



March 2022 “Pipings”

An Email Newsletter for members of the Low Country Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

From our Dean, Jeff Harbin:

Please join us this Saturday, March 12, at 10 am for a wonderful tour of four of Beaufort’s pipe organs. Meet at Parish Church of St. Helena at 10 am. After the tour we will enjoy lunch together and then have a chance to see and play the two wonderful organs at my home (details below)

Dear Friends,

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Debby Graves, our board, and all who made Carol Williams' recital in February at St. Andrew By-The-Sea UMC a huge success! We were treated to a very entertaining program highlighted by Dr. Williams' virtuosity at both the organ and piano. We had a fantastic crowd and received a bountiful offering to help defray expenses. One chapter member in particular was especially generous in making it possible for us to bring Dr. Williams to the Lowcountry. For this we are most grateful!

I look forward to seeing you at our March 12 program this Saturday morning as we have a walking tour of several pipe organs in downtown Beaufort. (Beaufort was once again named *Southern Living's* Best Small Town in the South for 2022!) We will visit several historic churches beginning at the Parish Church of St. Helena at 10 AM. St. Helena's actually houses two pipe organs. The 1985 Taylor and Boody was built in the Dutch/North German style so well known to Bach and his contemporaries in the early 18th century. There is also a small four-stop continuo organ by Jaeckel. We will then walk over to the Baptist Church of Beaufort which houses a pipe organ controlled by an impressive five manual console that should be familiar to most organists. It was the original Ruffatti console at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Fort Lauderdale, played by Diane Bish and regularly featured on her television program *The Joy of Music*. Gary Rakestraw, who designed the organ at the Baptist Church and was the church's organist at the time of its installation will demonstrate, along with chapter member Glenn Ragsdale. We will finish up at Carteret Street United

Methodist Church where our own Michael Cole serves as organist. They have a lovely M. P. Moller pipe organ that has been featured in our chapter's programs in the past.

We will eat lunch at a nearby restaurant TBA downtown then retire to my house on Lady's Island (4230 Sage Drive) for dessert and fun on the Hammond concert model and the Rodgers 340/Hauptwerk "virtual pipe organ." If you have never sat at a true horseshow style theatre console, or played an organ with second touch, this is your chance! In addition to the theatre stoplist, there are 11 classical organ specifications playable from the recently modernized console. Come and see how Hauptwerk has revitalized the concept of the "practice organ."

I would like to thank Allison Sherwood, Minister of Music at the Baptist Church of Beaufort, and my wife Nicole Harbin for their graciousness in planning and hosting our visits. I hope to see many of you on Saturday for what promises to be an enjoyable event for our chapter!

Warmest regards,
Jeff

P. S. Have you visited our chapter website lately? There is a fantastic section called "Organs of the Lowcountry." www.lcagochapter.org

The password to the members only area, which includes our annual directory and substitute list, is 20AGO20.