

October 2024

Dean's Message

Autumn has officially begun, and so has our Chapter's 2024-2025 season. And what an exciting beginning we had! Katelyn Emerson performed on Sunday, September 15, providing us with a musical “tour” - of countries, of musical styles, and of the range of sound from the Schoenstein organ at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church. At our Chapter meeting on Monday, September 16, Katelyn spoke about preventing performance injury and developing better physical techniques. She also demonstrated some hands-on troubleshooting for two of our members at the organ. Her energy and attention to detail are indeed remarkable.



Suzanne Manelli
Dean

For the next event, we will journey up the Great River Road. See the Sub-Dean's report for details about this opportunity.

And good news from the Executive Committee meeting – we will host a February Flourish in 2025! Our clinician will be the well-known Michael Burkhardt. The February Flourish Committee chair, Suzanne Chisum, will have more information for you in the next edition of The OPUS.

Enjoy the cooling autumn days, and I hope to see you at a Chapter event soon!

Suzanne Manelli
Dean



Biff Hackman
Sub-Dean

Sub-Dean's Message

Greetings All,

What a wonderful start we had to our Program Year! Thank you to David Erwin and everyone at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church for their hospitality!

Our next event will be on Saturday, October 19. We will be treated to a tour of the instruments at Principia College in Elsah, IL. Our host, Dr. Rose Whitmore, will lead demonstrations on the Martin Ott opus 66 (2/34 1992) in the chapel and the unique tracker action Casavant Freres opus 3838 (3/56 2006.) We will also hear the Meeks and Watson Carillon, dedicated in 1998, which includes bells later cast by Eijsbouts. Look for an email confirming all the details in the next few days.

We will then meet on Monday, November 18 at Parkway United Church of Christ where Dr. Alyson Moore will lead us in a presentation by the St. Louis Children's Choirs. We will meet for dinner at 6:30 p.m. followed by a 7:30 p.m. presentation.

I hope everyone's program year is off to a great start!

Thank you,

Biff Hackman
Sub Dean, St. Louis Chapter AGO



Principia College

Convention Coordinator

2026 National Convention



Several members of your 2026 National AGO Convention attended the 2024 Convention in San Francisco. In addition to enjoying the Convention, Steering Committee members visited with Convention participants at our booth and answered many questions concerning the 2026 Convention. The group was able to share a meal with the 2024 Steering Committee and learned many helpful bits of information as we continue the planning process.



Left to right: Jim Threlkeld, Dawn Riske, Jeff White, Fr. Jeremy Secrist, Bill Wade, Kendra Ruesler, Rose Whitmore, Mike Kaberline, Rick Burk, Spencer Smith, Regina Morris, Biff Hackman, Robert Raymond, and Burnell Hackman

Of special note, the 2026 Convention will be one day shorter than previous recent conventions. This will allow attendees to arrive on Monday and return home on Friday afternoon or early Saturday morning which will not require missing church services. The National Council and our Steering Committee feel this will be a much-requested change in the AGO convention structure. We will be offering pre- and post-convention tours for those who would like to spend a little more time in our community and visit some historic instruments and great instruments that are in places that are too small to use as Convention venues.

The Performance Committee has had to step back and re-evaluate their work. I am happy to report that we have a balanced program of familiar organists and those who are equally talented and have not been on the national stage before. As we reach out to these artists and get commitments and contracts signed, we will soon be able to announce who is performing at the 2026 Convention.

The Officers of the Convention are meeting quite often either in person or via ZOOM to ensure we are on track as we continue to plan for the Convention.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer to help, please contact me at 314.650.9415 or agostl2026@agostlouis.org.

Have a BLESSED Day!

Burnell Hackman
Convention Coordinator

Visit and *Like* the 2026 Convention Facebook page at:

AGO National Convention - St. Louis 2026

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Completion of new IV manual console in the shop to existing Gallery instrument by Garland Pipe Organs, Inc. and a new Chancel Organ by Quimby Pipe Organs.

**Saint Stephen Presbyterian Church
Fort Worth, Texas**

Events Calendar

Check the Concerts and Events section of the Chapter website (www.agostlouis.org) for the most current list of upcoming events. When visiting that page, be sure to click on the heading of each concert listing for full details.

Sunday, October 6 - 3:00 p.m.

"Romanza de Amor"

Benedetta Orsi, mezzo soprano

W. Mark Akin, guitar

Alla Voskoboynikova, piano

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

100 East Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO 63122

Sunday, October 13 - 3:00 p.m.

Kevin Chunko, Organist

Hope United Church of Christ

6273 Eichelberger St., St. Louis, MO 63109

Sunday, October 13 - 3:00 p.m.

Trevor Good, Organist

Peace Lutheran Church

737 Barracksview Road, St. Louis, MO 63125

Sunday, October 27 - 3:00 p.m.

Odedeji Babajide, Organist

Webster Groves Presbyterian Church

45 Weest Lockwood., Webster Groves, MO 63119

Friday, November 1 - 7:00 p.m.

Dennis Bergin, Organ

Twin Oaks Presbyterian Church

1230 Big Bend Road, Ballwin, Missouri 63021

Sunday, November 17, 2024 - 3:00 p.m.

St. Louis Chamber Soloists

First Presbyterian Church of Kirkwood

100 East Adams Avenue, Kirkwood, MO 63122

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A glimpse from our September Chapter events



Katelyn Emerson performing at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church on Sunday, September 15, 2024

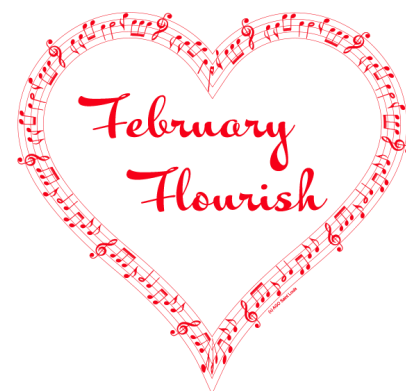


Chapter dinner enjoyed by 30+ members on Monday, September 16, 2024 at Ladue Chapel Presbyterian Church



Katelyn Emerson working with Spencer Smith demonstrating healthy performance technique at Ladue Presbyterian Church on Monday, September 16, 2024

Save the Date for the afternoon/evening of Sunday, February 16, 2025, and the evening of Monday, February 17, 2025, at a central location in the St. Louis area. More details will be available in the November issue of The OPUS.



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Sunday, November 24- 3:00 p.m.

William Sullivan, Organ

Sisters of the Most Precious Blood

St. Joseph Chapel

204 N. Main St., O'Fallon, MO 63366

With more activity beginning in the fall, 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.

Open POSITIONS

(Please note that some positions may no longer be available past the time of going to press.)

For more details on these and other job opportunities, please visit the "Open Positions" section of our website at <https://www.agostlouis.org/job-openings/>.

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Resurrection Lutheran Church, 1211 W. Homer M Adams Pkwy, Godfrey IL is seeking an organist or pianist. Duties include playing hymns, Lutheran liturgies, and service music such as preludes, voluntaries and post-ludes. Sunday services are at 10 am. Additional services include mid-week services during Lent and Advent, Christmas Eve and special services. Salary is \$150-200 per service based on experience. For more information or to apply please contact Neal at 618-433-1611 or Pastor Jan at 618-250-1608.

ORGANIST

Memorial United Methodist Church, a growing and welcoming faith community in Farmington, MO, is looking for someone to play our pipe organ for our 10:30 am Sunday Morning service. This person would also rehearse weekly on Wednesdays at 5:30pm with the chancel choir. This person is the chief accompanist for soloists when needed. There are additional special seasonal worship services that would be requested. Resumes should be sent to Shannon Davis, the senior pastor, at Shannon.davis@memorialumc.church or Memorial United Methodist Church, 425 North Street, Farmington, MO, 63640. Pay may be negotiable.

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Restoration work from Wicks

Zion United Methodist - Gordonville, Missouri



The original stenciled design of this Jackson tracker organ was hidden under a layer of flaking, yellow varnish.

◀ The pipes were stripped to bare metal, repainted and hand stenciled using copies of the original decorative patterns.



Repairs were made to all of the pipes, and new tuning slides were fabricated.



The organ was pitched to A=440, and given a thorough revoicing to achieve a more cohesive sound.

(618) 654-2191
wicksorgan.com



Have you joined the STL AGO Member Group yet?

If you are interested in joining a dynamic group of other organists of the St. Louis Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, you may message me on Facebook at Suzanne Olszewski Chisum, or scan the QR Code to the right. This is a place that you can share information as well as questions with other AGO members. Hope to see you there!



Check out our presence on Facebook

Don't forget to check out our Chapter Facebook page—a place where current events are shared along with other fun information. Click on the link to the left or search for AGO St. Louis Members on Facebook.

2025 “Regional” Conventions

Click on the logos below for more details on each convention.





**American Guild
of Organists
St. Louis Chapter**

Information collected from ONCARD as of October 1, 2024 will be included in our 2024-2025 Chapter Yearbook (Directory).

All current Chapter Members should receive a copy before the end of October.

For any Chapter Member who renewed their membership or joined after October 1, please contact me as I should still be able to provide you with a printed copy of the Yearbook.

Thank you.

Regina Morris, Registrar
morrisrp@swbell.net

If you or someone you know is interested in placing an ad or business card in an upcoming issue, please contact The OPUS Editor at newsletter@agostlouis.org. There is the option to include an ad in every issue of The OPUS for one year (beginning with the September issue), or for select issues throughout the year. Payment must be received in advance to insure that the ad will be included. Credit card payments may be made online via our Chapter website (www.agostlouis.org) under the “Newsletter” section. Payments by check should be sent to our Treasurer, Mike Kaberline, at 2 Holly Ridge Ct., Swansea, IL 62226. Ad rates are listed on the Chapter website.



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Oct 27	The Reformation

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Email koi@kingofinstruments.show.



Call for Proposals

The St. Louis AGO 2026 Convention Workshop Committee invites applications for presentations at the AGO National Convention to be held from **July 6 - 10, 2026**. All topics are welcome. Workshop sessions will be 45 minutes in length. Proposals should consist of a single page, 250-word abstract summarizing the topic. Proposals should also include what audio-visual and/or music equipment will be required for the topic to be presented.

Please email PDFs of proposals no later than **March 1, 2025** to agostl2026workshops@gmail.com.

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314 344-1133

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ORGANIST

First Unitarian Church of St Louis, a liberal faith community in the Central West End neighborhood, is seeking an organist/accompanist. This is a 9-month position beginning in September 2024 with options for a 12-month commitment. We have Sunday services at 10:00 a.m. and choir rehearsals on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Our Dobson organ was built and installed in 1991 and is highly regarded by organists as well as the congregation. Our fine choir focuses on a wide variety of sacred and secular music and is led by an excellent director. Our minister is a key supporter of our music program. To apply, send cover letter and resume to musicsearch1@firstuustlouis.org.

ORGANIST

First Church of Christ, Scientist in Clarkson Valley, Missouri, is seeking a talented organist for our Sunday and Wednesday church services. This role requires a repertoire of religious music and the ability to accompany a vocal soloist on Sundays. Both full-time and substitute organist positions are available. If you are interested in auditioning or have any questions, please contact Heather Tibbetts, Music Committee Chairman, at 314-320-6194 or hmtibbetts@gmail.com.

ORGANIST

St. Anthony's Catholic Church, Sullivan, MO is seeking a part-time organist or organist/choir master to begin leading us in music at our Sunday Liturgy as soon as possible. At present, responsibilities include hymn and liturgical accompaniment for the Sunday 11:00 a.m. Mass and also the Holy Days of Obligation Masses (always at 7:00 p.m.). If interested in being choirmaster as well, be advised the all-volunteer choir will need your help to become better vocalists. They rehearse an hour before Sunday Liturgy, but also on Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.. Additional hours can be expected during Holy Week and Easter. Possible wedding and funeral work as well, and occasional mid-week services as available. The Pastor, an amateur Bach scholar, loves good music and is willing to pay for it. Remuneration to be discussed. For questions or to apply please call Pastor Fr. Noah Waldman directly at (636) 688-0900.

TENOR SECTION LEADER

Third Baptist Church, St. Louis is seeking application for a Tenor section leader. 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.

ORGANIST OR PIANIST

Eldon United Methodist Church, Eldon, MO, is seeking organist or pianist to accompany our Sunday 10:00 a.m. worship service. Pay will be commensurate with experience. Please contact pastoraman-da@eldonumc.org for more information or to apply. Eldon is 30 miles southwest of Jefferson City.

ORGANIST

Friedens United Church of Christ in Marissa, IL is seeking a part-time organist. Duties include playing organ on Sundays for our 10:00 a.m. worship service as well as Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, mid-week Lenten services, and our Pre-Lenten breakfast. Services normally consists of a prelude, 2-3 hymns, some short-sung responses, and a postlude. Position includes 4 paid Sundays off (except for Easter) for vacation time. To apply or for more information please contact Rev. Brett Palmer

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at marissafriedens@gmail.com or call the church office at 618-295-2004.

MUSIC DIRECTOR

New Baden (IL) Zion UCC is seeking a part time musician to fill several different roles. The person who fills this position will play at weekly Sunday services, along with various special services such as Ash Wednesday, weekly Lent services, Ecumenical Thanksgiving, etc. Additional possible responsibilities include selecting weekly service music and hymns, directing an adult choir, coordinating special vocal and/or instrumental music, and serving on the worship team. Keyboard skills and church choral experience as a singer or director are preferred. To apply or for additional information, please contact council president Rodney Washburn at rodneywashburn1@gmail.com.

ORGANIST

First Presbyterian Church in Alton is seeking a part-time organist to provide professional leadership for our ministry of music. The organist will support our church's music ministry consistent with our mission and vision statements, theology, and worship practices. We value a standard of music excellence that connects with our community and attracts people to the church. The organ at First Presbyterian was built by Robert Dial Organbuilders in 1991. It has three manuals, 45 ranks, floating chamade and 32' sub-bass (elec.) The console is moveable and has 8 levels of memory. Contact Vickie Oberlink 618-791-2565 or email First Presbyterian Church of Alton at firstpres1831@gmail.com.

ORGANIST (OR ORGANIST/CHOIRMASTER)

St. Michael's Episcopal Church, O'Fallon IL is seeking to find a part-time organist or organist/choir master to begin leading us in music as soon as possible. At present responsibilities include hymn and liturgical accompaniment for up to two hours per week (including warm-up) and an additional hour per week if choir practice is involved. A brief monthly planning meeting with parish clergy and minimal time with the parish administrator for bulletin information is expected. Additional hours can be expected around Christmas, during Holy Week and Easter. Possible wedding and funeral work as well, and occasional mid-week services as available. Remuneration to be discussed. For questions or to apply please call Fr. Gregory Wilde at the church office (618-632-6168).

ORGANIST

St. Paul United Church of Christ in Belleville, IL is seeking an individual to contribute excellent organ and piano offerings for our worship services. Additional responsibilities include assisting the director of music as an accompanist for weekly Wednesday evening choir rehearsals, consulting with the senior pastor and music director to assist in selecting hymns and service music, arranging for the hiring of substitute organists for any absences, including vacations and illnesses, working with the facilities manager to monitor maintenance, tuning, and movement of the organ and pianos, and working with the senior pastor and director of music to establish goals and a plan of organization to contribute to the growth and development of the church music program. The organist will also, in consultation with the senior pastor, serve as a resource for family weddings and funerals. We have a wonderful 49 rank Schantz pipe organ and a Steinway Model B piano in our sanctuary that are both a joy to play. Compensation will be appropriate to the weekly job responsibilities, background, experience, and professional preparation of the applicant. If interested, please send your resume with three references to musicsearch@stpaulucc.org

BOARD OFFICERS

2024-2025 Chapter Leadership Team



OFFICERS:

Dean - Suzanne Manelli
 Sub-Dean - Biff Hackman
 Secretary - Gaye Anderson
 Treasurer - Mike Kaberline
 Past Dean - Jeffrey White

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Class of 2025

Suzanne Chisum
 Bob Raymond
 David Sinden

Class of 2026

Stephen Jones
 Mark Lawson
 Sharon Whitlock

Class of 2027

Mary Hitchcock-Reinhart
 Earl Naylor
 Spencer Smith

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

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THE OPUS

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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 November issue is October 15.

Send address changes or mailing label requests to:

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