



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

T.J. Thomas

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The Windchest

Newsletter of the Delaware Chapter,
American Guild of Organists

DECEMBER 2024

www.delawareago.org

WHAT HAS YOUR BOARD BEEN UP TO?

Let me say on behalf of your entire Board of Directors of the Delaware Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, it is an honor to serve you. The nine of us you have elected take great pride in governing this non-profit organization, monitoring its financial resources, evaluating programming and outreach, and a myriad of other things that keep this chapter viable and moving forward. As I shared in my last column, we are small but mighty, and AGO National recognizes that and applauds us. As our membership gets older and our apportionment of dues grows smaller with each passing year, it is a very important time for us to make decisions together that not only affect the here and now, but our future, as we reflect on our past.

You chose us because you believe we have the skills necessary to set the DE AGO on a course for success! We thank you for that and all come with good intentions, but we also know that good intentions are not enough! Therefore, at every meeting this year we have set aside time to learn and hone the skills required to be the best team we can be as we represent you and those who join our ranks (pun intended). We seek out and participate in training and development opportunities. We self-evaluate and identify the needs of the organization. We envision how the board will evolve as the organization evolves.

That being said, we are now ready and have a plan for planning. In the coming months, we will be evaluating our own involvement on the board, our effectiveness as your collective board, and gathering strategic goals that will eventually culminate in a long-range plan. We also need to develop a short-term (one-year) plan to help us achieve our long-term goals—a road map to get where we want to go, so to speak.

Today's world demands that our plan be nimble—prepared for detours such as economic fluctuations or technological changes. We wish to come up with a living document used at every board meeting, that not only reflects our mission and our vision but that of our national association. We hope to come up with a document that is not set in stone but a plan with enough flexibility to be reviewed and modified, if necessary. Good planning takes time and good planning takes information. Board members, committee chairs, and key volunteers will contribute to this plan, as well as you the members and prospective members of this chapter. We will be asking you to dream about the future of this organization and how you can help us make those dreams a reality over the next several years. The basics we are all going to start with are: *do-ability, flexibility, measurability, accountability, and vision*. Want to know more about each of these, ask a member of the board.

Mike Bareham, *Dean*

Are You a Chapter Friend?

AGO National has informed us that the membership category, Chapter Friend, will no longer be recognized at the national level. Perhaps if you have gone on to the AGO website to manage your membership (especially since the launch of the new iMIS database system), you haven't been able to find this option? That is because it will now be handled at the local chapter level. If you wish to remain or become a Chapter Friend, please contact Ryan Pryslak, our treasurer/registrar, at RPryslak@immanuel-highlands.org. That being said, if you would like to become a Regular, Special, or Student member of the Guild, please go online to www.agohq.org or call 212-870-2310. You can also contact Membership Information Technology Coordinator, Daniel McCaffrey, directly at dmccaffrey@agohq.org.

Thanks to So Many

The generous response by many of our members to the request for gifts above and beyond your dues has been overwhelming. As we approach Thanksgiving, your leaders are truly grateful for you and your support of our organization. Your contributions allow us to expand our programming beyond the confines of our modest budget and do more than what our national apportionment per member allows. With Giving Tuesday right around the corner, won't you consider making a donation to your local chapter, as well as one of national's appeals, to show your appreciation for the American Guild of Organists?

– Mike Bareham

Delaware Chapter 2024–2025 Programs

Field Trip to Longwood Gardens

Fri. January 10, 2025 6:00 pm

Hear David Christopher on the Longwood Organ

January Jumpstart

Sat. Jan. 25, 2025, 8:30am-5pm

The Philadelphia Chapter's annual mini-conference
Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church
625 Montgomery Ave., Bryn Mawr, PA

Service Playing Workshop

Sat. Feb. 23, 2025, 10am-noon

with Bryan Anderson
Westminster Presbyterian Church
1502 W. 13th St., Wilmington

Recital by Bryan Anderson

Sun. Feb. 24, 2025, 3pm

Westminster Presbyterian Church
1502 W. 13th St., Wilmington

Members Recital: Women Composers

Sat. March 16, 2025, 4pm

Saints Andrew and Matthew
719 N. Shipley St., Wilmington

Pedals, Pipes and Pizza, with OrgelKids

Sat. April 5, 2025, 10am-1pm

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church
701 S. College Ave., Newark

Organ Crawl and Banquet

Sat. June 7, 2025, 3:30pm-7:00

Christ Episcopal Church
523 S. State St., Dover

Musicians' Holiday at Longwood

by Jane Van Valkenburg



You are invited to visit Longwood Gardens to hear the Aeolian organ on Friday, January 10 at 6:00 pm. Chapter member David Christopher will be playing, as part of A Longwood Christmas. Holiday decorations will still be in place and you will be able to explore the Gardens.

If you are a Longwood Gardens member, please plan to join us by using your membership pass. If you are not a Longwood Gardens member, we have access to a number of complimentary passes. To reserve your FREE pass, send an email to Jane Van Valkenburg at JAVan211@gmail.com by January 5. After all the stress of producing Advent and Christmas music, this will be a delightful way to enjoy some holiday cheer yourself.

January Jumpstart's 20th Year

Philadelphia Chapter's Annual Mini-Convention

Saturday, January 25, 2025 from 8:00 am to 5:30 pm

Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church

625 Montgomery Ave, Bryn Mawr;

\$55 AGO Members of any chapter;

<https://pcagoo.wildapricot.org/event-5878865>



Highlights

Worship and Choral Reading Session led by Maxine Thévenot, with a choral introtit world premiere by Donald Meineke

Organ Recital by Renée Anne Louprette

Breakout Sessions

Rollo Dilworth: Getting Ready to Sing! Vocal Warmup Activities for Choirs

Jeffrey Brillhart: Adapting Piano Accompaniments and Conducting from the Console

David Storey: Last Minute Repairs and Tuning for Pipe Organs

Charlotte Beers Plank and Vince Ryan: Orgelkids – Build a Real Pipe Organ

Maxine Thévenot: Eastertide through Trinity Sunday – Choral Reading Session

Renée Anne Louprette: Organ Masterclass

Discussion Groups

Clair Rozier and Kirsten Olson: Show Off Your Go-To Hymn and Hymnal Resources!

Max Esmus: Idea Sharing of Resources for New Organists

Closing Organ Recital in the Sanctuary by Renée Anne Louprette

Program to include the World Premiere of Five Hymn Preludes composed by five regional composers: Paul Fejko, Balint Karosi, Evelyn Larter, Erik Meyer, and David Schelat.

Including

Coffee and Tea - Lunch - Music Exchange Table

Art Exhibit in Gallery: "Feminine Energy" by Sister Helen David Brancato.

Member Spotlight

T.J. Thomas, Minister of Music, St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes DE



T.J. Thomas has been a longtime member of the AGO, Dean of the Southern DE Chapter, and newest member of the Board of the Delaware Chapter.

Hello, T.J. Where is your home town?

I was born and raised in Hilton, NY, a small town along the shores of Lake Ontario near Rochester.

What got you interested in the organ?

Attending church as a child I was fascinated by the instrument. I wanted to know how all those keyboards, buttons, and pedals worked. I studied organ as a high school student at the Eastman School of Music before continuing on to college at Marywood University in Scranton, PA.

I was privileged to study with Canon Mark Laubach at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Wilkes-Barre where I immersed myself in the Anglican tradition.

Tell us about the music program at St. Peter's.

I came to St. Peter's, Lewes in the spring of 2010 and inherited a good program led by late chapter member, George Bayley. It was apparent that St. Peter's and the Cape Henlopen region were fertile soil for a good

church music program...and that has certainly been the case! My position has grown to be full-time with several choirs and a concert series.

What is it like working in Lewes?

Lewes has evolved to be a year-round community, especially with the influx of many retirees. St. Peter's is much like any other parish, our program year runs from September to May. Parking can be challenging in the summer months, but not an issue if you walk a few blocks.

Do you have a concert series at St. Peter's?

Our St. Cecilia Music Guild, now in its ninth season, offers monthly events from September to May. The diverse programming attracts both parishioners and the wider community. The series is entirely self-supporting and admission is free for all concerts. Check it out at StCeciliaGuild.org.

Tell us about the organ at St. Peter's.

My predecessor, George Bayley, supervised installation of the current Walker Technical organ in 2005. It is a fairly complete stop list of 78 ranks over 3 manuals, more than filling the 175 seat church. Small tonal modifications have been made over the years. My favorite stop is the Concert Flute 8' in the choir.

Do you have hobbies aside from music?

I am an avid sailor and racer aboard my Tartan 34, *Osprey*, in the Delaware Bay.

NOTABLE EVENTS



Key Locations

- Christ Church, Christiana Hundred 505 Buck Rd, Wilmington
- First & Central Presbyterian, 1101 N Market St, Wilmington
- Immanuel Church on the Green, 50 Market Street, New Castle
- Immanuel Episcopal Church Highlands, 2400 W. 17th Wilmington
- Saints Andrew and Matthew, 719 N. Shipley St. Wilmington
- St. Paul's Lutheran Church 701 S. College Ave, Newark
- Trinity Episcopal Church 1108 North Adams St. Wilmington
- Westminster Presbyterian 1502 W 13th St. Wilmington

DECEMBER

Sunday 1 December 5:00pm

Advent Lessons & Carols

Christ Church Choir
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

Thursday 5 December 12:30 pm

Cartoon Christmas Trio

Jazz from A Charlie Brown

Christmas

First and Central Presbyterian

Saturday 7 December 4:00 pm

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble

Ebenezer UMC Newark

Sunday 8 December 3:00 pm

Westminster Choir

Christmas Concert

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday 8 December 4:00 pm

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble

Lima UMC, Media PA

Sunday 8 December 4:00 pm

Advent Lessons & Carols

Carols by Phillip Stopford, Stephen Caracciolo, Thomas Campion, Paul Halley

Immanuel on Green, New Castle

Monday 9 December 7:00 pm

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble

Woodlawn Library, Wilmington

Thursday 12 December 12:30 pm

Center City Chorale: Candles and Carols

Carols from around the world

First and Central Presbyterian

Sunday 15 December 4:00 pm

Tempesta di Mare

Christmas Concert

Christ Church Christiana Hundred

Sunday 15 December 4:00 pm

Advent Lessons and Carols

featuring Immanuel Parish Choir
Music by Palestrina, Warlock, and Nelson

Immanuel Highlands, Wilmington

Saturday 21 December 3:00 pm

New Ark Chorale in concert

featuring "Joyful Noise" Choir

Dr. Michael Larkin, Director

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

Saturday 21 December 4:00 pm

Wilmington Handbell Ensemble

Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday 22 December 7:00 pm

Messiah Sing-Along

Jeffrey Spade, conductor

David Christopher, organ

\$20 suggested donation

Bring your score / borrow at door

Saints Andrew and Matthew

JANUARY

Sunday 5 January 7:00 pm

Philip Moore's *Nativitas*

Gary Harney, organist

Elizabeth Plant, reader

Musical reflections interwoven

with poems by David Broadbridge

Free Admission; Reception following

Immanuel on Green, New Castle

Sunday 5 January 4:00 pm

"Sounds of the Season" Concert

Choir, handbells, chamber orchestra

Michael Bareham, Director

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Newark

Sunday 19 January 4:00 pm

MLK Jazz Vespers

The Jonathan Whitney Project

Saints Andrew and Matthew

Freewill Offering

Sunday 19 January 4:00 pm

Epiphany Lessons & Carols

Christ Church Choir (Chapel)

Christ Church Christiana Hundred

Sunday 31 January 4:00 pm

Tempesta di Mare Chamber Concert

Christ Church Christiana Hundred

(Chapel)

FEBRUARY

Sunday 2 February 4:00 pm

Choral Evensong for Epiphany

Parish Choir / Senior Choristers

Organ Prelude: David Schelat

Christ Church Christiana Hundred

Sunday 9 February 4:00 pm

Candlelight Concert: Filament Ensemble

Christ Church Christiana Hundred

(Chapel)

FEBRUARY

Saturday 15 February 3:00 pm Spirituals Concert

Saints Andrew & Matthew Choir
and Delaware ChoralArts members
Pat Malcolm, Guest Soloist
Wilmington Children's Chorus
Saints Andrew and Matthew

Sunday 16 February 4:00 pm A Valentine Radio Hour

Douglas Bowles, tenor
Jennifer Timberlake, soprano
Alex Hassan, piano

The Golden days of Radio
1920s-1940s
Trinity Episcopal Church
Free Admission

Sunday 21 February 3:00 pm
Michael Hunter Jazz Trio
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Rodney Chapel

Sunday 23 February 3:00 pm
Bryan Anderson, organ
Winner of *Longwood Gardens*
International Organ Competition
Westminster Presbyterian Church

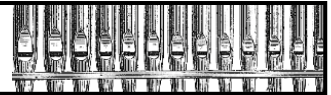
MARCH

Sunday 2 March 3:00 pm
Copeland String Quartet
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Sunday 2 March 4:00 pm
Musician in Residence: James O'Donnell
Choral Evensong Last Epiphany
Organ Prelude: David Hearn
Christ Church Christiana Hundred

Substitute List

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



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Merry Christmas
and Happy New Year!