

January 2023

## Dean's Corner

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to start off this edition by thanking Kit LaMar for her service as our OPUS newsletter editor. Kit has stepped down from the post, and our new editor, Rick Burk, has willingly stepped up!

Looking ahead, I would still like to hear from you, our members, on what types of programs would interest you. Our Sub-Dean, Mary Beth Wittry, will be putting together the program committee, and general ideas such as educational events, for example, would be helpful. We typically start off our evenings with a nice dinner and time of fellowship, but not every event may have a dinner.



Jeffrey White—Dean

Speaking of events, we had a wonderful time of fellowship and a moving worship service at the Cathedral of St. Peter in Belleville in November. The ecumenical service was inspirational, and the singing was wonderful as well! The message really hit home for me personally: taking time for myself, and giving thanks. I hope that once we have wound down from Christmas and look forward to our Easter celebrations that you can take time to reflect, renew, and rejuvenate.

Upcoming board activities will include forming the nominating committee for the next Executive Committee class, the programming committee, and the Avis Blewett Award committee. If you have any interest in assisting in any of these, please contact me, and I will put you in touch accordingly. Also do not forget about the February Flourish and the 2026 Convention!

I hope your holiday celebrations were filled with joy and peace!

Sincerely,

Jeff White, Dean



Mary Beth Wittry—Sub-Dean

After the busy seasons of Advent and Christmas plan to take some time for yourself and join your fellow Chapter members for some refreshment and relaxation at our Epiphany Party. We will gather on Friday, January 6 at the home of Past Dean, Rick Burk, beginning at 6:30 p.m. For the cover charge of \$20.00 per person you will have access to unlimited food and beverages, not to mention much fun and fellowship. It is a come-and-go (or stay as long as you want!) event, so even if you have an Epiphany worship service that evening, plan to come and join us following your postlude.

The address is 4065 Blaine Avenue in the Botanical Heights neighborhood (just west of Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital). There is ample parking available on both Blaine and Thurman Avenues.

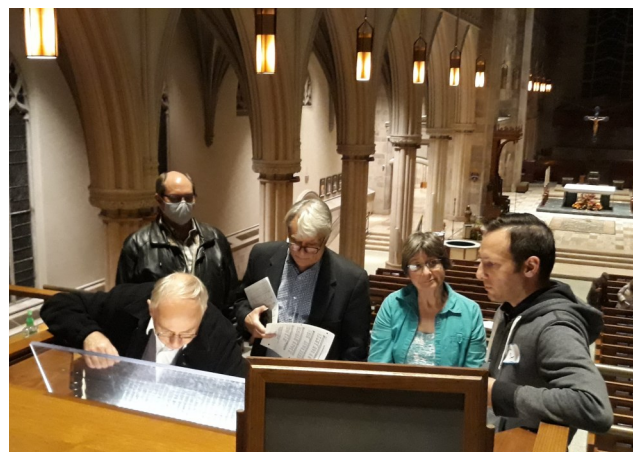
Please RSVP to Cathy Bolduan (314-853-5011 or [kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com](mailto:kathleen.bolduan@gmail.com)) no later than Saturday, December 31.

Don't forget our March Members' Recital on Monday, March 27 at Grace United Methodist Church (Sarah Bereza, host). We are still looking for people to perform. Please contact Mary Beth Wittry ([wittrym@stgabrielstl.org](mailto:wittrym@stgabrielstl.org)) or Sarah Bereza ([sarah.bereza@gmail.com](mailto:sarah.bereza@gmail.com)) if interested. Please share your talent!

## Remaining St. Louis Chapter Programs/Meetings

January 6	January Epiphany Party at the home of Rick Burk
February 10-12	February Flourish at Peace Lutheran Church
March 27	Member's Recital at Grace United Methodist Church
May 22	Closing Banquet with Installation of officers and Chapter awards at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

On November 21, 2022, the Saint Louis Chapter met at the Cathedral of Saint Peter in near-by Belleville, Illinois. Our host Richard Thompson, Organist and Choirmaster of the Cathedral, welcomed us for a Thanksgiving-themed meal prepared by "As You Like It" catering. After a shared supper and time for conversation, we moved up into the nave for a Thanksgiving Service. Along with Richard Thompson, Program Coordinator and Choir Director Stephen Eros prepared an ecumenical Evening Prayer for the chapter members and guests. "Prelude on MALABAR" by Leo Sowerby led the way through a service of hymns, prayers, chant, and readings. A thoughtful homily was delivered by Belleville Bishop Michael G. McGovern. The choir, formed by singers from the Cathedral and St. Clare of Assisi Parish, sang the Mack Wilberg setting of "All People that on Earth Do Dwell." Organ and a brass quartet enriched our prayerful gathering. Afterward, members gathered in the balcony to explore and discuss the recent Christopher Soer renovation of the 1968 M.P. Möller organ. —Dawn Riske





8514 Rosemary Avenue  
Saint Louis, MO 63123  
December 2022

Dear colleagues of the  
American Guild of Organists,

May these holy days renew you in your calling as you prepare  
and share music for joyful celebrations of faith.

February Flourish 2023 is a Trio of Happenings this year set for Friday-Sunday, February 10-12, 2023 at Peace Lutheran Church in South County. Friday evening's Taizé Prayer will be offered by members of the local Chapter of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. The Church Music Conference on Saturday will offer professional workshops and sessions for Church Musicians, Organists, Singers, Handbell Ringers, and anyone who appreciates sacred music. The presenters for our seminars will have a lot of valuable information to share. Sunday will wrap up the weekend with a Pipe Organ Recital by Dr. Steven Wenthe on the Martin Ott tracker organ at Peace.

The registration fee is set at \$25 for the Saturday workshops and lunch; the registration fee for students is \$10. You can register via Eventbrite at

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/february-flourish-2023-a-trio-of-happenings-tickets-475228018797>.

There is also a link on the Saint Louis Chapter webpage: [agostlouis.org](http://agostlouis.org) The events on Friday and Sunday are free of charge and open to the public.

Of course, there are expenses to cover as we prepare for and publicize this quality event. If you would like to place an advertisement in our Program Book, please prepare camera-ready copy in the size you desire. Send the advertising file to me via e-mail at [musicdeac@gmail.com](mailto:musicdeac@gmail.com), or mail it to me at 8514 Rosemary Avenue, 63123. Make your check payable to "Saint Louis Chapter AGO" and mail it to

Mike Kaberline, Treasurer  
Saint Louis Chapter AGO  
2 Holly Ridge Ct.  
Swansea, IL 62226-2322

If a PayPal transaction is preferred, go to the Chapter's February Flourish page.

Business-card size	(color or black and white)	\$ 25
Half page 5-1/2 X 8-1/2"	(color or black and white)	\$ 100
Full page 8-1/2 X 11"	(color or black and white)	\$ 200

It will be exciting to share the February Flourish event with people like you. I think all who attend will find it uplifting.

Thank you again for your support and for the valuable work you are doing.

Blessings,

*Dawn Riske, CAGO*

Director, February Flourish



Dawn Riske - CAGO



The New Music Committee for the 2026 National Convention in St. Louis has been hard at work.

Their suggested composers were unanimously approved by the Convention Steering Committee, The New Music Committee of the National Organization and finally the National Council.

We are in the process of completing contracts with each composer. When contracts have been signed, we will announce the composers.

We can tell you that the composers include five women and three men; five white composers, two African-American composers, and one Indian-American composer. They range in age from their twenties to their seventies. All the composers have experience writing for organ.

Members of the New Music Committee for the 2026 Convention include Sarah Bereza (chair), Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart, Mark Lawson, Kirsten Santos Rutschman, and David Sinden with Rick Burk and Burnell Hackman, *ex officio* members. Click the link in the box below for more information.

Fundraising for the Convention continues. We have made it easier to make contributions via PayPal from our website. You may make a one time gift or spread it out over monthly payments. There will also be opportunities to sponsor new music, recitals, worship services and workshops. More details will be shared as planning develops.

As we enter 2023 our work will be “kicking into high gear.” We want to make this the BEST convention the Guild has ever had. To do that we will need your help!! If you have any questions or suggestions, please contact me!

Burnell Hackman

[Agostl2026@agostlouis.org](mailto:Agostl2026@agostlouis.org)

314.650.9415



**AGO NATIONAL CONVENTION**

**July 6—10, 2026**

**[Click here for more information](#)**

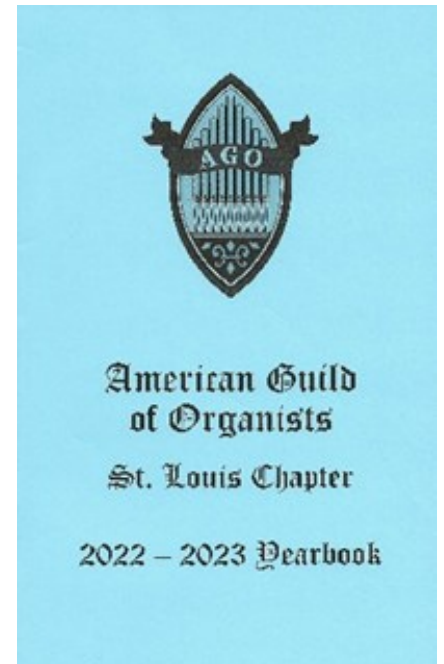
## YEARBOOK UPDATES

By now you should have received your copy of the St. Louis Chapter 2022-2023 Yearbook (aka the Directory). [If you have not received your copy, please contact Registrar Regina Morris at [morrisrp@swbell.net](mailto:morrisrp@swbell.net)]

As with most publications such as this one, it is “out of date” almost as soon as it is printed. In this and future issues of THE OPUS there will be an opportunity to provide corrections and changes to member entries as needed by sending the updated information to [newsletter@agostlouis.org](mailto:newsletter@agostlouis.org). Be sure to also keep your information in ONCARD up to date.

Here is one correction that has been submitted:

For **Burk, Richard** – remove the name, address and telephone number of Westminster Presbyterian Church.



For current members of our Chapter whose listing does not appear in the 2022-2023 Yearbook, please send your information to [newsletter@agostlouis.org](mailto:newsletter@agostlouis.org) IF you would like the information to be shared with our membership via a future issue of THE OPUS.



As you read in the last issue of THE OPUS, our Chapter has a new Facebook Page and Facebook Group. We thank Suzanne Chisum for creating and administering these for us. A reminder that the Facebook Page can only be updated by the administrators who currently are Suzanne Chisum and Brent Johnson (as backup).

The Facebook Group is a place where any of our members may post questions and pictures without having to submit to an administrator to approve the post.

If you have not yet done so, please take a few moments and take a look at the [Facebook Page](#) and select “Like” to follow. If you would like to be a member of the [Facebook Group](#), please scan the QR code to the right.



If you were not able to attend the Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service on November 21, visit our new Facebook page where you will find the program and photos from the service.

Books. Pamphlets. DVDs. CDs. Music.



**EDUCATIONAL**

**RESOURCES**

**LIBRARY**

The St. Louis Chapter's Educational Resources Library has a number of items that are available for members to check out for their own educational purposes. For further information, please contact Barbara Raedeke, Educational Resources Librarian, at [b.raedeke@wustl.edu](mailto:b.raedeke@wustl.edu).

Below is just a small sampling of what is available. A full listing may be found on our website at [www.agostlouis.org](http://www.agostlouis.org).

Let's Commission a Work	RCCO-William Wright	Booklet	Choral
Pronunciation of Church Latin		Booklet	Choral
Technique for Choirs	Cook, John (RCCO)	Booklet	Choral
100 Strategies for Successful AGO Certification	Kull, Joyce Shupe	Booklet	Exams
Mini-Course in Hymn Playing,	Woolard, Margot Ann G.	Cassette & booklet	Hymns/ Reg/SP
Accompaniment Adaptation Practicum	Campbell, John	Cassette & booklet	Hymns/Reg/SP
Catalogue of Music for Organ and Instruments	Laster, James H.	Book	Organ Lit
Early French Organ Registrations	Bates, Robert	CD	Organ Lit
Jean Langlais: The Man and His Music	Labounsky, Ann	Book	Organ lit
Rightful Use: Church Practices and Copyright Law	Presbyterian Church (USA)	Booklet	Prof Dev

## 2022-2023 Leadership Team

### OFFICERS:

Dean - Jeff White  
 Sub-Dean - Mary Beth Wittry  
 Secretary - Gaye Anderson  
 Treasurer - Mike Kaberline  
 Past Dean - Rick Burk

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

#### Class of 2023

Kit LaMar  
 Shawn Portell  
 Bill Sullivan

#### Class of 2024

Sarah Bereza  
 Chuck Chauvin  
 Jill Griffin

#### Class of 2025

Suzanne Chisum  
 Bob Raymond  
 David Sinden

### APPOINTED POSITIONS:

#### *2026 Convention Coordinator*

Burnell Hackman

#### *Auditor*

Denis J. Doelling

#### *Certification Coordinator*

Brent Johnson

#### *Dinner Reservations*

Dr. Cathy Bolduan

#### *Directory Editors and Hospitality*

Fern and Al Black

#### *Educational Resources*

Dr. Barbara Raedeke

#### *Historian*

Randy Zerkel

#### *Membership Coordinator*

Mary Beth Wittry

#### *OPUS Editor*

Rick Burk

#### *Photographer*

Dawn Riske (Interim)

#### *Placement*

Denis J. Doelling

#### *Professional Concerns Liaison*

Shawn Portell

#### *Programs*

Mary Beth Wittry

#### *Publicity Liaison*

Dawn Riske

#### *Registrar*

Regina Morris

#### *Social Media Communications*

Suzanne Chisum

#### *Webmaster*

Brent Johnson

### THE OPUS

The Official Publication  
 of the St. Louis Chapter  
 of the American Guild of Organists  
 3526 Oxford Blvd.  
 St. Louis, MO 63143-4209  
 January 2023 - 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](mailto:newsletter@agostlouis.org).

**Copy deadline for the February issue is January 10.**

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

Regina Morris  
 3526 Oxford Blvd  
 St. Louis MO 63143-4209

## THE OPUS

American Guild of Organists

St. Louis Chapter

3526 Oxford Blvd

St. Louis, MO 63143-4209

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Please Deliver Promptly



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
ST. LOUIS, MO  
Permit No. 2977

### Remaining St. Louis Chapter Programs/Meetings

January 6	January Epiphany Party at the home of Rick Burk
February 10-12	February Flourish at Peace Lutheran Church
March 27	Member's Recital at Grace United Methodist Church
May 22	Closing Banquet with Installation of officers and Chapter awards at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet.

*Add these to your personal calendar. Dates and places may change, so please watch for THE OPUS newsletter or check the chapter web site.*

