

# THE COUPLER

## THE DEAN'S MESSAGE



### Your commitment matters

If you're reading this, then perhaps you usually have read this column over the past 18 months, and once again, if I've done my job in past writings, you're hoping for an essay that provides a bit of inspiration.

Well, this time I am asking you to summon memories of inspiring moments in your vocational work and respond to serve on the DC Chapter AGO board in the coming year.

Our election in May/June for a two-year term will be upon us very soon. If you have skills in planning programs, leading a concert series, handling publicity, paying attention to deadlines and/or managing a project like tracking down web information and keeping it safe, please respond by sending an email to [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com).

It is your turn to step up and help the DC Chapter thrive into a new era.

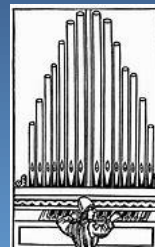
*Continued on Page 9*

## MARCH 2022

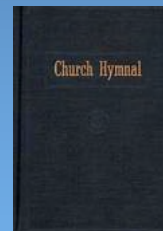
### IN THIS ISSUE



The Member Spotlight shines on Nathan Ringkamp, organist at St. Dominic Church in SW DC. 5



Get out this month to hear an impressive array of organists performing in our area. 7



A variety of hymnals are available free to chapter members. Consider donating your music too. 10



Check out job opportunities in the DC/MD/VA area. 11

## Mark Your Calendar

Our next Studio 32 program on March 28 will feature the organ at St. Alban's School chapel. Afterward we will gather for refreshments at Cactus Cantina.

See Page 3.

## CHAPTER NEWS

## Seeking new board members



**American Guild of Organists  
District of Columbia Chapter**

Would you be willing to serve a two-year term, 2022-2024, on our chapter's board? It is a

great way to meet fellow organists and promote your passion for music. Meetings are monthly with an option to participate via Zoom. To volunteer, send an email to [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com). A member of our nominating committee will be in touch.

## Check out our website

For the latest news on recitals, job openings, substitutes and teachers, go to our chapter website, [dcago.org](http://dcago.org). It is regularly updated.

## Pipe Organ Encounter Plus



Pennsylvania's Lehigh Valley chapter is planning a Pipe Organ Encounter Plus (POE+) June 12-17 for keyboard players 19 or older who are interested in improving their organ skills.

Housing and meals will be on the campus of Muhlenberg College in Allentown, PA. This is the only 2022 POE program planned for the mid-Atlantic region.

For more information, go to [poePlusBrochureLVAGO2022.pdf](#). And please help spread the word.

## Hymn Society Annual Conference in DC

The Hymn Society will celebrate its centennial year with an international conference to be held July 17-21 in Washington, DC, on the campus of Catholic University.

The theme is "Sing the World God Imagines."

For more information, including a Youtube video previewing the conference, go to [The Hymn Society](#) website.



**American Guild of Organists  
District of Columbia Chapter**

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## THE COUPLER

A monthly newsletter published by the DC chapter of the American Guild of Organists.

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

## MORE CHAPTER NEWS

Studio 32, a monthly chapter program, features an informal open console session followed by drinks at a nearby watering hole. Come meet your fellow organists! No reservations needed.

Each console is open to all to experience as they desire – looking; playing a hymn, composition or improvisation; or just listening. Those wishing to play should bring appropriate footwear.

## AGO National Convention: The Well-Tempered Future



Seattle, Washington | July 3-7, 2022

Go to [AGO Seattle 2022](#) for more information and registration.

Booking your flight to Seattle? Receive a 5% discount from Alaska Airlines for AGO convention travel and fly round-trip from [cities](#) across the U.S. and Canada. [Book online](#) with the exclusive AGO convention discount code **ECMD864**. Questions? Email [info@agoseattle2022.com](mailto:info@agoseattle2022.com).

## Concerts to feature Well-tempered Clavier in Baroque temperament

Initial concert Sunday, March 20 at 4 pm

Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. NW (free street parking on Sundays)

Local organist Stephen Ackert is planning a series of concerts that offer the chance to hear Bach's Well-tempered Clavier in its 300<sup>th</sup> birthday year as the composer himself might have heard it. The concerts will feature the historically tempered Richard Howell organ at Georgetown Lutheran Church.

According to Ackert: "When I shared with colleagues my plan to put together a series of concerts around Bach's Well-tempered Clavier at Georgetown Lutheran Church, they questioned my choice of venue. After all, the Howell organ is very small – only 11 stops, and nine of them are on one manual. What's more, it's tuned to an 18th-century temperament. 'How will you manage repertoire that includes pieces in keys with five, six, or even seven flats or sharps?' they asked. 'Washington has many organs with more plentiful stoplists and equal-tempered tuning. Wouldn't one of these be a better choice?'



"My answer is that the Howell organ presents contrapuntal music with remarkable clarity, and its limitations are not limitations at all when transcribing works that Bach conceived for the clavichord or the harpsichord.

"Moreover, Bach, when using the term 'well-tempered,' was not referring to equal temperament, but to one of the several methods of tuning that were relatively new at his time. Those Baroque temperaments retained the sweetness of near-natural tuning in keys with three or fewer sharps or flats, while compromising keys like D-flat major or F-sharp major just enough that their out-of-tuneness would be noticeable only to the trained ear.

"Since the textures in the WTC are mostly contrapuntal, the anomalies of the tuning are less noticeable than they would be in hymns, for example. What all of the listeners will hear, and hopefully enjoy, is changes in character and color as the program moves through various keys."

The March 20 program will include the preludes and fugues in B-flat major, B-flat minor and G minor from the WTC Book I and the Prelude and Fugue in B-flat major from Book II, as well as William Boyce's Symphony No.1 in B-flat major.

Donations will benefit the Afghan Ally resettlement program of Lutheran Social Services. If you would like to reserve your seat in advance, go to [glconline.net/events](http://glconline.net/events) or <https://eventbrite.com/e/the-well-tempered-clavier-benefit-concert-tickets-251440724077>.

## MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### **Nathan Ringkamp**

*Each month The Coupler focuses on one of our chapter members. If you would like to be featured in a future Member Spotlight, send an email to [dcagochapter@gmail.com](mailto:dcagochapter@gmail.com).*

*What got you interested in the organ?*

I grew up in the small town of Hollidaysburg, PA, right outside the city of Altoona. I would try to convince my parents to attend Mass at the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament whenever I could. My home parish didn't have an organ until about 2011 when a three-manual Allen was installed, while the Cathedral has a monumental 1931 G. F. Steinmeyer pipe organ.



My uncle, Robert Long, is an organist/choral conductor who used to be music director at the Cathedral in Altoona and St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. He and Diane Bish, who filmed one of her episodes of "The Joy of Music" on the Steinmeyer, were my two earliest influences. I think it is safe to say my parents and I have that episode engraved in our minds from my endless playing of that VHS tape.

*What is your educational/professional background?*

After playing piano for roughly 12 years and cello and alto saxophone in middle and high school, I began organ lessons in the summer of 2019 after my senior year of high school. I have accompanied on piano my home church congregation, church choir, middle and high school choirs, high school orchestra and jazz band, and Academy of Sacred Music over the span of seven years.

I am a junior at the Catholic University of America pursuing a bachelor of music degree in organ performance. I primarily study with Benjamin LaPrairie with a focus on repertoire, technique, accompaniment and organ fundamentals. I am also studying with Ronald Stolk with a focus on improvisation, figured bass, hymn transposition and sight reading. Additionally, I am taking conducting lessons with Maestro Murry Sidlin.

*Continued on Page 6*

*From Page 5*

I am organist at St. Dominic Church in Southwest D.C. where I have been helping Michael Hart with the renovation of the 1885 H.L. Roosevelt pipe organ. I have also worked with Michael around the DMV area on other tuning and restoration projects. I aid Campus Ministry at CUA by accompanying the 4 pm Sunday Mass in the Crypt Church of the Basilica of the National Shrine.

*What are your biggest challenges and joys in playing?*

The biggest challenges I face are building up my body of repertoire and learning to work around/with a perfectionist mind-set. I thoroughly enjoy the technicality and thematic material in Bach, the emotional and expressive French Romantic works, and the exploratory modern pieces that represent the colors of the organ in the most vibrant way.

Regarding the instrument itself, I enjoy the variety and uniqueness of each instrument. Each organ has great qualities and possibly some flaws which make them individually special and relatable. Also, the dynamic and tonal range mixed with the endless combinations create a joyous experience that is anything but complacent.

*Why are you in the AGO?*

I wanted to join an organization of people who are just as passionate about the organ as I am. A small town in the middle of rural PA doesn't necessarily foster the type of musical community a metropolis like DC does. This excites me with the number of potential colleagues to meet and collaborate with. I look forward to making new and exciting connections with fellow organists and those who associate themselves in any way with the instrument in this organization. I hope to become more active as opportunities allow.

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

What do you mean?! I never leave it! (I wish that had more truth to it.) I enjoy cycling, kayaking, photography, traveling to new destinations, experiencing new instruments, going to performing arts concerts and spending time with family and friends.

***Patrick J. Summers, M.S.***

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## ORGAN RECITALS

**Tuesday, March 1, 12:10 pm:** Benjamin LaPrairie plays J.S. Bach's Prelude and Fugue in B minor, followed by a cantata performed by the Washington Bach Consort. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Sunday, March 6, 5 pm:** Choral Evensong with prelude recital by Samantha Scheff. Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

**Tuesday, March 8, 7:30 pm:** Todd Wilson in recital on the newly installed Harrison and Harrison organ at Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria. Co-sponsored by the AGO Northern Virginia chapter.

**Saturday, March 12, 6 pm:** The Potomac AGO chapter hosts "The Hunchback of Notre Dame" at Damascus United Methodist Church. Featured artists include Rasaan Bourke, organist, and Thomas Giles, horn.

**Sunday, March 13, 4 pm:** David Houston, dean of the DC AGO chapter and director of music at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, College Park, plays a recital at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, 1400 Quincy St. NE.

**Sunday, March 13, 4 pm:** Inaugural Annandale Bach Birthday Marathon. Local organists Jinsun Cho, Julie Huang Tucker, Samantha Scheff, Karl Robson and Adam Detzner will perform organ works by J. S. Bach at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike. A reception with German food and drink will follow at 6 pm, COVID permitting. Donations will be accepted to support the Muldoon Memorial Concert Series at St. Alban's.

**Wednesday, March 16, 12:40 pm:** Nancy Freitas Novelty of Southport, NC, plays a [recital](#) at St. Matthew's Cathedral at 1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW featuring music by Scheidemann, Buxtehude, Bohm, Bach, Mendelssohn.

**Sunday, March 20, 4 pm:** Organist Stephen Ackert performs selections from The Well-tempered Clavier of J. S. Bach at Georgetown Lutheran Church, 1556 Wisconsin Ave. NW. This is the first in a series of recitals marking the 300th anniversary of the WTC. Donations benefit the Afghan Ally resettlement program of Lutheran Social Services of the National Capital Area. Reserve your seat at [glconline.net/events](http://glconline.net/events). Free street parking on Sundays.

**Tuesday, March 22, 12:10 pm:** Organist Jinsun Cho, director of music at the Church of the Epiphany, plays a "Lenten Meditation" program at the church, 1317 G St. NW.

**Tuesday, March 29, 12:10 pm:** Organist Joseph Ripka, canon musician designate at St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral in Oklahoma City and winner of the Dublin International Organ Competition, *Continued on Page 8*

*From Page 7*

plays music by Vierne, Bach and Liszt. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Sunday, April 3, 4 pm:** Dr. Caroline Robinson will present a recital at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, 6800 Columbia Pike, Annandale. She is the associate choirmaster and organist at the Cathedral of St. Philip in Atlanta and won second prize in the 2018 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance. Donations will be accepted to support the Muldoon Concert Series at St. Alban's.

**Sunday, April 3, 5 pm:** Choral Evensong with prelude recital by Janet Yieh at Christ Church Episcopal, 118 N. Washington St., Alexandria.

**Tuesday, April 5, 12:10 pm:** Marvin Mills plays J.S. Bach's Fantasia and Fugue in C minor and Chorale Prelude on An wasserflüssen Babylon, followed by a cantata performed by the Washington Bach Consort. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Sunday, April 10, 4 pm:** Iris Lan of Washington, DC, plays a recital at the Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land, 1400 Quincy St. NE.

**Tuesday, April 26, 12:10 pm:** Steinway artist Sandro Russo will present a piano and organ double-bill program of The Four Scherzi by Chopin and Fantaisie et Fugue sur le nom de BACH by Liszt. Church of the Epiphany, 1317 G St. NW.

**Sunday, May 1, 3:30 pm:** Edward Alan Moore of Pittsburgh, PA, plays a recital at St. Matthew's Cathedral, 1725 Rhode Island Ave. NW.

## Music at Midday

Music at Midday organ concerts take place 12:15-1 pm each Friday at National City Christian Church, 5 Thomas Circle NW. The spring season's musicians hail from 10 U.S. states and three European countries. Social distancing and masks required. Free admission; donations accepted

**March 4:** Jason Farris (The Plains, VA) will perform a program of music to evoke the spirit of the Lenten season, including works of Dietrich Buxtehude, Johann Sebastian Bach, C. Hubert H. Parry and Clarence Dickinson.

**March 11:** Tyler Canonico (Harrisburg, PA) will present "An Afternoon of Spirituals," featuring arrangements by Joe Utterback, David Hurd, Calvin Taylor, Richard Warner and Carl Haywood.

**March 18:** Bryan Dunnewald (Philadelphia) will perform a program of works by Johann Sebastian Bach and Louis Vierne.

**March 25:** Samantha Scheff (Alexandria, VA) will present a program of varied works for organ by John Knowles Paine, Johann Casper Kerll, Francois Couperin, Edvard Grieg and Pamela Decker.



*Dean's column continued from Page One*



If you think that what we do has minimal value to the world at large, consider this:

This past weekend, my husband and I were in NYC to run some races in Central Park. On Saturday afternoon, I went off to visit with a long-time family friend whom I hadn't seen in 40 years. We had a wonderful time talking about family history and characters - such fun.

Meanwhile, husband was at the Strand Bookstore near Union Square and getting antsy for me to finish and join him again - but I was having so much fun talking that I didn't respond to his impatient texts. So he started walking.

He walked down Broadway, in the very cold wind, and came to Grace Church, where the doors were open and an organ recital would begin in five minutes. This man does not seek out organ music. He wanted to get warm instead of listen, and he had a new book to read. But ... he found himself noticing the lovely tunes that Patrick Allen was playing.

The program was a set of familiar and easily recognized classical favorites, perfect for a Saturday afternoon. I could not have asked for

more - a way for my husband to be entertained in a warm church by the sounds of a new and wonderful Taylor & Boody organ. How perfect!

Take a moment to consider how your organ music can make the lives of those around you more lovely and purposeful. Then consider how you can serve your local DC Chapter - and then let us know.

All the best to you,

David

## UPDATE ON OUR SCORE-SHARING PROJECT

Our chapter's effort to pair donated organ music with new owners has been a great success. If you have scores you no longer use, or would like to obtain one or more of the following hymnals donated by Irv Lawless, please send an email to [pathenry33@gmail.com](mailto:pathenry33@gmail.com). Free; donations appreciated.

RELIGION	TITLE	PUBLISHED	CONDITION
Baptist	New Baptist Hymnal	1926	Good
Baptist	Hymns for the Living Church	1980	Good
Baptist	Christian Worship	1941	Good
Baptist	Baptist Hymnal	1956	Good
Baptist	Baptist Standard Hymnal W/ Responsive Readings	1961	Good
Presbyterian	The Presbyterian Hymnal	1927	Good
Presbyterian	The Hymnal	1933	Good
Presbyterian	The Hymnbook	1955	Good
Presbyterian	Hymns III (Church Hymnal Series)	Not Listed	Good
Methodist	The Methodist Hymnal	1964-1966	Good
Methodist	The Methodist Hymnal	1932-1939	Good
Lutheran	Common Service Book with Hymnal	1917	Good
Lutheran	American Lutheran Hymnal (Black Cover)	1930	Fair/usable
Lutheran	American Lutheran Hymnal (Red Cover)	1930	Fair/usable
Lutheran	The Lutheran Hymnal	1941	Fair/usable
Lutheran	Songs of Praise	1935-1960	Good
Lutheran	Service Book and Hymnal	1958	Very Good
Lutheran	Hymns and Songs for Church Schools	1962	Very Good
Lutheran	The Lutheran Hymnal	1941	Good
Lutheran	Lutheran Book of Worship (green)	1998	Very Good
Lutheran	With One Voice	1995	Very Good
Jewish	Union Hymnal for Jewish Worship	1914	Usable
Jewish	Union Songster-Songs and Prayers for Jewish Youth	1960	Good
Ev. United B	The Hymnal	1957	Good
General	Armed Forces Hymnal	Post WW II	Good
General	The Hymnal - Army and Navy (labeled "Organ")	1941	Good
General	Song and Service Book for Ship and Field	1942	Good
General	The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration. Was introduced to public at Kennedy Center July 22, 1986	1986 KC edition	Good
General	Spiritual Hymnal (Church of Two Worlds)	1914-1951	Good
General	The Modern Hymnal – Hymns and Gospel Songs	1926	Usable
General	Hymnal for Christian Worship 1959	1959	Good
General	The Service Hymnal Compiled; For General Use	1955	Good
General	Services for Trial Use (Church Hymnal Corporation)	1971	Good
General	The Church Hymnal	!???	Rough
General	Christian Service Songs	1939	Good
General	The New Laudes Domini	1892	OK
Lutheran	Service Book and Hymnal	1958	Loose Cover
Presbyterian	The Hymnbook	1955	Good
Methodist	The Methodist Hymnal	1905	Good

# POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Please advise the web administrator at [pathenry33@gmail.com](mailto:pathenry33@gmail.com) if any position has been filled.

## District of Columbia

**Organist:** Fifth Church of Christ, Scientist. Weekly Wednesday evening service. Schantz pipe organ. \$155 per service. Click [here](#) for details from the agohq.org website. To apply, send a cover letter and resume to [vjstoddart@hotmail.com](mailto:vjstoddart@hotmail.com).

**Music coordinator:** Foundry United Methodist Church. Part-time, \$19-\$24 an hour. Administrative and managerial duties regarding the Chancel Choir, Jubalate, Treble Choir, Men's Choir and Lay Music Ministry. For details, click [here](#).

## Maryland

**Director of music ministries:** Cedar Lane Unitarian Universalist Church, Bethesda. Full-time. \$65,000 - \$75,000 per year. Position begins in August. For more information, go to the AGO jobs listings at [agohq.org](http://agohq.org). For the best chance of consideration, apply by April 10.

**Director of music and organist:** Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Silver Spring. 20 hours per week. Initially \$30,000 with review after three months. Go to [goodshepchurch.org](http://goodshepchurch.org), click on Current News and scroll down for details.

**Organist/choir and bell choir director:** Darnestown Presbyterian Church. Part-time. New electric Allen organ and Steinway grand piano. Currently one Sunday service and one midweek rehearsal. Email [sallyjobelcher@msn.com](mailto:sallyjobelcher@msn.com) with résumé and questions.

**Music director and principal organist:** St. Catherine Laboure Parish, Wheaton. Full-time. For details, click [here](#). Send resume and cover letter to the Rev. Francisco Aguirre at [aguirref@adw.org](mailto:aguirref@adw.org).

**Interim organist/choirmaster:** St. Francis Episcopal Church, Potomac. Moeller pipe organ. Position to begin in March and continue at least through December. 18 hours per week. Salary commensurate with qualifications and experience. Interim may apply for the permanent position. For details, click [here](#).

## Virginia

**Assistant director of music ministries:** Westminster Presbyterian Church, Alexandria. 10-15 hours weekly, \$18,000-22,000 annually. Moeller organ, 47 ranks, three manuals. Two Sunday services, Wednesday and Thursday rehearsals. Contact Dr. Benjamin Hutchens, director of music ministries, for more information and to apply: [b.hutchens@wpc-alex.org](mailto:b.hutchens@wpc-alex.org).

**Director of music:** St. John's Lutheran Church, Alexandria. Full-time. For details, see the listing under careers on the national AGO website, [agohq.org](http://agohq.org).

*Continued on Page 12*

From Page 11

**Director of music ministries:** Messiah United Methodist Church, Springfield. Full-time. \$75,000 - \$85,000 a year. For more information, click [here](#).

**Director of music and worship:** Christ Crossman United Methodist Church, Falls Church. Half-time. \$25,000 annually. Click [here](#) or search on churchstaffing.com.

**Hammond organist/accompanist:** Alfred Street Baptist Church, Alexandria. Part-time. Two choirs. Click [here](#).

**Music and worship coordinator:** Mount Vernon Presbyterian Church, Alexandria. 8-10 hours per week. \$10,000 yearly. Email the Rev. Bob Melone at [bmelone61@gmail.com](mailto:bmelone61@gmail.com).

**Organist:** Church of the Good Shepherd United Methodist Church, Vienna. \$18,000-\$20,000. Click [here](#).

**Organist:** Aldersgate United Methodist Church, Alexandria. 12 hours per week. \$12,000-\$15,000 yearly. Click [here](#).

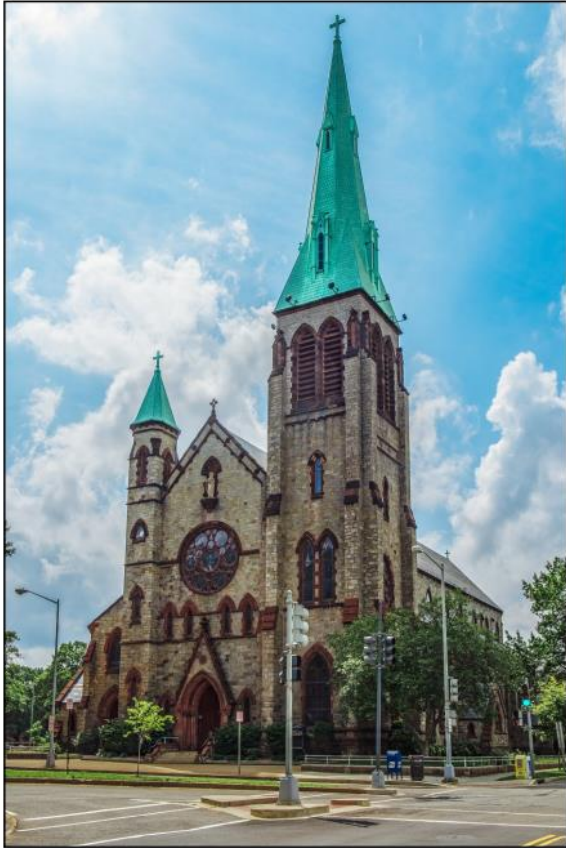
**Director of music:** Clarendon Presbyterian Church. 10-15 hour per week. Click [here](#).





YEAR  
OF THE  
YOUNG  
ORGANIST

*Investing in the Future*  
July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022



## 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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301-320-4700 | michael@hartorgan.com

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome new chapter members Benjamin Boellner, Joseph Zollickoffer, Brian Sanders, Gabriel Simerson and Reinle McDonnell, who joined through the AGO's Year of the Young Organist initiative, as well as David Lawrie and Dr. Luis Gonzalez.

## LIFE MEMBERS

Blanche Curfman

Nancy Dodge

Robert Grogan

Eileen Guenther

Irv Lawless

Kenneth Lowenberg

Albert Russell

Donald Sutherland

David Hearn (deceased)

## Acoustic Design Services

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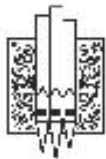
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