



# The Organizer

Monthly Newsletter  
The Atlanta Chapter  
AMERICAN GUILD  
of ORGANISTS  
**MARCH 2008**

## Atlanta Chapter Officers

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### Sub-Dean

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Betty Williford

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### Registrar

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Keith Nash '09  
Joyce Johnson '10  
Tim Young '10

## NOMINATIONS for CHAPTER OFFICERS

The Nominating Committee for the 2008-2009 season is pleased to announce the following members as officers to be elected at our meeting on May 13, 2008:

### Dean †

James Mellichamp

### SubDean \*

Jeff Harbin

### Secretary †

Betty Williford

### Treasurer †

Charlene Ponder

### Registrar \*

Thomas Wigley

### Newsletter Editor †

Charles Redmon

### Webmaster †

Tim Shepard

### Auditor †

David Ritter

### At-Large 2010

Two of the following will be elected

Brandon Beachamp \*

Rachel Ficklin \*

Jeremy Rush \*

Jeff Daniel \*

\* Please see brief BIO on insert page.

† Currently Serving

## AGO Atlanta 2007-2008 Remaining Season Events

March No Chapter Meeting or Event

April 12 Young Organist Concert  
St. Mark's United Methodist

May 13 Guild Service  
with Sue Goddard  
& The Baker Festival Singers  
Grace United Methodist Church

## A Note on April's Student Recital

The chapter program at St. Mark's United Methodist Church, Atlanta, on the morning of **Saturday, April 12, 2008** will feature student recitalists. Please pass the word along. We welcome students of all levels but they *must* be currently studying with a member of the Atlanta Chapter in order to perform. Also, compositions may not exceed ten minutes in total length so that more students may be included.

I look forward to hearing from you with your recommendations!!

James F. Mellichamp  
Sub Dean



## Mission Statement

"The purpose of the American Guild of Organists is to promote the organ in its historical and evolving roles, to encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music, and to provide forum for mutual support, inspiration, education, and certification of Guild members."

### In This Issue

AGO Chapter at a Glance . . . . .	3/7
Dean's Message . . . . .	3
Dinner Reservations Info . . . . .	7
Employment/Positions . . . . .	5
EIEI Campaign . . . . .	4
Events Calendar . . . . .	6
Mixtures . . . . .	2/4
Nominee Bios . . . . .	1

## Dr. Carol Williams

in concert

**Atlanta First United Methodist Church**  
**360 Peachtree Street NE**  
**Atlanta, Georgia**  
**404.524.6614**

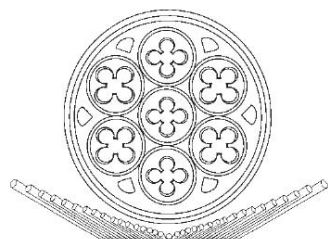
*on the new 93-rank V-manual*  
*A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ*

**Sunday, March 9, 2008 3:00 pm**

Carol Williams is the first woman to hold the famed organist's position at the Spreckels Organ in Balboa Park, San Diego, California, as San Diego Civic Organist and Artistic Director of the Spreckels Organ Society - and she is the first female civic organist appointed anywhere in the United States.

### Chapter Member Receives Honorary Degree

Canon for Music at the Cathedral of St. Philip, Bruce Neswick has received the honorary Fellowship degree from the Royal School of Church Music. The RSCM is an international organization, based in England, that links together through joint educational and musical endeavors a worldwide network of churches that involve children in choirs. Bruce has been privileged to conduct 20 years' worth of summer camps for boy and girl choristers, all sponsored by the RSCM throughout the United States, and this award comes as a recognition for that work. The award was given on Saturday, February 2nd at the Washington National Cathedral. Congratulations, Bruce!



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## THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. PHILIP

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Call 404.365.1050 for more information.

### Sunday, 2 March

3:15 PM / RECITAL

Albert Ahlstrom, *organ*

(Holy Spirit Roman Catholic Church, Atlanta, GA)  
*music by Ahlstrom*

4 PM / Diocesan Confirmation  
 and Holy Eucharist

### Sunday, 9 March

4 PM / LESSONS & CAROLS for LENT

Cathedral Schola

*music by Busch, Hurford, Kverno, Ledger,  
 Lotti, Vaughan Williams*

### Sunday, 16 March

4 PM / EVENSONG

Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Cathedral Schola

*music by Friedell*

### Thursday, 20 March

7 PM / Maundy Thursday

Foot Washing and Holy Eucharist

*Choir of Girls, Boys & Adults*

*music by Lauridsen, Messiaen & Roissini*

### Friday, 21 March

12 noon & 7 PM / Good Friday Liturgy

Cathedral Schola

*music by Correa, non Papa, de Victoria*

### Sunday, 30 March

3:15 PM / CONCERT

Clayton State Chorale

4 PM / EVENSONG

Clayton State Chorale

*music by Hanson, Mendelssohn, Neswick,  
 Palestrina & Schütz*

### Sunday, 6 April

3:15 PM / RECITAL

John Linker, *organ*

(Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Lexington, KY)

*music by Widor*

4 PM / EVENSONG

Cathedral Schola

*music by Statham and Wesley*

## A Message from the DEAN

Let us praise God together . . .

I don't know about the rest of you who attended our February meeting at Peachtree Christian Church, but for me, it was an opportunity to celebrate music, specifically in the life of Jean Langlais, and to praise God together.

The order of worship may not have been exactly what we're accustomed to doing, but it was worship just the same.

The Opening Voluntary came in the middle of the "service," when Dr. Ann Labounsky called us to worship with Langlais' "Incantation for a Holy Day." The evening began with a time for fellowship, followed by the sermon (in the form of a beautifully crafted reflection) by Dr. John Beyers, our Chapter Chaplain. He gave us words of inspiration in response to our calling as church musicians, support with understanding for the trials we are sometimes forced to endure, and brought together for us in a powerful way the bond of collegial respect that should always exist between ordained clergy and music leaders in our congregations. After a delicious meal – I won't make an illusion to Eucharist, though we did "break bread together" – we adjourned to the sanctuary to be reminded of the theology which lies at the heart of all of our worship, the "Death and Resurrection" so powerfully depicted in Langlais' music. We were then sent on our way to his "Fete," which sent us on our way rejoicing!

The only thing we lacked was congregational song, and I'm convinced we were singing together in our hearts when we departed. Thanks again to Herb Buffington for his hospitality.

I was also reminded when Herb was speaking about the "Each One Reach One" program to encourage more church musicians to affiliate with the American Guild of Organists that it is easy for us to take for granted the exceptional support, sincere friendships, inspiring programs, and educational opportunities we enjoy as members of the Atlanta Chapter. There are a lot of church musicians in the area who don't know what they're missing, and when you consider that only about one in three members attends our monthly gatherings, one could be easily convinced that the AGO is among the best-kept secrets in the community.

We don't need to keep it a secret any longer, and I hope you will all take seriously the "Each One Reach One" campaign and share your enthusiasm with current and prospective members. I invite you to look back at the letter Herb sent us by email recently outlining the campaign, and do your part in this important effort.

The Atlanta Chapter has a rich and colorful history, but there are new chapters yet to be written. Let's do what we can to nurture and strengthen the AGO and the role that it continues to play in our calling to be stewards of God's gift of music to our congregations and to each other.

Michael Morgan, Dean



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### ***Morning Has Broken***

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## About the 2007-2008 Yearbook

2007-08 AGO Atlanta Yearbooks will again be available at the April 12th meeting. We appreciate those of you who renewed your membership by the June 30th deadline - and those who picked up their books at our recent meetings. If you need to have your copy mailed, please contact Michael Morris, Registrar.

Every effort has been made to insure accuracy and completeness of the information contained within the 2007-2008 Yearbook. All information was taken directly from your new or renewal application. If there are errors, additions or changes, please notify the Registrar at your earliest convenience. When possible, updates will be presented in the monthly issue of *The Organizer*.

Dear Members of the Atlanta Chapter,

It's not too late, in fact now is the perfect time to participate in the *Each One – Reach One Member Challenge* – and it's going to be easier than ever to bring in new members since we are in the second half of the dues year and the dues for new members has been reduced!! Help grow your Chapter, and the Guild could pay your expenses to the Twin Cities convention this summer.

The flyer e-mailed to you contains information about the Challenge, and there are links to National's website for more information and to register.

Please feel free to contact me directly if you have any questions about how to participate. My email address is [hrbuffington@habershamfunding.com](mailto:hrbuffington@habershamfunding.com), and my phone is 678-488-3591.

Best of luck, and I hope I will see you this summer at the convention.

### **GROW THE GUILD!**

Herb Buffington, director

Committee on Membership Development and Chapter Support

## ***LET'S JOIN THE 'E1R1' CAMPAIGN***

R2D2 was a cylindrical gliding Robot in the Star Wars film saga. E1R1 is an action taken by you and me: "Each One (current AGO Member), Reach One" or more new and returning Members to the AGO! In recent years, I was privileged to address you here as Dean of our vibrant, fun-loving Chapter.

Now I'M BACK, in response to Herb Buffington's announcements about AGO's 'Each One Reach One' Membership Challenge, currently in its 3rd and final year.

Since this is an unabashed CAMPAIGN, may we first consider for purposes of articulation:

Who ARE these people - the Members of The American Guild of Organists?

They - we - are lifelong learners, who perspire to praise God with all four appendages, who act as living witnesses to composers of music past and present, offer scholarship opportunities and healthy musical competition, who support with our presence and contributions the rich musical life of our own communities, and who are connected to something bigger through national/regional AGO conventions, exams for certification, as well as those energizing POE's for teenage pianists!

Don't forget, there's PLENTY of room here for music lovers who don't themselves play the organ. People are aware as never before, of how vital it is to exercise brain power for lifelong learning, keen observation, and group involvement in new endeavors! AGO Members are compassionate friends as well as talented teachers, conductors and performers. What have you received, and who is MISSING IT? What wonderful folks *do* you know *who* could be on our roster? (Who, my friends, should miss knowing us!)

Campaigners do not go out unprepared (or empty-handed) to succeed! My twenty-year-old son Joseph, until recently 'apolitical' (except for occasional sarcastic or humorous remarks about the 'state of the union'), became fired-up enough about one candidate to become a Precinct Leader prior to the recent Presidential Primary.

He downloaded and copied brochures, walked neighborhoods door-to-door, shook hands with strangers, helped young first-time voters to register, and started conversations with people about politics while pumping gas! Not only that, but he convinced several of his friends (and even his mom!) - to join the cause he believes is worthwhile. Can you and I set aside some time this week to make a few phone calls for this AGO Campaign?

If we are grateful for AGO Programs - if we are in any way proud of us - then, reaching out to invite a new member is the natural expression of our sincere enthusiasm for this our guild. Such contacts and the results are mutually beneficial — even without an additional reward!

Campaign workers have a prepared script - in order to include the most important points during a spontaneous or planned conversational exchange. They carry written information (in our case, downloadable AGO Membership Applications!), to ignite into immediate action any spark of interest about joining. Familiarity with the AGO Mission Statement helps one feel prepared to answer questions. Memorize and share our website: [www.agoatlanta.org](http://www.agoatlanta.org)

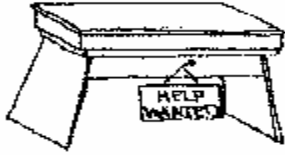
I plan to carry a copy of The American Organist, our newsletter, (*The Organizer*) and the Atlanta Chapter Yearbook with me as often as possible. The Current Calendar of Music Events provided in The Organizer always prompts me to invite someone to join me, so copies of that calendar would be a good conversation-starter about AGO connections!

It now costs \$88 to join up as a voting member until renewal time. Saturday, April 12th, is provided for us to welcome prospective new and returning members to morning and afternoon concerts with lunch in between. Introduce me, and see who I bring!

Joanne Cobb Brown







## Positions Available

*Further details on these and other positions may be found at the Chapter's web-site: [www.agoatlanta.org](http://www.agoatlanta.org) - then click on "employment."*

**Bascomb United Methodist Church** 2295 Bascomb Carmel Rd., Woodstock GA., is searching for an organist to start immediately. The church's website is [www.bascombumc.org](http://www.bascombumc.org). If interested, please send resume to: [pvjohns@alltel.net](mailto:pvjohns@alltel.net).

**Big Canoe Chapel** Organist needed for 1,100 member multi-denominational chapel located in the foothills of the north GA mountains approximately one hour north of Interstate 285. Visit our website at [www.bigcanoechapel.org](http://www.bigcanoechapel.org). Two traditional Sunday worship services (9:00 and 10:30 a.m.). The ideal candidate should possess expertise at the organ console, creativity in accompaniment of congregational hymns, proficient as a choral and solo accompanist, excellent sight-reading skills, and have an interest in contributing to worship planning. Send resume to Lamar Helms, Director of Music and Associate Chaplain, at [lamarhelms@windstream.net](mailto:lamarhelms@windstream.net) or call Rev. Helms at 706-579-1595.

**Episcopal Church of the Holy Cross** 2005 South Columbia Place, Decatur, GA 30032. Organist/Choir Leader (choir of 15 members). Traditional (Anglican) worship, with fifth Sunday contemporary worship. For details, contact Rev. Brian Jemmott, Rector, at [rector5@bellsouth.net](mailto:rector5@bellsouth.net), [jemmott@bellsouth.net](mailto:jemmott@bellsouth.net), or at 404-284-1211.

**Norcross First United Methodist Church** 2500 Beaver Ruin Road, Norcross, GA 30071 is seeking a Minister of Music. With a membership of about 2,200 and an average attendance of 750, it is an evangelical church with strong emphasis in Missions, Discipleship and Congregational Care. Norcross UMC has four Sunday morning services and one evening service. The right candidate will understand that their ministry will be both spiritual and pastoral, as well as meeting music and worship requirements. Please send resume with references to Dr. Jim Lowry, Senior Pastor, at the church address above; or e-mail resume to [resume@nfumc.org](mailto:resume@nfumc.org); or by fax to 770-448-1859.

**Simpsonwood UMC** 4500 Jones Bridge Circle, Norcross, GA 30092 (the Peachtree Corners area of Norcross) is seeking an Organist/ Accompanist for one weekly worship service. Interested candidates may send a resume to Organist Search, Simpsonwood UMC at church address above, or via email to [rhamrick@simpsonwoodumc.org](mailto:rhamrick@simpsonwoodumc.org).

**St Andrew United Methodist Church** 3455 Canton Road, Marietta GA . 1,000 member mission-oriented church has need of two part-time positions in growing, team-oriented music department. PIANO ACCOMPANIST, approximately 4-6 hours per week at church with adequate practice time to accompany chancel choir for 10:45 service, prepare and play hymns with organ, occasional prelude, offertory, and/or small group accompaniment, accompaniment/special music for seasonal worship etc. ORGANIST, approximately 6 – 8 hours per week at church with adequate practice time to prepare preludes, postludes, offertories and communion music, accompany all hymns and congregational singing, may accompany vocal soloists or ensembles, assist Chancel Choir with service or special music, assist choir's preparation Sunday morning. Practice Wednesday night 7:00 – 8:30, Sunday services at 8:30 and 10:45. Both positions require open score reading, sight reading, ability to read and play a variety of musical styles, and punctual attendance at all practices and performances. Please e-mail your resume and cover letter to [shelleyjaneross@comcast.net](mailto:shelleyjaneross@comcast.net)



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## March 2008 Calendar of Area Events

Weekday	Date	Time	Event	Location	\$
Saturday	1	7:30 pm	J.S. Bach's "St. John Passion" featuring New Trinity Baroque, Predrag Gosta, director with the Canterbury Choir and Brad Hughley, organ	St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church	\$
Sunday	2	3:15 pm	"The Vision of St. John" - Albert Ahlstrom, organ	The Cathedral of St. Philip	
Tuesday	4	12:30 pm	Twelfth Annual Lenten Organ Recital Series: Becky Griffin Ramsey, Organist/Choir Director, Covington FUMC, and Alice Griffin Walker, Organist/Choir Director, Covington First Presbyterian Church	First Presbyterian Church (Marietta)	
Wednesday	5	11:45 am	Lenten Organ Recital Series: Matthew McMahan, Organist and Choirmaster, Decatur Presbyterian	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	
	9	3:00 pm	Dr. Carol Williams, organ (see page 2 for details)	First United Methodist Church (Atl)	
Sunday	9	7:00 pm	Second Sundays Concert Series: Ritornello, chamber music group w/two recorders, cello, and harpsichord	St. Bartholomew's Episcopal Church	
Tuesday	11	12:30 pm	Twelfth Annual Lenten Organ Recital Series: John Coble, Organist/Choir Director, Covenant Presbyterian Church, Atlanta	First Presbyterian Church (Marietta)	
Wednesday	12	11:45 am	Lenten Organ Recital Series: Jonathan Easter, Winner of the 2007 Atlanta Chapter AGO Competition	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	
Sunday	16	8:45 am 11:15 am	"Requiem" by Malcolm Archer, sung by the Saint Mark Chancel Choir, Jane Burke, conductor, John A. Richardson, organ	Saint Mark United Methodist Church	
	16	7:00 pm	"The St. John Passion" by J.S. Bach, sung in English by Canticum Novum, the Redeemer Choir, guest soloists and orchestra, conducted by David Hansen	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	
Tuesday	18	7:30 pm	Chamber Singers: <i>Music for Holy Week</i>	Piedmont College	
Friday	21	7:00 pm	Premiere performance of "Requiem" by Douglas Helvering, performed by the Grace choir, conducted by Dr. William Baker, with Sue Goddard, organist	Grace United Methodist Church	
	21	7:30 pm	Brahms' "Ein Deutsches Requiem" performed by the First Pres. Church Chancel Choir and Orchestra, Linda Bush, soprano, Josh Powell, baritone, Dr. Calvert Johnson, organist, Edward R. Schneider, director	First Presbyterian Church, Marietta	
Saturday	29	7:30 pm	Sewell Organ Concert Series: Wilma Jensen, organ, and Christi Bye, soprano	Piedmont College	\$
Sunday	30	3:00 pm	The Atlanta Baroque Orchestra performs <i>Music of Johann Sebastian Bach</i>	Peachtree Road United Methodist Church	\$
	30	3:15 pm	Recital by Clayton State Choral	The Cathedral of St. Philip	
	30	4:00 pm	Spring Concert by the William Baker Festival Singers and Sue Goddard, organist	Grace United Methodist Church	
	30	7:00 pm	Calmus: vocal quintet from Leipzig, Germany, recognized for its acclaimed performances of a cappella music from Palestrina and Bach to folk songs and jazz.	Lutheran Church of the Redeemer	

### ***Please Note:***

ALL Notices for the EVENTS CALENDAR should be sent to  
Patty Conley : [agoatlanta.events@yahoo.com](mailto:agoatlanta.events@yahoo.com)

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## The Organizer & Other Information You Need

Charles Redmon, *Editor* 404.931.8668  
chazredmon@aol.com

Patty Conley, *Events Calendar* 770.482.4845  
agoatlanta.events@yahoo.com

**DEADLINE for APRIL '08 issue: March. 15th**

Advertising space available:  
Per issue: \$60 half page; \$30 quarter page; \$15 business card size

Chapter Web site [www.agoatlanta.org](http://www.agoatlanta.org)  
National Web site [www.AGOHQ.org](http://www.AGOHQ.org)  
Chapter Listserve [AGOAtlanta-L@listserve.uga.edu](mailto:AGOAtlanta-L@listserve.uga.edu)

**Executive Board Meeting**

**Saturday, April 12, 2008 • 9:30 AM**  
at *St. Mark's United Methodist Church*  
[There will be no Board meeting in March]

## Dinner Notes

**Dinner Reservations** David Barber, *Chair*  
by email: [d\\_barber@bellsouth.net](mailto:d_barber@bellsouth.net)

Karen Bunn, *Chair*  
by phone: (h) 770.446.2084  
(cell) 404.502.6292

Reservations for monthly meeting dinners are a **MUST** and should be made no later than the Thursday before the next weeks meeting. **CHECKS** are to be made payable to AGO Atlanta at the dinner check-in desk. If you pay by **CASH**, please bring exact change. If you make a reservation and are unable to keep it, you are responsible for canceling the reservation in advance on the Thursday prior to the dinner or luncheon date - **OR**- you will be expected to pay for it regardless of your attendance. *Thank you in advance for honoring these requests.*

For security reasons and when at all possible, we prefer that you always pay your reservations with  
a **PERSONAL CHECK**  
-or-  
**CASH** (with exact change)

To pay for a reservation that you didn't keep, mail a check to Charlene Ponder, *Treasurer*. (see Yearbook Page ML-39)

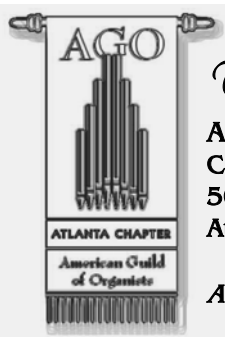


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## *The Organizer*

Atlanta Chapter A.G.O.  
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## Nominees 2008

### Attention: Chapter Members of AGO Atlanta

We are grateful and deeply thankful to our 2008 Nominating Committee which consisted of Pamela Ingram, Becky Ramsey, Warren Williams and Timothy Wissler. The following Atlanta Chapter Members have agreed to place their names in nomination for two positions on the Executive Board, Class of 2010, to be elected by you at the May 13th meeting. In addition, the position of Sub Dean and Registrar are also noted. Please refer page nine of the current Chapter Yearbook under *Elections* for specific instructions re: Absentee Ballots and Write-In Nominations.

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#### BRANDON BEACHAMP

Brandon Beachamp has just completed his first year as Organist-Choirmaster at the Episcopal Church of the Holy Family, Jasper. He is also on the faculty at the Atlanta International School, where he teaches middle school music and directs the school's three choral ensembles. As Logistics Chair for the 2007 AGO Regional Convention in Atlanta, Brandon worked as a member of the convention's Steering Committee to ensure the success of that great event in the history of our chapter. Before moving to Atlanta in 2005, he served as the Director of the Choir School at The House of Hope Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota. Brandon received his degree in sacred music from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey.

#### JEFF DANIEL

Jeff Daniel is currently the organist/choirmaster at The Episcopal Church of The Holy Spirit in Cumming, GA. He is a former middle school choral director and elementary general music teacher. Jeff served as registrar on the Steering Committee for the Region 4 AGO 2007 convention held in Atlanta. He is a member of the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Chorus and Chamber Chorus.

#### RACHEL FICKLIN

Rachel is a graduate of Georgia State University, and served as organist at Buford Presbyterian Church for 15 years. She recently retired from Gwinnett County Public Schools where she taught elementary school music for 29 years. Rachel has substituted at several churches in the Atlanta area.

#### JEFFREY HARBIN

*(Sub Dean)*

Jeffrey has been a professional organist since the age of 15. He studied under Dr Tim Wissler at the Roman Catholic Cathedral of Christ the King then went on to get his B.Mus. in Organ Performance, summa cum laude, from GSU studying under Sarah L. Martin. Jeff has performed at historic churches in Rome, Siena, Florence and Venice. He has his Master of Music in Choral Conducting from GSU studying under Dr. Alan Raines. Presently, Jeff serves as Director of Music and Organist at Saint Brigid Catholic Church in Alpharetta. He previously served as organist at Alpharetta Presbyterian church for six years.



#### JEREMY RUSH

Jeremy Rush is the Associate Organist at Peachtree Presbyterian Church, a position he has held since 2002. Mr. Rush is a graduate of Westminster College in New Wilmington, PA where he studied with John Walker and David Craighead. While in Pennsylvania, he was the Assistant Organist/Choirmaster at Trinity Episcopal Cathedral in Pittsburgh. Most recently, he was the Organist and Choirmaster at The Episcopal Church of the Resurrection in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina and Adjunct Instructor of Music at Coastal Carolina University. A 20-year member of the AGO, Mr. Rush has performed at regional and national conventions of the Guild, won the 1996 Young Artists' Competition (Pittsburgh Chapter), and was runner-up at the 1997 Region III Young Artists' Competition. Additionally, he has been on the faculty and planning teams for outreach events such as Pipe Organ Encounters and Pipes, Pedals, and Pizza.

#### THOMAS WIGLEY

*(Registrar)*

Tom Wigley, longtime member of AGO Atlanta, is an Elder and chorister at Decatur Presbyterian Church and for several years was a chorister at Independent Presbyterian in Birmingham. Career wise he holds the Certified Fraud Examiner and Certified Internal Auditor designations and has recently completed a 35 year career with Southern Company where he worked in Internal Controls, Accounting Research and Auditing. He is a past President of the Atlanta Chapter of the Institute of Internal Auditors and former member of the Board of Directors for the 120,000 member worldwide Institute of Internal Auditors.