District. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, traveling and not having a set schedule.

#### **Jerry Wagner**

By day, Jerry is an electrical engineer employed at HP in the printing division. He has studied music for most of his life (with several breaks here and there). He plays piano and organ twice a month at Hillview United Methodist Church and substitutes frequently at Grace Anglican Church. Jerry earned the Service Playing Certificate from the AGO in 2016. Besides organ, his other musical love is jazz piano. He plays piano for Boise Straight Ahead Jazz Band, Boise Modern Jazz Orchestra, and occasionally the Kings of Swing. While not engaged in musical pursuits, Jerry enjoys gardening and skiing. Jerry is married to Irene and they have 2 children.

# Spokane Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

## Concert and Master class with Todd Wilson

Dear AGO Chapters and Organ Professors,

Todd Wilson will be performing at St. John the Evangelist Cathedral [Spokane] on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>, at 4:00 pm and will be playing works by Bach, Widor, and Durufle.

Todd Wilson will also be presenting a master class on Saturday morning, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 10:00 am at St. John's.

Jim Holmes, Sub Dean: [jimkhomes@comcast.net](mailto:jimkhomes@comcast.net)

## Acknowledgement of Chapter Donors

In the years since Les Bois Chapter hosted the regional convention, many of our members have made additional contributions in and above their dues to Les Bois Chapter. Note when you are paying dues via OnCard, there are choices listed to make a donation to the AGO National and Les Bois Chapter. The following members have made that choice for which the Les Bois Chapter is grateful. We thank you!

A.J. Balukoff      Tom R. Booth      Sylvia Hunt  
Helen Iverson-Metzger      Norma Stevlingson

## Organ Music Suggestions

I recently found this site, so I thought I'd share it for those of you who might not be aware of it. It's called [hymndescants.org](http://hymndescants.org). In addition to hymn descants and arrangements, they also have organ introductions for many familiar hymns. All the downloadable content is free for services and non-commercial use, but donations are accepted.

**The Spokane Chapter of the American Guild of Organists  
Presents  
Todd Wilson in Concert**



**October 23, 2016, 4:00pm  
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist  
Spokane, Washington  
Playing works by Bach, Widor, and Durufle**

**Master Class, October 22, 2016, 10:00 am  
Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist**

Todd Wilson is head of the Organ Department at The Cleveland Institute of Music and is also Director of Music and Worship at Cleveland's Trinity Cathedral

Tickets available in advance through TicketsWest or at door the afternoon of the concert

**\$15.00**

Tickets sold at door, cash or credit card only, no checks

**TicketsWest™**

Go to [TicketsWest.com](http://TicketsWest.com)  
or charge by phone 1 800 325 SEAT