

The Stopt Diapason

Autumn 2025

Whole Number 160

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ABOVE: First United Methodist Church, Oak Park, IL; photo by Stephen Schnurr
More information can be found on page 4-6 of this edition of *The Stopt Diapason*.

The Stopt Diapason, a journal devoted to the history of the organ in Chicago and the Midwest, is published quarterly by the Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Organ Historical Society, Inc. The Chicago-Midwest Chapter is a not-for-profit corporation incorporated in the State of Illinois.

From the President:

Dear Chicago-Midwest OHS Members:

I hope everyone will join us for the first event of our 2025-2026 program year on Sunday, November 23rd at 4:00 p.m. First United Methodist in Oak Park, 324 N. Oak Park Avenue will be celebrating the centennial of its venerable E. M. Skinner organ with a concert featuring the church's past and present organists, Michael Shawgo, Eun Joo Ju, and William Underwood performing works by Bach, Brahms, Buxtehude, Copland, Lemare, Sowerby, Sullivan, and Underwood.

Gratefully yours,
Derek E. Nickels
Chicago-Midwest Chapter OHS

CHICAGO-MIDWEST CHAPTER HONORARY MEMBERS

David McCain
Stephen J. Schnurr, Jr.
Julie Stephens*

**deceased*

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BoardMembers

President:

Derek E. Nickels

Secretary:

Joyce Johnson Robinson

Treasurer:

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Members at Large:

James Russell Brown

Bruce Carlson

Christine Kraemer

Eugene Mudra

For cyber security reasons, we do not list contact information for board members on the website version of our TSD issues.

Website visitors will find our chapter email address at the -Contact Us- link at the bottom of the Home Page of our website.

CALENDAR OF CHAPTER EVENTS FOR 2025-2026

Sunday, November 23, 4:00 p.m., First United Methodist presents 100th Anniversary Organ Recital, First United Methodist Church, 324 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, IL

May 2026, Member's Recital, TBD

More details about these events will be forthcoming in the next issue of The Stopt Diapason.

CALENDAR OF AREA EVENTS FOR 2025-2026

Please notify Derek Nickels of events to be listed at denickels@holycomforter.org.

Friday, November 21, 7:30 p.m., First Church's Festival Choir and Orchestra presents Mozart's *Requiem*, First United Methodist Church, 516 Church Street, Evanston, IL

Sunday, November 23, 4:00 p.m., First United Methodist Celebrates 100 years, First United Methodist Church, 324 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, IL

Wednesday, December 3, 12:00 p.m., Luther Memorial presents Andrew Schaeffer, Luther Memorial Church, 1021 University Avenue, Madison, WI

Wednesday, December 3, 12:10 p.m., Wednesdays at Noon presents Christopher Urban, organist and John Eckhardt, violin, First Presbyterian Church, 302 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL

Sunday, December 7, 5:00 p.m., Holy Comforter presents its Annual Service of Advent Lessons and Carols, Church of the Holy Comforter, 222 Kenilworth Avenue, Kenilworth, IL

Sunday, December 14, 4:00 p.m., Luther Memorial presents Lessons and Carols, Luther Memorial Church, 1021 University Avenue, Madison, WI

Wednesday, February 4, 12:10 p.m., Wednesdays at Noon presents Matt Haider, First Presbyterian Church, 302 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL

Sunday, February 15, 4:00 p.m., 41st Annual Organ Fest, First Presbyterian Church, 302 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL

Saturday, February 21, 10:30 a.m., Milwaukee AGO presents an Organ Master Class with Catherine Rodland, Chapel of Christ Triumphant, Concordia University Wisconsin, 12800 N. Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, WI

Sunday, February 22, 3:30 p.m., Milwaukee AGO presents Catherine Rodland, Chapel of Christ Triumphant, Concordia University Wisconsin, 12800 N. Lake Shore Drive, Mequon, WI

Sunday, March 1, 5:00 p.m., Holy Comforter presents its Annual Lenten Evensong, Church of the Holy Comforter, 222 Kenilworth Avenue, Kenilworth, IL

Sunday, March 15, 4:00 p.m., First Presbyterian presents Paul Fey, First Presbyterian Church, 302 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL

Wednesday, April 1, 12:10 p.m., Wednesdays at Noon presents Christopher Urban, First Presbyterian Church, 302 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL

Wednesday, May 6, 12:10 p.m., Wednesdays at Noon presents Christopher Urban, organist and Chuck Beech, piano, First Presbyterian Church, 302 N. Dunton Avenue, Arlington Heights, IL

Friday, May 8, 7:30 p.m., Milwaukee AGO presents Jerrick Cavagnaro, All Saints' Cathedral, 818 E. Juneau Avenue, Milwaukee, WI

CHICAGO-MIDWEST OHS DONORS LIST 2024-2025

(as of November 12, 2025)

Guarantors (\$100+): Clarie Gladbois, Rev. George Hull, Rev. Thomas Lijecoski, Derek Nickels and Joseph Poland, Dennis Northway, Joseph G. Roberts, Richard Siegel, Robert Vanderschaaf, David White, Robert Woodworth, Douglas Zimmer; **Sponsors (\$50-\$99):** Br. Benjamin Basile, C.P.P.S., Brian Berghaus, James Russell Brown, Rev. Daniel Buck, Buzard Pipe Organ Builders, LLC, Bruce Carlson, Charlie Carpenter, Elizabeth Naegele, Jay Peterson, Joyce Robinson, Michael Shawgo; **Patrons (\$25 - \$49):** Br. Christopher Buck, Claire Gadbois, Joseph Gonzales, John Gorton, Peter Knippel and Thomas Samolinski, Michael Knuth, Eugene Mudra, Naomi Rowley; **Friends (\$5-\$24):** Corrado Cavalli, David L. Hamblin, Jr., George Nelson, Kirstin Synnstedt; **Contributors to the Emergency Organ Rescue Fund:** Br. Christopher Buck, Rev. Daniel Buck, Charlie Carpenter, Claire Gadbois, Rev. Thomas Lijecoski, Jay Peterson, Joseph G. Roberts, Joyce Robinson, Kirstin Synnstedt, Robert Vanderschaaf; **Underwriters of The Stopt Diapason:** Rev. Thomas Lijecoski, David White

**CHICAGO-MIDWEST CHAPTER OF THE ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
PRESENTS A 100TH ANNIVERSARY RECITAL
FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
324 N. OAK PARK AVENUE
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2025, 4:00 P.M.**

A PREVIEW

The Chicago-Midwest Chapter of the Organ Historical Society is happy to be able to present its first event of the 2025-2026 program year with a 100th Anniversary Recital by chapter member Michael Shawgo, Eun Joo Ju, and William Underwood at First United Methodist Church, 324 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, IL. The Organ Historical Society honored this instrument with its Historic Organ Citation for its 75th birthday in 2000.

-PROGRAM-

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot		Edwin H. Lemare
Carillon		Leo Sowerby
The Lost Chord	Arthur Sullivan; arr. Alexander Schreiner Michael Shawgo	
Prelude and Fugue in E-flat major, BWV 552		Johann Sebastian Bach
Deck Thyself, My Soul, With Gladness	Eun Joo Ju	
Fanfare For the Common Man	Aaron Copland; arr. Thomas R. Vozzella	
Prelude, Fugue and Chaconne in C major		Dieterich Buxtehude
How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place	Johannes Brahms; arr. Christina Harmon	
Chorale and Fugue		William Underwood
Ad Astra	Jacob Naveroud; arr. William Underwood William Underwood	

Vocalists: Beverly Bochenek, Megan Tabola, Julie Zeller, Craig Zeller
Bells: Kevin Markwell, Jenna Weber
Violinist: Wailin Wong

Eun Joo Ju is a native of South Korea and received her Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Organ Performance from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. Her additional studies include the Manhattan School of Music (M.M. and Professional Studies) and Hansei University in Korea (M.M. and B.M.). Eun Joo is an accomplished organist, accompanist, and choir director, and has given numerous recitals in Illinois, New York, Wisconsin, Indiana, and South Korea. She currently serves as organist at Kenilworth Union Church and as choir director and organist at Westminster Place in Evanston.

Michael Shawgo was the music director and organist at First United Methodist Church of Oak Park from 1983-1988, and again from 2000-2012. He was instrumental in procuring the grant which allowed the church to completely restore the Skinner organ. He also coordinated the restoration project in 2005-2006, which he considered to be the opportunity of a lifetime. Originally from central Illinois, he received his Bachelor of Music degree in organ performance from Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. Additional organ study was with J. Marcus Ritchie at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta, and with Dexter Bailey in Chicago. He is a member of the

American Guild of Organists, the American Theatre Organ Society, and Phi My Alpha fraternity. Mr. Shawgo is currently the organist and music director at Second Presbyterian Church in Chicago.

William Underwood is a longtime resident of Oak Park. He graduated from Ohio Northern University with a degree in Music Education and did graduate work in composition at Florida State University. He has worked in a wide variety of churches since his first engagement as an organist at the age of fifteen at his home church; Beulah United Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon, Ohio. He has also worked extensively as a jazz, cabaret, and theatre musician; receiving Joseph Jefferson Citations for original music, and music direction. He was the resident music director at The Theatre at the Cent in Munster, Indiana until the theatre was closed by the pandemic. He has played and written arrangements for many albums and as a pianist has played for Aretha Franklin, Diahann Carroll, Lillian Montevechi, Bobby Vinton, and Tiny Tim.

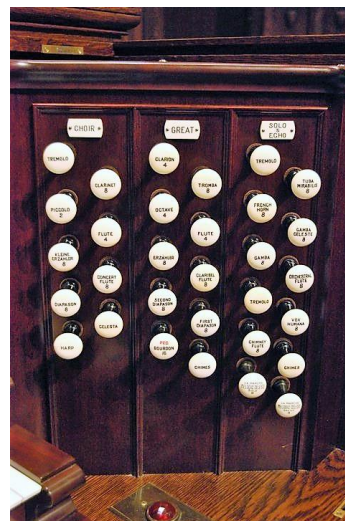
First United Methodist Church, Oak Park, IL

Ernest M. Skinner, Op. 528, 1925; IV/43 – complete historic restoration completed 2006

GREAT (II) 6" wind	SWELL (III) 7 ½" wind	CHOIR (I) 6" wind
16 Bourdon (5 pipes; from Pedal)	16 Bourdon (73 pipes)	8 Diapason (73 pipes)
8 First Diapason (73 pipes)	8 Diapason (73 pipes)	8 Concert Flute (73 pipes)
8 Second Diapason (73 pipes)	8 Gedeckt (73 pipes)	8 Kleine Erzähler II (134 pipes)
8 Claribel Flute (73 pipes)	8 Salicional (73 pipes)	4 Flute (73 pipes)
8 Erzähler (73 pipes)	8 Voix Celeste (73 pipes)	2 Piccolo (61 pipes)
4 Octave (73 pipes)	8 Aeoline (73 pipes)	8 Clarinet (73 pipes)
4 Flute (73 pipes)	4 Octave (73 pipes)	Tremolo
8 Tromba (73 pipes)*	4 Flute Triangulaire (73 pipes)	Harp (61 tubes)
4 Clarion (73 pipes)*	2 Fifteenth (61 pipes)	Celesta
Chimes ECH	IV Mixture (244 pipes)	
	16 Waldhorn (73 pipes)	
PEDAL 6" wind	8 Cornopean (73 pipes)	SOLO (IV) 10" wind
32 Resultant	8 Flügelhorn (73 pipes)	8 Orchestral Flute (73 pipes)
16 Diapason (32 pipes)	8 Vox Humana (73 pipes)	8 Gamba (73 pipes)
16 Bourdon (32 pipes)	4 Clarion (73 pipes)	8 Gamba Celeste (73 pipes)
16 Echo Bourdon SW	Tremolo	8 French Horn (73 pipes)
8 Octave (12 pipes)	ECHO (IV) 5" wind	8 Tuba Mirabilis (20" wind 73 pipes)
8 Gedeckt (12 pipes)	8 Chimney Flute (61 pipes)	Tremolo
8 Still Gedeckt SW	8 Vox Humana (61 pipes)	8 Melodic Celeste (61 pipes)
8 Cello SO	Tremolo	
4 Flute (12 pipes)	Chimes (25 tubes)	
16 Trombone (32 pipes) (8", wood)	CHAPEL GREAT	COUPLERS
16 Waldhorn SW	8 Open Diapason	Great to Pedal 8
8 Tromba (12 pipes)	8 Claribel Flute	Swell to Pedal 8,4
Chimes ECH	8 Erzähler	Choir to Pedal 8
CHAPEL PEDAL	4 Octave	Solo to Pedal 8, 4
16 Bourdon	4 Flute	Great to Great 4
8 Gedeckt	CHAPEL SWELL	Swell to Great 16, 8, 4
16 Waldhorn SW	8 Diapason	Choir to Great 16, 8, 4
ACCESSORIES	8 Concert Flute	Solo to Great 16, 8, 4
4 General Pistons (thumb)	8 Kleine Erzähler	Choir to Choir 16, 4
6 Great Pistons (thumb)	4 Flute	Swell to Choir 8
6 Swell Pistons (thumb)	2 Piccolo	Swell to Swell 16, 4
6 Choir Pistons (thumb)	8 Clarinet	Solo to Solo 16, 4
6 Solo and Echo Pistons (thumb)	Tremolo	Great to Solo 8
5 Pedal Pistons (toe)	Celesta	Swell to Solo 8
General Cancel (thumb)		
Combination Adjustor (thumb)		
Pedal to Great Combination on/off (thumb)		
Pedal to Swell Combination on/off (thumb)		
Pedal to Choir Combination on/off (thumb)		

ACCESSOIRES (continued)

- Pedal to Solo and Echo Combination on/off (thumb)
- Great to Pedal Reversible (thumb and toe)
- Swell to Pedal Reversible (thumb)
- Choir to Pedal Reversible (thumb)
- Solo to Pedal Reversible (thumb and toe)
- All Couplers On (thumb)
- Voltmeter (dial with button)
- Solo only/Echo only/Solo and Echo on/Solo and Echo off (buttons on left key cheek, Manual IV)
- Swell Expression Shoe
- Choir Expression Shoe
- Solo and Echo Expression Shoe
- Crescendo Shoe (with indicator light)
- All Swell to Swell Pedal (hitch-down)
- Flutes and Diapasons (hitch-down)
- Strings Ventil (hitch-down)
- Reeds Ventil (hitch-down)
- Sforzando Reversible (thumb and toe, with indicator light)
- Deagan Chimes controls (7 volume settings, tower/auditorium/off)



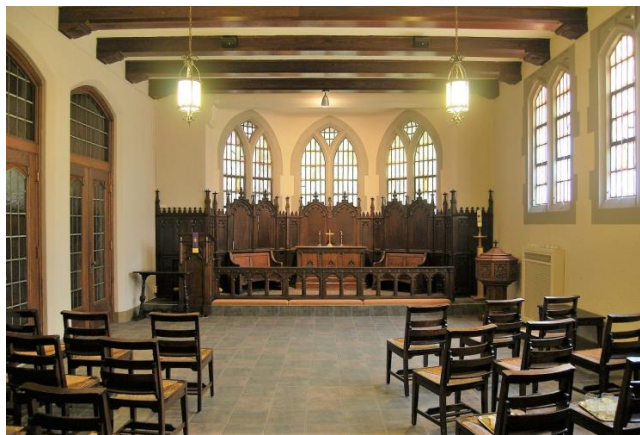
PREVIOUS PAGE top: Skinner Organ Company, Opus 528, First United Methodist Church, Oak Park, IL; photo by William T. Van Pelt; bottom: Left and Right Stop Jams of Skinner Organ Company, Opus 528, First United Methodist Church, Oak Park, IL; photos by Stephen Schnurr.

ORGAN NEWS

Garrett Theological Seminary, Evanston, IL: As of September 24, 2025, Garrett Theological Seminary has announced a bold new chapter in its long and distinguished history to relocate to new buildings on the campus of Northwestern University. This relocation is planned for Fall 2027 when Garrett's new home will be located on the southern portion of Northwestern's campus. Two newly renovated buildings on Hinman Avenue and Sheridan Road will feature more accessible facilities that will serve Garrett's on-campus students and be equipped with remote learning technologies. Northwestern University will provide the Garrett community with regular access to its chapels and Garrett's Styberg Library will be housed within Northwestern's renowned collection. This move will enable Garrett's to continue strengthening its on-campus residential programs while addressing the changing need within theological education. Since 2021, almost one-quarter of Garrett students are international, reflecting a 30% increase in online students over the past two years.

**ORGAN HISTORICAL SOCIETY
CHICAGO-MIDWEST CHAPTER
Treasurer's Report – Fiscal Year 2024-2025
July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025**

The Treasurer's Report is not printed in the website version of The Stopt Diapason.
Chapter members should see their copy of this issue received via email.



ABOVE top: Skinner Organ Company, Opus 528 Chapel console, First United Methodist Church, Oak Park, IL; photo by William T. Van Pelt; middle: First United Methodist Church, Oak Park, Chapel; photo by Stephen Schnurr; bottom: Exterior First United Methodist Church, Oak Park, IL.