

AGO News, March 20, 2020

It is with a heavy heart that we let you know of the death of Ron Pearson's dear wife Debbie, of a massive stroke, this week. Debbie was always a happy, cheerful presence at our meetings and gatherings, and a wonderful partner to Ron in his work. No funeral services can be held because of the coronavirus, but there may be a memorial service at a later time. Please keep Ron and his sons and families in your prayers.

Musicfest has been canceled. We are hoping to have an organ event later, perhaps in the summer, with everyone who was entered in the Organ Division. The adjudicator was to be Dr. Jill Schneider from Washington State University, so it is possible that she could drive to Spokane, and conduct a sort of master class for our students. We will keep you informed.

At this time we are endeavoring to continue our Organ Academy lessons, perhaps by teaching online, although, certainly churches are big enough that we can practice the required “social distancing,” if we're mindful and careful, and if the churches will allow this; many are officially closed and are not allowing any outside (or inside) activities, I am finding. Nothing has been decided at this point; we've asked the Organ Academy instructors to give us their thoughts on the situation. We want these young people to keep playing the organ! I have given two lessons this week via Facebook Messenger, and will do a third one this afternoon. I was surprised how well it worked – and it was fun. We have to be creative in our problem-solving, and we need to talk to each other about ways to make good things happen.

As you know, Chris Nelson's recital on Sunday afternoon, March 29, at Messiah Lutheran Church has been canceled – we hope it is just a postponement.

And Germaine Morgan's memorial service on Saturday, April 4, at All Saints' Lutheran Church has been postponed to a later date.

We will need to reschedule our Organ Academy Student Recital that was planned for May 8 at St. John's Cathedral – some of these things will become clearer when we see the course of the coronavirus, and we will let you know.

Congratulations to so many who worked so hard to present the very successful Spring Concert on March 8; it appears that we held it just in time! We took in about \$800 in offerings, and after expenses netted around \$100.

It is so sad for our churches to be closed, and all of our beautiful music to be “on hold.” And it is hard to have our lives so thoroughly interrupted – I think we're all finding just how much of a virtue patience really is! But staying healthy is more crucial than anything else. So please be careful – stay away from other people, and remember what a wonderful thing the telephone is!

And we hadn't planned on giving up Church for Lent!!! But we can still worship – for instance, St. Mark's Lutheran live-streams their Sunday morning and Wednesday evening services, including music. Check it out, or see what other churches are offering – we need to stay close to God at this time.

Please take care. With love, Carolyn and Janet