



**AMERICAN GUILD
OF ORGANISTS**
Les Bois Chapter Newsletter
December 2017

www.agoboise.org



*The mission of The American Guild of Organists
is to foster a thriving community of musicians
who share their knowledge and inspire passion
for the organ.*

Dean's Message

MGS Alert

I received an email funny from an organist friend recently that made me giggle. It was a little boy being asked if his family was ready for Christmas, to which he responded, "no (with some trepidation) —my parents are musicians." The next shot is of him being comforted. The truth of this was nothing new, of course. It just hit me *again*.

I doubt, in our musical training, if a single one of us was warned about the musician's pedal-to-the-metal pace in December. We were probably drawn in slowly and carefully; an opportunity here and there to participate in "something special for Christmas." At that point we were thrilled and still entirely innocent about what was ahead as our expertise and experience enlarged.

A smidge of MGS--Musical Grinchiness Syndrome is possible by December 20th; all things musical planned before we were finished raking leaves for the year are now a reality. Ahhh! Such beautiful music to bless our worship and special events! But what about the laundry, a decent meal at home, family preparations for Christmas and enough sleep? When push comes to shove, we're ready to play, come what may, in the rest of our lives.

I have no answers, but one little idea: pause. That's right—a temporary stop in action or speech. Reflect on what you're doing and what it means to those you serve.

I recently had an edge-of-the-cliff musical experience that, had I not paused, would have added to my MGS. It was one of those musical opportunities planned long ago and as the time drew near, not enough time to dig in and prepare sufficiently for comfort.

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

Tuesday, December 26

Church Walk

3-5:30 PM

Downtown Boise (*map on page 3*)

Christmas Music Sing

5:30-6:00 PM

St. John's Cathedral

775 North 8th Street

Saturday, January 27

Pedals, Pipes, and Pizza

10 AM - 1 PM

St. John's Cathedral

*For more information please contact
Sheryl Hillman*

Next Board Meeting

Tuesday, January 23

7 PM

Ann Reed's home

Dean's Message (continued)

I'm sure I could hear gravel going over the edge of the cliff as I played; would I be going over the cliff also? I didn't, and the response from our congregation was bliss and blessedness. In my pause, my heart knew that I had done a holy thing even as I wasn't very comfortable in it.

I've jotted a list of Christmas preparations that must be done in the next less-than-a-week while I've composed this Dean's Message. In the past I would have been moved to high anxiety. Now I know that no matter the details completed, simplified or axed, life *will* go on—our family's Christmas *will* be wonderful, and music will be woven through it all.

A blessed Christmas with all it entails to you, my musical colleagues. May you have sufficient of everything you need to finish navigating this special time of the year in peace and brightness of spirit. Don't forget to pause.

Ann M. Reed
Dean, Les Bois Chapter
American Guild of Organists

Coming Events

Tuesday, December 26, 3-6 PM — [Church Walk](#)

Tuesday, January 23, 7 PM — Board meeting; Ann Reed's home, 2800 Leisure Drive, Boise

Saturday, January 27, 10 AM - 1 PM — St. John's Cathedral, 775 North 8th Street.

For piano students ages 12-18. Please contact Sheryl Hillman for more information.

Les Bois Chapter Executive Committee

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2017 Downtown Boise Church Walk

