

THE COUPLER

THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



Good day, July!

Now that you're here, dearest July, I'm looking forward to the 8th of you, when I'll get on a plane and take some vacation time.

July, I guess you're accustomed to my flurry of activity in your first days, then the fireworks and such, then some relaxation. I trust that this year you'll come to my rescue again and help me unwind and forget about work, at least for a few hours.

Perhaps you're feeling the same, dear DC chapter member, or perhaps you are not able to take time away just yet. But I encourage you, during these hot summer days, to make sure to carve out some time for yourself, for regeneration. Say "no" to some event or dinner party or online workshop. Guard your personal time and make sure you take some vacation or staycation this summer.

I don't have much else to say other than that. I'm busy making sure the dog has her health certificate to travel, making sure I print out all the forms I need to cross the borders, making sure I have someone to
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JULY 2021

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Put your knowledge of pipe organ components to work with a custom-made Word Search puzzle.

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Mark Your Calendar!

Our 2021-2022 board members will be installed Sept. 21 in an online tri-chapter ceremony.

Pipes Spectacular on Oct. 24 will feature Jeremy Filsell at St. John's Norwood Episcopal Church in Chevy Chase.

CHAPTER NEWS

Organfest watch party

Join fellow AGO members from the DC and Annapolis areas in person July 1 and 2 to view the final two nights of the online OrganFest, produced by the national AGO.

The Watch Party will be hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Arlington. The church has ample parking and is three blocks from the Ballston Metro Station.

Please email Adam Graham at info@asgraham.com to attend. If you'd like to join us for a meal, please mention what dish/beverage you can bring to share, beginning at 7:15-ish. We hope to see you there!

<https://www.agohq.org/organfest-2021/>

Music swap coming

Have you spent some pandemic hours going through your music files, putting aside pieces you no longer play or want?

We are planning an organ/choral music swap for chapter members. This will offer a chance to clean out your files, explore new repertoire and raise funds for a new scholarship program. Start building those stacks!



Wanted: Archiving space

Our chapter archives are outgrowing their space at National City Christian Church. Archivist Irv Lawless reports that he needs room for at least five file cabinets and space to sort through materials with the assistance of chapter member Margaret Shannon.

Do you know of a church willing to provide a safe, dry room for storage and working? If so, please send an email to dcagochapter@gmail.com.



American Guild of Organists
District of Columbia Chapter

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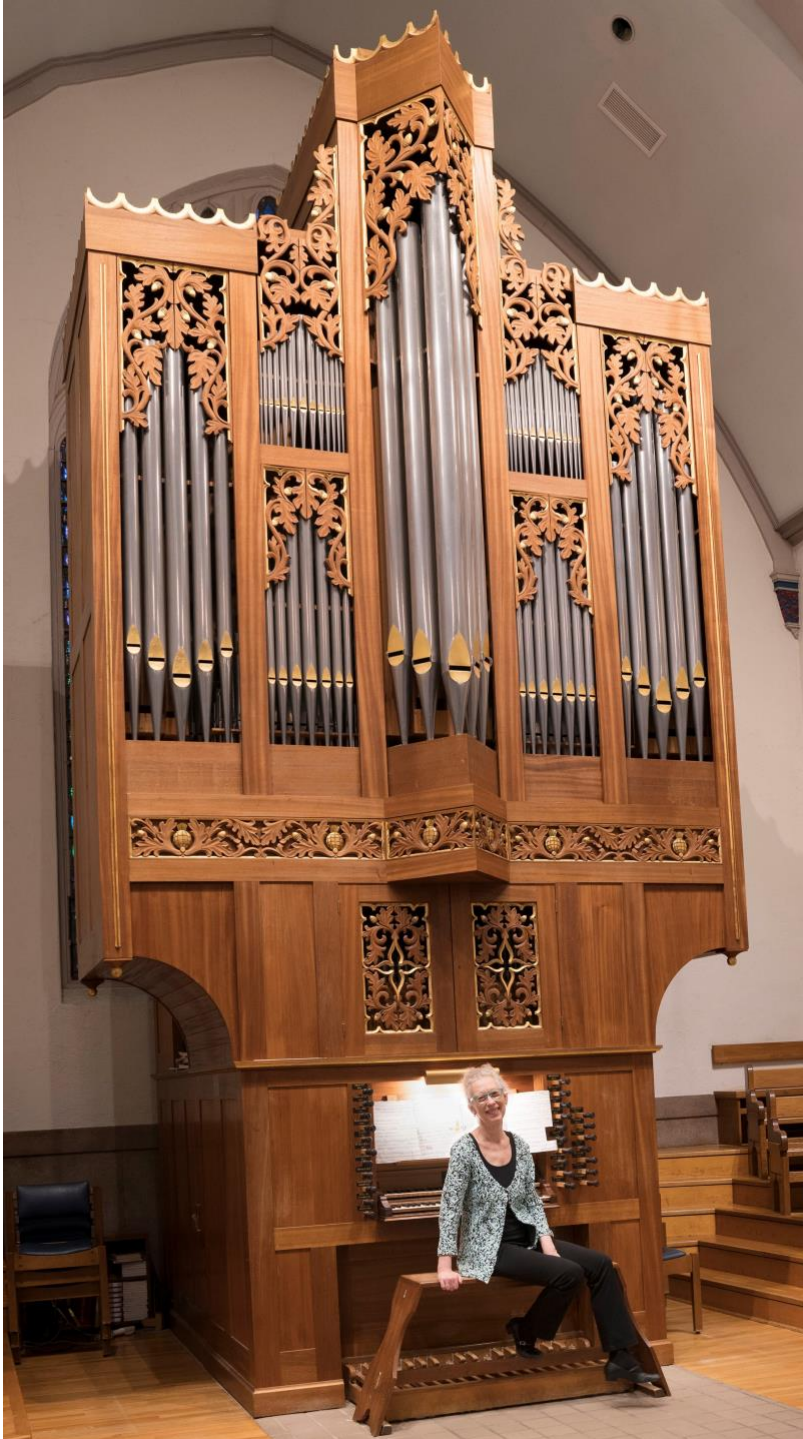
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of Columbia Chapter,
American Guild of
Organists

Pat Henry,
Editor

To contact the DC AGO
or for newsletter
submissions:
dcagochapter@gmail.com

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Diane Heath, chapter secretary for 2021-2022



What got you interested in the organ?

An LP album of Ethel Smith that my parents bought for me as a child. My mother said “the organ is an entire orchestra,” so that was the instrument for me!

What is your educational and professional background?

I received a bachelor’s degree in music from Hartt School of Music in Hartford, CT (whose organ department no longer exists) and a master’s degree in choral conducting and organ from Indiana University (whose organ department is going strong). I also earned a certificate in piano pedagogy from the Levine School.

Why are you a member of the AGO?

Initially I joined AGO for the job listings and salary guidelines. Now that I’ve been on the music staff at St. Columba’s Episcopal Church for 25 years (celebrating that anniversary this September), I look at job listings only out of curiosity. (See photo of Diane at St. Columba’s Flentrop organ at left; photo by Lee Ewing.) I had a great appreciation for the AGO salary guidelines developed by Maureen Jais-Mick. It’s very easy for organists, congregation members and clergy to consider the work we do as “play.” Certainly it is a pleasure, but for those of us who depend on musical employment for our livelihood, the AGO salary guidelines gave a solid structure for non-contact time use, such as practicing, planning, meeting with people, etc. Sadly, in 2015, the Federal Trade Commission deemed

Continued on Page 4

these guidelines “anti-competitive.” I feel this was a great loss to guild members, as we tried to support each other in attaining living wages.

Twenty-five years is a nice long time at one church. Tell us what keeps you there.

The Flentrop organ of course, which has a warm and beautiful sound. Also the terrific rehearsal room, nice pianos and harpsichord, friendly congregation, supportive staff. Oh, and St. Columba is a pleasant 15-minute walk from my house.

Do you find the Flentrop tracker organ with no pistons limits your repertoire?

Honestly, the Flentrop and I have been friends so long--we’ve developed a nice relationship and collaborate on Baroque, Romantic and modern music and have an understanding about strings (the lack thereof).

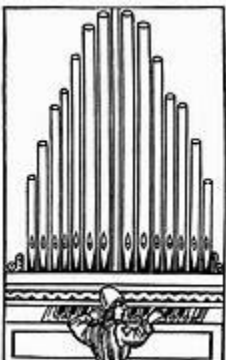


What are your special musical interests?

I’m very interested in new music and have played several premiers by chapter member Jay Parrotta. I’m also interested in connecting the general public with organs and organ music. St. C’s collaborates with DC’s Art All Night by offering an evening of organ music that visitors listen to casually while looking at art exhibits. And I’m always interested in sharing the instrument with children. You never know who the next organist is going to be.

What do you do when you are not on the organ bench?

I have an active piano studio with 25 students, give or take. When I have time, I like to cook, enjoy nice wine, read, travel, do yoga, look at and create art, write, and take long walks with my husband, Melvin. We’re currently planning some trips to explore out west while visiting our son who recently moved to Nevada. Not interested in casinos, but looking forward to national parks.



Free organ console and pipes

Central United Methodist Church in Arlington is offering a free Newcomer organ console and pipes.

The church is being demolished and rebuilt, but the new building cannot accommodate the organ.

For information, contact Gene Cross at gcross0908@gmail.com or 703-474-8084 as soon as possible.

From Page 1

mow the lawn while I'm gone. I am grateful and fortunate to be able to get away for a while, and I encourage you to make a way to take care of yourself before September.

And before I finish, gratitude is good for the soul – and I am grateful for the work of our chapter leadership this past year!

Rob Church is the sustaining thread that connected us to the most recent past board, and his work as treasurer helped us remain financially healthy and ready for good programming in the coming year. His articles in *The Coupler* on various instruments in town were wonderful.

Tom Cowan kept the board focused with our minutes and on task with keeping track of ideas, as well as helping with programming. He also sent notices to *The American Organist* regarding chapter events.

Jeff Kempskie helped with membership rosters and welcomes to new and returning members, but this past year he spent more time with tech issues and producing some of our programs.

Additionally, **Irv Lawless** has selflessly served as our Archivist for several years, and we've relied on his advice and help this year, too.

It would have been difficult to function this past year without these four, and also without **Pat Henry**, our newsletter editor and website coordinator. Pat renewed our interest in *The Coupler*, working to find content and producing a newsletter of which we are once again very proud.

Thank you, as you have made my work as dean much more enjoyable and manageable!

Make sure to find time to relax, get some exercise, eat good, healthy food, listen to your favorite recordings, make music for the fun of it, and live a little (or a lot)!

All the best to you,
David

Early Keyboard Music for Sale

Five volumes published by the American Institute of Musicology in its *Corpus of Early Keyboard Music* are offered for sale. They measure 11 3/4 inches long and 9 1/4 inches wide and have heavy paper covers. Condition is excellent. Prices vary. For details, call: 202-526-2220.

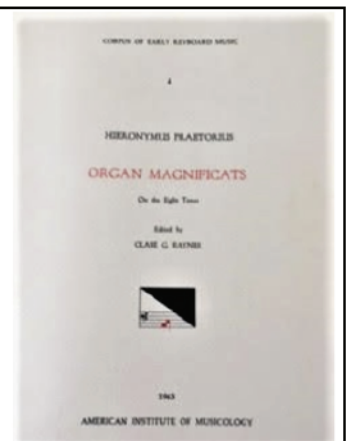
No. 1: *Keyboard Music of the 14th and 15th Centuries*, 52 pages.

No. 4: *Hieronymus Praetorius, Organ Magnificats on the Eight Tones*, 81 pages.

No. 8: *Keyboard Dances from the Earlier 16th Century*, 59 pages.

No. 20: *Giovanni Paolo Cima, Partito de Ricercari and Canzoni Alla Francese (1606)*, 90 pages.

No. 34: *Annibale Padovano (c. 1527-c. 1575); Sperindio Bertoldo (c. 1530-1570); "D'Incerto" ("Uncertain" Composer), Compositions for Keyboard*, 86 pages.



LET ME TELL YOU

By Lon Schreiber

Most of the anecdotes I dare to share from the 61 years I have been an organist in Washington occurred during my 40 years as minister of music at National City Christian Church on Thomas Circle.

President Lyndon B. Johnson was an honorary elder, and he and Lady Bird attended NCCC 55 times between 1963 and 1968.

The 1930 E.M. Skinner organ of 54 ranks (Opus 824) was the instrument seen on NBC for the Johnson state funeral in 1973. The 43-year-old organ was subject to frequent ciphers and other ailments, so I had a technician stationed high in the organ chamber (behind the massive curtains) in case there would be a problem during the service. I didn't want to have to crawl up behind the curtains to pull a pipe. Luckily, there were no ciphers. Accompanying Leontyne Price was an experience of a lifetime.



There was a Sunday, however, when the old Skinner wheezed to a halt during the prelude--and it was a packed-house Sunday with LBJ in attendance. The pastor, Dr. George Davis, came to the console breathlessly asking if we could get a piano. I told him the nearest one was two floors away. Then someone said, "Don't we have a pump organ?" and that was the solution!

When the large black box containing the organ was being opened up, Secret Service men came closer with great concern as to what in the world we were up to!

I had played pump organs in childhood at my grandparents' home and also at the crack of dawn for Easter when in the Army at Fort Leonard Wood. I sent word to the choir waiting to process to come to the choir loft via another route, and thus I began the processional hymn pumping away. With strong legs I could maintain steady wind pressure. The only problem was that as I pumped, the organ kept moving away from me on the terrazzo floor, so I chased it all around the apse. The choir was virtually hysterical.

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Another Sunday, when Billy Graham was the guest preacher, President Johnson remarked to Rev. Graham as they descended the steps toward the people gathered on Thomas Circle: "Billy, don't you wish you and I could draw a crowd like George does?!" (I suspect Dr. Davis believed that to be true..!)



President Johnson's pew was on the pulpit side, opposite the large baptistry. One memorable Sunday the president found it necessary to exit quickly to a small restroom in the hall, behind the apse. Secret Service men escorted him, of course. The church fathers soon decided to refurbish the 1930 restroom if it were to be used by LBJ! I wondered years later if that restroom should have been designated as a memorial, as well as the large stained glass window in the sanctuary.

During the last years of the LBJ presidency, the war in Vietnam became LBJ's nemesis. Among the many public demonstrations, I recall one Sunday when about 12-15 protesters came to the 11 am service, expecting to see LBJ there. He was not there, however, and the protesters were seated in various areas of the sanctuary.

When Dr. Davis ascended the pulpit to begin his sermon, all the protesters stood up. Dr. Davis did not say a word, but simply looked at the ceiling with a "Mussolini jaw" stance. One of the protesters came to me at the console. He asked me if I "worked there," and said he wanted to hand out fliers to the choir. I said, "No, you can't," but he went on to the soprano section and started distributing the fliers. June Chewning, sitting on the front row, stood up, grabbed the stack of fliers, ripped them apart, and threw them on the floor!

I looked on in horror, thinking I must surely be having a nightmare. This can't be happening! At the same time, June's husband, a tall former policeman, came marching down the aisle to the chancel. He and another usher picked up two protesters, lifted them high over their heads--as in a ballet--and carried them out of the chancel.

Meanwhile, ushers escorted all the other protesters out of the church (all in quietness...) and George Davis resumed his "preacher stance" and began his sermon with no mention of what had just happened.

(Editor's note: Lon is pictured on Page 6 at the console at First Baptist Church, where he has served as music director since 2000.)

Now it's your turn...

What is the weirdest...scariest...funniest... thing that has happened to you as an organist? Got a wacky wedding tale? We'd like to share some of your stories in our newsletter. Email them to pathenry33@gmail.com. Please include a photo.

COMMUNITY ORGAN EVENTS

Sunday, July 4, 6 pm: Andrew Vu, the assistant director of music of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, will perform an organ recital. A carillon recital by Robert Grogan will precede the organ recital at 5:30.

Wednesday, July 7, 12:40 pm: Peter Bayer of the University of Toronto will play a recital at St. Matthew's Cathedral, 1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW. Masks and social-distancing will be observed. Also to be [live-streamed](#). For more information, visit the Cathedral [website](#). Donations accepted but not required.

Sunday, July 11, 6 pm: Leo Abbot of Boston will play a recital at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A carillon recital by Robert Grogan will precede the organ recital at 5:30.

Tuesday, July 13, 12:10 pm: Church of the Epiphany posts a performance by organist Jinsun Cho on its [Youtube channel](#). She will play Toccata, Adagio and Fugue in C Major (BWV 564) by J. S. Bach and Sonata on the 94th Psalm by Julius Reubke.

Sunday, July 18, 6 pm: Virgil Barkauskas of Melville, NY, will play a recital at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A carillon recital by Robert Grogan will precede the organ recital at 5:30.

Sunday, July 25, 6 pm: Lisa Mitchell of Reston, Va., will play a recital at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A carillon recital by Robert Grogan will precede the organ recital at 5:30.

Tuesday, July 27: Church of the Epiphany posts a performance by organist Mickey Thomas Terry of the Howard University faculty on its [Youtube channel](#). He will play works by Bach, Mozart, Liszt and two African-American composers, Mark Fax and Thomas Kerr.

Sunday, Aug. 1, 3:30 pm: Stefan Donner of Vienna, Austria, will play a recital at St. Matthew's Cathedral, 1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW. Tentative program to include J. S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in E Flat Major (BWV 552), César Franck's Fantasia in C Major, and Maurice Duruflé's Suite pour orgue, op. 5 Prélude, Sicilienne and Toccata. Masks and social-distancing will be observed. Also to be [livestreamed](#). For more information, visit the Cathedral [website](#).

Sunday, Aug. 1, 6 pm: Benjamin LaPrairie, associate director of music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, will play a recital. A carillon recital by Robert Grogan will precede the organ recital at 5:30.

Sunday, Aug. 8, 6 pm: Jonathan Embry of Helena, MT, will play a recital at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A carillon recital by Robert Grogan will precede the organ recital at 5:30.

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Sunday, Aug. 15, 6 pm: Charles Higgs of Milton, GA, will play a recital at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. A carillon recital by Robert Grogan will precede the organ recital at 5:30.

Tuesday, Aug. 17: Church of the Epiphany posts a performance by organist John Walthausen, First Presbyterian Church of Germantown, PA, on its [Youtube channel](#). He will play Fantasy in F minor by Mozart, Four Sketches by Schumann, and Fantasy and Fugue in B Flat Major by Alexandre Boely.

Sunday, Aug. 22, 6 pm: Peter Latona, director of music at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, will play a recital. A carillon recital by Robert Grogan will precede the organ recital at 5:30.

Members are encouraged to submit recitals and concerts to dcagochapter@gmail.com for public listing on the DC AGO website as well as in the newsletter.

Seeking handbells

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in College Park is looking for two more octaves of Malmark Handbells, the 4th and 5th octaves (lowest and highest). If your parish/organization is no longer using your handbells, we would love to make music with them, either by donation or purchase. Please contact David Houston at music@saeccp.org, and thank you.



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27th Bach Festival at Grace Church, Georgetown (Virtual)

This month (July) Grace Church, Georgetown will host its first Virtual Bach Festival on its website, www.gracedc.org. The concerts will be available for future viewings on the website after the initial launches.

Saturday, July 17 at 7:30 pm - Dr. Francine Maté, Grace Church organist/choirmaster and director of the Bach Festival, performs works by J.S. Bach, Nicolaus Bruhns and Dietrich Buxtehude on the Grace Church A. David Moore organ. The program concludes with Bach's Toccata and Fugue in D minor, BWV 565.

Sunday, July 18 at 1:30 pm - Organist Dr. Michał Szoskak plays works by J.S. Bach and Dietrich Buxtehude on various organs in Europe including Saint-Eustache, Paris, France, and Legnica, Poland.

Friday, July 23 at 7:30 pm - Organist Salvatore Pronesti presents a program of his improvisations titled "An Italian Concert Organist/Organ Builder from Leipzig to Atlantic City: Improvisations from Both Sides of the Pond."

Saturday, July 24 at 7:30 pm - Shaughn Dowd and Martha Molinaro, flutes; Erika Sato, violin; Grace Molinaro, cello; and Larry Molinaro, harpsichord, perform a program of trio sonatas by Quantz and J.S. Bach as well as Bach's sublime Sonata in E minor, BWV 1034 for flute and continuo.

Sunday, July 25 at 1:30 pm - Organist Michael Koenig performs an all-J.S. Bach recital on the American organ built by Richards, Fowkes, & Co. at St. George's Hannover Square, London, England.

Friday, July 30 at 7:30 pm - Soo Young Chrisfield, soprano; Regino Madrid, violin; Fatma Daglar, oboe d'amore; Charlie Powers, cello; and Larry Molinaro, harpsichord, perform movements from the Bach cantata BWV 210. Plus organ music performed by Larry Molinaro on the Grace Church A. David Moore Organ.

The Festival concerts are free. However, donations will be gratefully accepted through www.gracedc.org or by check. Please make your check payable to Grace Church and include "2021 Bach Festival" on your check memo line. Mail your donation to Grace Episcopal Church, 1041 Wisconsin Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20007.

Please watch the website for further details, or contact Bach Festival Director Francine Maté at bach@gracedc.org.



The AGO has declared 2021-2022 to be the Year of the Young Organist. One-year free Guild membership is being offered to all current, lapsed and new members under the age of 30. Events and new initiatives are being scheduled throughout the year. Programs will include master classes and webinars on a wide variety of topics including organ maintenance, insurance, retirement and health care, conducting, video recording and vocal pedagogy. For more information, go to www.agohq.org/free-membership/.

Pipe organ parts word search

P B L O W E R P D S M L W K E Y S
 X V Q W C W N K E Y B O A R D Z X
 V N D S A I P B C J H N L Y F V P
 Y L I T B N E F D M D B E N C H Z
 I P V O E D D T T K G R E A T Q G
 R A I P L C A T O E S T U D S E Z
 E I S T L H L Q E S M A N U A L C
 S L I A O E S M J C O U P L E R S
 E L O B W S W E L L A G S D P I V
 R R N L S T P I P E S H L A A E G
 V A A P K E Y C H E E K S H R P X
 O N O I A S T O P S L I D E R S M
 I K S W E L L P E D A L A A Q F Y
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 N Z U X C G K R E S O N A T O R K
 X A W E Y C O N S O L E C X W S A

Couplers Resonator Keyboard Bench Stop tab Stop knob
 Crescendo pedal Key cheeks Great Swell Division Rank
 Toe studs Pistons Swell pedal Reservoir Wind chest Stops
 Bellows Blower Keys Pipes Console Manual Pedals
 Sliders

Answers on Page 15

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Please advise the web administrator at pathenry33@gmail.com if any position has been filled.

District of Columbia

Director of music

Christ Lutheran Church. Half-time. Von Beckerath tracker organ. One Sunday service. Adult and children's choirs. Apply by Aug. 1. Send a cover letter, a short description of your philosophy of music in worship, and a resume of your educational and work experience to clcmusicdirectorsearch@gmail.com.

Accompanist

St. Albans School. Part-time. Accompany choral rehearsals and performances. For details, click [here](#).

Associate director of music: Holy Trinity Catholic Church. Create and direct a children's ensemble, direct an adult contemporary ensemble, accompany various Sunday liturgies. For details, click [here](#).

Full-time Catholic music director: Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling. Saturday worship service, Sunday worship service and two rehearsals per week. For more information, click [here](#) or call 707-765-3969.

Maryland

Organist/pianist: University United Methodist Church, College Park. \$15,000 yearly. Choir rehearsals Thursday evening, Sunday service 10 am-noon. For more information, click [here](#).

Organist/pianist: Holy Cross Catholic Church, Garrett Park. Accompany the adult choir, children's choir, solo singers and instrumentalists. Apply by June 30. For more information, click [here](#).

Virginia

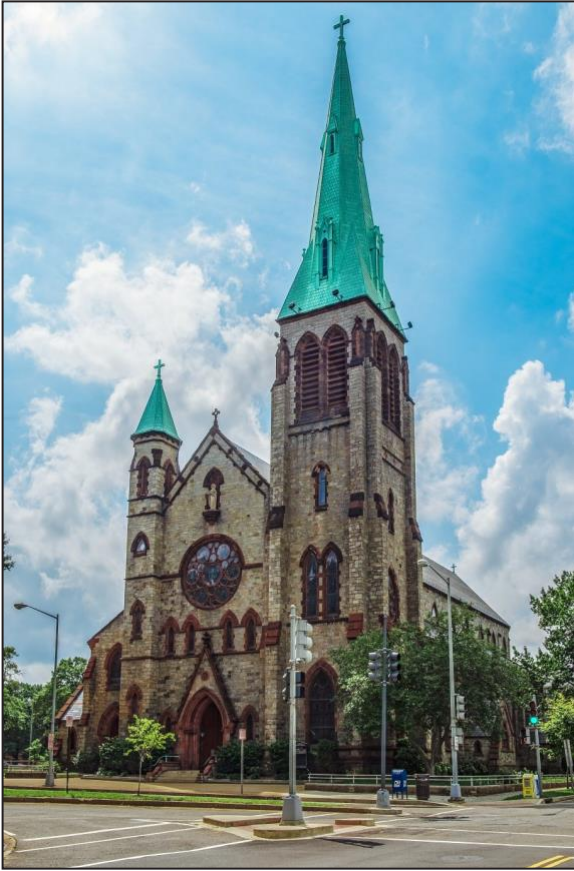
Full-time director of music/organist: St. Luke Catholic Church, McLean. Three weekend Masses; adult, contemporary and women's choirs. For details, click [here](#) and [here](#).

Organist: Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Alexandria. One Sunday service. About 12 hours per week. Casavant pipe organ of 25 stops and 30 ranks. For details, click [here](#).

Organist: St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Alexandria. One Sunday service, Thursday choir rehearsal. Casavant organ. For more information, click [here](#).

Minister of music: Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Reston. Provide organ/piano music and direct adult and handbell choirs beginning Sept. 1. One Sunday service at 10 am. Two-manual Rodgers digital organ. About 12-15 hours per week. For details, click [here](#).

Organist/pianist: Arlington Metaphysical Chapel. \$75 per day. Apply [here](#).



SAINT DOMINIC CATHOLIC CHURCH WASHINGTON, DC

“The Island”, as it was often called in the nineteenth century, consisted of the area now known as Southwest Washington. Members of the Order of Preachers— the Dominicans— have stood witness in this historic part of the District of Columbia for over 160 years. The present structure, designed by noted New York City-based architect Patrick Keely, was completed in 1875. Just a decade later, in 1885, a fire destroyed the church’s interior, which was quickly restored. At the same time, the church was adorned with a grand new organ.



We at Di Gennaro-Hart are pleased to announce that we have been commissioned by the Archdiocese of Washington to undertake a major restoration of the Hilborne L. Roosevelt instrument. Cousins to Teddy, Hilborne and his brother, Frank Roosevelt, were among the very finest nineteenth century American organ builders.

The project will include the replacement of the 1929 English style console with an “American terraced” console built according to current AGO standards. The console will offer a strong nod to the Roosevelts, particularly through the use of the engraving font that was commissioned by their firm. The present solid state control systems will be replaced with a 100 channel capture system and a new switching system with performance recorder. The reeds will be restored, numerous repairs will be completed, and the entire instrument will be thoroughly cleaned. A powerful Tuba stop, constructed by a shop that traces its roots to the Roosevelt firm, will be added.

Father Jordan Turano, OP, *Pastor*
JC Cantrell, *Music Director and Worship Coordinator*



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NEW MEMBERS

Evan Bursch, Alexander J. Bean, William R. Lucardi, Michael Bauer, Donna Kay Whited and Patrick Coyle recently joined our chapter. Welcome to all, as well as returning member Jason Abel.

LIFE MEMBERS

Blanche Curfman

Nancy Dodge

Robert Grogan

Eileen Guenther

Irv Lawless

Kenneth Lowenberg

Albert Russell

Donald Sutherland

David Hearne (deceased)

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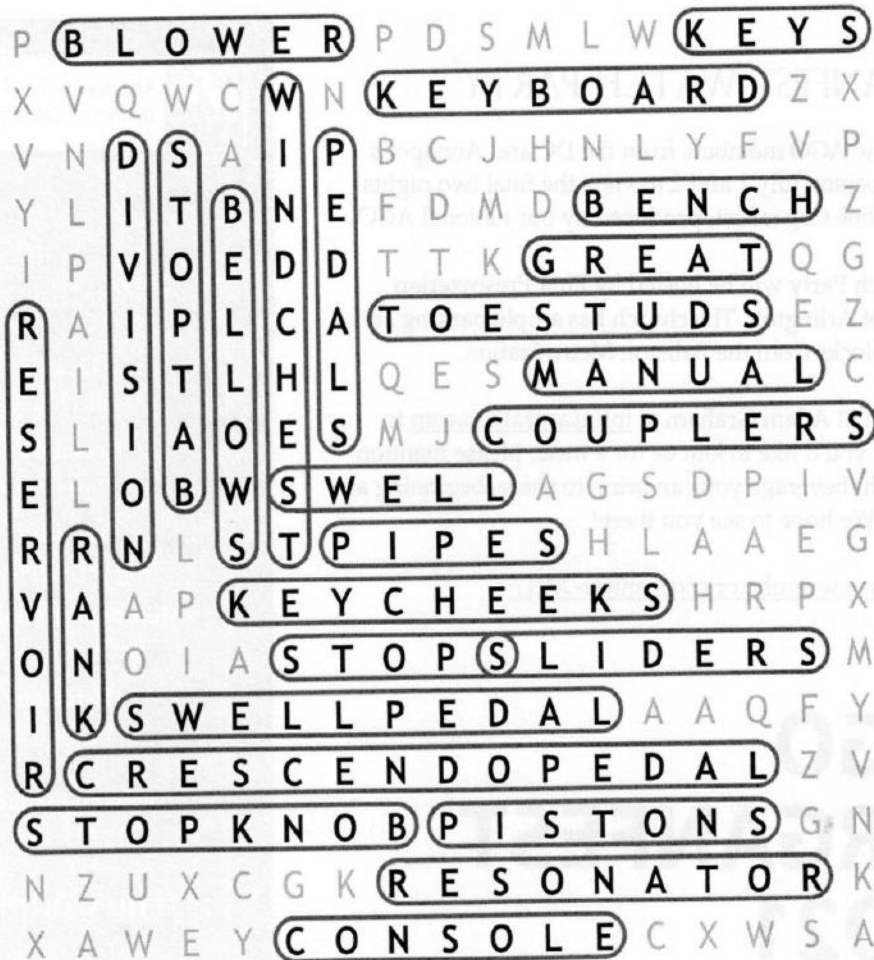
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THE COUPLER

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Pipe organ parts word search



Couplers Resonator Keyboard Bench Stop tab Stop knob

Crescendo pedal Key cheeks Great Swell Division Rank

Toe studs Pistons Swell pedal Reservoir Wind chest Stops

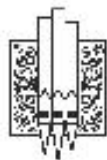
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