

The Greater Columbia Organist



February 2026

A Publication of the Greater Columbia Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists

Greater Columbia Chapter of AGO February Workshop



Painting the Text: Bringing Hymns off the Page

Nicholas Quardokus, Clinician
Open to the public. Invite others.

Saturday, February 7, 2026
10:00 a.m. to Noon

Mount Tabor Lutheran Church
1000 B Avenue, West Columbia, SC 29169

Hymns are essential to our music-making as organists. At the same time, hymns are, at their core, poetic texts. How, as organists, can we find ways to make hymns poetic? During this workshop, we will explore how touch, registration, and (re)harmonization can shine a light on a hymn's textual lyricism and drama, from basic to advanced techniques. We'll also look at how these techniques can inform liturgical improvisation, including free hymn introductions, bridges, and improvisation for the doxology and communion.

Nicholas Quardokus was appointed Canon Organist and Director of Music at Grace Church Cathedral in August 2021. Previously, he served as Assistant Organist at Saint Thomas Church, Fifth Avenue, New York City, where he accompanied the acclaimed Choir of Men and Boys for daily services, including on their recently released album of the music of Gerre Hancock. Before arriving in New York, he was Organ Scholar at St. Paul's Parish, K Street, Washington D.C. and assisted as a part-time interim at Washington National Cathedral.

He earned Bachelor and Master of Music degrees in organ performance from the Indiana University Jacobs School of Music and the Yale University Institute of Sacred Music, respectively. His principal teachers included Janette Fishell and Martin Jean (organ), Elisabeth Wright and Arthur Haas (harpsichord), and Jeffrey Brillhart (improvisation). Nicholas has garnered top prizes in competitions around the country and has performed throughout the Eastern United States. Among these include appearances at both regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Kennedy Center, and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival. His solo performances have been broadcast across the nation on public radio's *Harmonia Early Music* and *Pipedreams*.

Shop for Organ Music before Workshop at 9:30!!

ORGAN MUSIC that has been donated to the chapter will be available to look through thirty minutes before and after the workshop. Members may “purchase” the music with a *donation* to the Scholarship Fund of the chapter. The music is *free* for organ students.

If you are not able to shop on February 7, contact Susan Sturkie at sloopystur@aol.com any time to look at the music at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. More music has been donated since the last time it was available to AGO members.

SAVE THE DATES

MARCH PROGRAM: 2026 YOUNG ORGANIST COMPETITION

Date: Saturday, March 7, 2026, 10:00 a.m. to Noon.

Location: Shandon United Methodist Church

Join us to hear major pieces of organ literature performed by gifted young organists.

APRIL PROGRAM: Saturday, April 18 - Organ Crawl to the Augusta / Aiken area*

Aiken Churches: St. John's Methodist Church and Saint Paul Lutheran Church
(Lunch in Aiken)

Augusta Churches: First Presbyterian Church and Church of the Good Shepherd
(Episcopal)

*Watch upcoming newsletters for schedule, carpooling information, and other details.

MAY PROGRAM: Monday, May 18, 6:30 p.m. - End-of-year Dinner (Plans underway!)



The poster features a light blue background with a dark blue wave-like shape in the top left corner containing yellow dots. The title 'YOUNG Organist Competition' is centered in a teal and blue font. Below the title, text provides details about the event: 'Sponsored by the Greater Columbia AGO Chapter', 'Saturday, March 7, 2026', 'Columbia, S.C.', 'Open to grades 8-12', and prize amounts: 'First Prize \$3,000', 'Second Prize \$2,000', 'Third Prize \$1,500', and 'Hymn Playing Award \$1000'. At the bottom, it says 'For rules and application see Young Organist Competition 2026 at www.columbiaago.org'. On the right side, there is a photograph of a person's hands playing an organ in a church setting.

YOUNG
Organist
Competition

Sponsored by the
Greater Columbia AGO Chapter
Saturday, March 7, 2026
Columbia, S.C.

Open to grades 8–12

First Prize \$3,000
Second Prize \$2,000
Third Prize \$1,500
Hymn Playing Award \$1000

For rules and application see
Young Organist Competition 2026
at www.columbiaago.org

The Music Ministry of First Presbyterian Church
First Friday Organ Recital



Thomas Russell, organ

at Centennial ARP

Friday, February 6, 2026

11:45am Lunch, 12:30pm Recital

1413 Laurel St, Columbia, SC 29201



2026 AGO Convention

July 6-10, 2026

Hyatt Regency St Louis at the Arch

“Meet Us in St. Louis”! Multiple days with an abundance of events have been planned. Be a part of this great convention in a grand and historic American city! As part of the convention, you will enjoy an opening barbecue (BBQ); and a spectacular opening concert celebrating America’s 250th Birthday. After that, on the days that follow, you will be able to experience more than seventeen performances at seventeen different venues that will include eight newly commissioned works. You will get to choose from over thirty workshop sessions. You will have the opportunity to participate in a glorious Hymn Festival and five other worship experiences. You will also want to spend time exploring all the various exhibits in the roomy Exhibit Hall. [Click here for more information.](#)

Catching UP with YOC Alumni

Oak Martin

Oak Martin won second place in the 2017 Young Organist Competition. He entered Curtis Institute of Music in 2020 where he studied organ with Alan Morrison and harpsichord with Leon Schelhase. During that time, he was the Organ Scholar at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Philadelphia under Robert McCormick. In that capacity, he assisted in service playing, accompanying, choir training, and program administration.

In 2023 he graduated from Curtis and continued his studies at the Yale School of Music and the Institute of Sacred Music. His colloquium project on the importance of chorister programs in church with Augie Segger was a highlight of his time in the ISM, particularly the process of interviewing directors of music and hearing why they believe this to be important work.

While at Yale, he was the Associate Organist at Saint Luke's Parish in Darien CT. He graduated in 2025 with a M.M. degree and, after a study trip to France, he began work at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church in Atlanta as their Associate Organist and Choirmaster.





ORGAN RECITAL AND CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

Sunday, February 1

3:15 p.m. Recital by Nicholas Quardokus
*canon organist & director of music at
Grace Church Cathedral, Charleston*

4:00 p.m. Candlemas Procession with
Britten's Ceremony of Carols
Christine van Arsdale, harpist
followed by a reception on the Cathedral Lawn



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
1100 Sumter St.
Columbia, SC 29201



JOIN US FOR CHORAL EVENSONG

Sundays,
February 8, 15 & 22
4:00 p.m. with a
reception to follow



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL
1100 SUMTER ST.
COLUMBIA, SC

with *Sympathy*



Alida Parker Rawl, 93, of West Columbia, SC, died January 19, 2026. Alida was a former member for many years of the Greater Columbia Chapter. She was Director of Music at Seven Oaks Presbyterian Church for 31 years.

<https://www.templeshalloranfuneralhome.com/obituaries/alida-rawl>



Rachel Barton Pine
Violin



Sylvia Pine
Violin



Wendy Warner
Cello

Faith in Action concert

benefiting Trinity's Faith in Action non-profit partners

Tuesday, February 10
7:30 p.m.
Satterlee Hall

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral
1100 Sumter St.
Columbia, SC



Admission is free, with suggested donations supporting Trinity's nonprofit partners.



The Chenault Duo in Concert

5220 Clemson Ave

Columbia, SC

February 22 3:00 PM

St Martin's in the Fields is excited to welcome internationally acclaimed duo organists Elizabeth & Raymond Chenault in concert on St. Martin's 1972 Schantz Pipe Organ. Admission is free.

Specializing in and exclusively performing works written for four hands and four feet at one pipe organ console, Elizabeth and Raymond Chenault ("The World's Premiere Duo-Organ Team," Atlanta Journal & Constitution) have made a monumental and unmatched contribution to the pipe organ repertoire through their commissioning, premiering, and recording of over 70 organ duets in a wide array of styles, from composers such as John Rutter, Stephen Paulus, Rachel Laurin, and others, to their own arrangements of Christmas carols, opera arias and overtures, and Andrew Lloyd Webber's Phantom of the Opera.





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A HANDBELL FESTIVAL

*with David Harris
from the Raleigh Ringers*

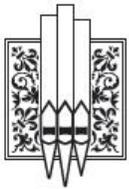


**DIRECTORS AND RINGERS:
REGISTER BY JAN. 30 AT
SOUTHCAROLINAFELLOWSHIP.ORG
COST: \$30/PARTICIPANT
\$15/OBSERVER**



**SHANDON UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
4307 DEVINE STREET, COLUMBIA, SC
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2026
9:00AM - 1:00PM**

[Click here for more information and to register.](#)



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Newsletter Deadline

The **20th** of every month is the deadline for the following month's AGO newsletter. Information received after that time may not appear in that month's newsletter.



2/02 Ed Brown
2/08 Barry Bodie
2/11 Janet Schmidt
2/11 Karen Shevenell
2/14 Mary Drew Bult
2/15 Don Alcorn
2/20 Frank Ballard
2/22 Chuck Wilson
2/26 James Johnson

2025 - 2026 CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

DEAN

Don Grice ARCCO
C: (520) 481-0037
E: dgrice@alumni.emory.edu

SUB-DEAN

Joy Ackerman
H (803) 781-9781
E: jpackerman@att.net

SECRETARY

Jeff Clearman
C (251) 656-3337
E: jefferey.clearman@gmail.com

TREASURER

Tony Roof
C: (803) 606-1596
E: email@tonyroof.com

MEMBERS AT LARGE

Huger Caughman, Jr.
C: (803) 924-7619
E: hpcaughman@gmail.com

Al Roberts
C: (803) 603-6568
E: akr_dmd@windstream.net

Lenora Jeffcoat FRCO
C: (901) 604-8260
E: lmorrow101@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

Susan Sturkie
H: (803) 788-6807
E: sloopystur@aol.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Tony Roof
C: (803) 606-1596
E: email@tonyroof.com

Our
Awesome
Team!



POSITIONS AVAILABLE

**** NEW LISTING OR CHANGES**

Please contact Susan Sturkie (803-788-6807 or sloopystur@aol.com) to update this information or for more information on these openings.

AUGUSTA, GA

Covenant Presbyterian Church (U.S.A), 3131 Walton Way, Augusta, GA 30909. Opening for Music Director & Organist (3/4 time, benefits negotiable). Serve as primary musician for all Sunday worship services, funerals, weddings, and special worship. Graduate degree in music preferred. Bachelor's degree in music required. Prefer at least three years in leadership position of church music programs. Proficient in organ and conducting choral music. Prefer experience with handbell choirs. 31-rank Zimmer pipe organ, carillon and control unit, pianos, and handbells. The Director of Music and Organist is permitted to teach music lessons using the church's facilities and instruments. Full job description may be seen at the church webpage <https://www.covenantaugusta.org/>.

Position inquires should be directed to Search Committee Chair, Brock Daniels at kcdjbd@gmail.com.

CAMDEN

Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church, 1206 Lyttleton Street, Camden, SC, seeks a part-time organist and/or pianist. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service (9:00 a.m.) and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals, plus seasonal services. There is potential to add accompanying services for the 11:15 contemporary service. For additional information please e-mail Patty Bellus at admin@lsumc.net or see our website, <https://lsumc.net/about-us/employment>. Organ specifications may be found here: <https://www.columbiaago.org/ColumbiaOrgans/Organs/LYTTLETONUMCSumter.pdf>.

Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church, 1206 Lyttleton Street, Camden, SC, seeks a full-time Music Director. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service (9:00 a.m.) and Wednesday evening choir and handbell rehearsals, plus seasonal services. The job also includes supervision of both paid and volunteer musicians for the 11:15 a.m. Contemporary service, organist/accompanist, youth bells, youth praise team, children's choirs and bells, management of the music budget, and maintenance of all instruments. The job interacts daily with the Senior minister, youth and children's directors as well as other church staff. For additional information please e-mail Patty Bellus at admin@lsumc.net or see our website, <https://lsumc.net/about-us/employment>.

****CHAPIN MT. HOREB – watch for information coming soon about this opening.**

COLUMBIA

Forest Lake Presbyterian Church, 6500 North Trenholm Road, seeks a part-time organist-accompanist. The applicant should also be well-versed as a pianist/accompanist. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service at 10:00 (preceded by choir rehearsal at 9:15); Wednesday evening choir rehearsals at 7:00 pm; seasonal services; and wedding and funerals (with additional compensation). Instruments: Casavant pipe organ (installed in 2017) with 2 manuals and 25 ranks, and a Yamaha baby grand piano. Interested persons should submit resume and questions to Beth Mears, Director of Music via email: bethmears@flpc.org or hard copy submission: Dr. Elizabeth M. Mears/Forest Lake Presbyterian Church/6500 North Trenholm Road/29206.

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, 2200 Lee St., Columbia (Five Points), SC 29205. HTLC is a confessional liturgical congregation in fellowship with the Lutheran Church--Missouri Synod and as such we practice closed communion. An organist is needed for our 10:30 Sunday as well as seasonal services. We follow a liturgical order of worship, and have a two manual pipe organ. A permanent commitment is ideal, however, we are willing to consider short-term contracts such as 3 or 6 month. If you are interested in this position please contact Rev. Christopher Burger at (803) 799-7224 or via email at Rev.Burger@gmail.com

Rehoboth Global Methodist Church, located at 6911 Two Notch Road, Columbia, SC, is seeking a part-time pianist/choir director for weekly choir practice and Sunday morning worship and special seasonal services. Email resume to office@rehobothchurchsc.com and for more information.

St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Columbia, a predominantly African American Anglo-Catholic parish, is seeking a ¼ time - part-time Organist and/or Organist and Choirmaster for its 10:00 a.m. Sunday masses. The Organ is a 2-manual Allen Renaissance Quantum, Acoustic Portrait, 58 stops. Choir Rehearsals are on Wednesdays from 6:00pm-7:30pm (the day and time can be adjusted by the new organist). Job duties include leading congregational singing, accompanying and directing anthems, ensembles, and soloists at organ/piano. Also accompanies the Cantor in singing the psalms, and the Gospel Acclamation.

Special services include Epiphany Lenten Wednesdays, Holy Week, Ascension Day, Christmas Eve Mass, etc. The organist also plays for weddings and funerals per church policy. We seek someone with vision, imagination, creativity, flexibility; a self-motivator with the ability to teach and inspire our eight-member choir (four of whom are paid professional staff singers). The ability to work independently and in conjunction with the priest as well as an openness to versatility during special times of the Church year is a must. Hymns used come from *The Hymnal 1982, Lift Every Voice and Sing, II, Wonder, Love, and Praise*, and other liturgical resources that lend themselves to the appropriateness of the liturgy.

Knowledge of the Anglican/Episcopal liturgy, classical solo and/or choral vocal pieces/works, and the literature and works of African American composers is highly desired, but not required. Salary negotiable depending on experience and ability. Please submit Cover Letter and Resumé along with two or three references to fr.raphiell@gmail.com with the word Organist/Choirmaster in the subject line: You may also call the church office (803) 254-2327 to speak with the priest, Fr. Raphiell Ashford, for more information, or email me directly at the email address above if you have any questions regarding the position.

****St. Timothy's Episcopal Church,** in downtown Columbia, SC, is seeking to fill its part time position of Organist/Choirmaster. Two Manual Wicks organ.

<https://www.sainttimothyscolumbia.com/>

The ideal candidate will:

- Have a degree in music or equivalent experience and love of church music
- Have familiarity/experience with liturgical worship (service form, service music and practices throughout the liturgical year)

Responsibilities will include:

- Planning music for all worship services. Serving as organist and leading the adult choir for weekly Sunday service and additional services throughout year
- Occasionally working with children for special music
- Serving as organist for weddings and funerals (for additional fee)
- Coordinating occasional public music events

Cover letters and resumes will be accepted until the position is filled. Please send to the Priest-in-Charge, The Rev. Tyler Proctor, at fathertylerp@gmail.com

Westminster Presbyterian Church, 1715 Broad River Rd, Columbia, SC seeks a part-time pianist/accompanist and/or organist/accompanist. Responsibilities include one Sunday morning worship service (10:30 am) and Wednesday evening choir rehearsals (7:00 pm) plus seasonal services. Instruments: Zimmer pipe organ with 12 ranks of pipes and 12 general programmable pistons, and Yamaha baby grand piano. Interested persons please submit resume and questions to: music@westminsterpres.org

GILBERT

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 246 St. Paul's Church Rd., Gilbert, SC 29054 is seeking a part-time Music Director for its Sunday worship services.

Our immediate need is for organist/pianist. This position includes Sunday morning services, Wednesday night rehearsals with the praise band, as well as any funerals/weddings, as scheduled. Music should be appropriate for use in the Lutheran service and follow the theme or the lessons appointed for the day. Hymns/Songs from the ELW and the Worship & Praise book should be used. Special programs are normally presented seasonally, i.e. Christmas Cantata/Children's Christmas Program, Easter, Lenten services and following special Lutheran celebration Sundays throughout the year.

St. Paul's would also like to resume the handbell choir and form a vocal choir for Sunday services. This will be discussed at the interview.

Compensation for this position is negotiable based on experience and merit. For more information and complete job description or to apply, contact Janet Boyd at boyd5janet@gmail.com or 803-634-0018.

IRMO

Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Irmo, SC, is seeking a part-time Director of Music / Organist. The Director is expected to rehearse and direct the chancel choir and bell choir, and coordinate with the pastor on worship music selections. The salary for the position will be commensurate with the level of education and experience of the applicant. Please send resumes and contact information to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 10000 Broad River Road, Irmo, SC 29063, or e-mail bethlehemplutheranirmo@gmail.com.

LEXINGTON

Zion Lutheran Church - Part-Time Music Director

The Music Director will be responsible for planning, coordinating and developing the worship and music program for Zion Lutheran Church and the position is viewed as a ministry to and for the congregation to the glory of God.

General Description: The Music Director is called to serve through planning, coordinating and developing the worship and music opportunities for Zion Lutheran Church. This position is viewed as a ministry to and for the congregation to the glory of God. The Music Director shall be responsible for the presentation of music for routine and special worship services. Traditional and contemporary music styles are utilized. This part-time position includes Sunday services, holidays and some evenings.

Interested applicants are invited to send resume and cover letter to

zionchurch@zionLexsc.com or Zion Lutheran Church, 226 Corley Mill Road, Lexington, SC 29072

ROCK HILL

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Associate Reformed, 2132 Ebenezer Road, Rock Hill SC. Director of Music The link below will take those interested to the specifics on how to apply, the specifications of our pipe organ, and the new job description with salary included. <https://ebenezerarp.org/>

SUMTER

The Church of the Holy Comforter, located at 213 North Main St., Sumter SC. is seeking a full-time, 40 hours per week, salaried Director of Music Ministries (Organist/Choir Director). The Director will develop and implement a music ministry, under the authority of the rector, that is consistent with Anglican theology and enhances the worship of God and the whole ministry of the church. The Director will also disciple the music teams under the Director's care (through theological reflection, prayer, and mentoring) grounded in the Great Commission. Ultimately, our desire is to worship the Lord in spirit and truth (John 4.24), that we might be filled, ever more fully, with His Holy Spirit (Eph. 5.18-19).

If you are interested in this position, please view the full job description, to include compensation range, & how to apply @ <https://www.holycomfortersc.org/copy-of-david-booman>

WEST COLUMBIA

****Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church**, 3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia, SC 29169.

Needed immediately – Director of Music / Organist. This permanent part-time position includes directing adult and children's choirs, handbell choir, organist for Sunday morning blended service (traditional with contemporary) at 9:00 a.m. Zimmer 3 manual pipe organ and Yamaha Grand Piano. For more information or submit resume with 3 references to Pastor Gina Metze at 803-794-6430, PastorGina@wearemthermon.com

or pastorginametze@gmail.com or to Charlene Corley at 803-636-5352

or cholle1960@gmail.com.

Our Saviour Lutheran Church in West Columbia, SC, is seeking an organist to begin work in January 2026. The applicant must be accomplished in playing a pipe organ and other keyboard instruments. The church has a small 1974 Zimmer two-manual pipe organ. An electronic keyboard (Clavinova) is also available for occasional services in the Chapel or Fellowship Hall. The applicant should be acquainted with the liturgy and hymns of the Lutheran Church and must be able to provide organ accompaniment for the liturgy, hymns, and choir anthems, as well as preludes and postludes, at each Sunday Service and at special services during Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas. If schedule allows, the organist should also be available to play for funerals and weddings at the church.

The church has one service each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. It is a traditional service using *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW). Average Sunday-morning attendance is 40.

We are offering to pay \$250 per week for this position.

Please contact the church at 803-794-8180 or

email the pastor at pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com.