



## Delaware AGO Chapter Officers

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**Jane Van Valkenburg**, *sub-dean*

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Keith St. John

## Contents

**Dean's Letter**

**January Jumpstart**

**Holiday/Winter Events**

**Southern DE Members**

**Substitute List**



## Letter from our Dean

As I sit down to write this column, I am especially grateful to the skilled doctors and technicians at the Wills Eye Hospital in Philadelphia for the procedures done to repair my detached retina. It truly gives me pause that I am able to sit at my computer and see the screen as I head into the holiday weekend! It gives Thanksgiving a whole new meaning for me this year! I want everyone to know that you will only receive emails from me that are from: [info@delawareago.org](mailto:info@delawareago.org) or [splcmusmin@gmail.com](mailto:splcmusmin@gmail.com). Any requests for assistance, financial or otherwise, besides the one included below in my column, are phishing expeditions and should be ignored as spam. I appreciate the reports of suspicious behavior, as do all of your board members who have been plagued by this.

By the time you read this, Giving Tuesday (November 28) will have come and gone. However, if you would like to make a tax-deductible gift to the chapter (beyond your dues), know that any amount would be greatly appreciated for the furtherance of the organization and for programming and educational events scheduled for this year and next. Checks can be made payable to: DE Chapter of the AGO and mailed to: Ryan Pryslak, DE AGO Treasurer, Presbyterian Church of the Covenant, 503 Duncan Road, Wilmington. Of course, AGO National would also appreciate radical generosity on AGO Giving Day 2023, which is December 17, celebrating the charter of the AGO in 1896. Visit <https://www.agohq.org/givingday2023/> and make a tax-deductible donation to support a critical area of need.

A huge thank you to our presenters on Saturday morning, November 11 and everyone who attended in-person and online. "Every Organist a Composer" offered anthems for children and adults, new hymns and acclamations, mass settings, as well as music for organ. As event coordinator Jack Burnam shared with the group, Bach and Buxtehude set the tone for the day as they were often called on to write music that fit their particular situation. You should have received a PDF booklet of the music composed by Jack, myself, David Christopher, Melissa Heieie, and David Schelat, as well as a link to the livestream that was recorded on Facebook. Here's hoping that you were inspired to write something of your own!

Our next chapter event, a Twelfth Night Party, scheduled for Saturday, January 6 from 4 - 6PM, is back by popular demand. Joanne Hench and her husband, Charlie, will graciously open their beautifully decorated home, located at 13 Fall Brooke Road in Newark, to members and friends of the

Delaware Chapter. Everyone is invited to bring a finger food or dessert to share. Wine and beverages will be provided. This year games will include trivia and pictionary based on the Feast of the Epiphany and the Twelve Days of Christmas, respectively. As Shakespeare said, make of it *What You Will*."

Following shortly after on Saturday, January 27 is the annual JanuaryJumpstart sponsored by the Philadelphia Chapter of the AGO. Registration is limited to 120 participants again this year, so be sure and register early to secure your spot by visiting: <https://pcagoo.wildapricot.org/event-5447811>. Join in this educational and inspiring day (8:30 AM - 5PM), replete with a hymn festival, keynote speaker at lunch (provided with registration) and an organ recital, as well as workshops, at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, located at 625 Montgomery Avenue in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. Jane Van Valkenburg, Sub Dean ([javan211@gmail.com](mailto:javan211@gmail.com)) will coordinate carpooling for this event.

In closing out this year, I ask blessings on your music ministry in this busy season, and I wish you and yours very happy holidays! Looking forward to 2024 and rest assured, I will be in touch by email with more details about all it has to offer!

– Mike Bareham, Dean



Photos by Jane Van Valkenburg

**Scenes from our fall events**

## **January JumpStart 2024** **Sponsored by the AGO Philadelphia Chapter**

*Registration limited to 120 participants!*

at Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church 625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr, PA

Saturday, January 27, 2024

8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Start the day off with a Hymn Festival presented by Mark Laubach in the Chapel. Peter Dubois, host and producer of the nationally syndicated "With Heart and Voice," and recently retired from Third Church, Rochester, will be our keynote speaker during lunch. End the day with a recital by Dr. Isabelle Demers! Breakout sessions will include Time Management with Laura Vanderkam, Choral Reading with Dr. Lynnel Joy Jenkins, and Keyboard technique with Barbara Lister-Sink. Vince Ryan will show how you can nurture the joys of the organ by using an Orgelkids kit: a real, portable pipe organ that you build and play. Continue the collegial interactions during a reception at the end of the day!

\$50 for AGO members • \$60 for non-members • \$10 for students (ID required)

*Included: coffee/tea, buffet lunch, music for choir sessions, reception, and a fabulously good time!*

## NOTABLE EVENTS



### Key Locations

- Christ Church, Christiana Hundred 505 Buck Rd, Wilmington
- First & Central Presbyterian, 1101 N Market St, Wilmington
- Presbyterian Church of Covenant, 503 Duncan Rd. Wilmington
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church 701 S. College Ave, Newark
- Westminster Presbyterian 1502 W 13th St. Wilmington

## DECEMBER

### Saturday 2 December 3:00 pm

Mastersingers of Wilmington:  
The Christmas Story  
Music of Jonathan Dove,  
Mendelssohn, Arvo Pärt,  
Stephen Heitzeg  
First & Central Presbyterian  
Tix@ [MarketStreetMusicDE.org](mailto:MarketStreetMusicDE.org)

### Saturday 2 December 4:30 pm

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble  
Kent County Public Library  
Dover DE

### 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  
Tickets: [musicwithamission.org](http://musicwithamission.org)

### Sunday 3 December 3:00 pm

*Solstice Splendor*  
Osher Lifelong Learning Chorus and  
St Paul's Handbell Ensemble  
Michael Bareham, Director  
St. Paul's Lutheran, Newark

### Sunday 3 December 3:00 pm

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble  
The Newark Symphony Orchestra  
Independence School  
Paper Mill Road, Newark DE

### Sunday 3 December 4:00 pm

Advent Lessons and Carols  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

### Thursday 7 December 12:30 pm

Charlie Zahm: A Celtic Christmas  
*Traditional Celtic music*  
First & Central Presbyterian

### Saturday 9 December 4:00 pm

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble  
Ebenezer UMC, Newark

### Sunday 10 December 3:00 pm

Westminster Church Choir  
Christmas Concert  
Dr. F. Anthony Thurman,  
Director/Organist  
Ted W. Barr, Piano  
Westminster Presbyterian

### Sunday 10 December 3:00 pm

Piffaro Christmas Concert  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

### Sunday 10 December 4:00 pm

"Christmas Through the Ages"  
First State Flute Choir  
Rachel Butera, Director  
St Paul's Lutheran, Newark

### Monday 11 December 7:00 pm

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble  
Brandywine Hundred Library  
Wilmington

### Thursday 14 December 12:30 pm

Center City Chorale:  
*Christmas Comes Again*  
First & Central Presbyterian

### Saturday 16 December 3:00 pm

"Winter Scenes"  
New Ark Chorale  
Michael Larkin, Director  
St. Paul's Lutheran, Newark

### Saturday 16 December 4:00 pm

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble  
Tower Chime Recital 3:30 pm  
Westminster Presbyterian Church

### Sunday 17 December 4:00 pm

Candlelight Advent Vespers  
with Delaware Women's Chorus

and Cantabile Choir of the  
Music School of Delaware  
Works by female composers  
McDowall, Beamish, Rimkus  
\$15 suggested donation  
Church of the Covenant

### Friday 29 December 7:00 pm

John Rutter conducts CC Choir  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

### Saturday 30 December 2:00 pm

John Rutter conducts CC Choir  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

## JANUARY

### Sunday 7 January 4:00 pm

*Sounds of the Season*  
St. Paul's Ministry of Music  
and Chamber Orchestra  
Michael Bareham, Director  
St Paul's Lutheran, Newark

### Sunday 21 January 4:00 pm

Epiphany Lessons and Carols  
Christ Church (Chapel)

### Sunday 28 January 4:00 pm

Tempesta di Mare  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

## FEBRUARY

### Sunday 4 February 4:00 pm

Christ Church Schola & Senior Choristers  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

### Sunday 18 February 4:00 pm

Lent Lessons and Carols (Chapel)  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

### Sunday 25 February 4:00 pm

Christ Church Choir Sings Duruflé  
with Nathan Laube, organ  
Christ Church Christiana Hundred



## **Make New Friends, but Keep the Old ...One is Silver, the Other Gold** by Jane Van Valkenburg

When the Southern Delaware Chapter disbanded recently, several of its members decided to join our Chapter. We welcome them wholeheartedly, and are pursuing ways to expand our programming and our support of our fellow musicians throughout the state.

**Jake Darmstadter** is one of our Young Organist members. He attended our Pedals, Pipes and Pizza program in the spring of 2022. He's been playing the organ for about three years now and the piano for about ten. His interest in the organ sparked when he was little and his grandparents took him up to the Wanamaker organ for their Christmas light shows. To this day it remains his favorite organ and he loves going up there to see the organ whenever possible.

**Leon Green** is a former Psychiatrist who began his musical journey as a 7 year old piano student. (He remembers that he sneezed during his first recital, but never missed a note!) He continued his studies at the University of Kansas, along with pre-med. He took up the organ in 2005 and has served churches in Pennsylvania and Delaware. He is currently available as a Substitute organist and is studying for the Service Playing Certificate.

**Damien Jones** is Minister of Music at Saint Anne's Episcopal Church in Middletown, where he hosted a joint meeting of the Delaware and Southern Delaware AGO Chapters last March and introduced us to the church's new Viscount organ. He is employed with the Kennett Consolidated School District and also works for Whitsel Church Organs, and Grafton Piano and Organ as a representative for Viscount International.

**Scott Kresge** is Office Administrator and Director of Music at Saint John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Milton. He attended January Jumpstart 2023 and hopes to be there again in 2024. He looks forward to meeting people at some of our upcoming meetings.

**Alex Piela** is a church organist who currently studies at Salisbury University in Maryland. His favorite organ features are the Performance Player from Genisys Allen Organs and the MiDi Assistant also from Allen Organs. He likes to explore organs that are new to him, so really enjoyed the Hook & Hastings that we visited at St. Peter the Apostle RC Church in New Castle.

**T.J. Thomas** is a newlywed (several chapter members participated in the September wedding) who serves as Minister of Music at St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Lewes. A graduate of Marywood University in Scranton, PA, he is active in the Royal School of Church Music in America and functions as liturgist and co-music manager of the Kings College course every summer.

**Brad Ucci** is a former NJ public school teacher who "retired" to the Delaware beaches. He keeps busy there as Organist/Choir Director at St. Jude the Apostle R.C. Church in Lewes, Assistant Organist at St. Edmund R.C. Church in Rehoboth Beach and is a willing Substitute as time allows. He also enjoys travelling, gardening and photography.

Three of our members were dual members of both the Delaware and the Southern Delaware Chapters. They all live BELOW the Canal.

**Barb Bayers** lives in Smyrna and keeps busy as a substitute organist.

**Heather Hamilton** is Director of Music and Organist at the Presbyterian Church of Dover.

**Jane Van Valkenburg** is a substitute who lives in Townsend.

## Substitute List

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



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Delaware AGO Board of Directors  
Installation Service  
October 15, 2023  
*Photo by David Schelat*

*Wishing You a Blessed Christmas  
and Holiday Season!*