

The Greater Columbia Organist



January 2025

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

From the Dean

Greetings, organists and organ lovers of Greater Columbia,

And a happy new year to all. I hope that this message finds you well and that you are taking some well-earned rest after another busy December. What we do in all our parishes and churches is important, but also taxing. And I hope all of you are practicing self-care during this first month of the new year as best you know how.

Our programming year kicks off in January with one of our own, Don Grice, leading us in a seminar on making the organ "come to life." We are fortunate to have gifted organists in our chapter, and Don is definitely one such individual. In addition to serving on our board and being an engaged member of our chapter, Don is director of music at Central United Methodist Church of Florence, and a regionally active collaborator and performer. His tips on approaching the instrument will give new perspective and hopefully inspiration to us as we begin the new year. We do hope you will join us.

In closing, I would also like to thank those of our membership who participated in our survey last year. Feedback and comments were extremely informative and helpful to the board as we have organized programs. Thank you all for your patience as we seek to make improvements in strategies and initiatives. The organ field is constantly evolving, and I am proud to lead our board as we navigate how best to serve and encourage our organists. As always, if you have any concerns, ideas, or questions, my contact information is always included in every newsletter.

I thank you, and a happy new year to you all,
Lenora Jeffcoat, FRCO

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



Catching Up with YOC Alumni



Laura Smith, first-place winner of the 2020 Young Organist Competition, is originally from Wichita, Kansas. She is currently a senior organ performance major at Baylor University where she studies with Dr. Jens Korndörfer.

In her first year at Baylor, Laura was honored to perform as a soloist in the School of Music's Centennial Collage Concert and compete as a finalist in the organ division of the Semper Pro Music Competition. More recently, she travelled to England to attend the Oundle for Organists summer course in July 2023. Since August of 2022, she has been the organ scholar at St. Alban's Episcopal Church in Waco, Texas. In April of 2023, she performed a concert at the church and in April of 2024, she performed her Junior Recital in Jones Concert Hall on the Baylor campus.

In her spare time, Laura is taking writing and literature courses. She enjoys writing poetry and prose and has had her work published in the literary journal *Halfway Down the Stairs*.

That same year (2020), **Maria Mikula**, from Rochester NY, won third place in the YOC, Best Performance of a work by J.S. Bach, and Best Hymn Performance in the Young Organist Competition. In May of 2021, Maria was a national finalist in the L. Cameron Johnson Memorial Organ Competition and was awarded First Place. She was also awarded the Certificate of Superior Rating for her piano performance in the 2020 Gold Cup Festival in Rochester, NY, as well as the Advanced Diploma in Piano from the Eastman Community Music School. In the summer of 2023, Maria participated and performed in the Yale Organ Week.

Maria chose to major in Cell and Developmental Biology at the University of Rochester while double majoring in Music. She worked as a laboratory assistant in the Presgraves Research Laboratory in Evolutionary Genetics and Genomics. She also enjoys volunteering weekly for the Orthopedics and Patient Discharge Departments at the University of Rochester Medical Center. Recently, Maria was appointed the Vice President of the Thomistic Institute's Rochester Chapter. She is the musician at St. Pius X Church in Rochester and substitutes for other parishes.



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.



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](#).

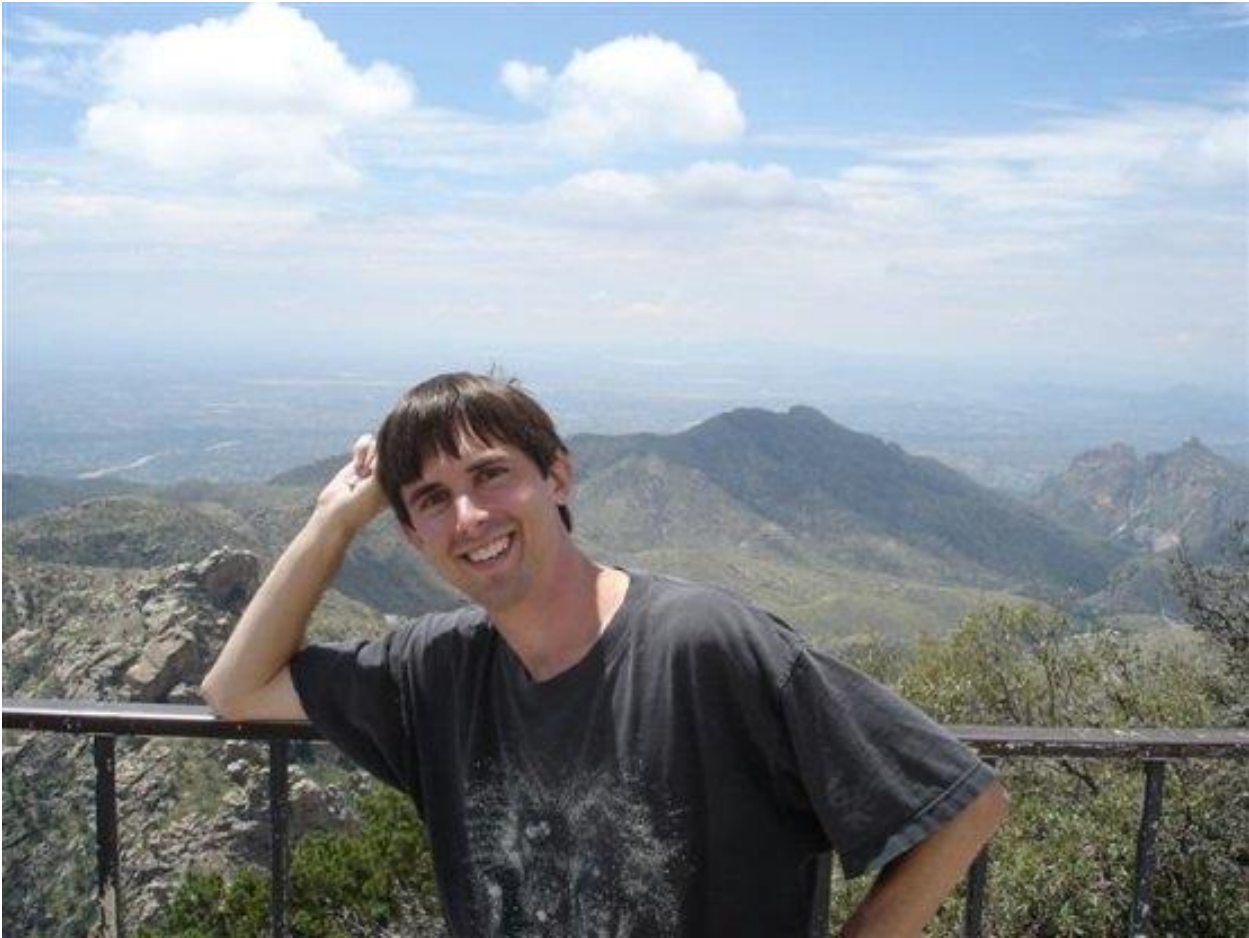
From Bill Bates: Hi, y'all (Texas speak). All of you are invited to attend the AGO Regional Convention in Fort Worth this coming summer (June 30–July 3, 2025). I promise you will have a WARM welcome, and I would look forward to seeing y'all. No, I do not wear cowboy boots (though I'm a native Texan), but I truly enjoy being very near my two grandsons. There are marvelous organs here in the Fort Worth area—and fine organists as well. Look forward to seeing y'all.

When: June 30 – July 3, 2025



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](#).

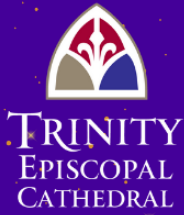
When: June 16–19, 2025



**Epiphany Concert
St. Timothy's Episcopal Church
Columbia, South Carolina
January 5, 2025**

Come celebrate the arrival of Epiphany by attending an organ concert at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church. Dr. Matthew Whitehouse, organist, composer, and astronomy educator will present a program of organ music reflecting on the Star of Bethlehem. Composers that will be featured in this spectacular recital include Buxtehude, Bach, Messiaen, Herschel, and Whitehouse.

The program begins at 4:00 p.m. on Sunday, January 5, 2025. St. Timothy's Episcopal Church is located at 900 Calhoun Street in Columbia.



EPIPHANY LESSONS & CAROLS

Sunday, January 5 at 4:00 p.m.
followed by an oyster roast on the Cathedral Lawn.
RSVP at trinitysc.org

Guide us to thy perfect light



CHORAL EVENSONG

AT TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

Sunday, January 12 at 4:00 p.m.

1100 SUMNER ST., COLUMBIA
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL
TRINITYSC.ORG



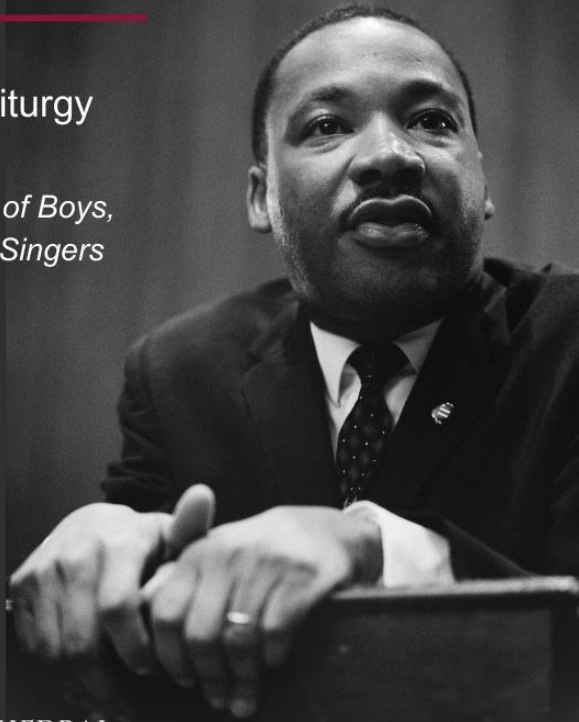
REFLECTIONS FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

Join us in this special liturgy
for racial unity,
*sung by the Cathedral Choir of Boys,
Young Men, and Cathedral Singers*

SUNDAY, JANUARY 19
4:00 P.M.
1100 SUMTER ST., COLUMBIA
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



BACH VESPERS



JANUARY 26 AT 4:00 P.M.
1100 SUMTER ST., COLUMBIA
FREE AND OPEN TO ALL

The Cathedral Singers and the North Carolina Baroque Orchestra
will offer Motet, BWV 118
“O Jesu Christ, mein Lebens Licht (O Jesus Christ, light of my life).”



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL



A CEREMONY OF CAROLS FOR CANDLEMAS

*sung by the Cathedral Choir of Girls
with music by Benjamin Britten*

Sunday, February 2, 4:00 p.m.
followed by a reception on the
Cathedral Lawn



TRINITY EPISCOPAL CATHEDRAL

1100 Sumter St.
Columbia, SC 29201

Our sympathies go to Brad Cunningham upon the death of his mother

Florence H. Cunningham, age 89, of Jonesboro, Georgia, passed away peacefully on Sunday, November 24, 2024.

Florence was preceded in death by her beloved son, Stanley Harding Cunningham; her siblings, Jimmy Holland, Frances Price, and Louise Davis; and her parents, Dolphus and Musette Holland. A dedicated administrative assistant, Florence worked for Clayton State School of Technology until her retirement. She was also a devoted member of The Rock Baptist Church for 40 years.

Florence will be dearly missed and lovingly remembered by her high school sweetheart and husband of 70 years, Charles Cunningham; her children, Charles Bradford Cunningham, John Michael (Janice) Cunningham, and Charlynn Marie Cunningham-Richardson; her sisters, Dorothea (Joe) Gatlin, Dianne Graybeal, and Eleanor (Helen Langa) Holland; her grandchildren, Lauren Richardson Hale, Drew Richardson, Brannon (Kaylee) Cooley, and Kristen C. (Joey) Poisson; her great-grandchildren, John Arthur Chadwick Hale, Brayden Cooley, Ansley Cooley, Emmy Poisson, and Elsy Poisson; along with numerous nieces, nephews, and extended family members. A funeral service was held on Friday, November 29, 2024, at 2:00 PM at the Ford-Stewart Funeral Home Chapel, Jonesboro, GA.





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



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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.



1/12	William Bates
1/19	Matthew McCall
1/20	Janet Marks
1/22	Donald Cockrell
1/22	Jeff Maddox
1/24	Emma Devine
1/29	Timothy Wert

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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.

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 or Fr. Jack Hardaway, Rector at 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). For additional information, contact Rev. Taylor Coates (843-479- 3231) or Virginia Fowler, PPRC Chairman (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.

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

Redeemer Lutheran Church, 525 St. Andrews Road, Columbia, SC 29210. Redeemer is a suburban congregation with an average of 125 worshipers on site and at least that many online each week at one traditional service. Redeemer's current musician is retiring. Duties for this part time position involve planning and participation in one Sunday worship, leading rehearsals for our Adult Choir, Handbell choir, and coordinating and working with other musicians, and special programs and camps. The music director will do worship planning with the pastors and provide leadership for an overall unified music program. Compensation: \$45,000 and anticipated hours are 25-29. For further information and a full job description, contact Rev. Gary Loadholdt at pastorgary@relu.church.

St. Joseph Catholic Church, 3512 Devine St., Columbia, SC, is seeking an experienced Full time Organist. This position would report directly to the Director of Music. The Organist is the main organist of the parish and is responsible for the execution of all organ music for the weekend and special masses (currently 5:30PM Saturday, and 8:00 am, 10:30 am, and 12:15 pm on Sunday). Candidates must have knowledge of and keep current on trends and directions of sacred church music in the Catholic church to assure all music used in liturgical services and special activities is appropriate in accordance with the church traditions as well as current practices and dictates of Church authorities. The Organist position is a 30 hour per week position, salaried with benefits for 12 months per year.

For more information and a complete job description, please reach out with letters of interest and resumes to Worth Lewallen, Director of Music Ministry at worth@stjosephcolumbia.org.

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.

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. 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.

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.
