

November 2023

Dean's Corner

October is here with cooler temperatures. Leaves start to change, and church musicians begin thinking about Christmas services. It's also a time where the Executive Committee begins to think about nominating new officers for the next term. We are in the process of putting together a nominating committee. In our next election coming up this Spring, we will be electing the next Dean, Sub-Dean, and three Executive Committee members for the Class of 2027. If you have any interest in serving the Chapter in one of these positions, please reach out to Cathy Bolduan.



Jeffrey White—Dean

Please remember to RSVP for any dinner reservations no later than the Friday before the event. The dinners are optional, and you may wish to attend only the event itself, but it is still important to know how many to expect for dinner so the caterer knows how much food to prepare. Cathy Bolduan is our reservations officer.

I hope that during this busy season, you will be able to join us for the upcoming program events, and as always, we would love to hear what would interest you in future events. Planning for the 2024-2025 season will be underway soon, so your suggestions would be welcome. Sub-Dean Mary Beth Wittry should be notified of your great ideas!

Also, please be sure to notify our Chapter of events at your church or venue! You may send the information via email to "events@agostlouis.org".

I hope you have a wonderful Fall season!

Jeffrey White
Dean, St. Louis AGO Chapter



Mary Beth Wittry
wittrym@stgabrielstl.org

Greetings, my fellow organists!

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying this beautiful, crisp fall weather. I love the "Americana" feeling of the seasons in the Midwest; especially the season of autumn!

For those who were able to attend, the concert on Sunday, October 15 given by Bruce Neswick at St. Peter's Episcopal in Ladue was so very nice; it was quite the interesting program. He played works by William Byrd, J.S. Bach, Cèsar Franck, Leo Sowerby, Hugo Distler, and David Hurd. And he delighted us with an amazing improvisation on a theme submitted to him on the spot! It was very impressive; he has quite the skillset!

After dinner on Monday, October 16, Bruce gave us a very fine and instructive workshop on improvisation and encouraged each of us to practice our skills daily by devoting time to six different areas of preparation he called "the six wheels of keyboard skills." It was an excellent evening; personally, I would have been very happy to have an entire day devoted to the subject! We owe a big thank you to David Sinden for hosting everything at his beautiful parish! Check out the photos from these events on page seven of this newsletter.

Our next event will hopefully be our January Epiphany party; we did have a volunteer offer to host this event. More information about a time and place will be forthcoming.

Best wishes to you all as we approach the upcoming holidays. May you be joyful in your "song"!

Blessings!

Mary Beth Wittry
Sub-Dean, St. Louis Chapter AGO

Upcoming Programs

January Epiphany Party
 Venue and date to be announced soon!

Sunday, February 18 - 4:00 p.m.
 Organ Duo: Dr. Ann Marie Rigler
 and Dr. Melody Steed
 Venue: Third Baptist Church
 Host: Brent Johnson

Monday, March 18 - 6:30 p.m.
 Dinner and Members' Recital
 including Pipes for Parkinsons by Bob Schneider
 Venue: Little Flower Parish
 Host: Chuck Chauvin

Monday, May 20 - 6:30 p.m.
 Closing Banquet
 Venue TBD

Concert Calendar

Check the [Concerts and Events](#) section of the Chapter website for more details on these and other recently posted events. When visiting that page, be sure to click on the heading of each concert listing for full details including contact information and an interactive map.



Saturday, November 4 - 7:00 P.M.

GATEWAY RINGERS

St. Paul United Church of Christ
127 Saint Paul St., Columbia, MO

Sunday, November 5 - 4:00 P.M.

SANCTUS WINDS BAND

Peace Lutheran Church
737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis, MO

Sunday, November 5 - 4:00 P.M.

GATEWAY RINGERS

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
327 Woods Mill Road, Manchester, MO

Friday, November 10 - 7:00 P.M.

DENNIS BERGIN, ORGAN

Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church
1230 Big Bend Road, Ballwin, MO

Sunday, November 12 - 4:00 P.M.
MATTHEW GERHARDT, ORGAN

Lord of Life Lutheran Church
15750 Baxter Road, Chesterfield, MO



Saturday, December 9 - 7:30 P.M.

GATEWAY RINGERS

Gethsemane Lutheran Church
3600 Hampton Ave., St Louis, MO

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

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Sunday, December 10 - 4:00 P.M.

GATEWAY RINGERS

Holy Cross Lutheran Church

8945 Veterans Memorial Parkway, O'Fallon, MO

Saturday, December 16 - 7:30 P.M.

GATEWAY RINGERS

All Saints Catholic Church

6403 Clemens Avenue, University City, MO



Sunday, December 17 - 3:00 P.M.

CHRISTMAS AT PEACE

Peace Lutheran Church

737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis, MO

Sunday, December 17 - 4:00 P.M.

GATEWAY RINGERS

Trinity Lutheran Church

812 Soulard Street, St. Louis, MO

With all the holiday concerts coming up in the next few months, be sure to take a few minutes and let the Chapter membership know what you are planning.

If you or your church has an organ/musical event that you would like to have included in the calendar, please send an email to David Sinden at events@agostlouis.org. You are also advised to "cc" Brent Johnson at brent@brentmjohnson.net.



San Francisco, California, June 30-July 4, 2024

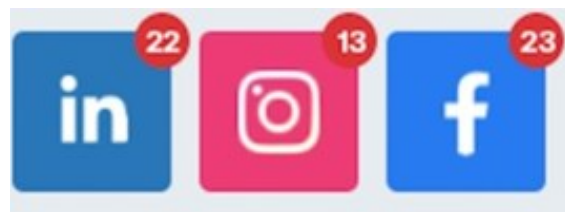
(hosted by San Francisco and Palo Alto Chapters)

Convention Coordinator: Matthew Burt

[Convention website](#)

SOCIAL MEDIA

The St. Louis Chapter has a presence on social media with Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn pages. We are also represented by a Member Group on Facebook, where all members may post information and questions to the group.



If you have not yet done so, please consider checking out our pages! Make sure you hit “Like” or “Follow” on Facebook so that you will get updates in your Facebook feed.

If you need assistance in locating the groups or how to follow them, please contact Suzanne Chisum at suzchisum@gmail.com.

We Want to See Your Pipe Organ!

Our social media pages feature pictures and stories of area organs. Please send pictures of your organ pipes or console so that we can all share our love of the organ with others! If you have time to write up a short paragraph on your relationship with the organ, please include it. Send photos and stories to suzchisum@gmail.com.

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2023

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American Guild
of Organists
St. Louis Chapter
2023-2024 Yearbook

Chapter Yearbook

From the Chapter Registrar:

The 2023-2024 St. Louis Chapter Yearbook/ Membership Directory has been printed and mailed. Since it is traveling by bulk mail, it may take some time for you to receive it. Thank you for your patience.

You will notice a few changes in the contents of the Directory: Some of the introductory material has been removed and placed on the Chapter website, where it can be viewed as needed. We have also added a “Reverse Directory” based on the church/employer information provided by members in their ONCARD data. We are grateful to our three advertisers whose ads supported the printing of the directory.

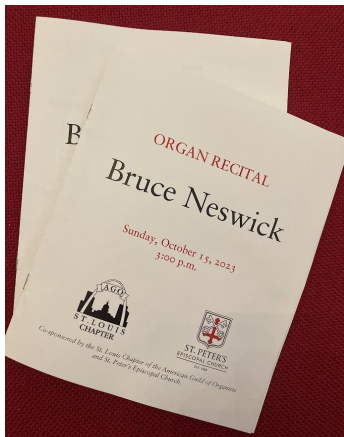
If your name is NOT in the Directory, then it means that you were not a currently paid member as of October 1, 2023, on ONCARD. If you notice any typographical errors in the directory, please report them to Regina Morris, Registrar, at morrisrp@swbell.net to avoid having these errors repeated in next year’s directory.

The American Guild of Organists entered into a partnership in 2019 with the Church Music Institute to provide discounted CMI membership rates for AGO members. AGO members can have access to all Church Music Institute member benefits with a discount of **\$40 off the \$75** individual membership, less than half the cost of regular CMI membership, which includes access to its online Sacred Music Library with over 18,000 choral selections and over 13,000 organ compositions. To take advantage of this reduced pricing, log in to [ONCARD](#) and click on “Update Personal Information” to get the members-only link to join CMI.



The Church Music Institute also sponsors church music education seminars, festival performances, and online learning webinars for free or at reduced rates for its members. For more information about CMI, please click on the logo or visit www.churchmusicinstitute.org.

Some photos from the October Chapter events.
(courtesy of Suzanne Chisum)



Recital Program



Recitalist, Bruce Neswick,
assisted by host, David Sinden



Recitalist and Presenter,
Bruce Neswick



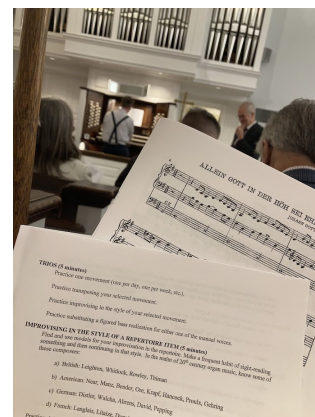
Serving ourselves a great dinner



Enjoying a delicious meal and great fellowship



Getting settled in for an informative presentation
by Bruce Neswick



A portion of the notes from the
handout discussing the "Six
Wheels of Keyboard Skills"

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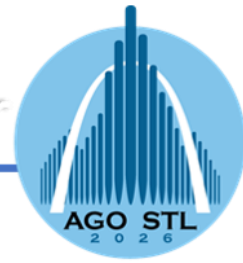
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Convention Coordinator

2026 National Convention



At the San Francisco National Convention in July 2024 we will have promotional materials available as well hosting a booth in the Exhibit Hall.

Our plan is to produce a video about St. Louis and the venues we will visit during the 2026 Convention. Brent Johnson has agreed to produce the video as well as some short videos to be shared on social media. If anyone has ideas on what should be included in the video, please let me know!

We also need help in designing our booth and looking for ideas on what we should give away during the San Francisco Convention.

Spencer Smith is working on a print ad for the San Francisco program book as well as ads for future editions of *The American Organist*.

As we reach the 1,000 day mark things are falling into place nicely. Watch for details about our kickoff event next Spring.

Blessings on your Thanksgiving and Christmas services!

Burnell Hackman

Convention Coordinator

Agostl2026@agostlouis.org

FEBRUARY FLOURISH 2025

The February Flourish 2025 Committee had a brainstorming meeting on September 19. We discussed the target audience and the direction of the FF 2025 program. Jacob Weber of Concordia Publishing House and Mark Lawson from Morning Star Publishing/ECS volunteered to work together to come up with a proposal that they feel that their companies could assist in facilitating FF 2025 with the St. Louis Chapter. This proposal is projected to be drafted and distributed to the FF Committee by the end of November of this year.

We are very fortunate in the St. Louis area to have such amazing publishers of organ music. We hope that we will be able to draw on the strengths of their publishing companies such as marketing which would be very valuable for a successful event.

February Flourish Committee Members include Mary Beth Wittry, Jake Weber, Dawn Riske, Tom Docter, Mark Lawson, Stephen Jones, Simeon Layne, and Jeff White with Suzanne Chisum acting as the chair of the committee.

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Email koi@kingofinstruments.show.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

As per our custom, there will be no December issue of The OPUS. Submissions for the January issue are due by December 15 and may be sent to newsletter@agostlouis.org.

2023-2024 Chapter 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 2024

Sarah Bereza
Chuck Chauvin
Jill Griffin

Class of 2025

Suzanne Chisum
Bob Raymond
David Sinden

Class of 2026

Stephen Jones
Mark Lawson
Sharon Whitlock

APPOINTED POSITIONS:

2026 Convention Coordinator

Burnell Hackman

Auditor

Denis J. Doelling

Certification Coordinator

Brent Johnson

Dinner Reservations

Dr. Cathy Bolduan

Directory Editors

Jeff White & Regina Morris

Educational Resources

Dr. Barbara Raedeke

Historian

Randy Zerkel

Membership Coordinator

Mary Beth Wittry

OPUS Editor

Rick Burk

Photographer

Simeon A. Layne, Jr.

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

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St. Louis Chapter

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THE OPUS

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3526 Oxford Blvd.
St. Louis, MO 63143-4209
November 2023 - Vol 40, No. 3

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 January issue is December 15.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

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