

## **LOOKING TO THE FUTURE: Dean's Message for June, 2016**

As the 2015-2016 chapter year draws to a close, I complete my last month as your dean. Our new chapter year and new officers take effect on July 1. I am elated by your choice of leadership. Our new Dean Dwane Grace has already proven himself as a very effective sub-dean, in his role as program chair and keeping our chapter in full conformance with our recently adopted Chapter Operating Guidelines under the umbrella of national's bylaws. Our new Sub-Dean Nancy Siebecker has been a driving force in breathing new life into our chapter, and she is again proving her prowess in working with our Program and Events Committee in mapping out another successful season. Our Treasurer-Registrar Susan Crumpler has very ably managed our membership and monetary resources to ensure continued success and longevity.

On behalf of our chapter, I extend many thanks to Ann Stephenson-Moe, Dan Carlidge, and the volunteers of The Church of the Redeemer for making our Annual banquet and membership meeting such a rich experience. We also extend our gratitude to Father Fred Robinson for his perfect chanting of presidential prayers at Evensong and remarks that he gave as our keynote speaker.

I feel a particular kinship with Father Fred since he, like I, were originally reared as "High Methodist," when there actually still was such a thing. In fact, John Wesley himself wrote: "I believe there is no Liturgy in the World, either in ancient or modern language, which breathes more of a solid, spiritual rational piety than the Common Prayer of the Church of England." My own background was as a protégé of an Englishman who established a program of five choirs utilizing over 200 people in a big church on the lawn of Michigan's State Capitol.

Looking back on this last year, I am very proud of our united efforts in moving our chapter forward. There is an old adage that "many hands make light work," and that is especially true for our Sarasota-Manatee Chapter. We had excellent programs nearly every month. For financial reasons, attendance left much to be desired, but the programs were rewarding and fulfilling.

It is with deep regret that we mourn the demise of Congregational United Church in Bradenton. The spacious buildings and vast acreage are being sold quite cheaply to a non-traditional church that formerly met in a storefront east of McKechnie Field. Since the new owners have no use for organs, the future of the wonderful Reuter pipe organ was somewhat unclear. Fortunately, it is rumored that this fine pipe organ has found a new home somewhere up in the Tampa area.

Looking forward to the new chapter year, beginning July 1, I have been quite outside the loop when it comes to the proceedings of our Program and Events Committee. However, at our annual meeting, our incoming Sub-Dean/Program Chair did sketch out a very solid itinerary of chapter events. Principally among them, Jeremy Filsell will perform at St. Boniface, where he recorded the complete organ works of Marcel Dupré. Also, after considerable maneuvering and internal diplomacy, Siesta Key Chapel is replacing its electronic instrument with a new Schantz pipe organ. Our colleague Cynthia Roberts Greene will finally get the first-class instrument she so richly deserves, and our chapter will regain a recital venue to replace those that were lost during the past 15 years since I previously served as Dean.

Soli Deo gloria,

Carl Parks Dean, 2015-2016 (and 1999 through 2001)