

April, 2017

Dear AGO Friends:

Easter has now come and gone! I hope that, among all the busy-ness of the season, you were able to find renewed meaning and inspiration in the events of Holy Week and Easter. I think it's important that we, as church musicians who are heavily involved at this season, try to take time to get beyond the busy-ness and reflect on its meaning in our lives and the new birth that it can bring.

Our next meeting will be on Saturday, May 6, 9:00 a.m., St. John's Cathedral. This will be a "practice performance" for those organists who are participating in MusicFest later in the month, an opportunity both for allowing them to practice their pieces before an audience and to allow us to hear them. We're also opening it up to anyone who would like a chance to play for us, to bring something to play. Maybe you had a spectacular Easter piece that you just played and would like to share with us. We have three entrants in the Church Organist division; so there's plenty of time for any others who would like to play. You would be most welcome. After we're done with the music making, we'll adjourn to the Mexican restaurant next door to the Cathedral to have lunch and more fellowship.

June is the month for our annual AGO picnic, and this year it will be Sunday afternoon, June 11, at the home of Jim Holmes, Sub Dean.

There will be more information about this to come later. Among other things, the nominating committee will make their report, and we'll be voting on a slate of officers for next year.

In the last several months, we have gained three new members: Karen Hawkins, David Matney, and Ashley Taylor. Welcome! And hope you can join us on May 6 and for the June picnic.

On March 11 the Board voted to make a change in the way some of our funds are invested. The result is that \$14,000 has been invested in a medium-risk portfolio with Edward Jones Investments. We still have operating money in our checking account, and we can withdraw from the large investment as needed. But meanwhile we should be making a better return on our funds than we have in the past, remembering that our purpose is not to make money but "to foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ." Being better stewards of our monies will in the long run allow us to do more of that.

See you on May 6.

Byrl Cinnamon, Dean