

Spokane Chapter, AGO Newsletter

April 2020

Dear Chapter,

It is with sadness that we report the passing of Blanche Kangas, the purveyor of “All Things Handbells” for such a long time here in Spokane. She was a mentor to many, including me, as I learned new handbell “tricks” and searched for good and appropriate music for St. John's Handbell Choir. Blanche had retired some years back, and had not been in good health. There is no service information at this time. May she rest in peace.

It is now Thursday evening, Maundy Thursday. We are in the final part of Holy Week, without our congregations, choirs, our services as we know them. Many of us are creating online services; some of us don't quite have the resources to do that, but are keeping in touch with our congregations by way of emails, Facebook, and the good old-fashioned method: the phone call. Maybe this is a chance to pray more, read the Bible more, meditate more in these very different, and scary, times. Certainly we pray every day that this disease will be conquered, and we grieve for those who have lost their lives to it.

But Easter is coming! It is a very different Easter, but I read more than once this past week that there weren't very many people at the first Easter either. We can still celebrate; many of us will watch an online church service – or will have created one. It is still Easter! I heard someone say that we should go ahead and dress up, fix a special meal, celebrate – even if we are alone – because we know that we are never truly alone. And no one, nothing, can take away Christ's Resurrection!

We have no Chapter events scheduled at this time; dear Germaine's Memorial Service has been postponed till we can gather together again. Our Organ Academy recital, scheduled for May 8, will not be happening, of course. We are hoping that midsummer, when things are safer, we may be able to hear our students play.

In the meantime, please stay safe and well.

We wish you a most Blessed Holy Week and Easter.

With love,  
Carolyn and Janet, Co-Deans