



The Voluntary Trumpet

A PUBLICATION OF THE CHARLESTON CHAPTER
OF THE AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

SEPTEMBER 2021

The mission of the American Guild of Organists is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. We encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music; inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors; provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support; nurture future generations of organists; promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

CHAPTER OFFICERS 2020–2022

DEAN

Katie Holland

k8ieholland@gmail.com

SUB-DEAN

Pat Gould

pgould@stphilipchurchsc.org

SECRETARY

Nancy Clayton Lefter

nclefter@bellsouth.net

TREASURER, WEBMASTER

Ed LeRoy

eleroy44@gmail.com

Please contact the treasurer with any changes of address, telephone number, or other information.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Mark Bebensee

bebensee@citadel.edu

Larry Speakman

larryspeakman@gmail.com

Jimmy Miller

millerjimmy2@yahoo.com

Michael Varnadore

mr@mikerussellpianoservices.com

IMMEDIATE PAST DEAN

Loretta Haskell

lorettahaskell@moremusicplease.com

DEAN'S LIST

September is an interesting time in the Revised Common Lectionary. We are half finished with “ordinary time” (12 weeks left!) and studying the year’s Gospel, Mark, reading the teachings of Jesus.



Lately, Year B has provided some “wisdom” readings but “bread” and “growing” have been themes too. To me, the most colorful church observances in the fall “fall” outside of the revered RCL. Labor Day (9/5), acknowledges the sacrifices of workers and marks the unofficial end of summer. 2021 marks the 20th Anniversary of the September 11 Terrorist Bombing. Many of us observe “Blessing of the Backpacks”, “Fall Kickoff”, or “Rally Day” starts to the Sunday School year. Civic-minded folks observe Hispanic Heritage Month (September 15 to October 15).

When I participate in and educate myself about these traditions, my appreciation of God’s work in the world and gratitude for my own blessings are sparked. However, my favorite observance is Sept. 17 — the Feast of Hildegard of Bingen. Finally canonized in 2014, the 12th-century German Benedictine abbess is an inspiration for creativity, unequivocal faith in God’s beauty and love, and even a “wounded healer.” Her monophonic music remains popular, her mercy, wisdom, and esteem are

the stuff of legend, and her visions — thought-provoking. She is held up by feminists as a woman who succeeded in a man’s world, by mystics as someone wise and blessed by God, by her contemporaries as worthy of consultation. Her texts and chants proclaim the glory of God’s “greening power” which I define as divine inspiration through natural wonder, biblical cultivation, and celebration of such through the arts. Years ago, I received a custom-writ icon of Hildegard of Bingen (before she was cool and canonized). At “div” school, an inspired student created a morning prayer setting using her chants and texts. An eon ago, I played an organ setting of one of her chants in a recital. My calendar runs the RCL operating system but I always sneak Hildegard into September. This year, I am playing “O Praise a branch of great greenness...” and “Therefore, O Lovely Virgin, there can be no ending to joy in you” set by Philip Jones. Although not Catholic, I am catholic and the texts and beautiful chant melodies remind me that the beauty of God’s creation transcends any building or limit we place on God’s person.

Deacon Katie Holland



OPENING AGO DINNER

MS. ROSES FINE FOODS & COCKTAILS
1090 SAM RITTENBERG BLVD, CHARLESTON, SC
29407

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2021

6:15 COCKTAILS
7:00 DINNER

EMAIL ED LEROY TO RESERVE YOUR PLACE! GUESTS ARE WELCOME!
ELEROY44@GMAIL.COM

Menu: Pesto Linguine (\$15), Fried Chicken (\$16), Shrimp and Grits (\$18), and Smoked Brisket (\$22). Guests can opt for an additional salad (\$4) and a dessert (Cookie Brownie Pie \$7 or Cheesecake \$9). There's no need to make a selection now.

PLEASE NOTE: YOU CANNOT PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD!

Because this is a group dinner, the treasurer has to pay for the entire event with our chapter bankcard. We cannot pay individually. You will be presented with your tab for the evening with tax (11%) and gratuity (20%) included. You will need to write a check to **AGO Charleston** for your amount. Cash will also be accepted, but it's not recommended.



IN MEMORIAM SAM SHEFFER (1947–2021)

We're sad to announce that Sam passed away on Saturday, August 28, at the age of 74. He had been in hospice care for some months at the Sandpiper residence in Mount Pleasant. All who knew him will remember his razor-sharp wit and dry sense of humor. When an obituary is published, we'll share it with everyone.

UPCOMING EVENT: DR. KENNEY POTTER

What: **Emerging voices: Tips for helping our choirs reengage**

When: Sunday, October 24
4:00–5:30 pm

Where: John Wesley United Methodist Church
626 Savannah Hwy, Charleston, SC 29407

Kenney Potter is the Artistic Director of the Charlotte Master Chorale and serves as the Director of Choral Activities at Wingate University. His choirs have received widespread acclaim including winning the Grand Prix for best choir in the Pärnu International Choral Festival in Pärnu, Estonia. In recent years, he has conducted Handel's *Messiah* with the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra and Chorus and collaborated with the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra in performances of the *Mass in B minor* and *St. John Passion* by Johann Sebastian Bach. As a performer, he has been a featured soloist in Carnegie Hall, and was choir soloist for the Grammy-winning Oregon Bach Festival choir as well as the International Bach Academy, conducted by Helmuth Rilling.

In addition to his work at Wingate and with the Charlotte Symphony, he serves as Choral Conductor at Covenant Presbyterian

Church in Charlotte, North Carolina. As a clinician, Dr. Potter has conducted state-wide festival choirs for NafME and ACDA in Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and West Virginia as well as in Nairobi, Kenya and Johannesburg, South Africa. His compositions are published by Hinshaw Music, Choristers Guild, and Santa Barbara Music Publishing and he is founder and editor of Wingate University Music Press, which publishes *Folk Songs of South Africa*, a series of pedagogical resources that he co-authored with Dalene Hoogenhout, conductor of the Wits Choir of Johannesburg. He holds degrees from Florida State University, Portland State University, and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and resides in Charlotte with his wife, Heather, and their children, Syl and Calvin.



YEAR OF THE YOUNG ORGANIST

Free Membership

AGO Year of the Young Organist
July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022

Investing in the Future

The AGO National Council is committed to membership recruitment, retention, and growth within our organization. During the Year of the Young Organist, July 1, 2021–June 30, 2022, **any individual under the age of 30 can become a member or renew her/his membership for free** as part of this program.

The Year of the Young Organist will provide opportunities for both personal and professional development. Programs will include master classes and webinars on a wide variety of topics including:

- Organ Maintenance
- Insurance
- Retirement and Healthcare
- Conducting
- Video Recording
- Vocal Pedagogy

How to do it: Click [here](#), fill out the form, and enjoy a year meeting new colleagues and access to the wealth of resources of the AGO! <https://www.agohq.org/free-membership/>

OUR ONGOING PROJECT: ARCHIVAL DOCUMENTS FOR OUR CHAPTER

During COVID, we all had some time to reflect on the good old days. The Charleston AGO is interested in our “good old days.” Our chapter has been in existence for 74 years (as of November 2021), and we would love to have some mementos of our earlier

years. If you (or someone you know) have programs, meeting minutes, or chapter documents from days of yore, contact Michael Varnadore (mr@mikerussellpianoservices.com) for more details on how to share them with us.

CALENDAR



SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 4:00 PM

ANN CALDWELL AND THE MAGNOLIA SINGERS

FREE CONCERT!

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

3075 Bees Ferry Rd
Charleston, SC 29414.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 4:00 PM

LUDLUM CONCERT SERIES

Miriam Kirshtein, mezzo-soprano, Dr. Margaret Byrd, piano. Ms. Kirshtein is a senior voice student at the College of Charleston. **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**, 405 King St, Charleston, SC 29403.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 10, 5:00 PM

CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST. PHILIP'S

The St. Philip's Choir under the direction of Pat Gould, assisted by Michael Walchesky. Music by Cruger, William Smith, Schalk, Neswick, Howells, and Sullivan. Free parking is available in the church lot at the corner of Church and Cumberland Streets. Reception to follow. **St. Philip's Church**, 142 Church St, Charleston, SC 29401.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 4:00 PM

BACH SOCIETY OF CHARLESTON

North Carolina Baroque Orchestra. *This concert is tentative.* Information regarding location and price will be forthcoming.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 5:00 PM

CHORAL EVENSONG AT ST. PHILIP'S

The St. Philip's Choir under the direction of Pat Gould, assisted by Michael Walchesky. Music by Howells, Tompkins, Dyson and Wesley. Free parking is available in the church lot at the corner of Church and Cumberland Streets. Reception to follow. **St. Philip's Church**, 142 Church St, Charleston, SC 29401.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 4:00 PM

LUDLUM CONCERT SERIES

Lee Kohlenberg, organ, in recital. **St. Matthew's Lutheran Church**, 405 King St, Charleston, SC 29403.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 10:30 AM

LESSONS AND CAROLS AT ST. PHILIP'S

All the choirs of St. Philip's plus orchestra and brass, under the direction of Pat Gould, assisted by Michael Walchesky. Music by Tschesnokoff, Palestrina, Sirett, Vaughan Williams, Lauridsen, Forrest, Titcomb, Hassler and more. Free parking is available in the church lot at the corner of Church and Cumberland Streets. **Come early to get a seat! St. Philip's Church**, 142 Church St, Charleston, SC 29401.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 4:00 PM

LUDLUM CONCERT SERIES

Beer and carols in the Kudu Coffee Courtyard. **Kudu Coffee and Craft Beer**, 4 Vanderhorst St, Charleston, SC 29403.

CHAPTER NEWS



WILLIAM DOUGLAS, Associate Organist/Choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, Columbia, SC, has joined our chapter as a dual member. We extend a hearty welcome!



We've heard some news from **GEORGE HUBBARD**. Many remember George from his years in Charleston as an active member of the Guild and a busy organist about town. In 2015 he left us to become organist at Saint Meinrad Archabbey in Indiana. He has now officially retired and is moving back to his old stomping grounds in Louisville, KY. His new contact information will be in the new directory.

AGO MUSIC EXCHANGE

—Julia Harlow (juliah.6@juno.com)

Thanks again to **LARRY SPEAKMAN** at the Cathedral of St. Luke and St. Paul for agreeing to administer and house the **choral/vocal music** that has come into the Exchange. If you wish to donate choral/vocal what is there, please contact him directly: Larry@your-cathedral.org. He would welcome any help with cataloguing. A catalog of some of the anthems is on the Charleston AGO website: <https://www.agocharleston.org>, then Miscellany.

WE HAVE TONS of organ, piano, organ plus and organ duet music. COME AND GET FREE MUSIC. There are over 1200 entries in the catalog at this point. If you would like a pdf of the catalog, email me at juliah.6@juno.com. The catalog is organized by: Composer Individual Sheets, Composer Books, Collections, Christmas, Wedding (including wedding

songs), Funeral, Oldy Moldy Collections (e.g. Everybody's Favorite...), hymnals, Organ methods and technique, and General Music books. We have over 200 copies of issues of collections such as The Organist (easy), The Organ Portfolio (easy to moderate) and The Organist's Companion (easy to moderate). To download a pdf of the complete Exchange please see the Charleston AGO website: <https://www.agocharleston.org>, then Miscellany or click on the link below.

For the September meeting, I will bring music from the Exchange that pertains to Reformation/Thanksgiving and you are welcome to take what you want. For the October and November meetings I will bring Advent/Christmas/Epiphany music.

If you need something in particular, just ask me and I can let you know if we have it. If you want to come and browse, the collection is at Second Presbyterian Church downtown and I'll be happy to let you in and leave you alone to look. There's a piano there to try things. If you're an AGO member but not able to come in, I can mail things, but just ask to be reimbursed for postage.

There is a pair of men's Organmaster shoes, nearly new, size 9 Narrow-Medium.

Also available are twenty years (2000-2020) of *The American Organist* magazine, housed elsewhere. This is available free (for pickup or for postage), preferably to a school.

As always, if you have music, shoes or books about music to donate, please call (843-870-1048) or email me (juliah.6@juno.com), or bring music to an AGO meeting. Please don't bring any more classical or pop piano music. Sacred piano, contemporary sacred piano, and piano/organ duet sheets or collections are OK.

Click on the link below for PDFs of the current holdings:

<https://www.agocharleston.org/miscellany.html>

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

KINGSTREE, SC: WILLIAMSBURG PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH [PC(USA)]

Williamsburg Presbyterian Church (411 N. Academy St. Kingstree, SC) is looking for a part-time organist/choir director. The choir meets during the school year and is off during the summer. Kingstree is a colorful small town on the Black River, midway between Charleston and Myrtle Beach and inland from Georgetown about 40 miles. Worship at Williamsburg Church is traditional and family oriented.



The church's organ was originally installed in 1957 with modifications and enlargement of the organ being completed in January 2006, which included an additional 9 ranks of pipes and 7 digital stops. The Great was moved out of the chamber into the sanctuary with all pipes in the Great displayed, with voicing completed by Daniel Angerstein. The organ is regularly maintained by Lincoln Pipe Organs, Inc.

Interested candidates may contact Williamsburg church at wmsbpresby@ftc-i.net for a complete job description and to apply. (Posted 6/15/2021)

MONCK'S CORNER: MEPKIN ABBEY

Organist Needed. Men and women can apply. Mepkin Abbey is a Cistercian monastery in Moncks Corner SC (1098 Mepkin Abbey Rd, Moncks Corner, SC 29461). Liturgical music consists of sung psalms using original psalm tones, and traditional hymns and Mass settings. The Divine Office is sung seven times daily, and a sung Mass is celebrated on four weekdays and Sunday. At a minimum, the organist would be expected to accompany singing at the Masses, which are 7:30 AM weekdays and 10:00 AM



Sundays; Lauds/Morning Prayer at 6:30 AM and Vespers/Evening Prayer at 6 PM. You would be free for a good part of the day. Required skills include proficiency on the organ, and the ability to accompany liturgical music using lead sheets (melody line with chord symbols). Desirable skills include training others in organ skills. Psalms, hymns and Mass settings are specified in Office and Mass ORDOS published by a member of the monastic community. Accompaniment lead sheets will be provided. While experience in Catholic and monastic liturgies is not required, it would be useful. Free room and board would be provided at the monastery, and a modest stipend would be provided based on experience and demonstrated skills. Must commit to a minimum of one month. The monastery has a very extensive library for research and can be used in the off times or for other interests. Contact **Father Joseph Tedesco**, OCSO Superior, at frjoetedesco@gmail.com and send résumé. (Posted 6/02/2021)

HANAHAN: MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

Messiah Lutheran Church in Hanahan, SC is seeking a part-time organist/choir director for their weekly Sunday liturgical Service at 11:00 am. There are also special services such as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, and Holy Week.

The organist/choir director of the congregation will be responsible for selecting the music for the worship services in consultation with the Worship Committee and with the pastor. There are choir duties as well, but the choir is currently suspended because of the pandemic.

Please send your resume listing pertinent musical experience to **Rev. Craig W. Versprille** at cversp@comcast.net or to Messiah Lutheran Church, 1106 Yeamans Hall Rd., Hanahan, SC 29410. For additional information about the position please call (843) 747-5316. (Posted 3/18/2021)



SULLIVAN'S ISLAND: CHURCH OF THE HOLY CROSS (ACNA)

Holy Cross is seeking a part-time organist, approximately 20 hours per week, to help lead the worship music at two of our weekly services (a historic service with organ only/no choir, and a traditional service with choir). This person should be proficient on the organ, able to develop and direct a choir for children and for adults, and possess the ability to sight read anthem literature to assist in teaching vocal parts. Also needed: the ability to plan, develop and implement a musical worship strategy that aligns with the overall direction and leadership of services, ability to communicate effectively with church staff and volunteers, excellent collaboration skills and willingness to be part of a team, and ability to prioritize work requirements and planning. Must have a vibrant and dedicated faith in Jesus Christ and a love for people dedicated to serving the Lord and his ministry, as well as an understanding of, and a commitment to serve in the Anglican Church in North America, and the Anglican Diocese of South Carolina. Finally, we are looking for someone who wants to become part of our church community.

Please contact the **Rev. Chris Warner** at chris@holycross.net for more information or to apply. (Posted 3/18/2021)



CHARLESTON: ST. ANDREWS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

St. Andrews (3225 Ashley River Rd, Charleston, SC 29414) has a choir director/organist/pianist position open immediately. There are two services at 8:45 and 11:15 with limited attendance. Both services are currently blended worship due to COVID. Choir rehearsals with four to five choir members are on Wednesdays at 6:30. Piano and electronic organ. Church number is (843) 766-1080. Email is standumc@gmail.com. They are also interested in subs or an interim. (Posted 2/20/2021)



LEXINGTON, SC: SAXE GOTHA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church of Lexington, SC is seeking applications to fill the part time position of Organist/Music Associate. SGPC is a thriving ECO non-liturgical congregation in the heart of Lexington, SC, with an engaging music and arts ministry. Responsibilities include providing organ accompaniment for



two traditional worship services, accompanying weekly adult and youth choir rehearsals, directing the handbell ensemble, and playing for funerals and weddings. The organist will serve on a team that includes the Director of Music and Arts, several audio/visual specialists and a staff pianist. Qualified candidates will possess at least an undergraduate degree in music and/or appropriate experience in a traditional worship setting. This position has the possibility for expanding for the right candidate to complete administrative tasks for the worship and arts ministry. This position can range from 10 to 30 hours a week with a salary based on education, experience, and hours worked. The organ is a 3-manual Allen Renaissance (1997). All interested candidates should contact Director of Music and Arts, Hal McIntosh at hmcintosh@saxegotha.org or 803-359-7770, extension 13. (Posted 2/18/19)



Your Upcoming Events

Don't forget to send in your autumn events for publication in the newsletter and on the Web.

The deadline for the October newsletter is September 25.



Kathy Collins, September 11
Clara Godshall, September 11
Chris Walchesky, September 11
Jackson Stone, September 14

If your name is missing from a birthday month, let Ed LeRoy know.