

# The Greater Columbia Organist



**December 2024**

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

## **JANUARY 2025 ORGAN TECHNIQUES WORKSHOP: BRING THE INSTRUMENT TO LIFE**

**Don Grice**

**Saturday, January 18, 2025**

**Forest Lake Presbyterian Church  
6500 North Trenholm Road  
Columbia, SC 29206**

**10:00 a.m. – Noon**



Join us for a workshop designed to offer tools, techniques, and practical tips to enhance musicality in our organ playing. Suggestions will be offered on how thoughtful registrations, articulation and phrasing can work together to enrich interpretation of repertoire, hymns, and accompaniments while getting the most from the instrument at hand.

Dr. Grice is Director of Music/Organist at Central United Methodist Church in Florence, SC, where he serves as organist and director of the Chancel Choir. He also collaborates with the directors of the handbell and children's choirs. He has served churches of various denominations in Canada and the United States and has experience with a wide range of instruments, both pipe and digital. Dr. Grice holds degrees in Music and Education from the University of British Columbia, the University of Saskatchewan, Emory University, and the University of Arizona. He serves on the board of the Greater Columbia Chapter of AGO.



# Upcoming AGO Programs 2025

## PLANS FOR WINTER/SPRING PROGRAMS

**Saturday, February 1, 10:00 a.m. to Noon:** Choral Methods Workshop

Topics will include conducting from the keyboard.

Presenter: Debbie Bauer, Director of Music and Organist, Carteret Street UMC, Beaufort

**March 8, 10:00 a.m.:** Young Organist Competition

**Spring** (date and time to be determined): Columbia Area Student Organists' Showcase

**Monday, April 7, 7:00 p.m.:** Zoom Presentation on AGO Certification

Presenters from National AGO: Michelle Kardos, Director of Education, and Russell Weismann, Councilor for Education.

Topics: Benefits, Basic Requirements, and Basic Steps for Preparation.

**Friday, May 16** (evening): Dinner followed by a Program of Music for Organ and Instruments



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 grey font. Below the title, text provides details about the event: 'Sponsored by the Greater Columbia AGO Chapter', 'Saturday, March 8, 2025', '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 \$500'. At the bottom, it says 'For rules and application see Young Organist Competition 2025 at [www.columbiaago.org](http://www.columbiaago.org)'. On the right side, there is a photograph of an organ console with hands playing the keys, set against a background of a church interior with a stained glass window.

YOUNG  
**Organist**  
Competition

Sponsored by the  
Greater Columbia AGO Chapter  
Saturday, March 8, 2025  
Columbia, S.C.

Open to grades 8–12

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

For rules and application see  
Young Organist Competition 2025  
at [www.columbiaago.org](http://www.columbiaago.org)

## Two Regional AGO Conventions in 2025

There are 2 regional conventions to choose from in 2025. Unfortunately, the southeast region is not hosting a convention.



The Central Arizona Chapter presents Sizzling Summer Stops at AGO 2025 Phoenix. Featured performers include Isabelle Demers, Kimberly Marshall, Raúl Pietro Ramírez, and Ilona Kubiaczyk-Adler performing on instruments by Fritts, Dobson, Schantz, Peragallo, Visser, and Berghaus. Registration and further information can be found [here](#).

**When:** June 16–19, 2025



Everything's bigger in Texas. This convention, hosted by the Fort Worth chapter, will feature Katelyn Emerson, Jan Kraybill, Ken Cowan, Alcée Chriss III, and more performing on instruments by Casavant, Walker, King, Garland, Wolff, and Bedient. Registration and further information can be found [here](#).

**When:** June 30 – July 3, 2025

## Catching Up with YOC Alumni



David Stultz, a native of Chattanooga TN, Was the winner of the 2015 Young Organist Competition. He studied piano with Dr. Sigrid Luther for fifteen years and began organ study with Jason DuRoy and Dr. Sarah Harr. In high school he began organ lessons with Dr. Edie Johnson at the University of Tennessee. It was a logical step to continue his undergraduate studies with her as an undergraduate organ major from 2017 to 2021 when he received a bachelor's degree in Organ Performance.

In the summer of 2021, he won first prize in the Southeast Regional AGO Competition for Young Organists. In the summer of 2022, he was invited to perform at the National AGO Convention in Seattle, Washington. He also passed the AGO Service Playing Certification Exam in 2020 and the AGO Colleague Certification Exam in 2021. Throughout his service playing career, David held positions as organist at First Presbyterian Church of Chattanooga, Lookout Mountain Presbyterian Church, and Second Presbyterian Church in Knoxville, Tennessee where he also served as the Assistant Director of Music.

He received a full tuition scholarship and assistantship stipend to pursue a master's degree in Sacred Music and Organ Performance at the University of Notre Dame (South Bend, Indiana) where he studied with Dr. Kola Owolabi. On April 23, 2023, David presented his final degree recital in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart (Notre Dame).

In the Fall of 2023, David began doctoral studies in sacred music and organ with Professor Nicole Keller at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. Presently, David is serving as Associate Director of Sacred Music at St. Hugo of the Hills Parish in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan.

David also enjoys composing for keyboard and choir. Many of his compositions and organ recordings can be viewed on his YouTube channel by searching "David Stultz Organ."

In addition to music, David is occasionally commissioned as an oil painter specializing in classical and impressionistic landscapes, portraits, and still life.

A true Renaissance man, David is another of our YOC alumni that continue to make us proud!





# *A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols*

**December 22, 2024**

**4:00 PM**

*Preservice music starts at 3:40 PM*



**CENTRAL**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

**FLORENCE, SC**

## December 2024 Events at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral

### **Advent Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, December 1 at 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201.

Through lessons and music, we meditate on the rich themes of Advent, the four-week season of waiting and joyful anticipation for the coming of Christ, first as an infant at Christmas, and then in glory at the last day. The service will be followed by a procession to the Trinity Center for the Advent Festival. Visit [trinitysc.org](http://trinitysc.org) for more information.

### **Handel's *Messiah***

Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. 1100 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201.

Join us for this beloved holiday tradition. *Messiah* will be sung by the Cathedral Choir of Boys, Girls, Young Men, and the Cathedral Singers, with the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra playing period instruments. Visit [trinitysc.org/music](http://trinitysc.org/music) for tickets.

### **Choral Compline**

Thursdays, December 5, 12, and 19 at 8:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201.

Join us for this meditative candlelight service, sung by the Cathedral Singers. Free and open to the public. Visit [trinitysc.org](http://trinitysc.org) for more information.

### **Evensong**

Sunday, December 8 at 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, 1100 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201.

Join us for Evensong, a service of readings, prayers and music with the Cathedral Choir of Adults. The service is followed by a reception on the Cathedral Lawn until 5:30 p.m. Free and open to all. Visit [trinitysc.org](http://trinitysc.org) for more information.

### **Christmas Lessons & Carols**

Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Trinity Episcopal Cathedral. 1100 Sumter St. Columbia, SC 29201.

Christmas Lessons & Carols tells the story of salvation from creation through the birth of Jesus. The service is followed by hot cocoa and s'mores on the Cathedral Lawn. Free and open to all. Visit [trinitysc.org](http://trinitysc.org) for more information.

### **Christmas Eve Worship Services**

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. in the Cathedral - Children's Christmas Pageant & Holy Eucharist

7:00 p.m. in the Cathedral - Holy Eucharist

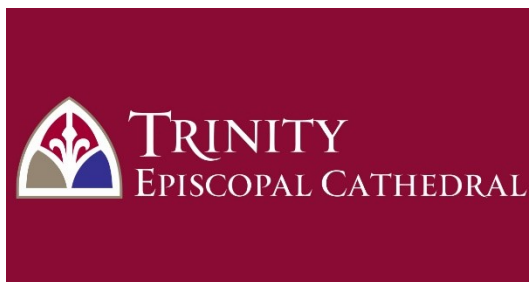
11:00 p.m. in the Cathedral - Choral Eucharist

### **Christmas Day Service**

Wednesday, December 25

10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral - Holy Eucharist

**1100 Sumter Street-Columbia, SC 29201**







## ORGANIST CONCERT RECAP PAUL THOMAS

On Sunday, October 27, the chapter sponsored Paul Thomas in recital at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral, where he was recently appointed Director of Music and Organist. The recital included works by Gowers, Bach, Kerr, Mendelssohn, and Franck. Most recently, Paul served in similar positions in Chattanooga, TN, and Charleston, SC. We're pleased to welcome Paul back to South Carolina, where he was a Furman grad prior to being a Yale grad. We're also welcoming him as a fellow member of our Greater Columbia chapter of AGO.



## YOUNG ORGANIST CONCERT RECAP HENRY DANGERFIELD

*If you missed Henry's concert,  
[click here](#) to view.*

Henry Dangerfield, winner of the chapter's Young Organist Competition held in March 2024, returned to perform a recital at Shandon United Methodist Church. **The program included works by J.S. Bach, Mendelssohn, Messiaen, de Grigny, and Vierne.** Henry is 16 years old and began organ study with Raymond Johnston (St. Mark's Episcopal Cathedral in

Minneapolis) and recently joined the studio of Dr. Catherine Rodland at St. Olaf College. As a finalist in the 2023 Albert Schweitzer Organ Festival Hartford Competition (High School Division), Henry was awarded the David Spicer Hymn Playing Award and the Audience Prize. Additionally, he has won first prize in the L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition. Following the performance, guests enjoyed a reception honoring the performer.



# Handbell Festival

*Brian Childers, Director*



**Saturday, February 22, 2025**

Shandon United Methodist Church  
3407 Devine Street, Columbia, SC

9:30 am-1:00 pm



February's **Handbell Choir Festival** registration is open to all bell choir members and directors. Lunch is included with registration.

This event is sponsored by the *SC Chapter of the Fellowship of Music and Worship Arts*. Brian Childers, director of the festival, is an accomplished composer, conductor, and clinician. His choral, instrumental, and handbell works are performed throughout the world. Brian is the Artistic Director of the Charlotte Bronze Handbell Ensemble. He also currently serves as Director of Handbells and Children and Youth Music at Myers Park UMC in Charlotte.

The Festival Handbell music is available at Jeffers Handbell in Irmo. (800-547-2355). For additional information, please call Eddie Huss at Shandon UMC in Columbia: 803-722-1034.

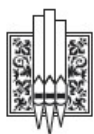
For registration, schedule, music, and cost: [www.southcarolinafellowship.org](http://www.southcarolinafellowship.org)





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## Newsletter Deadline

The **20<sup>th</sup>** 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.



12/03	Catherine Black
12/05	Cynthia Fruth
12/10	Linda Wills
12/20	Jim Hepler
12/21	Beverly Hazelwood
12/26	Pat Blackwell
12/26	Huger Caughman
12/27	Bill Johns
12/27	Tim Walters
12/27	Robert Jones
12/30	Ginny Holt
12/30	Sisi Gao

## 2024 - 2025 CHAPTER ADMINISTRATION

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# POSITIONS AVAILABLE

## **\*\* NEW LISTING OR CHANGES**

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

### **ANDERSON**

**Grace Episcopal Church**, Organist/Choir Master, 15 hours per week, including a Sunday service at 10:30 AM and Wednesday night choir practice at 6:30 PM. Organ: Cornel Zimmer hybrid pipe organ with 25 pipe ranks and 37 digital Walker Technology ranks. Compensation: Approximately \$30,000 per year, with details to be determined between the church and the applicant. Contact: William Scott, Interim Organist, [Scottwn2003@yahoo.com](mailto:Scottwn2003@yahoo.com) or Fr. Jack Hardaway, Rector at [frjackh4@gmail.com](mailto:frjackh4@gmail.com). Full job description available upon request.

### **BENNETTSVILLE**

**First Methodist Church**, Bennettsville, SC, seeks a Music Director to lead the music program of the church. Primary duties include providing appropriate weekly service music on the 43-rank Casavant organ and leading the adult, handbell, and children's choirs. Flexibility in job structure. Will work primarily with minister to oversee an active music ministry. Salary commensurate with training and experience. Optional opportunity to earn additional income providing music classes for church day care program. Please send cover letter and resume to church office ([wandaweaverfumc@gmail.com](mailto:wandaweaverfumc@gmail.com)). For additional information, contact Rev. Taylor Coates (843-479- 3231) or Virginia Fowler, PPRC Chairman ([heyva2@yahoo.com](mailto:heyva2@yahoo.com))

### **CHESTER**

**Presbyterian Church** in Chester - Interim organist or substitute organist. Magnificent organ, 1976 Austin with the console rebuilt two years ago. It is a two manual 36 rank instrument. There is also a 1938 Steinway Grand Piano in the worship space. Prelude, Offertory, Postlude, Doxology, Gloria Patri, and three hymns are required for each service. Interested persons should send their resume or background information to [maestrocto@gmail.com](mailto:maestrocto@gmail.com).

### **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](mailto:Rev.Burger@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](mailto: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](mailto:stbartsepiscopal@gmail.com).

## **LEXINGTON**

***Lexington United Methodist Church***, Organist. Two Sunday morning services, Tuesday evening service, Wednesday practice, additional services for Advent and Lent. Traditional/Classical style. Vibrant and growing congregation that is welcoming to all! Wonderful choir and many fine instrumentalists. Allen organ. Salary commensurate with experience. Contact Diane Crosby, Church Administrator, with your resume or any questions - (803)359-6838 ext. 113 or [dcrosby@lexumcsc.com](mailto:dcrosby@lexumcsc.com)

## **MONROE, NC**

***Central United Methodist Church*** in Monroe, NC, is seeking a Director of Music Ministries to meet our vision of connecting with God, connecting with each other and connecting with the community. Central is a mid-sized congregation that offers three weekly worship services that include Contemporary and Traditional services on Sunday and a Tuesday evening Dinner Church service for our community. Our music ministry currently includes a chancel choir, praise band, youth & children choir, handbell choir and special music groups.

The Director of Music Ministry would be expected to be the primary pipe organist (Casavant organ). The Director would plan, direct and/or oversee all music ministry groups and ensembles. The salary level is commensurate with education and experience. We welcome those who are called to provide leadership of a music ministry team and serve with a church whose calling is to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Please send your resume, three references, and a video sample of your music from a service to Dr. Jane Neese, Chair of the Staff Pastor Relations Committee at [musicministry@centralumcmonroe.org](mailto:musicministry@centralumcmonroe.org). For a copy of the job description, please use the email above. This search will continue until the position is filled.

## **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. Resumés may be sent to First Baptist Church, P.O. Box 637, Orangeburg, SC 29116 or emailed to [jane@fbcorangeburg.org](mailto: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/>

## **WINNSBORO**

***Sion Presbyterian Church*** (PCUSA) in Winnsboro is seeking a part-time music director/organist or pianist to provide music on Sundays at the 11 a.m. worship service and at the 9:30 a.m. adult choir rehearsal preceding the Sunday service. Duties include preparing and playing a prelude, offertory, choral anthem, hymns and postlude. Additional services throughout the year include one Christmas Eve service. Any other services will be discussed on a one-to-one basis, with additional compensation for the musician.

The church instruments include a Kegg pipe organ, a Steinway grand piano and three octaves of handbells. Sion is a traditional church with a congregation who loves and appreciates quality music and the efforts of musicians. This position has potential for growth in the adult choir as well as the formation of a handbell choir.

Sion Presbyterian is 30 miles north of Columbia. The church is flexible regarding terms of employment and the music position can be permanent, part-time, interim or Sunday by Sunday. The salary is \$200 per week, and this may be negotiable depending on qualifications and commitment.

For questions or more information, please call the Sion church office at 803-635-3391 and leave a message for Lynne Douglass.