Summer of Historical Research to Yield Unique Organ Recital

Couperin’s Messe des Paroisses: Organ and Chamber Choir “Brown Bag” Concert

Sunday, November 16, 12:00 noon in the Sanctuary | Free Concert

Since 2008, AHCC organist Dan Campolieta has led an annual lunch-time organ and chamber music recital combining an intimate atmosphere with sublime music and a lecture component. This year’s presentation of the “Brown Bag-It” series will take on a different character from previous years’. Featuring the music of Francois Couperin and other liturgical music, this concert will be reconstructing all the music of a Catholic Mass, in the same manner it might have been performed in the late 1600s in Paris.

“I have always been fascinated with the music of French Baroque organ composers, including Couperin,” says Dan Campolieta. “The music is beautiful, but often misunderstood. The notes on the page are simple, but there was a great tradition of improvisation, ornamentation, rhythmic variation, and phrasing that leaves much of the interpretation to the player. Combine this with an understanding of how the music was used in a Christian worship context, and you have some serious art and spirituality happening at the same time.”

According to Dan, the role of the organist in France differed from that of other European countries during this period. Characteristic to France was the practice of alternatim, where the organist was required to play short pieces of music alternating with the Gregorian chants sung by the choir. Organists played Mass daily and would have to come up with thousands of short pieces per year, making it impossible to compose and locate all these pieces on demand. This required the organist to improvise a great deal. Some of the prominent organists of the period published written-out editions of responses to serve as models for improvisation, including the source of music known as the Messe des Paroisses (Mass for the Parishes) by Couperin.

“I’ll be using Couperin’s organ Mass as the main source of music for this reconstruction,” said Dan. “The challenging part of this concert was to research and locate all the corresponding chants and responses that the choir would typically sing. Fortunately, a couple of libraries in France were able to send me copies of first-hand sources from the liturgical books of the period and I used these to make my own editions of the chants in modern notation.”

In addition to transcribing scores from primary sources, Dan spent the summer reading books and scholarly articles about the music, and took organ lessons with early keyboard music expert James David Christie of Boston. A small group of singers from the church choir will join Dan for this concert. It will be an opportunity to experience a rarely heard piece of organ music in its true liturgical context.

“I personally enjoy digging deep and researching the music I play,” continued Dan. “My hope with this concert is that by performing the music in a historically accurate manner, it will transport the congregation to a place closer to God, as the music was intended to do centuries ago.”

Snack bags ($3) will be available in Drew Hall before the concert. The concert will start at 12:00 noon with a brief lecture, and will last a little over an hour.

Cause for Applause?

By Matt Laney

“Clap your hands, all you peoples! Shout to God with cries of joy!” - Psalm 47:1

So, how do you feel about applause in worship?

For some people, misgivings about applause are silenced when this verse from Psalm 47 is quoted. But for most people, the issue just isn’t that simple. In this article I’d like to explore the thorny topic of applause in worship.

For starters, let’s consider the difference between clapping and applause. Rhythmic clapping is an essential element of many non-European music traditions. We are fortunate to have a music ministry which regularly offers music from a variety of cultures which might employ or encourage clapping from singers and the congregation. Applause is different. Applause is a response to something offered in worship, typically a gift of music, rather than participation in it.

So what about applause? Is that ever an appropriate thing to do in worship?

Let’s begin by considering some reasons in favor of applause in church. One could rightly argue that applause is an indicator of life and vitality in worship, which is certainly preferable to boredom. Furthermore, applause provides the congregation with another means of participating in worship as an expression of praise and gratitude to God.

Liturgically, there are moments when applause is a very appropriate response to the action just completed. Applause might be used to welcome a guest speaker, new members or the newly baptized, to acknowledge the newly ordained, to express appreciation for the children’s choir or recognizing and installing volunteers. In each of those in-

See “Applause” pg 3
**Share a Meal and Fellowship with AHCC’s Dine Around Group**

Next event: Monday, November 3, 6:15pm

*Beachland Tavern | 1128B New Britain Ave.*

These dinners are a great way to get to know one another on a more intimate level as well having a terrific meal at a good price. The food and service at Beachland Tavern are both excellent.

Come share a family style meal of salad, steak tips, marinated chicken breasts, salmon, creamed spinach, mixed vegetables, garlic mashed potatoes and assorted desserts. All for $28.00 per person including gratuity.

Please make checks out to AHCC – Dine Around and send them to June Day at the church OR put them in the box on the Member Engagement table and sign up on the list. Your check is your reservation.

Deadline to sign up: Friday, October 31. Newcomers ALWAYS welcome!

**On Twichell’s Trail**

*Bus Tour, May 4 – 9, 2015*

Before becoming AHCC’s first pastor, Joseph Twichell served as a chaplain during the Civil War. His letters home have been called “one of the most vivid of all Civil War eyewitness accounts.” Next year, May 4 – 9, as part of the church’s 150th anniversary celebration, we will offer a trip following a part of Rev. Twichell’s Civil War travels, from Virginia up through Pennsylvania. In many instances, we will stand close to where Twichell stood, and through his letters, hear about what he saw and experienced. Brochures and registrations forms are available on the Opportunity Table in Drew Hall. If you have any questions, feel free to call Peter Grandy at (860) 233-0255.

**Not having enough fun in your life?**

*Join the Play Reading Group!*

Thursday, November 6, 7:00pm

No experience necessary, no performance required and newcomers always welcome! Simply enjoy reading short plays or parts of well-known plays for the fun of it!

Contact Sherri Bedingfield at 860.655.1467 or sb46@comcast.net for more information.

**Church in Motion goes to St. John the Divine in NYC**

*“Amen: A Prayer for the World” Interfaith Arts Exhibition*

Saturday, November 8

The exhibit consists of 48 glass sculptures, painted by Muslim, Christian, and Jewish artists from Egypt and the West, is designed to build bridges of respect and understanding and caring between the creeds and cultures of the East and West. Depending on the number of people who sign up to go, we will determine transportation options and departure times. Please contact Donna K. Manocchio (dmanocchio@ahcc.org) or Joanna Aversa (javersa@snet.net) if you are interested in attending or would like more information.

**Save the Date**

*Short(er) Films Retreat*

Saturday, November 15,
9:30am – noon

The Academy Awards recognize the Short Films category, but how many of us are familiar with this often overlooked and undervalued corner of the cinematic world? Short films offer young and more experienced filmmakers alike the freedom and challenge of working in a compact and less expensive, but no less demanding, format. They grapple with themes and present the kind of memorable characters you hope to find in bigger-budget, studio-produced films – bigger perhaps, but not necessarily better.

For November’s retreat we’ve chosen a group of short films we think you will find both thought-provoking and visually engaging. The best art is that which inspires you to reconsider the way you look at the world, and your place in it. As one filmmaker says, “Life is simple. Everything happens for you, not to you.”

All are welcome to watch and discuss these films. We’ll gather in the Reel to Real Room, with donuts and beverages to brighten and warm the morning, and allow time after each film to share reflections. This retreat is sponsored by the Adult Christian Education (ACE) committee and is limited to 30 people, so sign up soon at the ACE bulletin board in the hallway outside Drew Hall.

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Ted Carroll, Moderator Holly DeYoung, Vice Moderator
On Sunday, September 21, members of AHCC’s Step Up Step Out group walked to Bushnell Park following worship to see “Raise the Caliber,” an art piece by internationally renowned artist Michael Kalish, made out of gun parts obtained from gun buy-back programs. The sculpture depicts a handshake of peace.

The City of Hartford was selected as the kick off site for “Raise the Caliber,” a national advocacy campaign to end illegal gun violence. The work, a 60-foot high sculpture created from 2,000 lbs of shredded illegal guns will be in Hartford’s Bushnell Park through April 2015.

SUSO Members and Friends Visit “Raise the Caliber” Sculpture in Bushnell Park

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Worship at AHCC

October 19
David and Bathsheba
2 Samuel 12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9

October 26
Solomon’s Wisdom
1 Kings 3:4-9, 16-28

Close up of sculpture showing detail
ADULT EDUCATION

Step Up, Step Out (SUSO)

SUSO has hosted two guest speakers this fall – Heather Vega, school counselor at Burns Latino Studies Academy and Iran Nazario of COMPASS Peacebuilders – who do violence prevention work with young people in Hartford. SUSO is exploring ways to collaborate with them to support their work. If this interests you, please contact Julie Fewster at jfewster55@aol.com.

All are invited to these monthly events this fall which include inspiring guest speakers. Learn more about and get involved in our efforts to reduce violence in our city.

- **Thursday, November 13, 6:00 – 7:30pm**: First in a series of Kingian Nonviolence Refresher Classes, conducted by the CT Center for Nonviolence and co-sponsored by SUSO. Those who attended the Nonviolence training last fall will have a chance to refresh their knowledge and find ways to apply Dr. Martin Luther King’s philosophy and methods to our lives and communities today. Those who didn’t attend last fall’s training, as well as others from the Hartford community, are also welcome to attend to learn more about Kingian Nonviolence. Series continues 2nd Thursdays: December 11, February 12, March 12, April 9 and May 14 (no class in January).

- **Sunday, November 16, following worship**: We will host speakers from the Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence who will describe the RULER program for schools that helps school leaders, teachers, staff, students and their families to develop their emotional intelligence skills.

Wine, Cheese and Fellowship

All are welcome to hear Pulitzer Prize Winning Author Susan Campbell

Tuesday, October 28, 6:30 – 8:00pm

*Tempest-Tossed* is the first full biography of Isabella Beecher, the passionate and fascinating youngest daughter of the famous Beecher family, whose father Rev. Lyman Beecher, and sister Harriet Beecher Stowe were among the most famous and influential persons in the nineteenth century in Asylum Hill and the country. Isabella called herself a “tempest tossed spirit” and an ardent spiritualist.

Author and engaging speaker Susan Campbell has captured Isabella’s quirky temperament and passion for women’s rights with both historical accuracy and humor. Susan will share the story of Isabella’s life and invite us into a conversation about how faith intersects our daily living and hope for change in the world.

Co-sponsored by Women’s Spirituality and Fellowship and Adult Education, all members and friends are invited to attend. The evening will include food and drink, followed by questions, discussion and an opportunity to purchase an autographed copy of the book.

Please sign up in Drew Hall or at ahcc.org.

Grandtimers: “Mysteries of Myanmar”

Thursday, October 16, 10:00am

Perhaps more familiarly known to many as Burma, this land feels like a huge step back in time to a very primitive lifestyle where a large percentage of the population live in rudimentary huts surrounded by thousands of pagodas, many gilded in pure gold leaf. Joan Hopper, who visited this land in February with her husband Denny, will give an inside look at daily life where Buddhism abounds under strict militaristic rule.

All Hallows Eve Service

Thursday, October 30, 7:00pm

All are welcome to the All-Hallows Eve service, as we recall the faith and witness of the men and women who have carried and cherished the Christian faith throughout history. Rev. Erica Thompson leads the service.


Wednesdays, November 5, 12, 19, 10:30am OR 7:00pm

Christians understand Jesus in a variety of ways, and the sources of those understandings are from a variety of places: the Bible, the Christian tradition, and our own experience. This three-part course taught by AHCC clergy, explores some essential elements of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection as well as some essential questions about the One we claim to follow: Who is Jesus? Who do people say that he is? Who does Jesus say that he is? Each session is offered twice – once in the morning and once in the evening. You are encouraged to attend all three sessions, but the material covered in each session stands alone.

Sign up at the Member Engagement table in Drew Hall or online at ahcc.org.

AHCC Joins with Charter Oak Cultural Center for Kristallnacht Remembrance

Sunday, November 9, 5:30pm

Charter Oak Cultural Center, 21 Charter Oak Ave., Hartford, CT

Each year, an interfaith gathering is held in remembrance of Kristallnacht – translated as “Night of Broken Glass” – the two nights in 1938 that began the Holocaust, when the windows of Jewish-owned businesses and synagogues were smashed. This is an evening of remembrance and recommitment to peace.

All are invited for a night of prayer, music and dance, followed by a community meal. Sign up through the Charter Oak Cultural Center at 860.310.2580 or contact Donna Manocchio for further information.

Sign up for events at the Member Engagement Table unless otherwise specified.
MUSIC AND ARTS

Hymn Sing & Play - Make A Joyful Noise

Wednesday, October 22, 7:00pm | Drew Hall

Steve Mitchell and Dan Campolieta have collected some great hymns (old and new) and will have music and parts available for all singers and instrumentalists who wish to join together in music and song. We will gather in Drew Hall for a time of fellowship as we find our music, set our instruments, warm up our voices and then bust out in praise!

We provide the music, you bring snacks to share. The evening will include songs sung, songs played, music made together, and a good old “call out your favorite hymn” time. At least one of the hymns we sing and play together will be used on the following Sunday morning in worship – a great and joyful way to share our gifts! Bring your friends who love to make music and join us for this special time.

Musical Member November – are you in?

Sign up in Drew Hall after worship or contact Steve Mitchell at smitchell@ahcc.org

This fall, the Music Ministry of AHCC is looking to feature as many church member musicians as possible in weekly worship services. There will be instrumental ensembles, duos and trios; singers and an All-Church Choir; handbells and a Garage Band. On November 23, “Thanksgiving Sunday,” ALL of our musicians will participate in worship in some crazy, inspired and spirit-filled worship moment. Let’s have guitars, and drums, and clarinets and trumpets and saxophones and violins and cellos and flutes and … you name it!

Check out the details below and let us know if you will sing in the CHOIR or play an instrument in our ORCHESTRA! We need to know your instrument ASAP so we can complete the really big, really cool musical arrangement by Dan Campolieta and Steve Mitchell that will include everybody!

All-Church CHOIR:
THREE (3) Rehearsals – Must attend at least TWO (2)
- Sunday, October 26, 11:30am (after church)
- Sunday, November 9, 11:30am (after church)
- Tuesday, November 18, 7:00pm, required for all singers and instrumentalists.

SING in worship – Sunday, November 23, 9:00 & 10:15am

All-Church ORCHESTRA:
One REQUIRED Rehearsal: Tuesday, November 18, 6:30pm
Music will be distributed in November to allow for review and preparation.
PLAY in worship – Sunday, November 23, 9:00 & 10:15am
**YOUTH GROUP HAPPENINGS**

### Women’s Prayer Group

**Tuesdays, 10:00 a.m.**

This group gathers informally for a time of sharing, reflection, and prayer (sprinkled with lots of laughter, joy, and support). You may come as you are and as you are able, there is no sign up or registration required. We are centering ourselves around Barbara Brown Taylor’s book *Learning To Walk In the Dark*. Check your library or your favorite book seller for a copy. If you would like more information or would like prayers lifted, please contact Erica Thompson at ethompson@ahcc.org or 860.216.9823.

### Men’s Fellowship: Serving and Learning Together (S.A.L.T.) Retreat

**Friday, October 17 - Saturday, October 18**

Please plan on gathering on Friday evening at the home of Barnaby Horton for an evening of fellowship, food and music. This will be an opportunity for participants to get to know one another better before embarking upon a day of retreat. The retreat will be held at St. Thomas Seminary in Bloomfield. Breakfast will be served starting at 8:00am and the program will start at 9:00. Cost of $20 includes breakfast, lunch and all activities. Contact Scott Nierendorf for more information (ndorf151@cox.net) or sign up at the Member Engagement Table in Drew Hall or on ahcc.org.

### Middle School

The middle school youth group has been averaging 20 participants each Sunday morning. We have been “playfully discussing” the Bible stories of the Narrative Lectionary, connecting them to foosball, text messaging, and much more! When we join worship at 11:00am the 6-8 graders have an assignment to focus their attention on the sermon.

**Halloween Party at the Hartford City Ballet**

**224 Farmington Avenue**

**Friday, October 31, 5:00 - 7:00pm**

There will be plenty of candy and everyone in attendance will have the opportunity to learn the famous “Thriller Dance.” The cost is $3.00 per person. We will meet in Drew Hall at 4:45pm and walk over together, returning for pick-up by 7:15pm.

### High School

The high school youth group meetings have a healthy balance of serious discussions about how faith relates to experiences and issues in daily life, and energetic games that contribute to both team-building and plain old fun. We are still working through our surplus supply of ice cream and toppings, and thanks to the recent donation of a milk shake machine, high schoolers can expect frequent servings of milkshakes as well as ice cream sundaes “while supplies last!”

**Ropes Course**

**Riverside Park in East Hartford**

**Sunday, October 26 noon - 3:30pm**

We will begin with a picnic lunch followed by a ropes course challenge (including high elements). The cost is $5.00 and waivers are due Sunday, October 19. Email Kara at kprice@ahcc.org if you have not yet received a waiver. Space is limited to 20 participants.

### Safe Teen Driving Book

**at AHCC**

**Church member and author Tim Hollister selling books**

**Sunday, October 26 following worship**

“Not So Fast” has been hailed by Publisher’s Weekly as “a concise, practical and potentially life-saving book” that “should be required reading for every parent before their teen gets behind the wheel.”

In recognition of Teen Safe Driving Week (October 19 - 25), Tim Hollister will be available following worship with signed copies of his book.

Proceeds from the book support the Reid Hollister Fund, part of the endowment at AHCC, and support programs for young children.
Teachers and Shepherds - Thank you!

We usually thank someone after they have done something for us, but I would like to start this year off by thanking a large group of people who are about to do something – guide our youngest members on their faith formation journey. I would like to thank all those who have signed up to shepherd and teach our students in grades K-5 this coming school year.

Shepherds commit to being with the same group of students for a whole year, so that students can form a lasting bond with youth and adults who are committed to AHCC and God. Yes, you read that right, a whole school year. Many of our shepherds are so dedicated that they will come most Sundays September–June sacrificing their time in worship or other things in their lives. The friendships that students form with shepherds are long-lasting and very meaningful.

Our teachers usually commit to teaching several Sundays in a row throughout the school year. They too miss many things that occur in the congregation, but are moved to share the talents that God gave them to bring the Word of God to our Spirit Hill students.

With the potential to have over a 100 children from infants-grade 5 any given Sunday, it takes an amazing and talented team to teach and care for the children of our congregation and I am grateful for all them.

Thank you teachers and shepherds for all that you do!

Blessings,
Marcie Jackson
Director of Children & Family Ministries

Outreach & Volunteering

Construction Volunteers
54 Huntington Street | Hartford

Thursday, Friday or Saturday

All experience levels welcome to work on carpentry, hanging sheetrock, painting, and finish work under the supervision of crew leaders with years of experience. In addition, volunteers will be needed as hosts in the mornings and as cooks to prepare lunches for the construction volunteers.

No prior construction experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn and to have a heart for the city. If you would like to volunteer for construction, hosting, or meal preparation, please contact Rich Grobe at 860.306.5394 or rrgrobe@aol.com.

Job Opportunity
Director of Outreach

If you would like to go even deeper in your presence to the Asylum Hill Community and Hartford, consider joining the AHCC staff. Full position description and requirements are posted on the Connections Board in the hallway outside Drew Hall, “Employment Opportunities” on our website, or contact Jenn Geissler, AHCCStaffing@comcast.net for more information.

Ecuador Mission Project

Information Meeting, Sunday, November 9, 11:30am | Youth Lounge

We are looking for people who like to get their hands dirty and want to be part of a project that enhances the lives of people in the city of Guayaquil, Ecuador.

Adopta Una Familia (AUF) has partnered with AHCC for the past seven years to offer the opportunity for both youth and adults to participate in a global mission initiative. Participants live with a host family, work on a construction site that makes the dream of a home a reality, engage in work and play, change lives and are changed.

If you think this project might be for you, please join us in the youth lounge to hear from past participants and leaders. There will be registration packets available on November 2 in Drew Hall and November 9 at the meeting.

Contact Rev Erica Thompson at ethompson@ahcc.org to find out more.