



Dean's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

It was good to see some of our members on the February 12 Zoom gathering which took the place of the postponed February Flourish event this year. In addition to many familiar faces, we had the opportunity to meet one of our newest Chapter members as well as a few visitors from outside our Chapter. In addition, we were also inspired by the brief presentation by Dr. Steven Wenthe who offered some interesting insights into leading congregational song from the organ. In the midst of the doldrums of winter and COVID, it was uplifting to share even this brief virtual connection with other organists and church musicians.

Speaking of doldrums (defined as a state or period of inactivity, stagnation, or depression), at the recent AGO Leadership Conference, Elizabeth George introduced us to the term "resilience fatigue." This syndrome is said to set in after a period of time spent working diligently at staying positive. Dr. Vaile Wright, clinical psychologist at the American Psychological Association, has defined it as "the feeling of exhaustion that comes from the effort to cope and manage prolonged stress over a long period of time." In the context of COVID, this experience of resilience fatigue is exacerbated by the fact that the finish line keeps moving. I suspect we have all experienced resilience fatigue in our work and in our personal lives. Perhaps putting a name to the condition is one step in the process of coping. With some signs that the worst of the pandemic may finally be more in the past than in the future, perhaps the finish line will become more defined, or at least more realistic. Then we might better manage to continue moving upward and onward with less fatigue. (For a more in-depth discussion of resilience fatigue check out an article by Peter Butko at <https://peterbutko.medium.com/managing-resilience-fatigue-4fd5752d0734>.)

In an attempt to continue to be resilient, our Chapter is still planning a few more activities in the first half of this year. Please see Heather's article on page two for more details. We will then end the program year with our annual meeting and banquet on May 23. You are encouraged to participate when and where you feel comfortable doing so.

Wishing you true resilience,

Rick Burk, Dean



Rick Burk, CAGO

Sub-Dean's Column



Heather Martin Cooper - CAGO

Dear Members,

Wintertime greetings!

Thanks to the February Flourish Committee who worked so hard to prepare a great event for last month. At the time when the committee last met in January, cases and hospitalizations were up, so the decision was made at that time to postpone the in-person event until next year, but to offer a Zoom gathering. We did have an enjoyable hour or so on February 12th. Thanks to everyone who participated. Thankfully as of this writing (February 13) the pandemic news seems to be better. Next year's February Flourish is ready to go!

Our March meeting has taken shape as a Lenten organ recital at Peace Lutheran. A number of organists, several of them chapter members, will share a piece or two from their Lenten repertoire. There will be a dinner provided at no cost to you. Please do make a reservation so we can have enough for everyone. Details about the evening are below.

Our closing banquet is set for Monday, May 23, at Third Baptist Church. National Chief Membership Officer, Elizabeth George, will be our guest for the evening.

March Meeting – the details:

Monday, March 28, 2022

Peace Lutheran Church

737 Barracksview Road

St. Louis, MO 63125

5:30 p.m. - Executive Committee Meeting

6:30 p.m. - Dinner (no charge, but please RSVP to Cathy Bolduan no later than

Wednesday, March 23 at 314-853-5011 or kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com)

7:30 p.m. - Recital

Brent Johnson and I were working on some videos last month and I was telling him how discouraged I felt at not having anything much to promote in the February newsletter. Later Brent wrote me with a list of online resources that might be of interest to our members.

What a great idea! He offered the following:

There's all of *Organ Media's* videos from Brent's trips to Madison, Buffalo, and Baton Rouge that went out in the fall. Those two are at <https://www.youtube.com/YourSundayService> and <https://www.youtube.com/OrganMediaFoundation>.

Your Sunday Service features short videos of newer publications, and many of these are played by local organists who are our members.

(Continued on page 7)



Dawn Riske - CAGO



February Flourish Coordinator

Our Chapter had scheduled and prepared for a February Flourish workshop on Saturday, February 12, 2022. Due to high COVID-19 infection rates, the proposed event was postponed until 2023. Rather than abandon all possibilities of gathering that weekend, the February Flourish planning team offered a Zoom meeting that morning. Chapter Dean Rick Burk and February Flourish Director Dawn Riske welcomed 18 participants to the virtual Zoom gathering. After a time of welcome, Burnell Hackman introduced the featured presenter, Dr. Steven Wenthe of Concordia University Chicago and First Saint Paul's Lutheran, Chicago. Those in attendance, including some friends from Illinois, enjoyed Dr. Wenthe's presentation entitled: "How Different Musical Modalities Can Help Us in Service Playing." He shared tips regarding how to allow hymn playing to be informed by techniques from vocal and instrumental sound production. Those insights will help to keep our organ playing clear, on point and musical. Thanks to all who attended, and a big thank you to the presenters and planning team who will need to keep things activated for next year's gathering!

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY FLOURISH 2023

A Trio of Happenings
February 10, 11, and 12, 2023
Peace Lutheran Church
Saint Louis, Missouri

Executive Board Nominees for 2022-2023

DEAN: JEFF WHITE

Jeff White, CAGO, is a long-time member of the St. Louis Chapter. He has previously served on the Executive Committee, and did a partial term as Sub-Dean. He holds a Master of Church Music degree with an emphasis in Organ from Concordia University, Wisconsin. He is the Minister of Music and Organist at Trinity Lutheran Church in the Soulard neighborhood of St. Louis. He is a member of the Gateway Ringers, and has served on their board as Secretary, Vice President, and President. Jeff is comfortable in leadership roles, having led a previous congregation as President, and as a people manager for two different international teams at Mastercard. He is passionate about the work of the AGO and our chapter, and looks forward to the opportunity to serve the chapter once again.

SUB DEAN: MARY BETH WITTRY

Mary Beth Wittry is Director of Sacred Music at St. Gabriel the Archangel Church in the city of St. Louis. Previously, she was Director of Sacred Music at Immaculate Conception in Springfield, Missouri from 1985-2004 and Instructor of Organ at MSU. She moved to St. Louis in 2004 to be Director of Sacred Music at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary until 2013. Mary Beth has her Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Bradley University and her Master of Music in Organ Performance from University of Illinois.

Class of 2025 (Alphabetical Order)

SUZANNE CHISUM, PhD

Suzanne Chisum is a life-long learner, who is continuing organ studies, while playing the organ at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in the city of Saint Louis. She recently became a member of the AGO. In the past Suzanne has been an organist at Holy Family Church (now closed) and Saint Francis de Sales Church in the city of St. Louis.

Suzanne first played the organ at a small rural parish, Immaculate Conception, in Madonnaville, Illinois, where she grew up. Suzanne has a doctorate in education with an emphasis on adult learning. She lives in south Saint Louis with her husband. She has two adult sons. Besides music, Suzanne enjoys, cooking, gardening, and playing with her little dachshund, Bits.

MARQUISE JONES

Marquise Jones is a senior Criminal Justice major at Cedarville University, Ohio. He is also an Army ROTC cadet with the Central State Marauder Battalion. He is mostly a self-taught organist, with some training from Barbara Raedeke through the St. Louis AGO Pipe Organ Encounter and Brent Johnson. His future career plans include being a full-time police officer and an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves.

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ROBERT RAYMOND, MM

Robert Raymond received his Graduate Degree in Organ and Piano Performance and Chamber Music accompaniment from Southern Illinois University, Edwardsville. It is here where he has taught organ since 1997, and piano in the Keyboard Development Program since 1989. Robert studied with organist Kathleen Thomerson, FAGO; and with pianist Ruth Slenczynska. Robert earned a Permanent Professional Certificate in Organ and Piano Teaching from the Music Teachers National Association.

Robert has given SIUE faculty organ recitals, participated in master classes and workshops, performed with area organists in group recitals at McKendree University, Lewis, and Clark Community College and with the St. Louis AGO. Robert served as Dean of the American Guild of Organists, Gateway East Chapter from 1994-1997.

First Presbyterian Church, Edwardsville is where Mr. Raymond has served as organist and pianist for 28 years, performing all weekly services, accompanying the adult and youth choirs, as well as guest musicians.

DAVID SINDEN

Noted for his “centered leadership and solid musicianship,” David Sinden is the Organist and Director of Music at St. Peter’s Episcopal Church in St. Louis, Missouri. His recording with the St. Peter’s Choir, *Longing for Home* (Regent, 2020), has been met with widespread acclaim. Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Sinden served in the same capacity at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Capitol Square, in Richmond, Virginia. While in Virginia, he was the Artistic Director of the Central Virginia Masterworks Chorale for three seasons and served on the Standing Committee for Liturgy and Church Music for the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia.

Mr. Sinden has held leadership positions in several chapters of the American Guild of Organists (AGO). He currently serves on the New Music Committee for the 2026 AGO National Convention. He has previously served on the Program and Executive Committees of the Richmond Chapter of the AGO and is a former Dean of the Indianapolis Chapter.

David has appeared as organist at conventions of the Hymn Society of the United States and Canada and the Anglican Association of Musicians. He holds degrees in music from Oberlin College and Indiana University.

Voting will take place during the first two weeks of April.
Instructions for voting will appear in the April issue of OPUS.



2026 National Convention Update

Meet us in St. Louis!

On May 19, 2020 the National Council of the American Guild of Organists voted to host the 2026 National Convention in St. Louis, Missouri. In the two plus years since that announcement, much work has taken place as we look forward to the convention.

- The Hyatt Regency at the Arch was selected as the Convention Hotel.
- Burnell Hackman was approved as Convention Coordinator by the local chapter Executive Committee and the National Council.
- The Officers of the Convention were approved by our Executive Committee, Executive Assistant, Rick Burk; Secretary, Kendra Ruesler; Treasurer, Mike Kaberline; Registrar, Regina Morris; and Volunteer Coordinator; Dawn Riske.
- Members have begun completing Member Surveys, Facilities (Organ) Surveys and contributing to the Convention.

Since that time, the Officers of the Convention have been assembling a Steering Committee which will oversee the convention. We are in the process of adding committee members to each of the various committees. Some committees' work needs to be done well in advance of the convention and other committees will be more "hands on" during the convention. Those who completed a Member Survey should be hearing from someone in the next few weeks concerning committee assignments.

You may ask "The Convention is four plus years away, why are we worrying about it now?" The answer is our schedule and programing must be in place by the winter of 2023 when a trio of folks from the National Headquarters will come and review our plans and either approve or reject them.

So, I believe we are right on schedule with our planning.

Please.....

If you have not completed a Member Survey please do so at:

<https://www.agostlouis.org/2026-convention-member-survey/>

If you know of an organ or facility we should consider using during the convention, please let us know at:

<https://www.agostlouis.org/2026-national-convention-facilities-organ-survey/>

We ask that each member support the convention with a financial gift. Any amount is welcome! A special event for members of the 2026 Club and higher is a special reception to view the July 4th Fireworks at the Hyatt. You will be in a ballroom overlooking the Arch Ground and will have a special place to view our nation's 250th Birthday Party. To make a pledge or contribution, go to:

<https://www.agostlouis.org/2026-national-convention-pledge/>

If you have any questions about the convention, please feel free to contact me at 314.892.5610 or email at agostl2026@agostlouis.org.

Thanks!

Burnell Hackman, Convention Coordinator

From our history as we celebrate our 110th chapter anniversary year:

Early Chapter recitals and concerts

12/4/1921	Kroeger Recital	
1/30/1922	Richard Keys Biggs Recital	
4/9/1922	Rhodes Recital	
11/2/1922	Stoeke Recital	Aeoline Co - two pianos, \$20.00
11/13/1922	Rechlin Recital	
11/14/1922	Geo Enzinger Recital	
11/23/1922	Allen Recital	Recital fee of \$100
1/28/1923	Wisman Recital	
1/29/1923	Courboin Recital	
3/19/1923	Stanley Seder Recital	
10/5/1923	Cooper Recital	
10/16/1923	Pietro Yon Recital	Third Baptist Church, recital fee of \$350
3/31/1924	James T. Quarles Recital	Pilgrim Church, recital fee \$50.00
4/14/1924	Hugo Hagen Recital	St. Marcus Church
11/30/1924	Kroeger Recital	
3/5/1925	E. Prang Stamm Recital	

Sub-Dean's Column continued from page 2

Other channels available that members might be interested in include:

Balint Karosi's channel offers lots of unique performances, interviews, and organ tours:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/vizipok01>

The Scott Brother's Duo features some beautiful performances and photography:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/scottbrothersduo>

Music matters, a music theory channel that features composer quizzes each week:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/MusicMattersGB>

Thanks for Brent for offering some great options for keeping us engaged, if not entertained.

I would add that the national website is replete with resources of all kinds. If you have not visited <http://www.agohq.org> recently, I'd encourage you to check it out if you have some time. On the Education tab alone, you will find much to discover.

Heather Martin Cooper

Sub-Dean

Open Organ Positions

Belleville IL: Immediate Opening for an accomplished church organist at St Paul UCC, Belleville, IL. This is a part time position. The organist, in addition to providing a variety of traditional literature for worship services, regular and liturgical holidays, will serve as accompanist for the adult Chancel Choir. The organist will collaborate closely with the Director of Music and the Senior Pastor. The church enjoys a Schantz Pipe Organ, 49 ranks, and a 6' Steinway. St. Paul has a dedicated Music Ministry as well as a Fine Arts Series - which includes a wide variety of musical genres intended to reach community and regional attendance.

For a more complete, detailed job description, please consult the church website www.stpaulucc.org. To speak with the search committee chair, or to send a resume, please contact Dr. Thomas Birkner: tbirkner@sbcglobal.net or 618-975-8165.

Shrewsbury, MO: Cure of Ars Parish, Shrewsbury, MO is seeking an organist for their Saturday 4:30 pm and Sunday 9:30 am services. Please contact Father Byrnes at 314-962-5883 for more information or to apply for the position.

St. Ann, MO: Hope Lutheran Church (LCMS) in St. Ann is seeking an organist (or several organists in rotation). Duties include playing for Saturday 6 pm and Sunday 9 am services as well as additional liturgical holiday services, funerals and weddings. For more information or to apply, please contact Mr. Tony Adolf (congregation President) at 314-607-0713.

Ferguson, MO: Immanuel United Church of Christ in Ferguson MO is seeking a Sunday Organist for the music ministry, working with the Senior Pastor on music selection based on the sermon and liturgy.

Part-time position is for Sunday mornings and other opportunities. Previous church organist experience is preferred. Previous experience will be reviewed, and hours established on an individual basis. Hourly rates are competitive. Instrument is a Wicks 76 rank pipe organ (with digital interface for recordings).

All interested persons may submit for the job along with a resume, compensation requirements and references to immanueloffice@immanuelucc.org.

Rolla, MO: Christ Episcopal Church, Rolla (www.christepiscopalrolla.com), is looking for a part time organist to provide organ/piano music for one Sunday morning worship service and accompany the choir practice on Wednesday evenings. Instruments are a 30 rank 2 manual Wicks, grand piano and a harpsicord.

For further information contact Rev. Dr. Mary J. Korte, Rector, at cell:316-303-4175, office:573-364-1499 or revmary4175@gmail.com.

More Open Positions

Troy, IL: Troy United Methodist Church (TUMC) in Troy, Illinois, is seeking a dynamic and talented individual to **lead its Traditional Worship Arts** on a salaried, half-time basis. The Traditional Worship Arts primarily consists of the Chancel Choir, Bell Choir, Children's Choir, and other special music events.

TUMC is a growing congregation with two Traditional and two Modern services on Sunday Mornings. TUMC has an established on-line ministry and a busy weekly ministry. For details and application guidance go to <http://troyumc.org/jobs>.

St. Louis, MO: Dayspring Baptist Church, St. Louis is currently looking to grow its staff team by adding a part-time **Worship and Music Director**. The Worship and Music Director will be primarily responsible for coordinating and giving leadership to the worshipping life of the church. This person will report directly to the Pastor and be responsible for working in collaboration with and supervising our accompanist. For further information please visit the church website <http://www.dayspringstl.com>.

St. Charles, MO: St. John UCC in St. Charles is seeking a part time **music associate**. This exciting new part time position will work directly with the director of music ministries to enrich not only the Sunday worship but also has the opportunity to help develop the existing concert series and musical theater in addition to creating many other music programs here at St. John. Primary qualifications are:

- Piano skills (Organ skills desirable)
- Additional instrumental skills highly desirable including, but not limited to, percussion, guitar, or brass
- BA (BM) in Music, working to obtain BA (BM) in Music, or comparable experience

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter and resume to Director of Music Ministries, St. John United Church of Christ, 405 S. 5th Street, St. Charles, MO 63301

Glendale, MO: Glendale Presbyterian Church in Glendale, MO is seeking a part time **Music Director**. Duties include playing music for all Sunday morning services and additional services throughout the liturgical year as well as directing the Chancel Choir. Organ and piano skills required. Complete job description available upon request. Resumes and inquiries may be sent to glenpres.employment@gmail.com.

Chesterfield, MO: Ivy Chapel UCC, 620 N Woods Mill Road in Chesterfield, MO is seeking a part time **Minister of Music**. Primary duties are to provide music for all regular Sunday morning services, typical additional services throughout the liturgical year and direct the Chancel Choir. The complete job description and application information is located at <https://www.ivychapel.org/2021/09/03/now-hiring-minister-of-music/>.

Even More Open Positions

St. Louis, MO: [Gethsemane Lutheran Church](#) in St. Louis is seeking an **organist**. Duties include playing for Sunday and other services during the liturgical year, accompany Monday night choir rehearsals and accompany soloists or bell choir as needed. Salary paid bi-monthly and includes 2 paid Sundays per year. Contact the church at (314) 352-8050 or office@gethsemanestl.org for more information or to apply for the position.

St. Louis, MO: Third Baptist Church, St. Louis is seeking application for a **Bass section leader**. Vacancy opens October 1, 2021. Third Baptist boasts a remarkably eclectic repertoire in its worship, from Vaughan Williams to Hank Williams, and is led by three of St. Louis's leading musicians. The choir has resumed in-person services, masked, and all singers must be fully vaccinated. Contact the Director of Music for information about this paid position, its responsibilities and expectations: pbarnes@third-baptist.org.

Edwardsville, IL: Eden Church in Edwardsville, Illinois is looking for a **Director of Worship Arts** to serve our congregation. The Director is responsible for:

- Planning, directing, development, and performance of the ministry of Worship Arts.
- Selecting Christian music for the congregation, weekly planning, rehearsing and leading of Sunday Worship in conjunction with the Senior Pastor.
- Directing rehearsals and performances of choral, instrumental, drama or other worship arts in both traditional and contemporary styles.
- Gathering and developing Worship Arts volunteers.
- Management of Worship Arts Media Team.

For more information: edenchurch-edw.org.

To apply, please email cover letter and resume to Jobs@edenchurch-edw.org.

East Alton, IL: First United Methodist Church in East Alton, IL is seeking a part time **organist /pianist**. Duties are to play 2 consecutive Sunday services a month, attend Wednesday night choir rehearsal as needed and play for adult Sunday School class. There is possibility of duties becoming 4 services a month. Salary to be discussed at interview.

To apply please send resume to: First United Methodist Church, 1001 East 3rd Street, East Alton, IL 62035 Attn: Staff Parish. You may also send email to eafumc@hotmail.com.

THE OPUS

The Official Publication
of the St. Louis Chapter
of the American Guild of Organists
3526 Oxford Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63143-4209
February 2022 - Vol. 38, No. 4

You are invited to submit material
for publication consideration.

Material and calendar items should be e-mailed to
newsletter@agostlouis.org.

**Copy deadline for the April issue is
March 10.**

Send address changes or mailing labels requests to:
Regina Morris
3526 Oxford Blvd
St. Louis MO 63143-4209

**ORGAN LESSONS
FOR STUDENTS
OF ALL LEVELS**

David Sinden

degrees in Organ Performance
from Oberlin College (B.Mus.)
and Indiana University (M.M.)

Study on the three-manual
Mander organ of St. Peter's
Episcopal Church, Ladue

CONTACT:
dsinden@gmail.com

OFFICERS:

Dean - Rick Burk
Sub-Dean - Heather Martin Cooper
Secretary - Gaye Anderson
Treasurer - Mike Kaberline
Past Dean - Burnell Hackman

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:Class of 2022

Dr. Steven Ball
J. D. Brooks
Dr. William Sullivan

Class of 2023

(Vacant)
Shawn Portell
Kit LaMar

Class of 2024

Sarah Bereza
Jill Griffin
(Vacant)

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

2026 Convention Coordinator
Burnell Hackman
Auditor
Denis J. Doelling
Dinner Reservations
Dr. Cathy Bolduan
Directory Editor
Al Black
Educational Resources
Dr. Barbara Raedeke
Exam Coordinator
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2021-2022

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St. Louis Chapter

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ST. PETER'S
EPISCOPAL CHURCH
EST. 1847

Choral and Organ Music at St. Peter's Episcopal Church

The Rev. David Hodges *Rector*
David Sinden *Organist & Director of Music*
S. William Aitken *Organist & Director of Music Emeritus*

Choral Evensong

Sunday, March 13

5:00 p.m.

A traditional Anglican service of scripture, prayer, and music led by the St. Peter's Singers. This service includes music by Alice Parker, David Ashley White, and Craig Philips.

Meditation on the Passion of Christ

Palm Sunday, April 10

5:00 p.m.

Ancient antiphons and modern poetry combine in this service meditating on Gethsemane, the Trial, and the Crucifixion of Jesus. Music by Antonio Lotti, Richard Felciano, Gerald Near, and Robert Lehman.

Organ Vespers in Eastertide

Sunday, May 8

5:00 p.m.

A contemplative service of candlelight, chant, and music from our Mander organ. Guest Organist: Matthew Gerhardt (St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Des Peres)

For full details visit specstl.org