



VOL. 28, No. 5  
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## President's Message

THOMAS ANNAND

# Colours of the Organ

I must confess to being a bit of a secondhand book hound. My habit extends (naturally) to music, too, especially now in this era of publishers' "print on demand" policy, which really means "photocopy on our office Xerox" - the blobby stuff coming out of once venerable music establishments is a real disgrace.

How glad I was, then, to come across a couple of old Novello albums from the 1960's in their original covers and with nice crisp printing. Both collections put me to thinking about different aspects of our profession and how we provide music. "Colours of the Organ" was an interesting compendium of commissioned pieces each designed to show off a different family of sounds. The garish colours of the cover presage the era of Swinging London, but the music is a valuable lesson in what can be accomplished on the organ and how to show off the possibilities of an instrument. It is always so tempting to swan around on General 1 before the service, but there are so many possibilities of colour on even a small instrument that might make people listen or provide a suitable backdrop for quiet reflection. If the Swell oboe sounds ungainly in the middle register, perhaps the top end is surprisingly sweet, or the lower register delightfully sulphurous: you will only know if you take the time to find out, or to reacquaint yourself with an instrument you always thought you knew.

The other collection of music I recently acquired puts me in mind of other subjects.

Entitled "Music before Service", it boasts a colour photo of a choir in procession at the back of a darkened church, awaiting the cue to proceed for some mid-winter Evensong. There is such a sense of gloom and foreboding about this picture that I can understand why I've so rarely come across it. The music is completely in tune with the cover (proving the adage wrong for once): with titles like "Dirge", "Elegy" and "Passion Music", the atmosphere created by much of this music is one of profound dread or perhaps even fear. Granted that it contains some superb music by Leighton and Dickinson, I can't honestly say I would ever play this music before any service except perhaps Good Friday. I usually find my efforts at providing an ambience of subdued calm and stillness are defeated by the crying children and guffawing parishioners, so I have adjusted accordingly.

Rare is the funeral service where family and friends ask for anything other than happy, upbeat "celebration of life" music. But I can't help mourning myself for the loss of a time of quiet and stillness and an opportunity to "plumb the depths" as only the organ can.

Of course these are musings about music which reflects the Zeitgeist of Europe in the 1960's, a time which now seems as far removed from our own as the Edwardian era. The quality of this music, however, remains for all generations to appreciate. It remains to be seen in what context it will be heard.

Happy New Year!

- Tom Annand

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## 2011 Programme of Events

IAN MACKAY

### Looking Back...

A big thank you to all those who participated in the Christmas Concert held on Monday, December 20, 2010 at St. Francis of Assisi Church. Members who played were: Alison Kranias, Deirdre Piper, Don Marjerrison, Karen Holmes and Gilles Leclerc. Cathedral Brass comprised of Michel Rondeau, Marthe Jobidon, Daniel Steeles. Thanks also to Suzanne Marjerrison for the reception after the concert and to Moira Hays, Faye Grinberg for assisting at the door. Those present, we treated to an evening of varied works that more or less revolved around works by Italian composers or works based on plainchant melodies. The concert featured works by two Gabriellis, Pietro Yon, Palestrina, Frescobaldi, Wilbur Held, Domenico Zipoli, and improvisations by Gilles Leclerc.

### Looking Forward...

An overview of the RCCO Exam Syllabus for 2010-2013. There are two proposed dates: one on a weekend; the other on a week day. Please e-mail me below to let me know which date is preferable for you. This will allow for more effective planning and to tailor the session to the interests of those who plan to attend. The proposed dates are Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at 7:30 or Saturday, February 12,

2010 10:00-12:00 both dates are for St. Andrew's Church. This is an opportunity for those interested in taking an exam over the next couple of years to: consider the repertoire; learn about how to prepare effectively for these exams; and hear about the benefits of working toward one of the six different exams offered by the college. If you have been thinking about taking an exam or perhaps would like to think about, then this workshop is for you.

March is student recital month so stay tuned for more information about this annual event.



There are preliminary plans in place for the organ crawl to Ithaca, New York to visit the new GOART organ and other significant instruments at Cornell University and in the community of Ithaca. There were original plans to visit in May but we have been juggling the schedule to avoid Easter and accommodate other events in that are planned for that month. I am working with the staff at Cornell to plan a visit that would span two days, probably a Friday and Saturday, (possibly March 25

and 26), which will allow us to visit but also get to Ottawa for our Sunday duties. The staff at Cornell are very accommodating and I hope to have plans more or less set by mid February.

In May, we are planning a event to showcase the compositions of Rachel Laurin in a manner similar to the event we held last year to hear an overview of the compositions of Gilles Leclerc. Stay tuned for more details.

As always, I am always looking for ideas, new and old, for our centre's programme. Please contact me directly with any suggestions. My e-mail is mackay\_sap@hotmail.com note the \_ after mackay.

## 2011 Educational Programme Continues

Our 2011 educational programme continues in the new year with Wesley Warren offering us a workshop on Hymn playing. Mark your calendars:

### February 26, 2011, 1-3 p. m.

*The Joy of Hymn-Playing*, Wesley Warren, St. Barnabas Anglican Church (corner of Kent and James Streets)

This workshop will take place in the Organ Gallery of St. Barnabas Church. Wesley will speak about the fundamentals of hymn-playing: registration (reflecting the mood of the text), phrasing with the text, tempo and style, variations and reharmonizations.

Wesley invites participants to prepare two hymns of their own choice from their own hymn-book - a simple introduction and two verses each - but at the same time, participants don't have to play if they prefer simply to listen! If there is time, Wesley will also discuss the choosing of hymns, adapting pianistic accompaniments to the organ, and improvising introductions, interludes, or a short postlude.

This workshop is free to RCCO members. Non-members will be asked to pay a fee of \$10.

## Around Town

### Sunday, January 9, 2011, 7:30 p.m.

Garry Elliott (guitar). St. Luke's Church, 760 Somerset W. Admission by donation

### Saturday, February 12, 2011 7:30 pm.

*A Serbian Soiree*. Ana Drobac, violin and Katarina Jovic, piano will play the music of Serbian composers V. Mokranjac, P. Stojanovic, K. Manojlovic and others at MacKay United Church, 39 Dufferin Road (at MacKay Street). A reception in the hall will follow hosted by the Serbian Embassy. Tickets \$15 (adults), 12\$ (students and seniors), children 12 and under: free.

### Tuesdays, January 11, 18, 25, February 1, 2011 12:10 pm.

Organ Tuesdays continue at St. Andrew's Church, 82 Kent Street. Thomas Annand performs every Tuesday at 12:10 p.m.:

- Jan. 11: Bach and Couperin
- Jan. 18: Stanford and Parry
- Jan. 25: Widor Series: Symphonie III (1872)
- Feb. 1: Music from Montreal (Livre d'orgue de Montreal & Hambræus)

Free-will offering.

## This is My Voice– RCCO Member Survey

DEIRDRE PIPER

**A**s many of you may be aware, the College has been much exercised during the last few years with the changing demands facing church music directors and others who fulfill leading musical roles in worship. Church music is increasingly incorporating elements of popular music styles, or in some cases completely replacing traditional styles with what is often (and with disarming inaccuracy in its implied dismissing of other modern trends) termed ‘contemporary’ music. Praise bands, and other instrumental and vocal ensembles, are another factor demanding abilities in arranging and in specific non-classical performance styles.

For organists trained along traditional classical lines such situations may be very stressful due to the fact that popular styles demand skills that are not usually part of the traditional training in the academy or conservatory. The College, in its desire to remain useful, helpful and relevant to church musicians in the coming decades, is anxious to examine the implications of contemporary trends for its members and for its own programs.

National Council, during its meetings in March 2010, made the brave decision to undertake a complete review of its image, its purpose, and the programs offered to its members. In order to do this, it struck a standing committee, which I was called to chair, tasked specifically with this mandate and, upon completion of its work, to report to Council with recommendations. The *Membership and Brand Committee*, for so it is called, has been working diligently

over the summer and fall on an initial set of tasks designed to determine the values and views of the College membership. Under the guidance and expert leadership of our facilitator, Rick St-Germain, and with the active participation of Gilles Leclerc, our National President (both members of the Ottawa Centre), the Committee has designed a survey that we hope will provide valuable and much-needed information about how the membership views the College and its current programs, as well as offering insight into what may be needs that are not currently being met. This survey is a vital component of the Committee’s work to aid the College in its desire to develop as a truly relevant musical resource for organists and church musicians in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; accordingly, I urge you and every member to take the time to complete this survey.

On January 15<sup>th</sup>, every RCCO member will receive an personalized invitation to participate in the survey anytime until the end of February. It is designed to be anonymous to encourage each participant to speak freely and without prejudice.

For those of you with an email address registered with National Office, look for your personal invitation email from about January 15<sup>th</sup> onwards - and be sure to check your spam box, just in case! You will see *This is My Voice - RCCO Member Survey* as the as the subject title. To access the survey simply click on the personal secure link that you will find in the body of the email invitation. A full disclosure of the privacy policy for the

survey and instructions for its completion are included.

Those who do not have a registered email address will receive a paper copy of the survey in the mail. After completing the survey, mail it back to National Office.

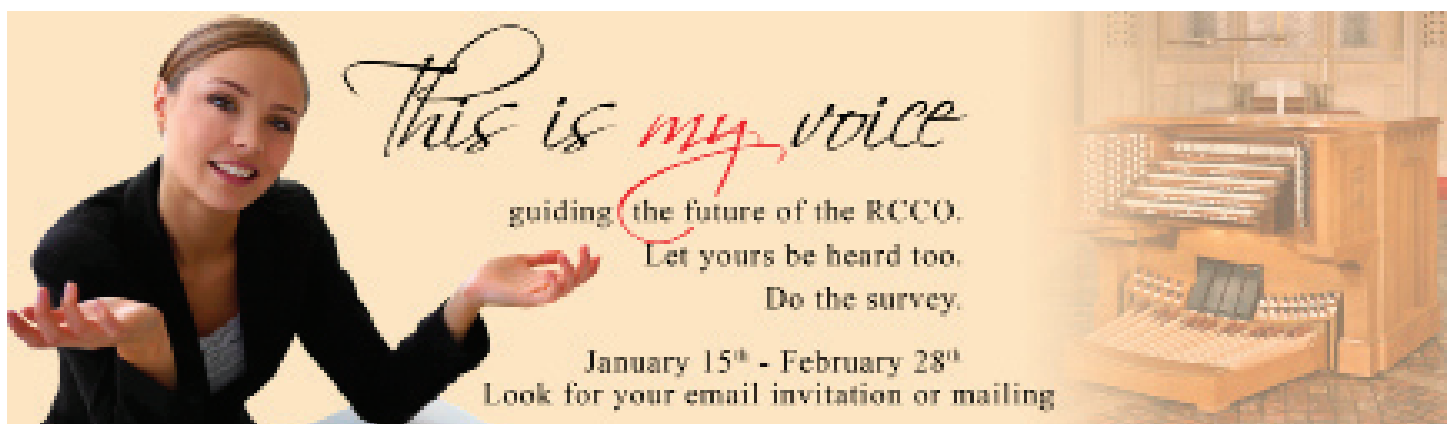
Your input in helping to define the future nature and role of the RCCO is very important, and I encourage each of you to take your membership seriously and to participate in completing the survey; everyone’s voice matters.

*Deirdre Piper,  
Chair, Membership and  
Brand Committee.*

## Lilian Forsyth Scholarship

**A**pplications are now being accepted for the 2011 Lilian Forsyth Scholarship for church music. The award of up to \$1,500 may be used for summer study programs, regular diploma or degree courses, or private tuition. Candidates should be active church musicians who have completed their basic musical training.

The deadline for applications is February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011. For application forms or information contact the Registrar, Lilian Forsyth Scholarship, Knox Presbyterian Church, 120 Lisgar Street, Ottawa, ON K2P 0C2. FAX: (613) 238-4775. E-mail: [knoxottawa@bellnet.ca](mailto:knoxottawa@bellnet.ca) or visit our web site at [www.knoxottawa.ca](http://www.knoxottawa.ca)



*This is my voice*  
guiding the future of the RCCO.  
Let yours be heard too.  
Do the survey.  
January 15<sup>th</sup> - February 28<sup>th</sup>  
Look for your email invitation or mailing

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### Advertising Policy

1. Any Ottawa Centre member may announce his/her events in the *Around Town* section of the newsletter free of charge if they are the coordinator, conductor or organist/accompanist of the event.
2. If a member wishes to place a free announcement in *Around Town* for an event of another organization he/she is a member of (not covered by Policy 1), the member must make a written request to the RCCO Centre Executive for approval of that one specific event. Approval may be granted on the basis that this event would be of specific interest to our members: i.e Church/Choral, and/organ/bells, encouragement of young organists and pianists.
3. If a non-member wishes to freely announce an event of his/her Organizations in *Around Town*, he/she must make a written request to the RCCO Ottawa Centre Executive for approval of that one specific event. Approval may be granted as per policy 2, however in most circumstances we would expect the Organization to pay as per the rates set out by the Centre for advertising.

## OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE 2010-2011

### OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	THOMAS ANNAND	613-820-3351
VICE-PRESIDENT	MOIRA HAYES	613-422-8091
PAST PRESIDENT	DEIRDRE PIPER	613-267-4078
SECRETARY	LARRY KEMPFER	613-230-5564
TREASURER	ROSS JEWELL	613-741-5467
CHAPLAIN	REV DR. MERVIN SAUNDERS	613-823-3141

### NATIONAL COUNCILLORS

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DEIRDRE PIPER	613-267-4078
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DONALD MARJERRISON	613-724-3793

### EXECUTIVE MEMBER-AT-LARGE

FAYE GRINBERG	613-695-3435
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### CONVENORS OF COMMITTEES

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[www.rcco-ottawa.ca](http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca)

**NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 23<sup>RD</sup>, 1:00 PM,**  
**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN**

## Supply List

Robert Dunlop	613-235-3778	
Janice Gray	613-276-3172	janicenlpegypt@hotmail.com
Nadia Behmann	613-723-8601	nadia@behmann.ca
		Weddings and Funerals.
Alison Kranias	613-761-6516	alison.kranias@mail.mcgill.ca
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca
Simon Pinsonneault	613 949-5841 (W)	pinsosi@tc.gc.ca

*Please note: Supply list can also be found on the RCCO Ottawa web site at <http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca>  
Anyone interested in adding their names to the Supply List, please contact Suzanne St-Germain  
at 613-841-0246 or via email at [newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca](mailto:newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca)*

## Organ Teachers List

**D. Mervyn Games**, B.Mus., FRCO, ARCM. Students in piano, organ, and theory at all levels. For info call 613-729-2515.

**Robert P. Jones**, M.Mus., ARCCO (ChM). All levels of students (teenager or adult). Lessons at St. Luke's Church (760 Somerset Street W.) Info: [pentland@hotmail.com](mailto:pentland@hotmail.com)

**Heather Rice**, ARCT, BMus, ARCCO (ChM). Welcomes students in piano, organ, voice and theory, Beginner - Intermediate, Children - Adult. Lessons at St. Stephen's Presbyterian Church, 579 Parkdale Ave. at Sherwood. Call 613-563-1409 or email [choirmaster@bellnet.ca](mailto:choirmaster@bellnet.ca).

**Wesley R. Warren**, M.Mus., FRCO, (ChM), ARCT. Beginning to advanced organ students at St. Barnabas Anglican Church, (Kent St. at James), Ottawa. Info: 613-726-6341

## Newsletter submissions

Send your articles and photos to:

Suzanne St-Germain  
628 Tourelle Drive  
Orleans, ON K4A 3H4  
613-841-0246

[newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca](mailto:newsletter@rcco-ottawa.ca)  
or  
[sstgermain@rogers.com](mailto:ssstgermain@rogers.com)



## Next Deadline

## Christmas Concert Memories

**O**n December 20<sup>th</sup>, the Ottawa Centre presented its Christmas concert at St-François-d'Assise church, Wellington at Fairmont. Last year we had German music at Saint Andrew's, featuring organ pieces, brass quartet settings, choral carols and audience

singing. The popular brass and organ mix was featured again this year with music from Gabrielli, Frescobaldi, Zipoli, Yon, Victoria, Palestrina and others. Ottawa Centre organists Gilles Leclerc, Karen Holmes, Deirdre Piper, Don Marjerrison and Alison Kra-

nias provided a lively programme of Christmas hymns and carols for congregational singing plus improvisations on Latin hymns for Christmas.

Thanks and congratulations to all participants.



*Above: Cathedral Brass and organists gather following the Christmas concert at St-François-d'Assise with the organ in the background (left) and on the steps of the sanctuary (right).*

*Photos courtesy Suzanne Marjerrison*



*Above: Organists Alison Kranias, Deirdre Piper, Don Marjerrison, Gilles Leclerc, and Karen Holmes on the steps of the sanctuary.*

*Photo courtesy Karen Holmes*

## A Spiritual Leadership Model - Part 8 (Conclusion)

**A**s an exploratory process, the Top 10 lists of this series were created to help parse out some of the important aspects of what I believe to be essential in understanding and developing the church musician's artistic-theological identity in terms of being a spiritual leader.

The theological reflections following are further possibilities in working with a central aspect of the Reformed tradition, the use of Scripture, and being open to letting the Word of God through the Holy Spirit lead the way. It is a practical way that we can let the word of God through lectionary and the liturgical calendar lead us to new, unexpected places.

I believe that a music-theological approach to the church musician's identity is what the church needs today as it faces what many perceive as major challenges. I also believe that a renewed sense of church music leadership, empowered and envisioned by the Holy Spirit, can greatly assist the church to receive a renewed sense of life in Christ as his body in the

world. Certainly categories and topics other than the ones mentioned in this series need to be explored and included in further work around the church musician's emerging identity.

Because this is my last submission in this series, I want to give credit to my inspirations in the drafting of these possibilities. The first are the dedicated church musicians who have given their lives to church music leadership. I especially want to note the ones who have taken the time to be reflective of their work, to engage with others in facing professional concerns and seeking support, and who have been open to change and growth.

Secondly, I want to mention the influence of workshops with, and writings by, N. Graham Standish, Philip Clayton, and Bruce G. Epperly and Katherine Gould Epperly. Standish encouraged a spiritual approach (rather than functional) to my understanding of church music leadership. The others, process theologians (presenters at the Madawaska Institute), encour-

aged me to get out of my box, to get with the 21st century in some new ways, and to begin to think in more open-ended ways, rather than being so darn dogmatic and controlling!

Lastly, I want to say how very grateful I am to you, the members of this Ottawa Centre, especially the executive, who have gone along with the ideas that I have presented over the last year or two. They have provided a new type of professional support, giving me an opportunity to get the concepts out there on the table. The executive has been open to stretching the focus of this organization, especially as presented in our wonderful, newly expanded and developed monthly newsletter, Pipelines. Sometimes, I believe our greatest musical growth can come not only from increased musical abilities, understandings and technique but also from aspects seemingly unrelated to music-making.

The final list in this eight-part series is  
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a summary of a proposed model of spiritual leadership for the church musician. The Holy Spirit, the last area to be raised, is the ultimate guide in every aspect of the musician's artistic-theological identity. It is through its eyes and ears that we have come through the Season of Advent and the Festival of Christmas, and now as we move into ordinary time, the Sundays following the Epiphany. May we be given further light to see our spirit-based calling and ministry.

As no other leadership ministry can do, I truly believe that church musicians who are artistically-spiritually grounded will play an important role in both affirming what is important in the church, now, and working closely with God, through the work of Jesus Christ by the Holy Spirit, in renewing the faith community for its roles in contemporary times. This will not come without challenge; yet we can depend upon the Holy Spirit to lead us not where we think that we should go, but where God is calling us to be.

### The Holy Spirit in the Church Musician's Identity - Top 8

8. **MUSICAL GROUNDING:** Be able to work musically/artistically, and to integrate this theologically/spiritually in the life of the disciple community;

7. **THEOLOGICAL GROUNDING:** Be centered in faith, Scripture, and theology, making prayer, silence, Biblical study, and theological reflection a daily practice; be able to integrate this musically/artistically; know the worship tradition of your congregation and denomination, and be able to call your people forth into a deeper sense of God's relationship with them, and vice versa; help them to develop the song of their faith in ways that are both pastoral and prophetic.

6. **DISCIPLESHIP:** Know your unique place as a member of the disciple community; be aware of the call of disciples to follow Jesus Christ, and what this requires; be relational in your thinking and ways of doing things; develop Christian relational, spiritual attributes and qualities (i.e., love, compassion, caring, repentance, forgiveness); let your music-making reflect this.

5. **SACRAMENTS:** Be discerning of your calling as one baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (i.e., what does it mean to be part of the Body of Christ, having died to an old way of life and living anew unto Christ); be nurtured at the communion table;

4. **BODY OF CHRIST:** Help to orient the congregation's musical life in the larger picture of the faith community

as a member of the body of Christ; understand yourself and the ministry that you lead as part of the body of Christ.

3. **LECTIONARY/CHRISTIAN CALENDAR:** Utilize this as a way of orienting what you do and how you call your community to new life in Jesus Christ. It greatly helps to embody the nature of the disciple community; let the Christian Calendar and the weekly Revised Communion Lectionary guide you; be rooted in the words and actions of Jesus Christ.

2. **CALL/DISCERNMENT:** Listen for and be attentive to God's call; develop a leadership style that enables you to do so; encourage this in the faith community; be able to differentiate between functional and spiritual leadership (see Standish), and make the latter a priority in your weekly tasks and how you work; be concerned about being proactive regarding your own spiritual condition and formation, and how you are equipped to lead others.

1. **HOLY SPIRIT:** Let "waiting on the Spirit" be a major priority in your ministry; be intentional about being open to God's gifts and discernments; let the Holy Spirit lead you, and invite you to lead in the power of that same Spirit.

## Life in the Spirit – Pentecostal Directions

Dan Hansen

**L**et me begin this last theological reflection with a personal experience about my life in the Spirit, which has helped me to have glimpses of a spiritual model for church music leadership.

I looked on with eager eyes when others were baptized, knowing that my day would come soon. When you are baptized, you wear white clothes. You are fully immersed in the water. You are baptized "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." The minister prays a long, spontaneous prayer at the time of your confirmation (that same day or a week later) while laying hands on your head. When this is all done, you receive a little black book about being a

church member, and are able to participate in communion.

I was baptized as a young boy in a lake near North Bay, Ontario, at a church camp. I was confirmed that evening in the tall, v-shaped church, which had sand as the floor. Prior to that special day, over that year in my hometown church in southern Ontario, Mrs. Withrow, the volunteer church organist who also doubled as Sunday school teacher, prepared me, as well as other eight-year-olds, for baptism and confirmation. Among other things, she taught about the sacraments of that church. I can see the names of most of them painted on a little wooden plaque and placed on a pyramid-like structure.

More important to me than the specifics of that highly anticipated event, revered by myself and that faith community, is this: At that time, I knew deep down that my life would be different after my baptism. At baptism and confirmation, something takes place that changes you forever. You are never the same. I have come to understand that, as the work of God and Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit. And I have always looked for and engaged intentionally in that relationship.

In all of the dates on the Christian calendar, Pentecost is the most important Sunday for us to celebrate. It is not just another birthday of the church. Rather,

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Pentecost is the beginning or a renewal of a powerful relationship with God and Jesus, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, and thus with each other. Today, it continues to be a reminder regarding the power that is working in us and throughout the world.

In the gospel (John 14:8-17, 25-27), the Holy Spirit is viewed as a gift of God to humanity. This gift reflects that God's relationship with us is no "chicken before the egg" quandary. Everything begins with God – always God's work first, not ours. It is always God who creates the faith in us that even brings us into relationship with God. God is an ever-giving God, and this gift of the Holy Spirit reflects a powerful relationship with humanity that can be depended upon and never taken away.

The Holy Spirit is also referred to as an Advocate. It teaches disciples everything. It reminds followers what Jesus has said to them. Through the reading of Holy Spirit and experience as Christians in the church and world, reflecting on the words and actions of Jesus Christ, people throughout the ages are empowered by the Holy Spirit to know their mission and ministry. The Advocate helps them to know the mind of Christ and what it means to be part of his body.

There is also a sense that followers know the Holy Spirit, because it abides in them. The Holy Spirit is present in and to each disciple. Letting that Spirit be free to speak within us is a growing edge. This point about the Spirit in us connects with what was said early in the gospel reading today about the disciples' desire to see God and to be satisfied in that. Jesus responds by commenting on his relationship with God and vice versa. Jesus and God are one. If you have seen Jesus, you have seen God. If you do not believe that, then the evidence is in Jesus' ministry: his words and actions.

To put that language about God and Jesus' relationship simply, there is a deep, interrelated connection between God and Jesus. Now, through the Holy Spirit, that is true with followers: we are all children of God. We are no longer ourselves, but through our baptism and the gift of the Holy Spirit, deeply connected with God and Jesus Christ. Indeed, we are much more than we think, and God is closer than we can imagine. The most important

aspect of the Holy Spirit is the difference it makes in the life of the individual and the community of faith.

The presence and activity of the Holy Spirit, and the attention disciples give to it, distinguish the lives of the faithful from the rest of the world. Because of the ongoing work of the Holy Spirit, the life of the believer and the worshipping community, of which he or she is a part, is radically different than the life of the normal individual in the world.

There may be quiet moments when the Spirit speaks in a still, small voice. There may be moments when it shouts loudly at us for change and growth. But above all, to name our baptismal relationship together as the body of Christ and as "life in the Spirit" and to be attentive to such, are perhaps our greatest opportunities.



How does life in the Spirit influence how we live and work together, in our daily lives, including work and family life? How does life in the Spirit influence how we live as a larger society, where we spend our time and focus. What about decision-making? Relationships? Conflict? Social policy? What about vision and planning for the future? How does it influence how we perceive our role as church musicians and music leaders, and live that out?

The Holy Spirit is pivotal to who we are as Christians and what we do. We, both individually and as a faith community, here and in the world, are called to a life in that Spirit. In such company of the Holy Spirit, regarding being faithful and living the life of discipleship, Jesus' words are clear: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid" (John 14:25-27).

Those are great words of hope during times that are filled with fear and anxiety. It is so easy for all, even including Christians and the church, to be drawn into the hectic pace of life, especially over the past month, that we miss noticing how the

Spirit is calling us to attend to other needs. In challenging times, we often want to grasp that which we know best, rather than being open to the Holy Spirit and embracing the new.

We might ask, "What is the Holy Spirit saying to us, persons of faith and the church, today regarding our music leadership?"

The presence of the Holy Spirit is discerned from one's heart and mind, while working together as disciples in the Body of Christ, especially with God's word. Sometimes God's response is quick; at other times, it may take a long time. Such waiting for the Holy Spirit may involve reflection, conversation, and even letting go. Life in the Spirit may be painstaking, but it can also be a great joy when you finally have that "Aha!" moment, and realize what God is saying about your life or that of the faith community.

Since my baptism and confirmation, and especially my ordination, I live with a strong sense of expectation and openness to change in terms of God's will and how God is calling me to be a disciple. I have come to understand more fully through personal and corporate spiritual and church experiences, including the joyous ones and the more challenging situations, how Christian transformation is the work of God through the Holy Spirit. It always calls us forth to fuller and richer life. There is no question about that!

As we become more intentional about our faith journey in the Spirit, and the expansion of our identity and role in the disciple community as spiritual church music leaders, life will not get easier, but it does begin to move with a whole new sense of meaning and depth.

In fact, from my own experience, (and maybe is also with you, too!) I have gotten used to the fact that life in the Holy Spirit is not always going to be what you think or expect. God always seems to have an unpredictable say in how your life unfolds. You may want something, but God may have other ideas for your spiritual growth, especially maturation, even how your life will unfold physically and relationally.

Clearly, life in the Spirit, both personally and professionally, means that you have to be open for anything, and ready to go where God is calling you!