

## **A Letter From the Dean**

Dear friends and members,

It's now September – a milestone that always feels like the beginning of fall to me, whether or not the weather is cooperating. It's also when I usually anticipate my kids heading back to school, and the freeing up of time for practicing and diving back into church projects. This year, of course, all former routines are out the window, for many of us, I suspect, and not just parents. At least we do have the familiar pattern of shortening days, and the chill in the air, to remind us a bit of where we are in the year. It's easy to get disoriented with many of the routines and rituals that anchor our days, weeks, and months gone this 2020.

We are looking forward to our first event since the Corona virus wrecked havoc with all our lives - an outdoor meeting in September, with local handbell experts Larry and Carla Sue. They performed at Third Reformed during our regional convention last summer, and travel to perform extensively, as well as arranging and composing for groups of all sizes and abilities. You may have heard them playing outside during the Street Performers series some summer previous, or outside in December at the Christmas Market by the Civic Center. So we didn't think it would be much of a stretch to have them present this fall outside for us! We'll be meeting on Sunday, September 27 at 4:30 on the lawn of First Reformed. Thanks to Rick for organizing these details for us, and Larry and Carla for being flexible during these unusual times. If it rains on the 27<sup>th</sup>, the following Sunday is our rain date.

If you'd like to invite a handbell lover from your church or choir to attend this program, feel free to do so. We'll have a mic and sound system available on the lawn, and if anyone would rather avoid crowds altogether and listen in their car, that will also be an option. Please wear a mask, bring a lawn chair, and follow all guidelines for keeping one another safe.

It will be exciting to see many of you again after so long!

We are looking forward to other events, as resources, energy, and times allow.

If you are looking for some online organ activities, following you'll see a schedule organized by the AGO Young Organist group, but open to anyone with time and interest.

Thanks to all for reading and supporting the chapter during these times.  
Hope to see you at our event in September!

Best wishes,  
Rhonda

## **Harderwyk Church Remote and In-person Services.**

Jane Bosco has kindly taken the time to write up for us an explanation of how things have been going at Harderwyk in recent months.

Harderwyk CRC has three worshipping communities with three distinct music styles and three worshipping pastors. All regulations have been followed precisely by the church and signs are posted at

the open main entrance asking health questions and advocating for masks at all times. After restrictions were put in place the three pastors met each week on Wednesday afternoons to record one service for all Harderwyk worshippers to watch at home on the Harderwyk website. Music was generally recorded at the same time by two to three members of the worship bands that serve the contemporary worship communities. This consisted of two worship songs, a verbal call to worship, an animated recording from the Zondervan's Children's Bible that related to the sermon, then a roundtable discussion of the scripture and lesson led by the three worshipping pastors. My friend Jayne Gort, flute, and I recorded music at our respective homes and she synchronized parts. These selections were used when there was a special evening service for the traditional/classic service known as Celebration.

Fast forward to July 5. Following training and purchase of equipment that would allow for live streaming, the Celebration community began a trial run and produced two services via live-stream mode. On July 19 Celebration began in-person services. There is an organ prelude that begins promptly at 9 am and the time allocated for it is 2-3 minutes. People have really appreciated hearing the organ again. Attendance is limited to approximately 50 attendees and has varied slightly each week. Masks must be worn at all times. Pews are blocked off in the sanctuary for social distancing. The congregation is discouraged from singing, but most people sing through their masks. We have been doing three hymns with 1-2 verses. Celebrants are encouraged to reflect on the text while listening to the music. The text is posted on the screen. Hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the pews due to the virus issues. The congregation loves to sing. There have been concerns about singing though people wear masks at all times. In the near future we may omit one of the hymns in order to lessen this problem.

Immediately following the service the pastor ushers the congregation out of the building single file. They are invited to visit outside as they exit the church. My postlude is purposely brief so that the congregation leaves the sanctuary promptly.

We are looking ahead to better times and will begin discussions for our December Lessons and Carols Service in early October. One positive result of this time is that Harderwyk adjusted successfully and cooperatively to the difficulties and has embraced more technologically in order to connect with its three congregations. Many people are still hesitant to attend in person services, but do want to stay connected. Harderwyk is doing its best to make that happen.

**Something for everyone!**  
**AGOYO virtual program year 20-21**

# **FRIDAYS AT NOON EST**

videos will be premiered at:  
<https://www.youtube.com/user/GuildofOrganists>

**August 14-** Organ crawl: West Point Chapel

**September 11-** Workshop:

Church musicians and technology

**September 25-** Panel: Organists of colors

**October 9-** Panel: The Global Organist

**November 13-** Organ crawl: Longwood Gardens

**December 11-** Organ factory tour: Austin Organ Co.

**January 8-** Webinar:

Young conductors/organists guide to church music

**February 12-** Organ crawl: Wanamaker

**March 12-** Panel:

Board positions in the guild/serving in leadership roles

**April 9-** Organ factory tour: Taylor & Boody

**May 7, 14, 21, 28-** Young organist recitals



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[conveneragoyo@gmail.com](mailto:conveneragoyo@gmail.com)

<https://www.agohq.org/ago-young-organists/>

## Chapter Officers for 2020-2021

Dean - Rhonda Edgington

Sub-Dean - Linda Fulton

Secretary - Karen Howells

Treasurer - Gordon Bruns

Board Member - Rick Van Oss

Student Board Member - Alex Cross

Newsletter Editor - Paul Dalman

Website – [hollandareaago.org](http://hollandareaago.org)

2020-2021 Calendar		
Sun Sep 27, 4:30 p.m. (Rain date Oct 4)	Handbell Concert – Larry and Carla Sue	First Reformed Church lawn, Holland