



# THE OPUUS

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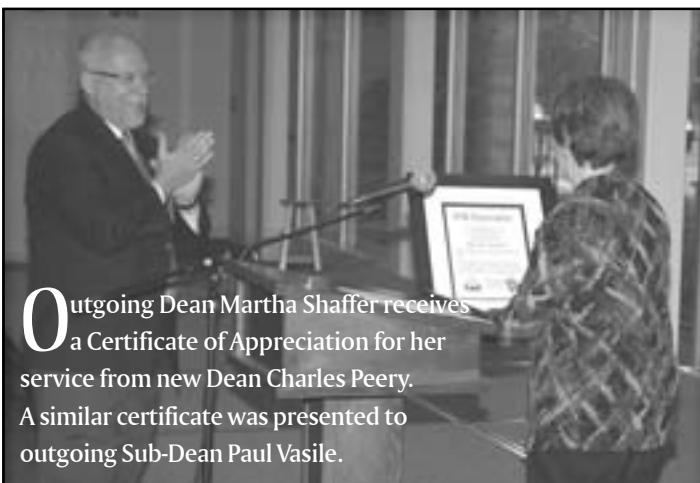
The official publication of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

[www.agostlouis.org](http://www.agostlouis.org)

## New Chapter Leadership Installed During May Meeting

Newly elected officers and directors of the St. Louis AGO chapter were installed at the organization's annual business meeting in May. The event was held at First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood, hosted by Bill Stein.

Pictured are, from left, Henry Glass, Jr., AGO Missouri district convener, who administered the oath of office to Dean Charles Peery, Sub-Dean Henry Evans, and Class of 2011 Executive Committee members Cathy Cassy, Father Joe Havrilka, and Bill Stein.



Outgoing Dean Martha Shaffer receives a Certificate of Appreciation for her service from new Dean Charles Peery. A similar certificate was presented to outgoing Sub-Dean Paul Vasile.



Barbara Wick, left, expresses her thanks to chapter members who participated in a recording session of an anthem she had commissioned from Stephen Mager. The composition helped celebrate the Wicks Pipe Organ Company's 100th anniversary and was in memory of her husband, Martin. The anthem was appropriately accompanied on the church's Wicks organ.

## A Grassroots Organization

This time of year I'm always worried about my grass. It does pretty well on its own, because that's what it's designed to do. But every now and then it needs a little support and TLC. So here I am drawing an analogy between grass and our AGO chapter and reflecting on what thoughts I might offer in the next two years as your dean.

1. Grass is common. It's not a rarified plant, but a workhorse. This is how I feel about myself. I got my first organ job at age 15. I played an audition, they asked me what year I was in school, I said, "Sophomore." They thought I meant college. The fact that my dad drove me to rehearsals and services seemed to be lost on them. And ever since then I have been steadily employed as a church musician. My one degree is in choral music ed/composition. I was a piano major and organ secondary. I don't have European recitals to boast of. So I come at things from a very practical viewpoint because I don't have any other choice. I'm hoping that will allow me to tune into the different types of people in

our chapter. Yes, I do have a full-time church job, for the first time in my 36 years in church music. Confession: This is not as rarified and glamorous as I thought it might be! So don't think that it puts me in some sort of ivory tower! (Or, should I say tall steeple?) But I trudge away at it, sometimes thinking that church music is the most bizarre environment anyone could choose. Ever have days like that?

2. They tell you not to water grass that often, but water deeply when you do. Adversity causes roots to reach outward and downward for sustenance. In our work as organists, we can share our burdens and, through rueful laughter and understanding hearts, sustain each other. I think Henry Evans and the Program Committee have worked both hard and smart to devise a slate of programs that reaches outward and downward. Some things to attract your interest, some things for deeper learning, some things for fun and fellowship. I hope that as members, you will take this philosophy to heart. Let's raise up a nurturing attitude within

ourselves. Make a choice to lighten our hearts and reach out. (Ever heard the phrase: "The only thing two musicians can agree upon is the incompetence of a third?" We can choose how we relate to each other and consciously push through mere tolerance to respect, and perhaps all the way to caring.) There is a biological definition of "guild" which pictures organisms using shared resources in a unified, harmonious way. I like that picture.

3. Grass fills in. It's almost automatic. Are there ways you can "fill in" to help our chapter flourish? It could be as specific as saying, "Hey, I'll be the chapter secretary!" (We need one!) It could be as simple as trying to attend one or two more meetings than you normally do. Or by calling that non-member organist across town and saying, "Would you like to go with me to our AGO program?"

I am looking forward to meeting more of you as this year progresses. I do not take the responsibility of this office lightly; the idea of measuring up in any way to your stellar list of previous deans has caused me no small amount of anxiety. But I intend to be as persistent as crabgrass!

— Charles Peery

## Update from the Program Committee

The chapter Program Committee is pleased to announce that the 2008-2009 program year is about to begin. There will be great variety in our programming. Highlights include: A Vaughan Williams celebration at Second Presbyterian Church on Sunday, Sept. 28, to begin our year; three recitals; a choral techniques lecture entitled *Getting the Best Possible Sound Out of Your Volunteer Choir*; and we conclude with the annual banquet at Centenary United Methodist Church. See the September *Opus* issue for a complete listing of the year's events.

### On the Concert Horizon...

Friday, September 19, 7:30 p.m. St. Paul United Church of Christ Fine Arts Concert Series, 115 West B Street, Belleville, Ill. The St. Louis Rivermen. Free-will offering.

Friday, September 19, 7:30 p.m. Shryock Auditorium, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Ill. The Marianne Webb and David N. Bateman Distinguished Organ Recital Series featuring organist Martin Jean. Free admission.

### Exec Committee Meetings

2008	2009
• August 18	• January 12
• September 15	• March 16
• November 10	• May 11

All meetings are at 7 p.m. on Mondays and will continue to be held at Trinity Presbyterian Church, 6800 Washington, University City, thanks to arrangements made by Dr. Bill Wade.

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of the American Guild of Organists.

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**Wayne King, Editor**

You are invited to submit material to the editor for publication consideration. Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to [opusstlago@aol.com](mailto:opusstlago@aol.com).

**Next issue deadline: September 1, 2008**

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# Positions Available

## Director of Liturgical Music

*Christ, Prince of Peace Parish*, 415 Weidman Road, Manchester, MO 63011, seeks a director of liturgical music. The ideal candidate will be a skilled organist and pianist, with experience in working with cantors and choirs. The director will be responsible for planning all music for weekend liturgies, Holy Day services, and all other liturgical celebrations. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic and have a degree in music, liturgy or related field. Salary based on Archdiocesan scale. The church has a 2-manual Wicks pipe organ with 7 ranks, as well as a grand piano. A more detailed job description is available upon inquiry. Interested candidates should submit a resume to Father Chuck Barthel at the above address or at [frchuck@christprinceofpeace.com](mailto:frchuck@christprinceofpeace.com).

## Organist / Choir Director

*New Horizons Presbyterian Church*, 9424 Everman, Overland, MO 63114, seeks an organist/choir director. The worship service is 10:30 a.m. on Sundays; choir rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings. The choir consists of 20-25 adults and youth. Please contact Pastor Dan Hudson (314-427-0841 or [hudsonnewhorizons@sbcglobal.net](mailto:hudsonnewhorizons@sbcglobal.net)).

## Part-time Interim Music Director

*Westminster Presbyterian Church*, 5300 Delmar Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63112, seeks a part-time interim music director with responsibilities as organist, adult and bell choir director. Salary commensurate with experience. Experience with diverse communities preferred. Submit resumes to [westminsterstl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:westminsterstl@sbcglobal.net) or fax to 314-367-0999.

## Assistant Organist/Music Assistant

*Webster Groves Presbyterian Church*, 45 West Lockwood Avenue, Webster Groves, MO 63119, seeks an assistant organist/music assistant. Primary duties include playing for 11:15 a.m. chapel worship service, Chancel Choir accompanist during Thursday rehearsal and Sunday 9 a.m. service, and work with soloists and ensembles. This is a 9-month position with a competitive salary based on AGO guidelines. Instruments include 45-rank Gress-Miles and 5-rank Moller pipe organs. For information, contact Shawn Portell (314-962-9210, x3108). Resumes may be sent to the church, attention Organist Search/Shawn Portell.

## Director of Music

*Sts. Joachim and Ann Catholic Church*, 4112 McClay Rd., St. Peters, Mo., seeks part-time director of music. Primary duties include working with the adult choir directors to coordinate music planning and assure the coherence of the parish's repertoire, be responsible for providing music for the Parish School of Religion's liturgies and sacramental preparation sessions. Weekend liturgies are Sundays at 10:30 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. The church utilizes a grand piano and a Yamaha synthesizer. Salary is per Archdiocesan scale. Interested persons should send pertinent materials to the Rev. John A. Brockland, JCL, pastor, at (phone) 636-441-7503, (fax) 636-441-6574, or (e-mail) [frbrockland@stsj.org](mailto:frbrockland@stsj.org).

## Music Teacher

*St. Raphael the Archangel Catholic School*, 6000 Jamieson Ave., St. Louis, seeks part-time music teacher to be responsible for teaching music three days per week. The curriculum includes music theory and music history. Additionally, music from the traditional Catholic repertoire shall be prepared for the celebration of Holy Mass for the school community. The church utilizes a 2-manual Wicks pipe organ and a grand piano. There is currently a children's choir and a cantor program. Salary is per Archdiocesan Catholic School scale. Interested persons should forward pertinent materials to the Rev. James P. Grady, pastor, (phone) 314-352-8100, (fax) 314-353-6603, (e-mail) [straphaelarchangel@sbcglobal.net](mailto:straphaelarchangel@sbcglobal.net).

## Organist / Choir Director

*The Episcopal Church of Good Shepherd*, 1166 South Mason Road, St. Louis, MO 63131, seeks an organist/choir director. This is a part-time position, requiring approximately 10 hours per week. The ideal candidate will be a skilled organist with some experience or training in leading and working with a choir. Experience with the liturgy and related music is preferred. Primary responsibilities include playing for the 10 a.m. Sunday service and occasional special services during the year, leading weekly choir rehearsals, choosing liturgically appropriate hymns and service music, and working collaboratively with the choir and pastor. 1983 Moller 2-manual, 13-rank organ. For information, contact Search Committee Chair Amelia Fowler ([afowler@sisk12.com](mailto:afowler@sisk12.com)) or 314-567-8596.

(See St. Louis Chapter Web site – [www.agostlouis.org](http://www.agostlouis.org) – for more listings.)

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American Guild of Organists

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