

The Organizer

The Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

www.agoatlanta.org

March 2024

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The Organizer, the official bulletin of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, is published monthly, September through June. All material for publication must reach the Editor by the 15th day of the month preceding the date of issue (e.g., November 15 for the December issue). This should be typewritten and emailed. The Organizer reserves the right to make editorial changes and to shorten articles to fit space limitations. Articles in The Organizer reflect the views of the writers and not necessarily those of the Guild.

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AGO Atlanta 2024 Ballot

Slate of Officers for 2024-2025

Dean: Sean Vogt, DMA
Sub-Dean: Wayne Gilreath
Secretary: Jeffrey Daniel
Treasurer: Nancy Boyd Dickson
Registrar: Joanne Cobb Brown, CAGO
Newsletter: Timothy Gunter
Chaplain: The Rev. Mother Melanie Rowell

Auditor: Lamar Savage

Currently Serving Executive Committee Members

Class of '24 (Outgoing)
Bill Callaway
Mary Ruth Laverty Solem

Class of '25 Valerie Pool Keith H. Walker

Class of '26
Jeff Funderburk
Keith Wilson

Select two of the following as Executive Committee Members Class of 2027:

Leslie Boyette
Jon Easter
Melissa Casper Espy
John Gentry

Please check your email for a voting link from the Election Coordinator. All voting will be done online this year. If you do not have the capability to vote online, please call Registrar David Barber at 770-402-6042, and he will help you submit your online ballot.

From the Dean

Dear AGO colleagues,

During this demanding month when it seems there isn't enough of you to stretch around the essentials, I appeal to full-time musicians and job jugglers alike — to access ways you've learned to care for yourself, including cherished spiritual resources. I pray you don't deny yourself the rest and nourishment which sustain joy. Share smiles with singers.

Please join me in expressing appreciation to our 2024 Nominating Committee Members: Tim Young (Chair), Madonna Brownlee, Jeff Daniel, Mary Ruth Laverty Solem, and Tommy McCook. They reached out to fellow Chapter Members with invitations to run in Spring 2024 for two Member-At-Large 'Class of 2027' positions on the Atlanta Chapter Board. 'Class' refers to the (3rd) year when a Member's term ends. Bill Callaway and Mary Ruth Laverty Solem complete their 'Class of 2024' terms in June. Since no elections were held in Spring 2023, the current six Members-At-Large agreed to extend their respective terms by one additional year. Thank you!

Bios for our 4 Nominees (you vote for 2) appear in this newsletter: Leslie Boyette, Jon Easter, Melissa Casper Espy, John Gentry. Also included are the bios of the two new Board officers, Jeff Daniel and Wayne Gilreath. Note the entire Slate on the front page of the newsletter includes seven Officers & Chaplain, with several changes in store. Note that in keeping with the Chapler policies on elections, the Slate of Nominees & Officers for Spring 2024 has been made public to the Atlanta Chapter AGO prior to March 1st. Write-in nominations may be made by petition signed by 5 Chapter Members in good standing, and delivered to the Secretary by April 1st or within 30 days after publication of the Slate.... whichever is later. (#7. ELECTIONS, pp. 24-25, Atlanta Chapter AGO 2023-2024 Yearbook)

If you have an untouched pile of glossy *TAO* magazines, I urge you to dig into this entertaining and worthwhile educational publication! *The American Organist* has fabulous photos of pipe organs (carry an issue; see who asks to borrow it!) and news about colleagues far and near (see 'Awards' on page 19, March *TAO*). Get plans going for the AGO national convention June 30-July 4 in San Francisco! It is not too late to celebrate 'Woman Composer Sunday' on March 10. *TAO* makes it easy!

Looking ahead to the exciting post-Easter month of April, have you put the morning of April 20 and the evening of April 26 on your calendar? The annual AGO National Gala Fundraiser — this year honoring our own Elizabeth & Raymond Chenault at the Cathedral of St. Philip — requires tickets (https://www.agohq.org/2024-gala/) for the Friday 4/26 concert and/or reception. On Saturday, April 20, join the third in our series of workshops to PLAY for delightful *Orgelbuchlein* scholar Shelly Moorman-Stahlman. (The location be determined. is vet to but vou can sign qu at https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1gNLMK5bYeSKTyZL sZcVLWC9BjgacYPhPsFg5EL1o3k/edit# gid=352639869.) Why wait? There are 14 chorales to be performed, and 12 pieces are still available.

BACH to the Future, Joanne Cobb Brown, CAGO Dean, Atlanta AGO

March 2024 Calendar of Events

Day	Date	Time	Event	Location	Admission
Friday	3/1	6:30 PM	Sarah Hawbecker, organ; w/piano, violin, horn, soprano, and choir	First United Methodist Church, Douglasville	Free
Saturday	3/2 3/2	8:00 PM 8:00 PM	Melnikov/Vänskä/ASO: Dorn/Prokofiev/Sibelius Symphony Hall The Atlanta Opera: Benjamin Britten's <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Cobb Energy Center		\$26-135 \$48-170
Sunday	3/3 3/3 3/3 3/3	3:00 PM 3:15 PM 4:00 PM 7:00 PM	Alan Morrison hosts Atlanta Organists in Recital Kyle Ritter, organ Choral Evensong, Cathedral Schola Fauré Requiem, PRUMC Chancel Choir with orchestra and organ Spivey Hall The Cathedral of St. Philip The Cathedral of St. Philip Peachtree Road United Methodist Church		\$15-50 Free Free \$15
Tuesday	3/5	7:30 PM	The Atlanta Opera: Benjamin Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream	Cobb Energy Center	\$48-170
Friday	3/8	8:00 PM	The Atlanta Opera: Benjamin Britten's A Midsummer Night's Dream	Cobb Energy Center	\$48-170
Sunday	3/10 3/10 3/10	3:00 PM 3:15 PM 4:00 PM	The Atlanta Opera: Benjamin Britten's <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> Brendan Conner, <i>organ</i> Choral Evensong, Cathedral Choir Cobb Energy Center The Cathedral of St. Philip The Cathedral of St. Philip		\$48-170 Free Free
Thursday	3/14	8:00 PM	Moser/Chauhan/ASO: Dutilleux/Tchaikovsky Symphony Hall		\$26-155
Friday	3/15 3/15	6:30 PM 8:00 PM	Asher Ian Armstrong, <i>piano</i> Atlanta Master Chorale: Sacred Music from Around the World First United Methodist Church, Do Schwartz Center, Emory		Free \$38
Saturday	3/16 3/16	8:00 PM 8:00 PM	Moser/Chauhan/ASO: Dutilleux/Tchaikovsky Atlanta Master Chorale: Sacred Music from Around the World Schwartz Center, Emory		\$26-155 \$38
Sunday	3/17 3/17 3/17	2;00 PM 3:00 PM 7:00 PM	Käthe Wright Kaufman, <i>organ</i> Alexander Malofeev, <i>piano</i> Passion of the Christ: The Musical Stations of the Cross Glenn Memorial United Method Spivey Hall Peachtree Road United Method		Free \$20-60 \$15
Thursday	3/21	8:00 PM	Urbański/ASO/ASOC: Lutoslawski/Orff Symphony Hall		\$39-153
Friday	3/22 3/22	8:00 PM 8:00 PM	Urbański/ASO/ASOC: Lutosławski/Orff Turtle Island Quartet — Island Prayers	Symphony Hall Schwartz Center, Emory	\$39-153 \$45
Saturday	3/23	8:00 PM	Urbański/ASO/ASOC: Lutosławski/Orff	Symphony Hall	\$39-153
Sunday	3/24 3/24	3:00 PM 4:00 PM	, , ,		\$39-153 Free
Friday	3/29	6:30 PM	Indra Thomas, soprano	First United Methodist Church, Douglasville	Free

2023-2024 AGO Meetings & Programs

Date	Location	Program/Artist	Dinner, Reception, etc.
April 20 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m12 noon	Location TBD	Shelly Moorman-Stahlman	Workshop: Orgelbüchlein Pentecost & other Coffee & refreshments provided during the break
April 26 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.	The Cathedral of St. Philip 2744 Peachtree Rd. NW Atlanta, GA 30305	AGO National Gala Elizabeth & Raymond Chenault	Recital at 7:30 p.m. Gala reception following For tickets, see https://www.agohq.org/2024-gala/
May 10 (Friday) 7:30 p.m.	First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta 1328 Peachtree St. NE Atlanta, GA 30309	Tom Bara	Recital at 7:30 p.m. For tickets, see https://concertsatfirst.org/events/

Around the Chapter

First United Methodist Church, Douglasville, Hosts Friday Lenten Concerts

At 6:30 p.m. on three Fridays in March, First United Methodist Church in Douglasville will host Friday Lenten Concerts. All concerts are free and everyone is invited.

March 1 — Organ Fusion: A Collaborative Organ Concert featuring guests Sarah Hawbecker, *organ*; Sarah Elias, *piano*; Cale Brandon, *violin*; Katy Ray, *horn*; Julie Lowry, *soprano*; and the Chancel Choir

March 15 — Asher Ian Armstrong, piano (University of Toronto)

March 29 — Indra Thomas, *soprano* (Berry College)

Sunday Afternoon Recitals at the Cathedral of St. Philip

The Cathedral of St. Philip will host Sunday afternoon in-person and online recitals at 3:15 p.m. the first two Sundays during the month of March. Recitalists will include the following:

March 3 — Kyle Ritter, *organ* (All Souls Cathedral, Asheville, NC) March 10 — Brendan Conner, *organ* (St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Wilmington, NC)

A service of Choral Evensong, sung by the Cathedral Schola or the Cathedral Choir, follows each recital at 4:00 p.m. Admission is free and all are welcome.

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church Presents Fauré's Requiem

The Peachtree Road United Methodist Church Chancel Choir annually presents sacred choral masterworks with full orchestra that exceed the normal bounds of the church's rich liturgical life. This year the Chancel Choir presents the Fauré *Requiem* on Sunday, March 3 at 7:00 p.m., in remembrance of lives lost in the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East. The choir enriches the musical repertoire available to the church and community at large and contributes to the ongoing musical heritage of Peachtree Road United Methodist Church.

Glenn Memorial United Methodist Church Presents Organist Käthe Wright Kaufman

Come hear Glenn Memorial UMC's Associate Director of Music and Worship Arts, Käthe Wright Kaufman, in recital at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, March 17, as she puts the 1982 Casavant Op. 3529 organ through its paces. This is an opportunity for the community to explore the varied colors and capabilities of this wonderful instrument, which was recently used to accompany the Memorial Service for former First Lady Rosalynn Carter. The recital will feature works by Kristina Arakelyan, Calvin Hampton, and Louis Vierne. Admission is free, and parking is available in the Fishburne Parking Deck.

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church Presents The Musical Stations of the Cross

Over the past decade, Peachtree Road United Methodist Church has created a beautiful Lenten tradition through inspired improvisations and organ works played by two organists on the Church's two consoles of the Great Organ, reflective settings sung by PRUMC's Schola, and live readings of connective scripture. The Sanctuary is illuminated by the glow of hundreds of candles representing Christ's light in the world's darkness that inspire moments of reflection and contemplation for the listener. On Sunday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m., Music Director Scott Atchison will be at the gallery organ and Dr. Patrick Scott at the chancel organ, with John Lemley narrating and the PRUMC Schola singing antiphons. There is a \$15 suggested concert donation.

The Cathedral of St. Philip Presents Meditation on the Passion of Christ, with Carols

The Cathedral of St. Philip will present its annual service entitled "A Meditation on the Passion of Christ, with Carols" on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, at 4 p.m., sung by the Cathedral Schola. This service consists of various scriptural readings of the season — some chanted and some read — punctuated by anthems, antiphons and congregational hymnody. Admission is free and all are welcome.

2024 Election Candidates & New Officers



Leslie Boyette grew up in South Carolina where he attended Furman University and received a Bachelor of Music degree. While at Furman, he studied Organ with Dr. Lindsay Smith. He attended Georgia State University and received a Masters of Sacred Music

degree, studying Organ with Dr. Tim Wissler. Leslie has served as Organist/Choirmaster for Episcopal Churches in Georgia and Texas, notably thirteen years at St. Andrew's In The Pines in Peachtree City, Georgia. Leslie currently sings in the Cathedral Choir and Schola at The Cathedral of St. Philip, and substitutes for various churches in the metro Atlanta area. Leslie is also employed full-time as a Paralegal for a law firm in Midtown.



Jonathan Easter is a graduate of Emory University, where he studied with Timothy Albrecht and Dr. Eric Nelson and earned a double master's degree. Known for his musicality and expressivity across multiple instruments, Easter is increasingly sought after as a

collaborative organist and pianist. In addition to his work with choral ensembles, he has worked on multiple occasions with solo artists including world-famous mezzo-soprano Jamie Barton. As an organist and director, he has served several churches, including St. Paul's by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Jacksonville, Florida, and Roswell Presbyterian Church and Saint Mark United Methodist Church in Atlanta, Georgia.



Melissa Casper Espy has spent over 45 years studying and practicing the piano and organ, performing, accompanying and directing choirs. She began serving as a church organist while attending Converse College, where she double

majored in Mathematics and Music, Organ performance. She became a public school math teacher and is currently in her 29th year of teaching. While teaching, she earned the Master of Education in mathematics and the Master of Music (organ performance) degrees from GA State University. During that time, summers were spent traveling to study organ at the McGill Summer Organ academy, Summer Institute for French Organ studies and Haarlem Organ Academy. She served as director for the 2004 Pipe Organ Encounter, held at Agnes Scott College. Since then, Melissa has been busy with daughters Holly and Suzanne (also musicians), husband Ned and dog "Coda." Her hobbies include reading, cooking for friends and family, traveling and boating. She has been the organist and youth choir director at Buford Presbyterian Church for 20 years.



John Gentry, SPC, has been an active member of the Atlanta chapter of the AGO since 1992. John previously served on the Atlanta chapter's Executive Committee, the Hospitality Committee for the regional AGO convention in 2007, and the transportation

committee for the 2020 national convention. He is currently organist at First Baptist Church of Powder Springs, GA.

(continued on page 6)

2024 Election Candidates & New Officers (cont.)

John has been the principal organist for "Christmas at the Keyboards," an annual production featuring multiple pianos, organ, and other instrumentation, based out of Mt. Harmony Baptist Church in Mableton, GA, and brought to life by as many as two dozen musicians from the western metro area for the past 22 years.

John has been a church musician for over 40 years, primarily serving Methodist and Baptist congregations. His primary organ teachers were Dorothy Clark of Atlanta and Dr. Robert Coe at the University of West Georgia. He holds an AGO Service Playing Certificate and has had additional organ coaching from both Trey Clegg and Tom Alderman.

In addition to his love of music, John is a psychiatric nurse practitioner with a passion for mental health. He enjoys cooking, traveling, and spending time with his family.



Jeffrey M. Daniel is a native of Milledgeville, GA. He graduated from GA College with a Bachelor's in Music Education. Jeff taught middle school choral music and elementary general music from 1988-1998 in Forest Park, GA. He began working as a church

organist in 1993. Jeff was Organist-Choirmaster at Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Cumming, GA, from 2001 to 2018, when he retired. He has been an At-Large Member of the Atlanta Chapter Executive Board, was Registrar for the 2007 Southeast Regional AGO Convention held in Atlanta, and was Co-Chair of the Exhibits Committee preparing for Atlanta's 2020 National AGO Convention that was cancelled by COVID-19. Jeff is honored to be a member of the Atlanta Chapter of the AGO and plans to continue his support as Chapter Secretary.



Wayne Gilreath holds degrees in Piano Performance from the University of West Georgia and the University of Tennessee. His principal teachers were Mr. George Mann, Dr. Christy Lee, and Dr. David Northington. He serves as collaborative pianist

for the University of West Georgia, where, since 2010, he has accompanied the choral ensembles, opera workshop, wind ensemble, percussion ensemble, numerous students, faculty, and guest artists. As a guest artist and alumnus, he performed Grieg's *Piano Concerto in A minor* with the UWG Wind Ensemble.

An active performer and teacher, Wayne has been a member of The Music Teachers' National Association for many years. In 2018 and 2019, he presented a lecture recital titled "Listening for the Bells: The Piano Music of Arvo Pärt" at the Georgia Music Teachers' Association State Conference, the World Piano Conference in Novi Sad, Serbia, and the Encuentro de Pianistas at the University of Costa Rica in San Jose. Having a particular interest in Pärt's music, Wayne has performed all of Pärt's works for piano and organ.

Wayne serves as Organist and Choirmaster at Douglasville First United Methodist Church and is celebrating his tenth year. He is an active member of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and has held two National Convention positions: Chair of Facilities for the 2020 Convention in Atlanta, and Chair of Exhibits for the 2022 Convention in Seattle. Wayne continues his organ studies with Sarah Hawbecker.

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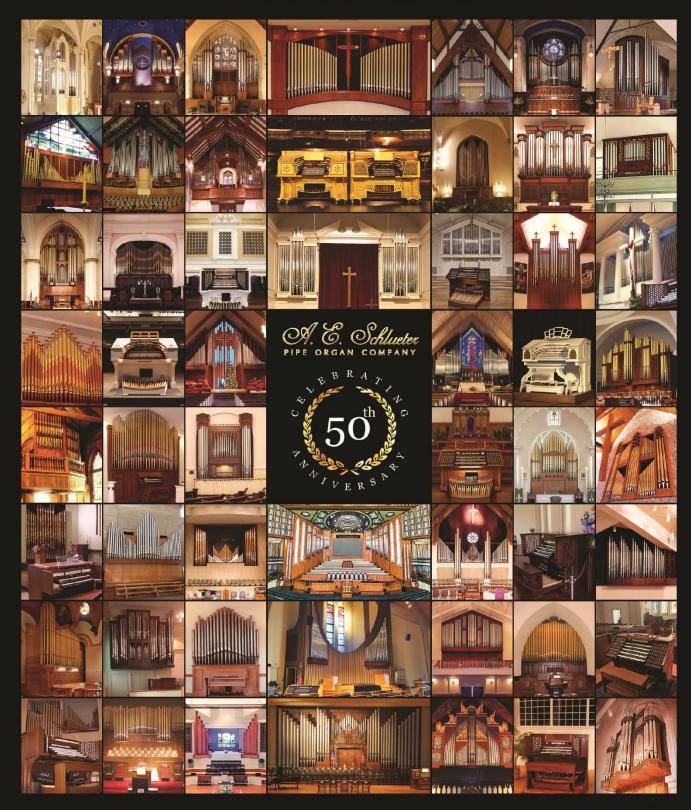
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The Cathedral of St. Philip

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Sunday, March 3

3:15 p.m. Kyle Ritter, ogan

(Cathedral of All Souls, Asheville, NC)

Alec Wyton, Fanfare (1956)

Leo Sowerby, Requiescat in Pace

Georg Bohm, Praeludium in C

Josef Rheinberger, "Introduction and Passacaglia" from *Sonata 8*, Op.

4 p.m. Choral Evensong, Cathedral Schola

Paul Halley, Preces & Responses Arthur Wills, Magnificat & Nunc dimittis on Plainsong Themes Eleanor Daley, Hymn to God Owain Park, Holy is the true light

Sunday, March 10

3:15 p.m. Brendan Conner, organ

(St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Wilmington, NC) Charles-Marie Widor, *Symphonie Romane*, Op. 73

4 p.m. Choral Evensong, Cathedral Choir

Paul Halley, *Preces & Responses*Francis Jackson in G
Edward Bairstow, *Lord, thou hast been our refuge*Josef Rheinberger, *Abendlied*

Sunday, March 24

4 p.m. Meditation on the Passion of Christ, with Carols Cathedral Schola

"Ah, holy Jesus, how hast thou offended" Herzliebster Jesu John Jacob Niles, arr. John Rutter, I wonder as I wander "A stable lamp is lighted" Andújar

Trond Kverno, Corpus Christi Carol

Spiritual, arr. Dale Adelmann, Sometimes I feel like a motherless child & Nobody knows the trouble I've seen

"To mock your reign, O dearest Lord" Tallis' Third Tune

Francis Poulenc, Vinea mea electa

Richard Lloyd, The Ballad of the Judas Tree

Kenneth Miller, "Beneath the cross of Jesus" Sewanee Schola

Spiritual, Were you there when they crucified my Lord

Antonio Lotti, Crucifixus à 8

Maundy Thursday, March 28

7 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Cathedral Choir & Choristers

Maurice Duruflé, *Ubi caritas*Paul Mealor, *Ubi caritas*Kim André Arnesen, *O sacrum convivium*Stephanie Martin, *Ave verum corpus*

Good Friday, March 29

12 noon & 7 p.m. Good Friday Liturgy, Cathedral Schola

Tomás Luis de Victoria, *Passion according to St. John*Richard Proulx, *We adore you*, *O Christ*Kenneth Leighton, "Drop, drop, slow tears" from *Crucifixus pro nobis*

Easter Day, Sunday, March 31

6 p.m. Easter Vigil, Cathedral Singers & Choristers

Spiritual *arr.* Livingston Gearhart, *Dry Bones* Edward Bairstow, *Sing ye to the Lord* Craig Phillips, *Light's glittering morn*

8:45 & 11:15 a.m. Festival Eucharist, Cathedral Choir

Craig Phillips, Prelude & Exultation Craig Phillips, Light's glittering morn Paul Gibson. The Peerless Dawn

Positions Available

Complete details on these and other positions may be found at the chapter's website: www.agoatlanta.org then click on "employment."

Music Director/Keyboardist

Lutheran Church of the Ascension, Atlanta, seeks a part-time Music Director/Organist, as well as an Interim Organist. Send resumes to pastor@ascension-lcms.com.

Peachtree Road United Methodist Church, Atlanta, seeks a part-time Assistant Organist. Send resume to Scott Atchison at Scott@prumc.org.

St. Mark United Methodist Church, Atlanta, seeks a Director of Fine Arts/Organist. Send resumes to office@stmarkumc.org.

Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church, Clarkesville, seeks a part-time pianist/organist. Send resumes to Officemanager@grace-calvary.org.

St. Julian's Episcopal Church, Douglasville, seeks a part-time organist/pianist and choir director. Send resumes to ghgibson@saintjulians.org.

Epworth United Methodist Church seeks a parttime Worship Leader. Send resumes to byron.ahrens@ngumc.net

St. Francis de Sales Latin Catholic Church, Mableton, seeks a part-time organist. For information, contact Jonathan Arrington at lafamigliaarrington@gmail.com.

First United Methodist Church, Madison, seeks a part-time organist. Send resumes to kathleen@madisonfumc.com.

Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, Morganton, seeks a part-time Organist/Pianist. Send resumes to jameskroninger@gmail.com.

First Global Methodist Church, Norcross, seeks a part-time organist/accompanist. Send resumes to Director of Music Ministry Scott Keesey at Scott@Norcrossfirst.org

Senoia United Methodist Church, Senoia, seeks a Director of Music Ministries. Send resume to pastor Julie Schendel at julie@senoiaumc.org, (770) 599-3245.

Ebenezer Presbyterian Church, Rock Hill, SC, seeks a full-time organist and music director. Go to ebenezerarp.org for application instructions and full job description.



Chapter Officers

Joanne Cobb Brown, CAGO, Dean
Caroline Robinson, DMA, Co-Sub-Dean
Sean F. Vogt, DMA, Co-Sub-Dean
Pamela Radford, Secretary
Nancy Dickson, Treasurer
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Timothy Gunter, Newsletter Editor
The Reverend Dr. John Beyers, Chaplain
Lamar Savage, Auditor

Class of '24 Bill Callaway Mary Ruth Laverty Solem

> Class of '25 Valerie Pool Keith H. Walker

Class of '26 Jeff Funderburk Keith Wilson