



Delaware AGO Chapter Officers

Mike Bareham, *dean*

Jane Van Valkenburg, *sub-dean*

Barb Bayers, *secretary*

Ryan Pryslak, *treasurer/registrar*

Members-at-large

Robert Furr

Joe Loudon

Steven Patchel, *newsletter*

Keith St. John

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Letter from our Dean

FUELED UP AND READY TO GO!

Greetings, DE AGO! I am writing you for the first time as Dean of the Delaware Chapter as opposed to reporting on our financial and membership status as Treasurer/Registrar, the position I have held since the height of the pandemic in 2020.

I trust that your summer has been relaxing and that you have found time to rejuvenate your passion for what you do and refresh your energy levels for the fall as music ministry programming resumes.

One of the ways I do this is by attending conferences and workshops over the summer, as well as throughout the year. I attended the biennial conference of the Association of Lutheran Church Musicians in Philadelphia in July and connected with chapter, regional, national and international musicians. It was also great to reconnect with attendees from the January Jumpstart and build relationships with them, as well as network with their colleagues from as far away as Germany. I concentrated on composition and improvisation, as well as congregational song, in the workshops that I attended.

Then I focused on choral and instrumental music at the Augsburg-Fortress Summer Music Clinic held in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, every August. Again, I was refreshed by the workshops and recharged by the enthusiastic singing and beautiful playing at the hymn festival.

Others attended the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Dual Regional Convention of the AGO in New York, while others attended the Organ Historical Society convention in Toronto. Look for their stories elsewhere in this edition.

If you didn't get to participate in such an event, I trust that you were able to reconnect with a colleague and share mountain-top/valley-low experiences in your ministry. Or maybe you revisited a piece of music or became acquainted with a new one that you want to share in worship or recital, or found that it simply brought you the sheer joy of music making.

Perhaps a relaxing week of vacation—at home, down the ocean or up in the mountains—was all you needed to achieve renewal. Or perhaps it was that bucket list/dream trip that re-energized you. Sometimes all it takes is time with family or friends, old or new, whether close by or around the world.

It is my hope that you found time to refuel and are ready to make music however you prefer and wherever you go for whatever purpose you do it!

— Mike Bareham, *Dean*

Get "Hook"ed In New Castle Saturday, September 23 at 10:30 am

The DE AGO will meet at 10:30 AM at St. Peter's Church, located at 521 Harmony Street in New Castle, DE to see and hear the newly restored Hook and Hastings Organ, Opus 1176 (built in 1883). The program will feature information about the restoration project from Mike McHugh, music director, and Larry Pruett, president of the Columbia Organ Company. It will also include demonstrations of the organ by the church organist and AGO members, as well as an open bench time for members to play the organ. At noon, there will be an optional lunch at Jessop's Tavern in downtown New Castle. The Chapter has placed a deposit for reservations at 12 Noon. As space is limited, please RSVP ASAP to Michael Davidson (diaphone16@verizon.net) to reserve your seat for lunch. If you wish to expand your day in historic New Castle, "Art on the Green" sponsored by the Lions Club, will be going on in Battery Park. There is plenty of parking in the church and school lots. We hope you can join us for this historical organ event and luncheon!

Evensong & Installation Sunday, October 15 at 4:00 pm

You won't want to miss our Installation of Officers on Sunday, October 15 at 4:00 PM! Chapter member and Christ Church Director of Music Bruce Barber has graciously agreed to include our installation in the first Choral Evensong of the 2023/2024 program year at Christ Church Christiana Hundred, located at 505 Buck Road in Greenville, DE.

Monthly Evensongs alternate between the church's two stunning worship spaces and this service will be in the recently restored Chapel of the Christ Child.

Our youngest chapter member Cameron Kuzepski, student at Peabody Conservatory in Baltimore, will play a ten minute prelude on the 2022 Fisk organ, while chapter member Gabriel Benton will play the liturgy and the postlude. The choir will be directed by Bruce Barber.

Our AGO Regional Councillor Wayne Wold will be the installing officer, and he will join us afterwards at Brandywine Brewing Company. Join us for dinner (on your own) to hear updates on the latest news and initiatives from AGO Headquarters, as well as enjoy some lively conversation among friends and colleagues.

Membership Renewal

Please make sure that you have an email address as you go online to renew your chapter membership. AGO National had planned a move from ONCARD to the iMiS database system in September; however, we were just informed that won't occur until February now. If you have any trouble, do not hesitate to contact headquarters in order to keep your membership active. Ryan Pryslak, Treasurer/Registrar will be letting you know if you are in danger of being "cancelled."

Local Chapter News

The Southern Delaware Chapter of the AGO has recently disbanded. In light of this, the DE AGO and Salisbury MD Chapters are ready to welcome their members with open arms. Your DE Board of Directors has relocated one of this year's planned events to St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lewes, Delaware. We are also hosting the receptions for the Delaware Choral Arts concerts in February — one in Newark and one in Dover to raise awareness of the Guild. We are also planning Zoom "meet and greets" and social outings, and will seek input from those "down south" as those of us "up north" work towards joining forces for the good of all. Check out all of our events in this newsletter and online at delawareago.org.

ALCM Biennial Conference

In early July, the Association for Lutheran Church Musicians convened its conference in Philadelphia. There were a variety of workshops and hymn festivals that welcomed various genres of sacred music. The conference's plenaries touched on the theme of "What Wondrous Love". The opening plenary included a fantastic hymn sing by Mark Miller, a celebrated Methodist composer of new-aged hymnody. These hymns touched upon important messages and societal issues. Any music director interested in getting their feet wet with newer hymns should check out Miller's compositions.

The second day began with a wonderful morning prayer service that focused more on traditional hymnody and chants. It was a great reminder of the roots of sacred music, and how we should continue these traditions that have withstood the test of time.

The final plenary concluded with a jazz-style hymn festival led by Omaldo Perez. The hymns were arranged in invigorating time signatures with exciting chord changes and extensions found in jazz. Overall, the conference was insightful as to how leaders of church music need not lead in one specific way. One should feel welcome to experiment with different genres, while keeping the integrity of traditional sacred music.

I strongly believe that when music is done well, its beauty will help the church grow, and bring those listening closer to their faith.

*Ryan Peteraf, Music Director/Organist,
St. Michael's Lutheran Church, Unionville*

Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Regional Convention Westchester County, July 3–6

175 people from 19 states (including Alabama, Oklahoma, and California to mention a couple) attended this vibrant convention. Although in competition with a number other conventions, enthusiastic attendees enjoyed all that was offered. Participants heard the fabulous instruments at Rye Presbyterian Church which was the site of both the Opening Service and Closing Concert (1981 Casavant);

- White Plains Presbyterian (1964 Austin);
- The Reformed Church of Bronxville (2023 Austin);
- Bedford Presbyterian (2001 Martin Pasi);
- Presbyterian Church of Mt. Kisco (2008 von Beckerath);
- St. Peter's Church, Haverstraw (1898 Jardine restored by Andover 2011);
- Immaculate Conception/St. Mary's Church, Yonkers (1906 Odell);
- Irvington Presbyterian (2001 Klais);
- Hitchcock Presbyterian in Scarsdale (1990 J. W. Walker);

Many attended this particular convention because of the opportunity to see the organ at Cadet Chapel USMA West Point (1911 Moeller).

We were treated to wonderful service organists such as David Enlow, Daniel Ficarri, Terry Flanagan, Dina Foster-Osborne, and David Hurd. John T. King directed the New Choral Society at the Opening Worship Service and Justin Bichof led Modus Operandi Orchestra at the closing concert. Additionally, guest artists shared their superb talents at the various venues. We enjoyed Nathan Avakian, Peter Richard Conte, Anne Lave, Renee Ann Louprette, Amanda Mole, Jennifer Pasucal, Caroline Robinson, Craig Williams and Janet Yieh.

Everyone attending expressed their pleasure at how smoothly things ran and kudos were due the Westchester County Chapter Steering Team and specifically Jon Riss, Convention Coordinator. I had the good fortune of stepping in as Registrar several months prior to the convention and thoroughly enjoyed working with this incredible team.

Two items of note: AGO has hired a Convention Coordinator, Valerie Franzen, who attended this convention in her 3rd week on the job. And at the Regional Meeting at the West Point Club, Chapter Member (and AGO National Chief Development Officer) F. Anthony Thurman was recognized by James Thomashower for his twenty-five years of service to this organization. A definite highlight of the convention.

Only two organists attended from Delaware (some attended other conventions happening at the same time): Tony Thurman and myself. Save the dates for the National Convention next year in San Francisco: June 30-July 4. Their convention coordinator teased us with mention of some outstanding venues and ideas for this event. Not too early to start planning!

Barb Bayers

OHS Convention

The Organ Historical Society enjoyed a joint meeting with the Royal Canadian College of Organists in Toronto the first week of July called “A Festival of Pipes, Building Bridges, Forging Friendships.” What a wonderful week of new-to-me people and organs! It differed from a customary OHS conference with the inclusion of workshops on various interesting topics (standard for RCCO and AGO) and fewer pre-20th century historic organs. We still heard organs from the 1890s and 1920s, however, along with newer organs from the 1960s through recent years. Each organ was interesting in its own way and the vast majority of playing by both US and Canadian organists was superb. Being in Canada, we heard Casavant organs of every era – in itself a fascinating tour of organ history.

Toronto is, of course, a major city, and we got to know much of it quite well. Rather than boarding a bus each day, the conference depended on public transportation and its efficient and spiffy subways and streetcars to get us to and fro. We traversed much of the city this way and enjoyed seeing a great deal of it and eating in restaurants all through the city.

This was a thoroughly enjoyable and memorable week. The Organ Historical Society meets next summer in Baltimore – just down the road – so I hope you will plan to attend. You will find it quite a fascinating week of organs and people.

*David Schelat, Minister of Music
First & Central Presbyterian Church, Wilmington*

Free Augsburg Music Clinics

Almost every year I attend the Augsburg Fortress Music Clinics held in Ardmore, Pennsylvania, to garner new music for adult choirs and keyboard, as well as offerings from Chorister’s Guild for children and handbells. But they are so much more than publisher showcases (and a place to spend too much money on more music—LOL).

Besides reconnecting with area colleagues, they offer a plethora of education for those who plan and lead corporate, dynamic worship. This year, Anne Krentz Organ, Director of Music Ministries at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church in Park Ridge, Illinois, was the choral clinician. She led a wonderful workshop on creative proclamation for all ages, and for everyone to get involved whether musically inclined or not. Her insights on enhancing scripture readings with musical elements, as well as liturgical dance and non-rehearsed congregational participation, were both delightful and extremely useful.

Dr. Karen Black, Professor of Organ at Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa, was the organ clinician. She reminded us of the importance of building trust with our congregations through thoughtful and inspired hymn leadership. Her experience leading college chapel services, as well as serving in parish music ministry, gave insight as to how important it is to “love the people more than the music.” Get to know your congregation and listen to them – what they like and don’t like.

Karen and Anne both led a beautiful and inspiring hymn festival celebrating the saints. St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the host church, has a beautiful pipe organ with digital enhancements by Walker and a huge console known as "the Titanic." Creative introductions and free accompaniments were tastefully done allowed easy singing of many new hymns from *All Creation Sings*, the new supplement to *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*. I volunteered to sing in the choir and ring handbells for this service which is always a great reminder of what it takes for our musicians to do what they do under our leadership.

*Mike Bareham, Director for Music and Worship
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Newark*



Kudos To One of Our Own

Delaware Chapter member Dr. F. Anthony Thurman, Chief Development Officer at AGO headquarters in New York City, was recognized for his twenty-five years of service to the Guild. The presentation was made by James Thomashower, AGO Executive Director, at a luncheon at the West Point Officer's Club as part of the Northeast/Mid-Atlantic Dual Regional Convention. Congratulations, Tony!

NOTABLE EVENTS



Key Locations

- Christ Church, Christiana Hundred 505 Buck Rd, Wilmington
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church 701 S. College Ave, Newark
- First & Central Presbyterian, 1101 N Market St, Wilmington
- Silverside Church, 2800 Silverside Road, Wilmington
- Immanuel Church on the Green, 50 Market Street, New Castle
- Trinity Episcopal Church 1108 North Adams St. Wilmington
- Newark UMC 69 East Main Street, Newark
- Westminster Presbyterian 1502 W 13th St. Wilmington

SEPTEMBER

Friday 8 September 6:30 pm
Wilson Somers Jazz Quartet
Stan Slotter, trumpet/flute;
Bill Stumm, contrabass; Jonathan Whitney, percussion; Tara Lake, soprano; Charlotte Paulsen, mezzo
Assumption of Mary Parish
300 State Road West Grove, PA

Sunday 10 September 3:00 pm
Raye Jones Avery Jazz Concert
"We who believe in freedom"
Silverside Church

Sunday 17 September 3:00 pm
Sara Michaels Jazz Concert
Silverside Church

Saturday 23 September 10:30 am
Hook & Hastings Organ Tour
St. Peter's Church, 521 Harmony St
New Castle

Sunday 24 September 3:00 pm
Double Shot Rock'n Roll Band
Outdoor concert - Silverside Church

Friday 29 September 7:30 pm
The Oskar Stenmark Jazz Trio
From Sweden to NYC
Trinity Episcopal Church
Free Admission



OCTOBER

Sunday 1 October 3:00 PM
"Erntedankfest" Service of Thanksgiving
Delaware Saengerbund Chorus and Johannes Brass
St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Newark

Sunday 1 October 4:00 PM
Felix Hell, organist
Bach, Dupré, Guilment, Bovet
St. Mary's Episcopal Church
36 Ardmore Avenue Ardmore PA
office@stmarysardmore.org

OCTOBER

Thursday 5 October 12:30 pm
David Schelat, organist
Colorful baroque and romantic music on the Kney organ.
First & Central Presbyterian

Thursday 12 October 12:30 pm
OperaDelaware preview
Highlights of OperaDelaware's production of Rigoletto.
First & Central Presbyterian

Saturday 14 October 3:00 pm
David Schelat, organist
Music of J. S. Bach, CV Stanford, and César Franck
At First & Central Presbyterian
Tickets: MarketStreetMusicDE.org

Saturday 14 October 8:30-6:00
Westminster Choir Collg Organ Day
Gill Memorial Chapel Rider Univ.
<https://www.rider.edu/about/events/westminster-high-school-organ-day>

Sunday 15 October 4:00 pm
Evensong and DE AGO Officers Installation Service
Christ Church Christiana Hundred Greenville

Sunday 15 October 4:00 pm
Wilson Somers Jazz Quartet
Dave Schiff, Leon Spencer, Jonathan Whitney, Tara Lake, Charlotte Paulsen
Advent Chancel Choir
Episcopal Church of the Advent
401 N. Union St. Kennett Square

Thursday 19 October 12:30 pm
Poeticall Musicke
Donna Fournier & Gretchen Gettes
Viola da Gamba music of England, France, and the Netherlands
First & Central Presbyterian



Peabody Organ 2023 Conference

THE PEABODY-BALTIMORE LEGACY
Three Legendary Organs —
Three Master Teachers
The Organ in the 20th Century

Recitals and lectures displaying diverse approaches to the organ in the 20th century, guiding toward a pedagogy of organ and sacred music in the 21st century.

 Virgil Fox Brown Memorial Presbyterian Church	 Arthur Howes Mount Calvary Catholic Church	 Donald Sutherland Peabody Institute, Leith-Symington Griswold Hall
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OCTOBER 8-9, 2023

For registration and more information, visit
peabody.jhu.edu/organconf

 **JOHNS HOPKINS**
PEABODY CONSERVATORY

peabody.jhu.edu

Saturday 21 October 3:00 pm
Pyxis Piano Trio
Beethoven and Shostakovich.
First & Central Presbyterian
Tickets: MarketStreetMusicDE.org

Thursday 26 October 12:30 pm
Center City Chorale:
Music of the World
Folk music from Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the US
First & Central Presbyterian

NOVEMBER

Thursday 2 November 12:30 pm

Violalia: *violin and viola*

New York duo's Delaware debut
Old Town Hall, 510 N Market St
Wilmington

Thursday 9 November 12:30 pm

Dallas Vietty, accordion

Beautifully expressive music
Old Town Hall, 510 N Market St.

Fri/Sat 10-11 November 7:30 pm

Sun 12 Nov 2:00 pm (family friendly)

Wilmington Concert Opera

Humperdinck: *Hänsel und Gretel*
In German with Supertitles
Presbyterian Church of Covenant
Free Admission

Sunday 12 November 4:00 pm

DeWitt Fleming & Friends

Sax and Taps: Intersplosion!

Trinity Episcopal Church
Free Admission

Thursday 16 November 12:30 pm

Kevin Cope

Classical guitarist-composer
Old Town Hall, 510 N Market St.
Wilmington

Saturday 18 November 3:00 pm

Trio Eos: Testimonies

A celebration of women's voices
featuring premieres by Kamala
Sankaram and Karen Siegel.
First & Central Presbyterian Church
Tickets: MarketStreetMusicDE.org

Thursday 30 November 12:30 pm

Cartoon Christmas Trio

Jazz from *Charlie Brown Christmas*
First & Central Presbyterian Church

DECEMBER

Saturday 2 December 3:00 pm

Mastersingers of Wilmington:

Christmas Story

First & Central Presbyterian
Tickets: MarketStreetMusicDE.org

Sunday 3 December 2:00 pm

A Jazz Christmas: Nashville

Recording Artists, Jenny and Tyler
Wilson Somers Jazz Quintet and
the Jazz Christmas Choir
The Tatnall School - PAC
1501 Barley Mill Rd. Wilmington
Tickets: musicwithamission.org

Thursday 7 December 12:30 pm

Charlie Zahm: A Celtic Christmas

Traditional Celtic and Christmas music
First & Central Presbyterian Church
Free admission

Substitute List

KEY: (S) Sunday, (C) choir, (HB) Handbells, (SS) Special Services, (W) Weddings, (F) Funerals



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Have a wonderful Autumn!