

THE OPUS

APRIL 2021

Volume 37 – Issue 7
The official publication of the
St. Louis Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists



Dean



St. Louis AGO Chapter



Rick Burk (CAGO)

We have now passed an anniversary which I am sure most of us would never have anticipated nor take any delight in observing. It has been over one full year of living under the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the many reasons I could personally list for having had enough of this, not wanting to once again address the impact of the pandemic in my monthly letter to you is certainly one of them. Yet I feel it cannot be ignored. As we have now gone through another season of Lent and Holy week and are now beginning the Easter Season, those of us in the Christian faith might take solace in the hope that the Resurrection brings. In the Triduum we are reminded that even in the midst of the deepest darkness and despair there comes new life. For those who are celebrating Passover, may your prayer be that we be delivered from this pandemic.

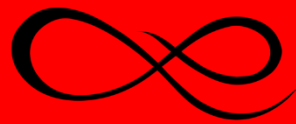
As we have begun to see some decline in the numbers of people infected and dying from the COVID virus, we have a glimmer of “life after” even if we do not yet fully know what that life will be like. Hopefully, many of you have been able to receive the vaccination for COVID. It truly is a “shot in the arm” in the most real and positive sense. While we have had to continue cancelling, rearranging and revamping many of our chapter events, we are hopeful that when the new program year begins in the Fall, we might be able to move toward gathering in person once again. Let that be our hope.

Happy Easter and Happy Passover.

Rick Burk – Dean
St. Louis AGO Chapter



Recently there has been a variety of email spam targeting church musicians. In one instance the recipient is asked to perform for an upcoming wedding. In another instance, a piano is offered for free if moving costs are covered. If you receive suspicious emails such as these, the AGO National Office urges you to check the sender’s email address and any websites they reference, as well as test their contact information. If you have any concerns, you may contact AGO Headquarters to discuss these types of communications that you receive.



IN MEMORY OF

Nancy A. Barbee



Nancy A. Barbee, nee Walker, 74, of Stow, OH, formerly of Collinsville, IL, born August 14, 1946 in Toledo, OH, passed away on Tuesday, March 9, 2021 in Stow, OH. Mrs. Barbee retired from SIU-C working in admissions and records. She was also a tax preparer and had been an organist for several area churches but most recently at Friedens United Church of Christ in Marissa, IL. Nancy was a member of the AGO – American Guild of Organists – St. Louis Chapter and the editor of their monthly newsletter *The OPUS*. She was also a member of Friedens United Church of Christ in Marissa, IL.

Mrs. Barbee was preceded in death by her parents; Gordon Howard and Mary Belle (McNealy) Walker, husband Jim Ringler, who passed away on June 28, 2002 and by husband David Barbee, whom she married on June 10, 2003 and who passed away on November 5, 2018. She was also preceded in death by her brother; James Walker.

Nancy is survived by her daughter; Carrie (Chuck) Hauber of New Franklin, OH.

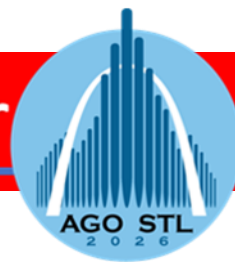
Memorials in Mrs. Barbee's honor may be made to Friedens United Church of Christ in Marissa, IL.

Visitation was held from 9a.m. – 11a.m. on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at Friedens United Church of Christ in Marissa, IL.

Funeral service was held at 11a.m. on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at Friedens United Church of Christ in Marissa, IL with Rev. Brett Palmer officiating. Interment followed at Marissa TWP Cemetery in Marissa, IL. A donation from the St. Louis AGO Chapter will be made to the National AGO Fund.

Convention Coordinator

2026 National Convention



Burnell Hackman

I hope that everyone is aware by now that the St. Louis Chapter will be hosting the 2026 National Convention of the American Guild of Organists. We pray that all has returned to “normal” and we will once again be able to gather in large groups.

The 2022 convention is scheduled for Seattle, WA from July 3-7, the 2024 convention is in San Francisco, CA from June 30-July 4. Our convention dates are July 6-10, 2026.

We are following two great cities and I know we provide a world-class convention with the many great organs, churches and concert halls located in and around St. Louis.

To have a successful convention, every single member of the chapter needs to be involved! Please fill out the Member Survey [here](#). We will begin forming committees this fall.

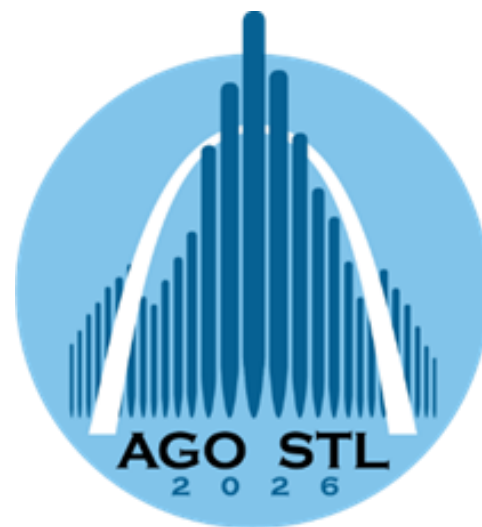
Another way to help is to support the Convention financially. Early fundraising is one of the keys to a successful convention. Members of the St. Louis Chapter are encouraged to make a pledge to the convention. We offer two ways to donate online; either a one-time donation, or an automatic payment paid yearly over the next five year. Donors will be recognized in the convention book.

To find out more information about donation levels – [go here](#).

With all of us working together we can make the St. Louis Convention a memorable event for all in attendance.

Blessings

Burnell L. Hackman
Convention Coordinator



Reminders/Information

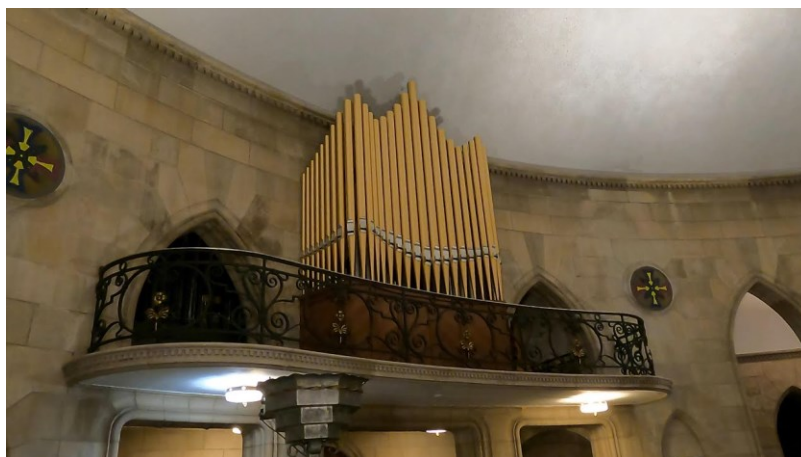
St. Louis AGO Chapter 2020-2021



ORGAN.MEDIA
FOUNDATION



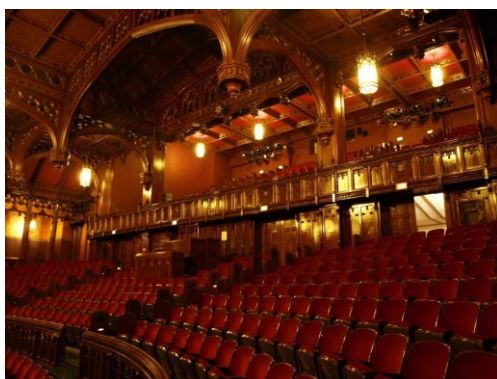
Church of the Little Flower Kegg Organ
Part One



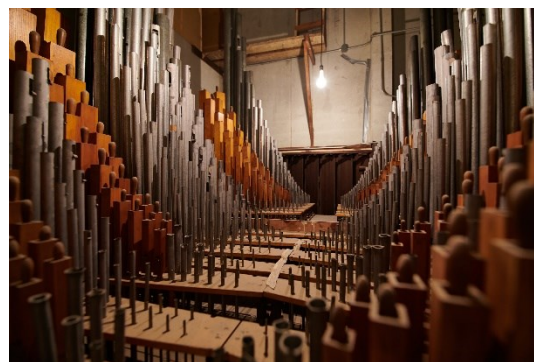
Church of the Little Flower Kegg Organ
Part Two



Scottish Rite Cathedral Organ Tour
Part One



Scottish Rite Cathedral
Organ Tour Part Two



Scottish Rite Cathedral Organ Tour
Part Three

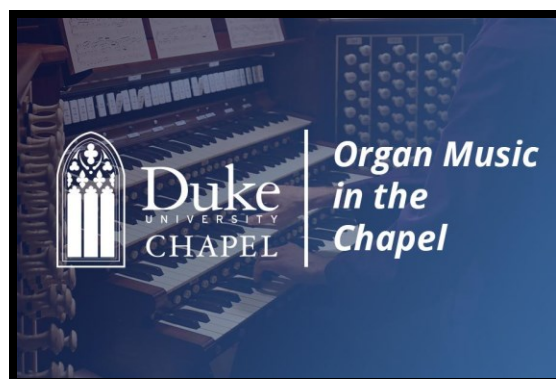
MORE VIDEOS TO CHECK OUT



NATIONAL WEBINARS & WORKSHOPS



FROM TEMPLE SQUARE – THE TABERNACLE
ORGANISTS IN CONCERT



FROM DUKE UNIVERSITY
THE CELEBRATION OF MARCEL DUPRE



HYMNS FROM FIRST PLYMOUTH CHURCH
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA



FROM THIRD BAPTIST CHURCH – ST. LOUIS
IT'S MIDNIGHT AT WASHINGTON & GRAND

2020/2021 ELECTION NOMINEES

ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER CLASS OF 2024



EXECUTIVE BOARD



DR. SARAH BEREZA

Dr. Bereza is the Minister of Music at First Congregational Church of St. Louis and has ministered as a church musician since 1999. She produces resources for church staff and musicians on her website: sarah-bereza.com, including the podcast Music and the Church with Sara Bereza. Sarah's forthcoming book, *Professional Christian: Wholehearted Ministry in a Fragmented, Filtered World*, helps leaders learn to be fully themselves as they live out the call to be "all things to all people." She holds Master's and PhD degrees from Duke University, a Master's degree from the University of Cincinnati's College-Conservatory of Music, and a Bachelor's degree from Bob Jones University. Sarah has often worked in professional and semi-professional settings and performed early music as a continuo player and choral vocalist. She also enjoys making music with amateurs and encourages the personal growth of musicians at all levels in the church. Sarah lives in St. Louis with her husband and two sons.



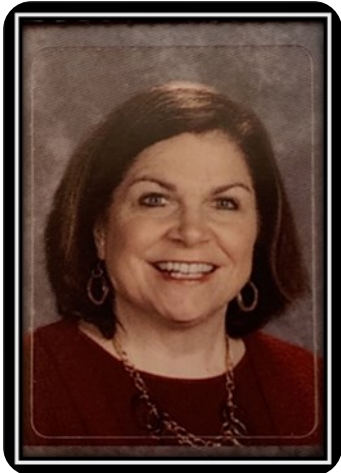
DR. KIRSTEN SANTOS RUTSCHMAN

Dr. Rutschman is the Organist/Accompanist at First Presbyterian Church of St. Louis, as well as an Adjunct Instructor of Music at St. Louis University and Webster University. Hailing from Washington State, she began studying organ at Stanford University, canvassing her dorm for enough fellow students to reach the minimum required capacity for organ class. A year of studying organ in Sweden inspired her to complete a PhD in musicology (Swedish music) from Duke University, which included presenting research across the U.S. and Europe, including at the 2014 AGO National Convention in Boston. In 2019, she presented a recital on the *Friday Pipes* series at Third Baptist Church in St. Louis. During the present period of online services, she has enjoyed the opportunity to "make double of herself" on occasion by recording organ-piano and organ-violin duets.

2020/2021 ELECTION NOMINEES

ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER

EXECUTIVE BOARD



JILL GRIFFIN

Jill graduated from Washington University in St. Louis where she studied both mechanical engineering and music. After working 15 years in the corporate engineering sector, she left to accept a full-time music ministry position. Jill is now the Director of Worship at St. Boniface Catholic Church in Edwardsville, IL where she has been for the past 13 years. When not in “COVID times,” she directs an adult choir of nearly 40 members, children’s choir, handbell choir, instrumentalists, and teaches Chorus at the adjoining grade school.

Jill is a new member of the AGO, having joined just a year ago. She is excited about the possibility of serving as a member of the Executive Board and looks forward to becoming more involved, meeting new people and learning from them as well.

KATHRYN LAMAR

After getting her B.S. in math, Kathryn spent 30+ years working on mainframe computers, mostly on operations side, ending up for many years as a systems programmer. After retiring from that, she was able to spend more time in the field of her college minor: music. Kathryn was often playing organ for church and singing or playing piano for choir as an avocation while earning money in her vocation. When time was more her own, she added to the music time, sharing music with preschool children, leading children in presenting musicals, learning handbells, and performing. Now, with the pandemic and staying home a lot, she watches concerts and church services and plays the piano at home.

2020/2021 ELECTION NOMINEES

ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER



TREASURER



MIKE KABERLINE

Mike began serving as Treasurer for the 2015 AGO Regional Convention in St. Louis and then as the Treasurer for the St. Louis Chapter shortly after. He has held positions in finance and financial reporting for several non-profit and political organizations – on national, state-wide, and local levels. In addition to managing a Healthcare Informatics company, he is also the Product Manager for three medical practice management software products for eMDs/CompuGroup Medical. Although not an organist, he has a long admiration and love of organ music and the physical design of organs. He is also currently serving as Treasurer for the 2026 AGO National Convention which will be in St. Louis.

SECRETARY



GAYE ANDERSON

Gaye is the Organist/Choirmaster at St. Paul's Episcopal Parish in Alton, IL. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree with emphasis in Piano Performance from Greenville College in Greenville, IL and a Master's degree from Webster University, St. Louis in Organ Performance. Gaye is a student of Canon Precentor Dr. William Partridge at Christ Church Cathedral in St. Louis. She operates Livery Haus Music Studio in her hometown of Marine, IL and is also an equestrian instructor at the family owned dressage and hunter/jumper stable Brier Bank Farm in Marine.

Gaye is married to attorney Roy Anderson. They have been blessed with two children: Son, David (Organist/Music Director at St. Peter's UCC in Ferguson) and daughter, Lauren (artist). In her 'spare time', Gaye assists the staff at Gateway Music Group, LLC and enjoys antiques, renovating old houses, and playing with the family's two Jack Russell "hunt terriers."

Gaye is currently serving the St. Louis AGO as a member of the Executive Board, class of 2023.

Sub-Dean



St. Louis AGO Chapter



Heather Martin Cooper (CAGO)

Dear Members,

Greetings to all!

Finally spring has come, and with it the glorious warmer weather. For some people, pollen from the blooming trees and flowers and the spring rains can cause terrible suffering. For others, the longer days and explosion of color bring new hope. Our circumstances can vary from one person to another.

I hope all of you will be glad to learn that we are able to have our end-of-the-year closing event both in-person and with a livestream option. In lieu of a banquet, we will gather at the Cathedral Basilica for our meeting and a short organ presentation. This part will be livestreamed for everyone who cannot attend in person. Afterwards, weather permitting, we will have some social time in the outdoor Cathedral prayer garden. Both indoor and outdoor areas are generous with space to allow 'social distancing.' More details will be forthcoming. For now, please mark your calendars and plan to attend, whether in person or via livestream.

I pray that by May of 2022 we will be able to have a banquet. What a feast it will be!

Heather Martin Cooper

Sub-Dean



MONDAY

MAY 17, 2021

**6:30 P.M. @
THE CATHEDRAL
BASILICA**

VOTING INSTRUCTIONS

ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER



While in the recent past we have attempted to use a combination of online and paper balloting for our annual election, due to time constraints and a few other issues, we will ONLY be using paper ballots this year. The ballots along with a cover letter will have been mailed by March 27 to all members in good standing. If you have not received your ballot by April 6, please contact either the Dean or our Secretary, Cathy Cassy. Ballots **MUST** be returned with a postmark of April 15 or earlier. Please consider returning your ballot as soon as you receive it, as mail postmarked by April 15 may still take two weeks or more to arrive at its destination.

Thank you for participating in this important responsibility as a member of the St. Louis AGO Chapter.



Open POSITION

OPUS EDITOR

This position will be available after June 2021.

Responsibilities include editing/putting together the *OPUS* newsletter September through June of each year. If you are interested or know someone who might be, please contact Dean Rick Burk. Transition help will be available.

CONCERTS & EVENTS

ST. LOUIS AGO CHAPTER



You are invited to these upcoming concerts at
Peace Lutheran Church
737 Barracksvue Rd
St. Louis, MO 63125

Friday – April 9, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. (Church Sanctuary)

Classical Pianist – Timothy Jansen

Timothy's program will include works by Haydn, Liszt and Brahms.

Wednesday – April 21, 2021 from Noon – 1:00 p.m. (Church Parking Lot)

Special Brown Bag Concert for Senior Citizens

Popular and Jazz pianist and singer Ken Kehner will provide music. You are invited to order a Brown Bag lunch (or bring your own) to enjoy during the concert from your car or lawn chair. To order lunch, visit www.peacestlmusic.org or call the church office. This concert is courtesy of the St. Louis Musicians Union. NOTE: Monday, April 19 is the deadline to order lunch.

Saturday – April 25, 2021 6:30 p.m. (Church West Parking Lot)

St. Louis Theater Musicians' Orchestra.

You may sit in your car or bring a lawn chair to enjoy music from 22 musicians that perform in the orchestra pits of the Muny, The Fox, and Repertory Theater of St. Louis. Support has been provided by Local 2-197 of the American Federation of Musicians of the United States and Canada.

For more information – please contact Burnell Hackman at burnell@peacestlmusic.org

THE *LAST* PAGE



OFFICERS:

Dean – Rick Burk (CAGO)
Sub-Dean – Heather Martin Cooper (CAGO)
Secretary – Cathy Cassy
Treasurer – Mike Kaberline
Past Dean – Burnell Hackman

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Class of 2021
Martha Shaffer (CAGO)
Bob Chamberlin
Tim Jansen
Class of 2022
Dr. Steven Ball
J.D. Brooks
Dr. William Sullivan
Class of 2023
Gaye Anderson
Andrew Peters
Shawn Portell

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

2026 Convention Coordinator
Burnell Hackman
Auditor
Denis Doelling
Dinner Reservations
Dr. Cathy Bolduan
Directory Editor
Al Black
Educational Resources
Dr. Barbara Raedeke
Exam Coordinator
Brent Johnson
Historian
Randy Zerkel
Membership Coordinator
Kendra Ruesler

OPUS Editor
Ted Cronbaugh
Photographer
Rene Zajner
Professional Concerns Liaison
Shawn Portell
Publicity Liaison
Dawn Riske (CAGO)
Registrar
Regina Morris
Social Media
Rene Zajner
Webmaster
Brent Johnson

2020-2021

The next Executive Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 26 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Members of the Executive Board will receive a link prior to the meeting day. Those in the membership that would like to attend the meeting, but are not on the board, please [email](#) Dean Rick Burk to get the Zoom link.

