

The Greater Columbia Organist

July 2025

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



Election Results

Please welcome:



Don Grice
Dean



Jeff Clearman
Secretary



Lenora Jeffcoat
Member at Large



Continuing to serve **Joy Ackerman**, Sub-Dean; **Tony Roof**, Treasurer; **Huger Caughman**, Member at Large; **Al Roberts**, Member at Large; and **Susan Sturkie**, Registrar

A BIG THANK YOU to **Frances Webb** for serving on the board for **18 years** as Member at Large, Secretary, Sub-Dean and

Dean and **Lenora Jeffcoat** for serving as Dean for two years. We welcome Lenora back to the board as a member at large!

Were you a student of Dr. David Lowry?

AGO is working on a program for September and needs your help. Contact [Joy Ackerman](#) for more information!



Scholarship money available for Organ Students!

Scholarship money is available for any organ student taking lessons from a current Greater Columbia AGO Chapter member. PLEASE ENCOURAGE any prospective organ students or current organ students to apply! This is available to ANYONE taking lessons, youth or adult, at any skill level. Applications are available at www.ColumbiaAGO.org.



Are you in the process of procuring a new pipe organ or a renovation/expansion of your current instrument? Let AGO know! (sloopystur@aol.com)

**Study organ at the
University of South Carolina
School of Music**

Organs on campus by
Dobson, Schlicker, and
Schantz. Other downtown area
churches house instruments
by Andover, Casavant,
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For more information contact the
University's organ instructor,
Dr. Patrick Hawkins

organos@gmail.com or 803-404-3805

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JAN KRAYBILL, Organ Clinician
Bio link – <https://jankraybill.com/home>

HANDBELL CLINICIAN



MITCHELL EITHUN, Handbell Clinician

Register today for this FREE Music Clinic!

July 18-19

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
1715 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201



PISGAH

LUTHERAN CHURCH
1350 Pisgah Church Rd., Lexington SC 29072

September 27, 2025
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Registration opens 8:30 a.m.

- **Choral Tune-Up** – Getting the best sound out of your choir.
- **Best Methods in teaching new music to a choir.**
- **Planning a Service-Start to Finish** – Planning a service (hymns, anthem, voluntaries).
- **Choral Reading Session** - The packet of music is a generous gift from MorningStar Music.

COST: \$45-Church musicians \$20-Choir member \$20-Full-time students (**fees include the cost of lunch**) *You may register at the door but supplies and lunch may not be available.*
Please register by September 10.

[Click here to register.](#)



Dr. Chris Sheppard-Presenter

Dr. Sheppard directs the Newberry College Madrigals and teaches conducting and private voice lessons. Sheppard served as chair of music from 2016 to 2024. During his tenure, he guided the department through its recent accreditation review by the National Association of Schools of Music, and helped enact initiatives that have more than doubled the number of music majors. The department broke its own record for incoming music students for three of the last five years under his leadership.

Dr. Sheppard's summer festival work includes twice working as chorus master and voice instructor at the Maud Powell International Opera Institute in Illinois, and as the choral director for an international choir in the World Scholar-Athlete Games held in Kingston, Rhode Island. He

has held positions as music director at several churches, including three Lutheran churches and one Presbyterian church.



**Shop the MorningStar
Music Display** *(No registration needed just to shop.)*

**CREDIT CARD OR CHURCH CHARGE ONLY –
NO CASH PURCHASES**

Young Organist Competition 2020 Winner

Laura Smith

On Saturday, May 31, Tony Roof and Frances Webb journeyed to Charleston to hear Laura Smith perform a recital as part of the Piccolo Spoleto L'Organo Recital Series. Laura was the First Place Winner of the 2020 Young Organist Competition sponsored by the Columbia AGO Chapter. She performed at John Wesley United Methodist Church on the Schlueter pipe organ.



A native of Wichita, KS, Laura began her musical studies in kindergarten. A recent graduate of Baylor University, Laura has studied with Dr. Jens Korndorfer, Dr. Margaret Harper, Dr. Isabell Demers, and Anna Jeter. While at Baylor, Laura performed as a soloist in the School of Music's centennial Collage Concert, competed twice as a finalist in the organ division of the Semper Pro Musica competition, organized the annual organ Halloween concert, and performed extensively as an organist, pianist, and vocalist. She also spent three years as organ scholar at St. Alban's Episcopal Church (Waco, TX). In addition to performances in the USA, Laura has traveled and performed in England, Ireland, and France. This fall, she plans to continue her studies as a graduate student at Rice University.

Her program included works by J.S. Bach, Valery Auberger, Cesar Franck, Charles Tournemire, Seth Bingham and Star Wars Medley which she arranged. Laura is a seasoned performer and clearly endeared herself to the enthusiastic audience. The chapter can be proud of another YOC alum who continues to excel in the budding organists' world.



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



Congratulations to
First UMC in Salisbury, NC and
St. Michaels Catholic Church in Murrells Inlet, SC.

Both churches selected custom **Rodgers Infinity 489**
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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.



7/01 Greg Stone
7/05 Lane Hill
7/12 Polly Watts
7/13 Toni Hollingsworth
7/14 Sylvia Trimmier
7/17 Nick Eller

2025 - 2026 CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

DEAN

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

SUB-DEAN

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

SECRETARY

Jeff Clearman
H (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: hpcoughman@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.

CAMDEN

Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church, 1206 Lyttleton Street, Camden, SC, seeks a part-time organist/accompanist. 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 lsunc.net or see our website, <https://lsunc.net/about-us/employment>. Organ specifications may be found here:

<https://www.columbiaaqo.org/ColumbiaOrgans/Organs/LYTTLETONUMCSumter.pdf>.

COLUMBIA

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

Incarnation Lutheran Church, 3005 Devine Street, Columbia 29205 is seeking to hire a music director. Incarnation initially advertised for one person for all jobs.

The organist position has been filled.

Choir Director Part-time 10 hours per week

He/She will be responsible for directing the Chancel Choir and the Handbell Choir, and supporting the Children's Choir, as well as auditioning and managing paid singers. Contact office@incarnationlutheran.com to schedule an interview. Please see the full job description on our website at <https://www.incarnationlutheran.com>

St. Luke Lutheran Church, 1127 Olympia Ave., Columbia, SC 29201. St. Luke Lutheran Church (Olympia) is seeking a part-time Director of Music / Organist. The Director is expected to rehearse, direct and accompany the adult choir on piano and/or organ and to coordinate with the pastor on worship music selections. 11:00 a.m. Sunday services. Special services. Extra pay for weddings and funerals and the pianist/organist has first right of refusal. Please send resumes and contact information to St Luke Lutheran Church at 1127 Olympia Avenue, Columbia, SC 29201, or e-mail to carenhazelwood@bellsouth.net.

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1715 Bull Street in downtown Columbia, SC, is seeking a part-time Director of Music Ministry which includes being the organist/choir accompanist and choir director. The organ which was completely renovated in 2018 is a 3 manual, 24 rank Moeller organ. We have two traditional Sunday services, 8:15 and 10:30 am, Wednesday evening choir rehearsal, special services, weddings and funerals. Qualified candidates will have demonstrated excellence in organ performance, accompanying skills and directing. Choir members are experienced musicians and 6 – 8 choral scholars, mostly music students from USC, assist the choir with singing. Salary commensurate with experience. Please contact Pat Itter at 803.603.3994 or itter94@bellsouth.net.

****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

****Westminster Presbyterian Church**, 1715 Broad River Rd, Columbia, SC seeks a part-time Director of Music/Choir Director. Responsibilities include: rehearsing and directing the Chancel Choir and Handbell Choirs, coordinating music selections with Pastors and rehearsing and coordinating seasonal services. Choirs rehearse Wednesday evenings at 6:00 and 7:00 pm, and Sunday worship is 10:30 am. Bachelor of Arts in Music Degree or equivalent experience preferred. Interested persons please submit resume and questions to: music@westminsterpres.org.

****Westminster Presbyterian Church**, 1715 Broad River Rd, Columbia, SC seeks part-time Director of Music/Choir Director/pianist/accompanist or Director of Music/Choir Director/organist/accompanist. Responsibilities include playing and conducting for one Sunday morning worship service (10:30 am) and Wednesday evening handbell rehearsals (6:00 pm) and 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. Bachelor of Arts in Music Degree or equivalent experience preferred. Interested persons please submit resume and questions to: music@westminsterpres.org.

GARDEN CITY

****Shepherd of the Sea Lutheran Church** is seeking a talented and dedicated Organist/Pianist to join our vibrant and growing music ministry. This position involves playing both traditional hymns and liturgical music on the organ, as well as accompanying the choir and Contemporary Service group on piano. Responsibilities include:

- Playing for two Sunday morning services (one Contemporary, one Traditional)
- Accompanying the adult choir (Wednesday night rehearsals)
- Supporting the Contemporary service group (Thursday night rehearsals)
- Additional availability for funerals, weddings, and special seasonal services (e.g., Christmas, Lent) is highly desirable

The successful candidate will be musically versatile, collaborative, and committed to enhancing worship through music. This position reports to the Director of Music and works closely with clergy and volunteer musicians. To apply or learn more, please contact Jane Whithem, Personnel at janemjaws@gmail.com or Sean O'Malley, Director of Music at music.shepluth@gmail.com.

GILBERT

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 246 St. Paul's Church Rd., Gilbert, SC 29054 is seeking a Music Director for its Sunday worship services. The applicant may interview for the entire position (Organist/Pianist/Choir Director/Handbell Director) or for a single or any combination of these positions depending on their skill levels. The Music Director leads and directs the choir / praise band (when applicable) during worship. Also, is responsible for scheduling choir / praise band (when applicable) and handbell rehearsals, selecting appropriate music and managing annual music budgets. 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. Music selections shall be made in consultation with the Pastor whenever possible. Special programs are normally presented seasonally, i.e. Christmas Cantata/Children's Christmas Program, Easter, Community Thanksgiving services when held at St. Paul's, Lenten services and following special Lutheran celebration Sundays throughout the year. 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.

HARTSVILLE

St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church, Hartsville, SC, is in search of a part-time Organist. Duties include Sunday services, Wednesday night choir rehearsals, and any special services during the year. Salary is \$300 per week (negotiable) and extra for additional services. The Organist gets two days paid vacation plus sick leave. Our instrument is a 32-rank, two manual, Casavant Freres Limitee. The Organist reports to the Music Director and the Rector. If interested in the position, please send your resume to St. Bartholomew's at 103 Campus Dr. Hartsville, SC 29550 or via email at stbartsepiscopal@gmail.com.

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.

****Salem United Methodist Church, 1321 Salem Church Road Irmo, SC 29063.** Salem United Methodist Church in Irmo, SC, is seeking two passionate individuals to join our music ministry team: a Director of Music Ministries and a Pianist.

1. Director of Music Ministries: Part-Time, Approx. 15 Hours/Week. This role includes directing choirs for all ages, coordinating volunteer leaders, and overseeing all music activities.

2. Pianist: Part-Time | Approx. 10 Hours/Week, The Pianist will provide accompaniment for choirs, ensembles, and soloists during weekly services, rehearsals, and special events, including weddings and funerals. This role works closely with the Director of Music Ministries to support the church's music program. Please submit a brief letter of interest, resume, and salary requirement to: SPRC, Salem United Methodist Church 1321 Salem Church Road Irmo, SC 29063. For more information call 803-781-1626 or email sarahelizabethhigh@gmail.com.

NEWBERRY

St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Newberry, SC, seeks a part-time organist. Duties include one Sunday service (10:30am), special services such as Christmas Eve and Holy Week services, and weddings/funerals (extra compensation) depending on the successful candidate's availability. The choir sings one anthem a month and rehearses before/after the Sunday service. There is currently no weeknight choir rehearsal. The congregation is appreciative of the organ and music, and regularly stays to listen to the postlude. Pay is \$200 per service, negotiable depending on experience and qualifications.

The organ is a 1996 Schantz pipe organ

(<https://www.columbiaago.org/ColumbiaOrgans/Organs/stLukeNewberry.pdf>).

Resumes can be sent to Wayne Steffen at tomfever.ws@gmail.com.

ORANGEBURG

First Baptist Church of Orangeburg is seeking a part-time organist to provide service music for Sunday worship, as well as special occasions throughout the year. Regular duties include accompanying Wednesday night choir rehearsal (7:00 pm) and playing for Sunday worship services (11:00 a.m.). The organ is a Moller, 3-manual: swell; great; choir, with 31 ranks from the original installation. The pedal board was built to AGO standard. The organ was installed in 1968 and rebuilt by Schlueter Pipe Organ Company of Lithonia, Georgia in 2007, with additional Walker digital stops added. Resumes may be sent to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 637, Orangeburg, SC 29116 or emailed to jane@fbcorangeburg.org.

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/>

WEST COLUMBIA

****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 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 and hymns, as well as preludes and postludes, at each Sunday Service and at special services during Lent, Easter, Advent, and Christmas. The organist is also expected, if schedule allows, to provide organ music at funerals and weddings at the church. The church has one service each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. It is a traditional service using the Evangelical Book of Worship (ELW). Average Sunday-morning attendance is 40. Salary is negotiable commensurate with training and experience. Please contact the church at 803-794-8180 or email the pastor at pastorjoannagragg@gmail.com.

St. David Lutheran Church in West Columbia, SC is seeking an organist and handbell choir director. We are a vibrant congregation with a history of excellence in music leadership and look to continue the tradition with a new organist following the retirement of our long-time organist and Director of Music. We are a liturgical congregation and use music from a wide variety of sources to enhance worship. Responsibilities for this part-time position include playing organ and piano for the 10:30am worship service, midweek services during Advent & Lent, as well as weddings and funerals (with additional compensation). accompanying the choir in worship and during rehearsal, and directing our handbell choir. For more information or to apply, please reach out to Pastor Greg Brown at pastor.greg@stdavid.net or 803-356-3035.
