



## President's Message

*By Invitation...*

REV. DR. MERVYN G. SAUNDERS  
CHAPLAIN, RCCO OTTAWA CENTRE

## The Divine in our Midst

**S** Christmas is a wonderful season of our year, replete with glorious music as well as the joys of connecting with loved ones and acquaintances, often with delicious food and happy repartee. I once heard the late Virgil Fox introduce his organ artistry on J. S. Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in D Minor* this way: He said, "I believe that I know what Bach's inspiration to compose this great music was. He tried to capture the exultation of the Blessed Virgin Mary when the angel informed her that she would give birth to the Messiah." Perhaps Fox was right.

Several years ago, an interesting article caught my attention. It raised the question as to whether there was such a thing as a village inn or hotel in ancient Bethlehem that was overcrowded, forcing the birth of Jesus in a cattle barn. Intrigued, I decided to look more closely at the Lucan text from which this idea comes. Luke records the incident of Christ's birth in a very simple and beautiful way: "Mary gave birth to her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn."

*...continued on page 2*



- 1 President's Message
- 3 2011/12 Programme of Events  
Around Town
- 4 Organ Music by Request Concert  
Kingston Theatre Organ Concert
- 5 Supply List  
Organ Teachers List
- 6 Our Advertisers

...continued from page 1

How many times have we heaped scorn and criticism upon the Bethlehem innkeeper because he sent pregnant Mary outside to a cold stable, and how many time have we seen rustic stables erected in homes and on church parking lots? But Luke makes no mention of a stable. He wrote not one word about a hotel or innkeeper who cold-heartedly refused entrance to Joseph and Mary.

Mary and Joseph had come to Bethlehem for a census, it is likely that they had relatives in Bethlehem with whom they stayed. It is possible, then, that the carpenter from Nazareth and his young wife arrived a few days before the birth of their son and found the *kataluma* already occupied by other relatives and guests. They may have lodged in the main room of the house with the homeowner and his family.

might have the comfort of the manger's straw.

Now we must listen carefully to what Luke is saying to his readers. He is saying that Mary gave birth to Jesus right in the middle of the house, because there was no room in the guest room. Luke wanted his readers to hear something very special. He wanted them to realize that Jesus, the Son of God, was born, not off in the guest room, but right in the midst of smelly hay, snorting animals, anxious onlookers, and in the tenderness and love of the family circle.

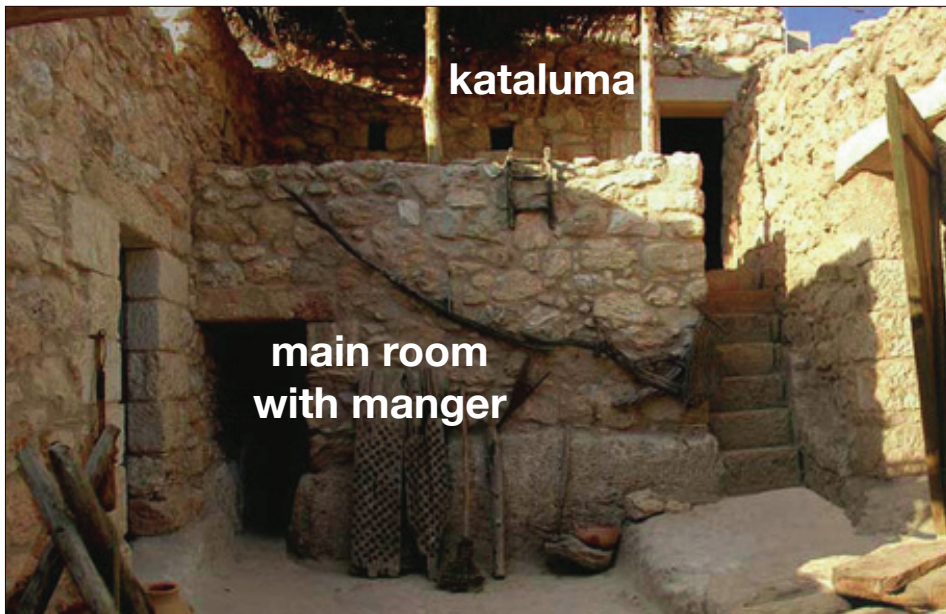
Jesus was, in other words, born just like all the other children of that time. He was tenderly placed precisely where all other children of that day were cradled. When the wise men arrived from the East, they came, as Matthew says, "into the house where they saw the child with Mary his mother" (Matthew 2:11).

If we experience the birth of Christ, it will not be in the guest room of our lives, but right in the middle of it all. We will experience his birth right in the midst of people who love each other. We will feel his birth not in the guest room, but in the pain of the world where his influence still calls for reconciliation with God (2 Corinthians 5:20). We will see his yearning to be born again in the Middle East where his voice still cries out for peace on earth and good will. We will find him—not in the side rooms of life—but with the poor, the imprisoned, the disadvantaged, and the hungry. If we listen closely, we will still hear his voice saying, "As you did it to one of the least of these my brothers and sisters, you did it to me" (Matthew 25:40).

Should we get rid of the stable from the depictions of Christ's birth? Some of our fantasies and fairy tales might be shattered. But we might see in a whole new and wonderful way the truth that Jesus is one of us and that God is present in the events and lives of ordinary people. At Christmas, more than any time of the year, we know that the God of Christian faith is not on the boundary of life, but rather, he is Emmanuel—"God with us"!

A blessed celebration of our Saviour's birth to you!

Rev. Dr. Mervin G. Saunders  
Chaplain, RCCO Ottawa Centre



In the first place, Luke does not claim that Mary and Joseph arrived at Bethlehem at the last minute. He does not picture them as scurrying around to find a place to lodge because the baby was about to be born. He simply says "while they were there" as if they had arrived several days before Jesus' birth.

Secondly, the word in Luke's Gospel that is typically translated "inn" is the Greek word *kataluma*. Luke does not use this term in his depiction of the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10). The word he uses for the inn or lodging to which the beaten man was taken is *pandoxeon*. He does, however, use the term *kataluma* when he sends two of his disciples to find a room for the serving of the Last Supper. Thus the word *kataluma* literally means a guest room (Luke 22:11).

As Luke relates the story of the Nativity, it is possible that a proper translation would be something like this: "She gave birth to her first-born son and laid him in a manger because there was no place for them in the guest room." If

We should understand the configuration of a Palestinian house in those days. A peasant's house was a simple one-room dwelling. A man, his wife, their family, and all of their belongings were located in one large room. If the owner had sufficient resources, however, he would build a small room adjacent to the main room, and that small added room was called an inn or *kataluma*—a guest room.

In the cold of winter, the livestock would be brought into their house to provide shelter for the animals and the heat of the beasts' bodies provided warmth for all who resided in the house. The central room had an upper and lower level. The family lived on the upper level while the cattle were kept on the lower level, possibly a meter or so lower than the rest of the house. On the step, next to where the cattle lodged, there would have been a manger area, a place scooped out to create a trough where the cattle would be fed. It was in that manger area right in the middle of the house that peasant women gave birth to their children so that the newborn

## 2011/12 Programme of Events

**T**he RCCO Annual Pub Night on Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup> was enjoyed by all. As before, we met at the Heart and Crown in the Byward Market 67 Clarence Street, for a pub dinner and then organ DVDs and YouTube videos of organs, organists, preacher bloopers, etc. Thanks to the Heart and Crown for their hospitality and for giving us free use of a private room for this evening of fun.

**RCCO Christmas Event  
Saturday, December 17 at 5:00pm  
is CANCELLED**

Unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances, the RCCO Christmas Event scheduled for Saturday, December 17<sup>th</sup> at St-François-d'Assise has been cancelled.

Look for details on our 2012 events in the upcoming January issue of *Pipelines*.



## Around Town

**Friday, December 2, 2011, 7:30 p.m.**  
Festival of Advent Lessons and Carols at St. Luke's Church (760 Somerset Street West) presented by the choir of St. Luke's, directed by Robert Jones, accompanied by Heather Rice. Free-will offering. Info: [www.stlukesottawa.ca](http://www.stlukesottawa.ca)

**Sunday, December 4, 2011, 7:00 p.m.**  
The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual *Alta Vista Carol Sing*, will be held at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church, 1758 Alta Vista Drive. Come sing the carols of the Season with dedicated volunteers from the *Choeur du Moulin*, the Immaculate Heart of Mary Church Choir and the *Ottawa Wind Ensemble*. They will be joined by Dr. Fraser Rubens, tenor soloist. Free admission and ample parking. Donations in support of the Heron Emergency Food Centre would be appreciated. For more information, please contact Francine Brisebois at 613-791-9115.

**Saturday, December 10, 2011, 7:30 p.m.**  
Woodroffe United Church concert series presents *Stille Nacht* with the Stairwell Carollers. Woodroffe United Church, 207 Woodroffe Avenue. Tickets at the door

\$15 / \$12 for seniors and students, or in advance at the church office. For further information, contact Katarina Jovic at the church at 613-722-9250 or via the web site at [www.woodroffeunited.org](http://www.woodroffeunited.org)

**Sunday, December 11, 2011, 3:00 p.m.**  
Christmas concert by the Bytown Voices at St. Basil's Church (Maitland Ave., just north of the Queensway). Directed by Robert Jones, accompanied by Brenda Beckingham. Featured work is Conrad Susa's *Christmas in the Southwest*. Tickets are \$10, available at the door. Further info at [www.bytownvoices.com](http://www.bytownvoices.com)

**Sunday, December 11, 2011, 7:30 p.m.**  
Hear the angels, and others sing... Eight singers, coached by Polish soprano Maria Knapik, present Christmas and Christmas-related songs in duets and ensembles. St. Luke's Church (760 Somerset Street West, 3 blocks west of Bronson Avenue). Admission by donation. Info: Tel. (613) 235-3416, visit [www.stlukesottawa.ca](http://www.stlukesottawa.ca), or email [pentland@hotmail.com](mailto:pentland@hotmail.com) or [music@stlukesottawa.ca](mailto:music@stlukesottawa.ca).

**Friday, December 16, 2011, 7:30 p.m.**  
Christmas concert by the Seaway Valley Singers at the Iroquois United Church (2 Elizabeth Drive, Iroquois). Directed by Robert Jones, accompanied by Margaret Whisselle. Special guests: the Junior Handbell Ringers from Winchester United Church. Tickets \$10 available at the door. Info from Bob Jones at (613) 235-3416, or via email at [pentland@hotmail.com](mailto:pentland@hotmail.com) or [music@stlukesottawa.ca](mailto:music@stlukesottawa.ca).

**Sunday, December 18, 2011, 7:00 p.m.**  
St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Woodroffe Avenue just north of the Queensway, presents its annual Christmas program, "Christmas Joy", featuring the church choir conducted by Clive Talbot. Also featured are the Manotick Brass Ensemble plus percussionists, pianist Patricia Talbot and guest organist Mark Thallander from California. No tickets are required. For information please contact the church office at 613-729-3384. Free parking is available at the rear of the church.

## Organ Music by Request Concert

KAREN HOLMES

The fundraising concert at Knox Presbyterian Church on November 18th was a great success, thanks to organists Lucette Guité-Osterrath, Karen Holmes, Rachel Laurin, Frances Macdonnell, Donald Russell and Wesley Warren. Thank-you also to Moira Hayes and Donald Russell for helping with arrangements at the church; and to Mai-yu Chan and Dianne Ferguson for providing delicious refreshments for the post-concert reception. After paying the required rental fee to the church, we realized about \$850, which will be



Left to right: Organists Donald Russell, Wesley Warren, Frances Macdonnell, Rachel Laurin, Lucette Guité-Osterrath, and Karen Holmes.

a welcome top-up to the Pro Organo Ottawa account. The programme started with Bach, and included Franck, Vierne and Widor, as well as Canadian composers Denis Bédard and Rachel Laurin. The audience was wildly enthusiastic. One suggested we do the same thing every two months! Another said he didn't know why we brought in performers from away, when we have so much local talent. Every two months would definitely be too often, but we will be looking for another way of doing a similar event in a year or two - perhaps theme-related, or favourite pieces from Pro Organo recital programmes.

## Kingston Theatre Organ Concert

RENÉ PÉRON

To all of you so interested, I have been much remiss in not keeping you abreast of developments with the developments at the sister society where the pipe organ can be heard in another of its thrilling facets.

In 2009, the Church of the Redeemer building which harboured the large instrument, the largest theatre pipe organ in Canada, was put up for sale and the programmes of the Kingston Theatre Organ Society for the 2010-2011 season were cancelled pending a decision re: finding a new home for it. Many venues were considered such as R.M.C., Queens University, the local theatre, etc., with Queens being the most logical and open to considering a partnership with the non-profit society that is K.T.O.S.

However, as Grant Hall at Queens was being studied from an engineering aspect as being able to support the weight of the instrument as well as other physical considerations, the original home building was purchased by another group of

church folk. These, a Korean Presbyterian congregation, agreed to continue harbouring the magnificent instrument under the same contractual arrangements as previously and the 2011-2012 programme was hastily put together in order to fill a full plate of five programmes for the season.



The first two concerts did take place before most appreciative audiences who are gradually finding their way back to a love which has lasted over fifteen years. This week, I should have written this note sooner, on **Friday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>** we will be experiencing the enthralling renditions

by David Wickerham who is returning for the sixth (or more) time to present his annual Christmas concert.

Dave, who began his career as organist at age 4, studied classical music prior to branching into the theatrical world where he has made a name for himself amidst the greats of the genre in the U.S. and other parts of the world. Indeed, as always, he is making a special of this event in that he is presently curator of a museum in Florida where, among other things, he plays and demonstrates to private visitors some five or so working pipe organs of various types and sizes.

Need I say more? Any questions regarding K.T.O.S. and its present or future programs are most welcome.

*René Péron has been a member of the R.C.C.O. since the 1950s in the centres of Montréal, Kingston and now Ottawa.*

## OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE 2011-2012

### OTTAWA CENTRE EXECUTIVE

PRESIDENT	MOIRA HAYES	613-422-8091
VICE-PRESIDENT	DONALD RUSSELL	613-738-9223
PAST PRESIDENT	THOMAS ANNAND	613-820-3351
SECRETARY	LARRY KEMPFER	613-230-5564
TREASURER	ROSS JEWELL	613-741-5467
CHAPLAIN	REV DR. MERVIN SAUNDERS	613-823-3141

### NATIONAL COUNCILLORS

GILLES LECLERC	613-798-0264
MOIRA HAYES	613-422-8091
THOMAS ANNAND	613-820-3351
FRANCES MACDONNELL	613-726-7984
DONALD MARJERRISON	613-724-3793
DEIRDRE PIPER	613-267-4078
FAYE GRINBERG	613-695-3435
KAREN HOLMES	613-728-8041

### CONVENORS OF COMMITTEES

NEWSLETTER EDITOR	SUZANNE ST-GERMAIN	613-841-0246
PRO ORGANO	KAREN HOLMES	613-728-8041
PROGRAM CONVENOR	IAN MACKEY	613-746-6964
PUBLICITY	ALISON KRANIAS	613-761-6516
PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT	REV. DR. DANIEL HANSEN	613-635-2127
STUDENT CONCERNS	ROBERT JONES	613-448-1647
EDUCATION	FRANCES MACDONNELL	613-726-7984
SOCIAL CONVENOR	SUZANNE MARJERRISON	613-724-3793
HISTORIC ORGANS	JOHN WANLESS	613-283-2590
ARCHIVES	(VACANT)	
MEMBERSHIP	DONALD MARJERRISON	613-724-3793
WEBMASTER	ROSS JEWELL	613-741-5467
MEMBER-AT-LARGE	FAYE GRINBERG	613-695-3435

ROYAL CANADIAN COLLEGE OF ORGANISTS  
OTTAWA CENTRE  
P.O. Box 2270, STATION D  
OTTAWA, ON K1P 5W4 [www.rcco-ottawa.ca](http://www.rcco-ottawa.ca)

COLLÈGE ROYAL CANADIEN DES ORGANISTES  
SECTION D'OTTAWA  
C.P. 2270, SUCCURSALE D  
OTTAWA, ON K1P 5W4

**NEXT EXECUTIVE MEETING:**  
**MONDAY, JAN 16<sup>TH</sup>, 7:30 PM,**  
**ST. PETER'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

## Supply List

Nadia Behmann	613-723-8601	nadia@behmann.ca	Weddings and Funerals.
Mai-Yu Chan	613-726-0818	fosterg@rogers.com	
Robert Dunlop	613-235-3778		
Janice Gray	613-276-3172	janicenlpegypt@hotmail.com	
Frances Macdonnell	613-726-7984	fbmacdonnell@sympatico.ca	
Simon Pinsonneault	613 299-1886	simon.pinsonneault@tc.gc.ca	
Wesley R. Warren	613 726-6341		Weddings and Funerals.

*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. Call 613-563-1409

**Wesley R. Warren**, M.Mus., FRCO, (ChM), ARCT. Beginning to advanced organ students, piano and theory. 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

## Our Advertisers

### Orgues S. Brisson Pipe Organs



1096, ch. St-Pierre  
Embrun, ON K0A 1W0  
Fax/office: 613.443-1527  
Cell: 613.769-6218  
Email: sborgans@hotmail.com

*Entretien – fabrication – restauration  
Maintenance – New instruments – Restoration*

Les Orgues

### Alain Gagnon

Pipe Organs



Harmoniste d'expérience

Experienced Pipe Organ Voicer

1374 Norway Road, Perth Road Village, On, K0H 2L0  
Tel: 613-353-9951, Cell: 613-484-6712, orguesalaingagnon@Gmail.com

Région de Kingston & Ottawa Region

**Gilles Bruyère**  
Electronic Organ Repair  
Réparation d'orgues électroniques  
**(613) 762-2824**  
www.orgel.ca Embrun, Ontario

### Newsletter Advertising Rates

Full Page  
7¼" x 8¾"  
\$80

Half Page  
7¼" x 3½"  
or  
4¼" x 8¾"  
\$40

Quarter Page  
4¼" x 3½"  
or  
2¼" x 7¼"  
\$20

Eighth Page  
(business card size)  
2¼" x 3½"  
\$15

### 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.