



Lorain County Chapter American Guild of Organists

www.lcago.org

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Organ Crawl at First Congregational, Wellington September 28, 3:00 p.m.

In April 2013 LCAGO members visited the Leek organ shop in Oberlin, where they were working on the 1896 JW Steere & Son organ from First Congregational Church in Wellington. This historic instrument has now been fully restored, and our chapter now has the chance to hear it in its original location. The church is located at 140 S. Main Street in Wellington.

James Leek and the Leek Pipe Staff will do a brief informal presentation on the recent restoration of the instrument. Organist John Kearin, a recent graduate of Oberlin Conservatory, will play a short recital to demonstrate the instrument. There will also be a chance for all present to try out the organ, so bring some music and your organ shoes! Light refreshments will be served as well, and the program should end around 5:00.

JW Steere Opus 417 is a two-manual organ with mechanical manual key-action and tubular-pneumatic pedal. It was built as an early vintage combination tubular pneumatic (Pedal division) and tracker action (Great and Swell divisions) instrument. Enhancements over the years included installation of a 30-note pedalboard and slide tuners on metal treble pipes. Currently the pipe organ has three divisions, 13 stops. Its manual compass is 58 notes and its pedal compass is 27 notes. It has slider chests and a freestanding oak case. You can learn more about the instrument and the work that Leek performed on their [website](#).

We are grateful to Reverend Brian Burke and Organist Gordon Black who generously opened up their church to host this event.



From the Dean

Dear Colleagues,

Most of you have probably heard about the tragic fire at my church, First Lutheran in Lorain. The sanctuary was destroyed, including the Brombaugh pipe organ. I was able to salvage a few pipes but not much else. On the bright side, all of my music and the church's choral library are smoky but intact. I apologize for the lateness and shortness of this newsletter, but it's been a very busy month! My sincere thanks go to James Leek and Marty Bruner, who have worked hard to ensure that our September event will be a successful one.

Best wishes,

Brian

Chapter News

Membership Renewals

Thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership or have newly joined our chapter. The new Online National Collection and Remittal of Dues (ONCARD) system seems to be working quite well so far.

If you haven't renewed yet, you can do so online at www.agohq.org/oncard-login. If you are not comfortable renewing online, contact our chapter's ONCARD liaison, Brian Wentzel (contact information on next page).

Chapter Programs

Here are our chapter programs for 2014-2015:

- September 28, 3:00: organ crawl at First Congregational in Wellington (see [page 1](#) for details).
- November 16: 3:00: visit to Washington Avenue Christian Church in Elyria to see and hear the 2006 [organ](#) by Kegg Organs. Charles Kegg, the owner of the company, will be present at the meeting.
- April 19, 3:00: James Kibbie in recital. LCAGO is co-sponsoring this recital by the University of Michigan organ professor. It was originally scheduled to take place at First Lutheran, Lorain; new location TBA.
- May: social event and annual meeting of the Chapter, possibly at Community UMC in Elyria.

AGO Mission Statement

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music.

To achieve this, we:

- Encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music;
- Inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors;
- Provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support;
- Nurture future generations of organists;
- Promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and
- Engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

Substitute Organists

Robert R. Ebert, PhD

rebert@bw.edu

(440) 353-3362

Harold E. Slocum, MD

heslocum@gmail.com

(440) 775-2482

Contact Us

Lorain County Chapter, American Guild of Organists

www.lcago.org

info@lcago.org

Brian Wentzel, FAGO, Dean • brian@firstlutheranlorain.org • (440) 244-6286

Marty Bruner, SPC, Sub-Dean • billandmartybruner@gmail.com • (440) 322-9749

Ira Cooper, Treasurer • ira@rumc-parma.com • (440) 365-7691

Robert Ebert, Secretary • rebert@bw.edu • (440) 353-3362

Please email any newsletter information to the Dean.