

# CNCC NEWSLETTER

*Oldest Chapter in the Carolinas*

*Chartered November 23, 1922*

Central North Carolina Chapter

American Guild of Organists

Raleigh, North Carolina

April 2020

## The Dean's Column

**D**ear Fellow Members,

As you all know, right now we are in an unprecedented situation with our churches, our businesses, our homes, and our lives in general. I can honestly say that I've never experienced anything even close to it in my entire life. Being one of those in the highest risk groups due to my age and medical history, I'm trying my best to follow all the advice of my doctors and our Governor so this will most likely be the very first Easter Sunday that will not find me at the organ console in a church service since age 10. Oddly enough I'm now serving the very same church family in partial retirement that I served at age 10. Admittedly I've been a few places in between age 10 and the present, though, places like two universities, four conservatories for education, and a life of concert work in Chicago, Paris, London, Boston, New York, and Seattle not to mention the smaller venues I've enjoyed throughout the United States and Europe. I've taught at four universities, I've held church organist positions in 15 churches over 63 years and performed on a total of more than 375 television shows from Boston, New York, Seattle, and North Carolina. Still with all of that under my belt, so to speak, I've never experienced what we are all going through right now in our lives.

My faith remains strong and I am still playing for recorded church services every single week even though they are now on the internet only. Holy week this year we are recording services for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Morning while managing to keep our proper social distancing in place for the safety of

each one involved in the recordings. Our chapter member, Lynn Andersen, is lending his talent as a fine videographer to make this all possible with multiple cameras and his excellent editing skills. Many of you have let me know that you are doing the same. So, we are not sitting around twiddling our thumbs during this time of isolation. The modern world has made it possible for us to still teach using the internet, text and talk with friends without putting anyone in harm's way, and even conduct meetings as I'm doing with the National Headquarters of AGO and our own Central North Carolina Chapter officers so that the business of running things can still occur.

And in our chapter, it's not "business as usual" but we are actually getting some nice things put into place for our future. You will soon learn about a new scholarship program for college age students, new opportunities for chapter growth, and new ways to enjoy the "King of Instruments" in our lives.

Needless to say, our planned program in May with Steven Forster is being rescheduled to a time in the fall when we are all able to be together again in the same room enjoying the instruments we all love.

During this time we all need to say a special word of thanks to all who are still working diligently so that we receive this newsletter, maintain the business of our great chapter, and help us all to stay in touch.

Take care and be safe,

MARK ANDERSEN  
DEAN CNCCAGO

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Dean:** Dr. Mark Andersen  
205 E. Elizabethtown Rd.  
Lumberton, N.C. 28358  
910-739-5481, emarka@mac.com

**Sub Dean (Program):** David Eaton  
219 West Edenton Street  
Raleigh, NC 27603  
(C) 919-500-8837, eaton@hnojnc.org

**Secretary:** Elizabeth Goldstein-Epstein  
602 Wade Ave. #102  
Raleigh, NC 27605  
(C) 941-928-0176  
elizabethgoldstein@yahoo.com  
Professional Relations and Placement

**Treasurer & Registrar:** Lee Harris  
210 West Blvd., Laurinburg, N.C. 28352  
(H) 910-277-9005, pichpipe45@gmail.com

### Members at Large

**Membership Chair:** John Massenburg  
5536 Quitman Trail, Raleigh, NC 27610-6470  
(H) 919-772-5597, jmj777@att.net

**Scholarship Committee Chair:**  
Lorraine M. Magnuson  
8825 O'Neal Road, Raleigh, N.C. 27613  
(H) 919-870-6942, raineymag@gmail.com

**Historian:** Noël Hamm  
1001 Beringer Place, Apex, N.C. 27502  
(H) 919-362-9226, noel2bach@yahoo.com

**Newsletter Editor:** Tamara Lewis  
418 Arlington Circle, Sanford, NC, 27330  
(H) 919-776-7386, tplewis@windstream.net

Brock Downward, DMA  
8821 Cypress Lakes Drive #107  
Raleigh, NC 27615  
(C) 984-459-0641, bdownward@aol.com

Stephen Aber  
812 Greenwich Street, Raleigh, NC 27610  
615-319-5485, stephen.aber@me.com

**Past Dean:** Dr. William J. Weisser  
1214 Currituck Dr., Raleigh, N.C. 27609  
(H) 919-787-7364, wjweisser@gmail.com

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Chapter members have two ways to support our mission. We appreciate your contributions toward our General Fund or the Cooper-Miller Scholarship Fund.



## CHAPTER COMMUNICATIONS

*Newsletter* published monthly by the Central North Carolina Chapter, American Guild of Organists. Submission Deadline: 24<sup>th</sup> of preceding month. Submit items by email (preferred), phone, or mail to the Newsletter Editor.

Chapter Website: <http://cnccago.org/> Contact webmaster Andy Liepins (av8npa@gmail.com) for the members-only section password.

<https://www.facebook.com/cnccago/>

## SCHERZO SKETCHES

Each month we are getting to know our fellow AGO members a little bit better. We appreciate those willing to share a bit about their background in a lighthearted format by answering our questions.

BRIAN D. MILLER

**Age you started playing the organ.** 13 years old

**Who introduced you to the instrument?**

Nobody; I was fascinated with it! My mother was my piano teacher. I first touched an organ at the Baldwin dealership in downtown Gastonia, N. C.

**Town you grew up in?** Charlotte, North Carolina

**Favorite hymn?** "When They Ring The Golden Bells"

**Favorite stop (can be organ specific)?** Tibia Mirabilis

**Most unusual organ ever played?** Atlantic City Boardwalk Hall Organ

**Funniest thing that ever happened during a service/performance?** I was playing a tube-amplified Allen Organ for a wedding. A thunderstorm caused the power to flicker, and the organ went out right in the middle of the recessional (Mendelssohn's "Wedding March"). Since it would take a while for the tubes to warm up again, I slid over to the piano and continued, almost without missing time!

**Nicest comment you've received about your playing?** It was in a theater organ setting, and a patron said it sounded like hearing the organ at Radio City.

**Other instrument you play?** Piano, accordion, trombone, and saxophone.

**Instrument you wish you could play?** Violin

**First paying job you ever had (music or otherwise) and what you learned?** Organist while in high school, and I learned about commitment to practicing as well as putting the organ first.

**Most beautiful place you've ever been?** Prague

**Fantasy travel destination?** Italy

**Pet peeve?** Improper grammar; people not knowing how to use apostrophes or not knowing the difference between "your" and "you're".

**Talent you wish you had (musical or otherwise)?** Carpentry

**Best stress reliever?** Playing the organ!

**Word or phrase you overuse?** Classic

**Super hero ability you wish you had?** Flying

**Something not many people know you collect is?** Typewriters

**The one material possession you can't live without?** My Rodgers theatre organ!

**Favorite way to spend an unexpected free hour or a snow day?** Practicing the organ.

**Life philosophy in a nutshell?** Don't be snooty.

BRIAN D. MILLER

ORGANIST, LOUISBURG BAPTIST CHURCH  
LOUISBURG, N. C.

BAND DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT ADMINSTRATOR  
CROSSCREEK CHARTER SCHOOL  
LOUISBURG, N. C.

BAND DIRECTOR AND MUSIC INSTRUCTOR  
VANCE-GRANVILLE COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
HENDERSON, N. C.

RETIRED BAND DIRECTOR  
LOUISBURG HIGH SCHOOL  
LOUISBURG, N. C.

## SCHERZO SKETCHES

(CONTINUED)

EDDIE ABERNATHY

### **Age you started playing the organ.**

13 (left-footed, Waltzing Matilda type, playing country gospel hymns on a Hammond B3 - yes, it also had a Leslie cabinet... TWO in fact!). I heard my first pipe organ at First Baptist Church in Morganton, NC when I was also 13 and I never forgot it. My first organ lesson wasn't until my Freshman year at Lenoir Rhyne College with Larry Lowder.



**Other instrument you play?** I used to be a fabulous clarinet player a very long time ago.

**Instrument you wish you could play?** Bagpipes!

**First paying job you ever had (music or otherwise) and what you learned?** mowing lawns. I learned my mother and sister would do it for me!

**Most beautiful place you've ever been?** The North Shore of Metro Vancouver

**Who introduced you to the instrument?** Inez Brittan, the church organist; but Larry Lowder taught the organ to me

**Town you grew up in?** Morganton, NC

**Favorite hymn?** "I bind unto myself today" (ST PATRICK'S BREASTPLATE) - ALL VERSES!

**Favorite stop (can be organ specific)?** Cavallè-Coll style Pedal Bombarde stops on CB Fisk Opus 147 at Holy Name of Jesus Cathedral, Raleigh. It's the most thrilling organ sound I think I've ever heard.

**Most unusual organ ever played?** Fabulous Meantone organ by John Brombaugh, Opus 25 (1981) at Fairchild Chapel, Oberlin College

**Funniest thing that ever happened during a service/performance?** White Memorial Presbyterian Church, Raleigh NC, 2001 after organ renovation: I was organist at our organ & buildings renovations dedication services that day. Every single pipe in the antiphonal organ (about 6 ranks of full plenum) screamed at once, and did not stop, during the middle of the 8:15 service Offertory Prayer. Everyone jumped out of their seat! (Ask Brock Downward... I'm SURE he remembers). Brock and I trucked the piano out from the closet for the remaining services.

**Nicest comment you've received about your playing?** From my teacher, Roberta Gary: "Well Eddie!... at least you didn't fall off the bench!"

**Fantasy travel destination?** one of those thatch huts in the ocean of Bahli

**Menu for your last meal?** (Most recent meal?...) slow roasted pork shoulder in BBQ sauce, roasted sweet potatoes, braised collards, Weaver Street Market pimento cheese, and avocado slices

**Pet peeve?** the mispronunciation of "comfortable," because most people invert the "t" and the "or;" but it is not spelled that way!

**Talent you wish you had (musical or otherwise)?** public speaking

**Best stress reliever?** having drinks with friends

**Word or phrase you overuse?** "absolutely"

**Super hero ability you wish you had?** to fly

**Something not many people know you collect is?** cologne

**The one material possession you can't live without?** a roof over my head

**Favorite way to spend an unexpected free hour or a snow day?** relaxing with zero expectations

**Life philosophy in a nutshell?** Do the best you can do to be open and welcoming to others without judgement.



# ***Incomparable Sound*** *and* ***Superior Technology***



## **Seaside United Methodist Church** **Sunset Beach, North Carolina**

A beautiful beach and retirement area is the home of Seaside United Methodist Church. Replacing an Allen Organ from 1994, the new Rodgers 599 was installed in the fall of 2019. The organ search committee, headed by Kathy Parker, Director of Music and Organist, began their search for a new organ by visiting some Rodgers and Allen installations. The incomparable Rodgers Sound, features, and advanced technology won out over the competition. The decision was to purchase a new Rodgers Artist 599, with 16 channels of audio. The organ's diverse specification thrilled the committee and is serving all of the worship needs of the congregation.



### **R.A. Daffer Church Organs, INC.**

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## WORSHIP IDEAS FOR “CHURCH DURING CHANGING TIMES”

It will be interesting to see what we (and our congregations and our clergy) cherish most when we get back together for “normal worship”. All of us are trying out new forms of “doing church”. In addition to the wonderful, creative ideas presented here, I submit a comment I heard from a friend (who does not presently attend a church) that she took comfort in the fact that we don’t need to be too uptight about our services because when we are reaching out to others and doing a “service” we are “doing church”. Here are ideas from across the chapter:

**Bill Shelton:** Here is what my church, Hillyer, has been doing in the way of remote worship. Our minister is continuing livestreams on Sunday morning from his home as he began doing March 15. He is an excellent guitarist and pretty much does a one-man show, although he has brought in our early-service music director (contemporary music) to sing along the past two Sundays. They’ve also gotten more sophisticated, yesterday, in superimposing words on the video and switching back and forth with our youth minister who does children’s sermons and has been doing daily prayer livestreams. We also stream a Bible study once a week. My part has been to livestream myself, using the church’s Facebook page, on the organ doing pieces many of which I can’t usually do on a Sunday morning (length mainly) and some hymns for people to sing along with at home, on Tuesday evenings. I’ve been watching some other churches’ broadcasts of worship services including a handful of staff and singers and have been impressed at their multi-camera, video-editing techniques I wish we could do more of. I am told we don’t have an adequate camera and sound system in our sanctuary to broadcast a service there. Our minister has said he likes doing something different from what all the others are doing, and I believe he leans toward the contemporary music he does on his guitar.

**David Eaton:** All well here, video conferencing with staff and choirs, practice at the desolate cathedral, essential errands, then repeat.

**Patti Lingafelt:** My church, Trinity United Methodist in Durham, is preparing a weekly on-line worship service with maybe one hymn or

song and the pastor’s call to worship and meditation, maybe lasting 20 minutes or so total. The first two weeks, the pastor and I, along with our sound person and communications person, all maintaining social distancing, recorded the service in our small chapel, with microphones, lighting, etc. Now, however, we are putting our pieces together from our homes using the tools we have available (like GarageBand on my end). We have a communications person who is being a genius at piecing it together into a whole. We are working to include folks from the congregation reading scripture and singing remotely (readings are sent as mp4, i.e. recorded on phone.). Haven’t figured out Holy Week and Easter yet. I will look forward to the ideas shared here!

**Tamara Lewis:** That is point for point (except we use Kdenlive to do the video editing) what we are doing here! We have been in touch with a couple other churches about Holy Week and Easter. The thought was that each church would “sponsor” one of the services and we’d share it among the congregations. I’m hoping we get Good Friday, but we don’t have our assignments yet.

We are gearing up to do the folks from the congregation doing readings.

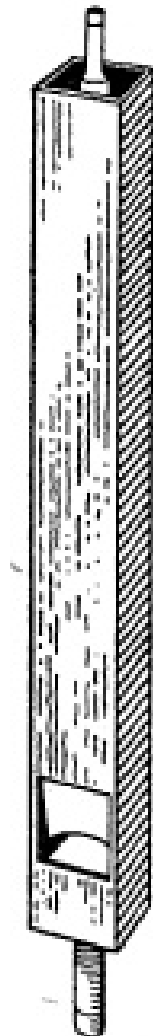
On our second video, Todd (my husband--aka the video editor) figured out how to lay the words of the hymn onto the video, which folks have appreciated. We’ve been working hard on “doing it right” with video copyright permissions. But Youtube “dinged” us the other day saying that our soprano’s live recording of “Amazing Grace” was lifted from a Maori woman’s recording from the 90’s. Hoping they will uphold our dispute to the claim! Never a dull moment, is there????

*(Continued on page 7)*

**Daniel Hester** (Sanford organist): "If you are out and about this morning between 9:45 and 10:45....please feel free to stop at Jonesboro United Methodist Church....just in the parking lot beside the Sanctuary. Don't get out of your car....but crack your windows...I will have the Sanctuary Windows open and will be playing some of the beloved hymns of our faith on our beautiful Holtkamp Pipe Organ! You can hear the organ in the parking lot just fine and enjoy some Worship and Prayer time! Blessings to all!"

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**Brian Miller:** We have hosted "Facebook" streaming of the pastor giving a devotional and me playing the organ. Just last night, we had a "Zoom" Wednesday night prayer meeting and Bible study. We tried to do an online hymn; I was playing a 1909 Estey reed organ. It ended up in a laughing session; we still have to work out some "kinks"!





## AVAILABLE POSITIONS

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) provides a professional opportunities service to its members by sharing information about Positions Available. This includes both permanent “open benches” and also one-time “substitute dates.” The Guild cannot endorse or recommend any person for a job or substitute date. Membership in the AGO is open to all who pay dues, regardless of education, experience, ability and/or skills. The AGO Professional Relations Director passes along information, which may include salaries offered by institutions and specifics about jobs/dates, as information is received from an institution. AGO members are encouraged to negotiate salaries and explore options with each offered position. The Central North Carolina Chapter, AGO does not accept responsibility for the accuracy of material provided for these listings, nor does inclusion of information in the listings imply endorsement by the chapter.

It has come to the attention of the Professional Relations Director that we have churches that do not understand that resumes are for the purview of the appropriate search committee. If confidentiality is critical to you, please make it clear in your cover letter that this is a requirement for you, at least in the initial stages of inquiry and dialogue.

If you are seeking a supply organist, the fastest method is to contact the Professional Relations Director with all the pertinent information. When sent to all members by email, many requests are filled within one hour. This method has saved a lot of time otherwise spent in calling an ever-changing list of names. Contact information is listed below.

If you are aware that a church/synagogue position is becoming available, (i.e., you are making a change), please advise the Professional Relations Director as soon as possible for listing and distribution. Contact:

Elizabeth Goldstein-Epstein  
3710 Exchange Glenwood Pl, Apt 401  
Raleigh, NC 27612  
(C) 941-928-0176  
elizabethgoldstein@yahoo.com

The Professional Relations Director will neither recommend anyone for a position nor serve as an agent for any member. The Professional Relations Director is always available to members and to hiring institutions for the purpose of answering questions.