

# THE COUPLER

## THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



Dear DC AGO members,

"I always knew that deep down in every human heart, there is mercy and generosity. No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite. Even in the grimmest times in prison, when my comrades and I were pushed to our limits, I would see a glimmer of humanity in one of the guards, perhaps just for a second, but it was enough to reassure me and keep me going. Man's goodness is a flame that can be hidden but never extinguished."

— Nelson Mandela, "Long Walk to Freedom"

This beautiful quote came to mind recently as I reflected on all that is transpiring in the world around us. There is not much I need to add to it except to encourage us all to embrace the gift that we have as musicians and artists to uplift and inspire our communities and congregations. Particularly as we barrel into the holiday season, we will have  
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## Save the date

Our chapter is planning an open console night Monday, Nov. 6 from 7 to 8 pm on the [Lively-Fulcher organ](#) at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 619 10<sup>th</sup> St. NW.

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## CHAPTER NEWS



### Open console at St. Patrick's on Monday

Our chapter is planning an open console night Monday, Nov. 6 from 7 to 8 pm on the [Lively-Fulcher organ](#) at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 619 10<sup>th</sup> St. NW, with socializing afterward.

The organ was built in 1994. The organ case, facade pipes and some of the interior pipework are from the 1895 Carl Barckhoff organ, rebuilt in 1932. The design is essentially a very complete two-manual scheme, with a third manual for added possibilities.

Join us!

-----Paid advertisement-----

### Organ and bassoon concert Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 pm Georgetown Lutheran Church

Organist Stephen Ackert continues his recital series "The Well-tempered Clavier as Bach Might Have Heard It" with guest bassoonist Anna Marsh. Music by Bach, J.K.F. Fischer, Johann Friedrich Fasch and Henrich Wilhelm Stolze on the Baroque-temperament Howell organ at Georgetown Lutheran NW.



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District of Columbia Chapter

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### THE COUPLER

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Send submissions to  
[dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com).

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## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT ON LAURA HENDERSON

*How did you become interested in the organ?*

I grew up making music in church -- singing, flute, handbells -- and took piano lessons in my teenage years. In college, I needed a way to fulfill a performing arts requirement but wasn't particularly interested in continuing any of my previous musical studies.



Several folks who had heard me play in church encouraged me to take organ lessons, just to see if I enjoyed it. I was hooked from the first lesson!

*What is your educational and professional background?*

I have a BA in French and music from The College of William and Mary and an MA from Georgetown University in music, culture and religion. Both of my theses focused on the French organ tradition -- my undergraduate thesis studied the cultural history of pipe

organs in Paris during the Enlightenment, and my graduate thesis examined Alexandre Guilmant's approach to organ pedagogy and practice. Professionally, I spent 12 years at Georgetown University, first in fundraising, then as a postgraduate fellowships adviser, and finally as the assistant director of music and programs in Catholic ministry. I'm currently raising my two young children and working as a substitute organist.

*What are the organ's biggest challenges and joys for you?*

My biggest challenge by far is finding a time and place to practice regularly. I'm so jealous of musicians who can own and easily transport their own instruments! For now, I have my piano and a few generous churches where I can practice when our schedules match, which I'm so thankful for. My biggest joy is the role the organ can play in meaningful moments in a person's life. By supporting a congregation in song, holding prayerful space during a funeral, or announcing a newly married couple, the organ helps to create memories and build communities. It can enhance times that connect us to our neighbors and our values. Of course, any musical instrument can do this, but in my (admittedly biased) opinion the organ does this best, and I find great joy in bringing this intent to my work as an organist.

*Why are you an AGO member?*

The AGO has been a great way for me to grow as an organist, and to be connected to other organists in the DC area. I enjoy getting the monthly encouragement (in the form of TAO) to sit down and read about this craft, and was glad to have the extra push to practice during COVID by sitting for the Service-Playing Exam. I'm studying for the CAGO this fall -- if anyone's interested in taking the CAGO and is looking for an

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**LAURA AT THE 2022 COLONIAL CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE AT OLD PRESBYTERIAN MEETING HOUSE IN ALEXANDRIA, WHERE SHE WAS A LONG-TERM SUBSTITUTE. "THE PASTOR'S WIFE MADE ME A SKIRT THAT SPLIT DOWN THE FRONT SO THAT I COULD WEAR PANTS UNDERNEATH AND PLAY COMFORTABLY. IT WAS A LOT OF FUN."**

who choose not to have full-time music jobs) to consider subbing once in a while.

*What is your most memorable moment on the organ bench?*

During my first Lessons and Carols at Georgetown, I looked down from the organ loft and saw that my father, boyfriend (now my husband) and boyfriend's parents were all sitting together. My dad and future in-laws hadn't met before that evening. I knew that they were all going to be in attendance but had imagined that I would introduce them after the service. I remember turning to my colleague and saying, "Well, I hope that is going well!" It was, and our parents are now very close. I still smile remembering that.

*Laura can be reached at [lfwhenderson@gmail.com](mailto:lfwhenderson@gmail.com).*

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accountability partner, I'd be happy to connect.

*What do you like to do when you are not on the organ bench?*

I enjoy taking walks with my family on the nature trail close to our house and finding ways to maximize our very small living space (we're not in an official Tiny House, but it's close). I volunteer as a mentor to Georgetown students applying for the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. I also enjoy traveling; our family schedule is very flexible right now, which gives us the opportunity to travel easily during the week. Our favorite places to go as a family are Williamsburg, VA, and my dad's house in Roanoke, VA.

*What else would you like members to know about you?*

I don't have a regular Sunday engagement, so if you are in need, please reach out! This isn't intended as an ad -- I just know it's tough to find a sub, and I want you to be able to take a break when you need it.

I've also started an Instagram account (@thesubstituteorganist) with the intent of demystifying the role of a substitute organist and encouraging others (especially young organists

# St. Matthew's Lutheran Church

*Presents*

## An Organ Dedication Recital



*Featuring*

### Carol Feather-Martin

Director of Music and Arts and Organist  
Trinity Presbyterian Church, Arlington, VA



*Program*

- Prelude and Fugue in Eb Major - J. S. Bach*
- Partita on HYFRYDOL - Daniel E. Gawthrop*
- Oceanic Vision - Aaron David Miller*
- Offering of Love - H. Leslie Adams*
- Finale, Op. 78 - Rachel Laurin*

\*\*\*

*Reception to Follow*

# November 19, 2023 4 pm

12351 All Saints Place, Woodbridge, VA

*Free Admission - Donations Accepted*

Rev. Stephen Bohannon, Pastor  
Kathy Lundgren, Music Director  
Melvin Goodwyn, Organist



**St. Matthew's**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

## ORGAN EVENTS

**Friday, Nov. 3, 12:15 pm:** Organist David H. Brock (Zephyr Springs, NV) returns home to Washington to perform works by Felix Mendelssohn, Scott Joplin and J. S. Bach. National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle NW.

**Monday, Nov. 6, 7 pm:** DC Chapter open console night on the Lively-Fulcher organ at St. Patrick's Catholic Church, 619 10th St. NW, with socializing afterward

**Tuesday, Nov. 7, 12:10 pm:** The Washington Bach Consort presents *Du aber Daniel, geh hin*, BWV 4:17, by Georg Philipp Telemann. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 pm:** Organist Stephen Ackert continues his recital series "The Well-tempered Clavier as Bach Might Have Heard It" with guest bassoonist Anna Marsh. Music by Bach, J.K.F. Fischer, Johann Friedrich Fasch and Henrich Wilhelm Stolze. Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. NW. Free-will offering will benefit the church's music fund.

**Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 pm:** Paul Griffin, organist at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, plays a recital at the monastery, 1400 Quincy St. NE.

**Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 pm:** Jan Kraybill, DMA, FAGO, plays the second concert in the Dr. Lawrence P. Schreiber Recital Series in celebration of Dr. Schreiber's 90th birthday. First Baptist Church, 1328 16th St. NW.

**Friday, Nov. 17, 12:15 pm:** Organist Phillip R. Lamb (Morristown, NJ) presents music for the autumn season, including works of Robert Hebble, César Franck, J. S. Bach, Virgil Fox and Leo Sowerby. National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle NW.

**Sunday, Nov. 19, 4 pm:** Carol Feather-Martin, director of music and arts at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Arlington, performs an organ dedication recital at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, 12351 All Saints Place, Woodbridge. The program will include music by J.S. Bach, Daniel Gawthrop, Aaron David Miller, H. Leslie Adams and Rachel Laurin. A reception will follow.

**Tuesday, Nov. 28, 12:10 pm:** Organist Giorgio Revelli, director of music at St. Maurice Cathedral, Imperia, Italy, performs at Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Tuesday, Dec. 5, 12:10 pm:** The Washington Bach Consort presents *Weihnachts-Historie*, BWV 435, by Heinrich Schütz. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

*There are no Music at Midday concerts at National City Christian Church on Nov. 10 (Veterans Day observed) or Nov. 24 (Thanksgiving week).*

## JOB OPENINGS

### District of Columbia

**Church musician for fourth and fifth Sundays:** St. John CME Church. \$400 per week. Click [here](#).

**Adjunct professor of music/applied organ:** University of the District of Columbia. \$50 per contract hour. Click [here](#).

**Music professor:** Catholic University seeks a choral conductor to serve as a tenure-track professor and head the Sacred Music area in the Department of Music Performance. Click [here](#).

**Music director and organist:** St. Stephen and the Incarnation Church. Part-time. Interim with possibility to become permanent. Click [here](#).

### Maryland

**Interim organist:** Village at Rockville. Part-time. \$300 per service. [Click here](#).

**Music director:** Channing Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, Ellicott City. Part-time. \$9,800 to 10,800 for a 10-month period. [Click here](#).

**Temporary director of music ministries:** Bradley Hills Church, Bethesda. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

**Organist and choir director:** Friendship United Methodist Church, Friendship, MD. One or two positions. Two-manual Gebruder Oberlinger pipe organ built in 2006. Contact the Rev. Rudy White at [pastor@friendshipmethodist.org](mailto:pastor@friendshipmethodist.org).

**Director of music:** Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, College Park. Full-time. From \$50,000 annually. Click [here](#).

**Organist/pianist:** Neelsville Presbyterian Church, Germantown. \$20-30 per hour. Click [here](#).

**Music director:** First Baptist Church of Suitland, District Heights. Part-time. \$18,000-20,000 annually. Click [here](#).

### Virginia

**Organist:** Fredericksburg United Methodist Church. Hybrid organ by R.A. Colby Organs Inc. 2010, 3 manuals, 71 ranks. Part-time. \$25,000-30,000. Send resume and recording (video preferred) to [davidkirven@fumcva.org](mailto:davidkirven@fumcva.org).

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## KRAYBILL TO PLAY SECOND IN SCHREIBER RECITAL SERIES

The First Baptist Church of Washington will present a concert by Grammy-nominated organist Jan Kraybill at 4 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 12, in the church sanctuary at 1328 16th St. NW. The recital is the second in a series celebrating the legacy and 90th birthday of longtime D.C. organist Lawrence P. "Lon" Schreiber.

At First Baptist, Dr. Schreiber oversaw the installation of an organ custom-built by the Austin Organ Company of Hartford, CT. The organ contains more than 6,000 pipes and trumpets in four chambers. The console features 229 stops and five manuals.

Kraybill is based in Kansas City. She has been a featured artist and presenter at regional and national conventions of the American Guild of Organists, the Hymn Society in the U.S. and Canada, the American Choral Directors Association and other groups.



The Nov. 12 program includes Intermezzo from Symphony No. 6 for Organ by Charles-Marie Widor; Prelude and Fugue in G Major by Johann Sebastian Bach; Chaconne from First Suite for Military Band, Op. 28, No. 1 by Gustav Holst; Finlandia by Jean Sibelius; Cantabile from Organ Symphony No. 1 in B minor by Elfrida Andréé; King of Kings by Ralph Simpson; and Prelude and Fugue in B Major, Op. 7, No. 1 by Marcel Dupré.

### *Job openings from Page 7*

#### Virginia

**Music director/choir director/organist:** Bethany Lutheran Church, Alexandria. \$25,000-36,000 per year. Click [here](#) for details from agohq.org.

**Music director:** Friendship United Methodist Church, Falls Church. Part-time. Click [here](#).

**Director of music ministry:** Centreville United Methodist Church. Full-time. \$45,000 - 60,000 annually. Applications accepted through Nov 1st. Click [here](#).

**Ceremonial organist:** Fort Myer. Part-time. Click [here](#).

**Organist:** Lord of Life Lutheran Church, Fairfax. One 9:30 am Sunday service per month. \$200 per service. Send inquiries to [rmartin@lordoflifeva.org](mailto:rmartin@lordoflifeva.org).



## Dean's message

*From Page One*

ample opportunity to provide hope and cheer through the art that we share. Let us not take these moments for granted, rather earnestly seek to spread love and joy as much and as often as we can.

We have many local concerts and performances happening this month, as always in this vibrant region, and we hope you will support each other by your presence and your time. We also hope you can join us for organ exploration and fellowship at our upcoming open console events.

Please feel free to make liberal use of our chapter email, [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com), sharing your insights, suggestions and events as we look to find ways to serve our bustling DC community.

With gratitude,

Paul Byssainthe, Jr.



## New member

We welcome new member Dr. HyeSung Hwang, DMA.

## THE COUPLER

Promote your event, product or cause with an advertisement in The Coupler, the official publication of the District of Columbia Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. Rates: full page (4 issues), \$100; half-page (4 issues), \$50; quarter page (4 issues), \$25. Email advertising requests to [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com) with "The Coupler" in the subject field. Make checks payable to DC Chapter, American Guild of Organists and send them to DC AGO, c/o Robert Church, 3562 13th St NW, Washington, DC 20010.

## LIFE MEMBERS

Blanche Curfman

Nancy Dodge

Robert Grogan

Eileen Guenther

Irv Lawless

Kenneth Lowenberg

Donald Sutherland

David Hearn (deceased)

Albert Russell (deceased)



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[info@akustx.com](mailto:info@akustx.com)



## 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*

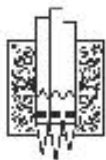


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