



The Organizer

The Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

www.agoatlanta.org

April/May 2020

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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.

Advertising Rates

1/8 page:	\$15
1/4 page:	\$30
1/2 page:	\$60
Full page:	\$120

AGO Atlanta 2020 Ballot

Slate of Officers for 2020-2021

Peter Waggoner, *Dean*
 Sub-Dean TBA
 Charlene Ponder, *Treasurer*
 Nancy Dickson, *Assistant Treasurer*
 David Barber, EdD, *Registrar*
 Keith Williamson, *Secretary*
 Timothy Gunter, *Newsletter Editor*
 The Reverend Dr. John Beyers, *Chaplain*
 Lamar Savage, *Auditor*

Currently Serving Executive Committee Members

(*Outgoing*) Class of '20
 Joyce Johnson, DM, AAGO
 Jens Korndörfer, DM

Class of '21
 Jeff Daniel
 Tim Young

Class of '22
 Vicki Fey
 Justin Maxey

Select two of the following as Executive Committee Members Class of 2023:

- Bill Callaway
- Cliff Frierson
- Mary Ruth Laverty Solem
- Pamela Radford

Bios and pictures of the four candidates (as well as that of Jeff Daniel, who is completing Alvin Blount's term) can be found on page 5 of this newsletter.

Members who have an email address on file will receive an electronic ballot sometime during May. Members without an email should cut out this paper ballot, mark it with your vote, and mail it to Don Land, Chair of the Nominating Committee, by May 25:

Don Land
 2816 Orchard Rd. SW
 Conyers, GA 30094

Please DO NOT write your name on your paper ballot, but do include your return address on the envelope. Your ballot will be added to those submitted electronically.

From the Dean

Dear Friends,

Many of you receive the google group emails that allow us opportunities to find substitutes, promote an event, request the help or advice of other members, or simply to share good news. This way of communicating is a sort of community bulletin board for our chapter. I encourage you to use it and to read the emails. Following in this letter are excerpts I sent to you in two letters through google groups over the last month.

Some of you, even if you are online, may not receive the emails sent through google groups. If you have had this issue, it may mean that the emails are going to your junk or spam folder. It would be worth looking there to see if the missing emails are found.

When I sent my last letter to you, I had no idea our social distancing would last this long. It seems that for most of us, this “new normal” will continue for quite a while, at least a few more weeks, and possibly months or longer. Many businesses are reopening, but many of our churches are waiting before offering services with a full congregation. Considering this reality, I regret that we had to cancel our chapter meeting and guild service scheduled for Saturday, May 2, at St. David’s Episcopal Church in Roswell. This event was going to include a time for socializing and electing new members of the Executive Committee of the chapter board. It was to conclude with a service of installation for the new officers. Peter Waggoner, current Sub-Dean and the new Dean as of July 1, has recommended that we reschedule this event for early in the fall. More information about this as well as programming for next season will be forthcoming. It is extremely challenging to plan for the next year when everything seems so uncertain. Nonetheless, our plans should be clearer within the next month or so.

This edition of *The Organizer* includes the names and bios of those members who have agreed to run for the Executive Committee of the chapter board. Please read this information and plan to participate in the election. If you have an email address, you will soon receive an electronic ballot (all others will be able to use a paper ballot). We rely on your involvement, so I urge you to cast your vote.

All of you should have received the recent letter from the national officers of the AGO regarding the upcoming national convention here in Atlanta. The steering committee for the convention has worked very hard for the past few years to prepare for what would have been an outstanding convention. Everyone regrets what has happened and it’s understandable that we are all saddened by the cancellation. There still may be ways for us to experience much of what was planned for the convention, so stay tuned for more information.

I hope you are all staying safe and remaining healthy. If you know of a member who is not well, please let me and all of us know. Let’s continue to pray for all paramedics, emergency and medical care workers, and all others who are on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis.

We still live with great uncertainty, and we all face untold challenges. I send you all my heartfelt and sincere thoughts and prayers as you continue to deal with your new reality. Many of the Psalms are wonderful sources of comfort in times of uncertainty. I have always found it meaningful to recite daily the words of Psalm 118:24, “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.” No matter what the adversity, God is there to help us face it. And from Psalm 56:3, “When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”

I wish all of you blessings of joy and peace. And please do everything possible to stay healthy!

Best wishes,
Jack Mitchener
Dean, AGO Atlanta

May 2020 Calendar of Events

LIVESTREAM Concert

Sunday, May 10, 2020, 3:00 p.m. — Concerts @ First presents


Trumpet & Organ Spectacular — Stuart Stephenson & Mike Tiscione, trumpet; Jens Korndörfer, organ

Enjoy a memorable afternoon with masterworks from three centuries, including Vivaldi's brilliant *Concerto in C* for two trumpets, and Dupré's remarkable *Variations sur un Noël* for organ solo, performed by the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's principal trumpeters and First Presbyterian Church of Atlanta's organist.

LIVESTREAMED on

- Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/fpcatlanta/videos>
- Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/firstpresatl/?ref=br_tf&epa=SEARCH_BOX
- First Pres. Livestream: <https://firstpresatl.org/livestream/>

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From Sue Mitchell-Wallace, SE Regional Councillor

Dear Friends,

The tornadoes last month in Nashville, TN, caused immense damage to several churches and organs in the greater Nashville area. I have been in touch with the Dean of the Nashville AGO Chapter, and she has been told that it will take a long time for these churches to recover from the devastation. As the Southeast Regional Councillor for the AGO, I am asking chapters and churches throughout the Southeast to consider having member recitals, hymn festivals and hymn-singing marathons to raise funds for these damaged Nashville churches. Thus, in your possible summer activities and certainly for the 2020-2021 season, please strongly consider planning an event that could generate some funds to send to Nashville, as a gesture of goodwill and support as they recover and rebuild. Please contact me if you have questions or thoughts. The Dean of the Nashville Chapter, Marsha Scheusner, wrote that repairs, restoration and rebuilding will take a long time. Support from chapters and churches around the Southeast can surely bring comfort, inspiration and assistance for their momentous tasks and healing.

Sue Mitchell-Wallace
Southeast Regional Councillor
678-468-5580
smw30076@bellsouth.net

A Suggested Hymn for the First Sunday We Worship Together Again

Hopefully before long we can gather for weekly worship again as is our regular custom. There is a wonderful hymn that we all might use for the opening of worship that day, a hymn many church musicians (and clergy too) might not know, since it is sung infrequently (if at all) — among other occasions, usually at the United Methodist Church's annual conferences, when ministerial appointments and other important denominational business is transacted. Number 553 in the United Methodist Hymnal, "And are we yet alive," was written by Charles Wesley (1707-1788), brother of John Wesley and author of more than 5000 hymns. He wrote it in the 1700s, likely for the opening of a ministerial "annual conference" gathering of clergy and lay people. It is still used as the opening hymn at many UMC annual conferences around the country. The text is very appropriate for all that we have experienced during COVID-19, almost as if it had been written specifically for our time. Suitable for worship in any Christian denomination, it reflects Biblical/theological concepts that all Christians affirm.

I suggest that everyone find the hymn, and study and ponder it; then ask your pastor or organist/music director to consider it for our first Sunday back together. I am certain it will be a blessing for all to sing on that day!

John H. Roark, BFA, MDiv, DMin

In Memoriam — Alice Bliss

With great sadness, but with faith in the resurrection of our Lord, we share that **Alice Bliss** died Wednesday, March 11, 2020. Alice's burial rites will be held at Holy Trinity Parish at a date to be determined later. Please keep all who loved her in your prayers.

O God, whose mercies cannot be numbered: Accept our prayers on behalf of your servant Alice and grant her an entrance into the land of light and joy, in the fellowship of your saints; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

AGO Board Candidates, Class of 2023



Bill Callaway has been an Atlanta Chapter AGO member since 1981. He studied with Russell Saunders at the Eastman School of Music, and Egbert Ennul at the University of Georgia. Since 1997 he has been organist at Chamblee First United Methodist Church, and

has been active as a choral accompanist and recitalist in the Atlanta area. He has served twice on the board in the past, and for several years was in charge of the used music sales. He also served on the hospitality committee for the (now cancelled) 2020 national convention.



Cliff Frierson is originally from Denmark, SC, where he served as organist at First Baptist Church from 1975 to 1979. He studied organ performance under Dr. David Lowry at Winthrop College in Rock Hill, SC, and under Dr. Henry Lofquist at Western Carolina

University in Cullowhee, NC, before moving to Atlanta. He served as organist at First Presbyterian Church of Covington, GA, from 1986 to 2003. He has been organist at Druid Hills Presbyterian Church from 2008 to the present, and currently studies organ with Sue Mitchell-Wallace.



Mary Ruth Laverty Solem studied as a young student with her father, John Timothy Laverty, before enrolling at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she studied under Dr. Kathryn Eskey. She has held posts in North Carolina, Washington, Arizona and

Georgia, serving at Dunwoody United Methodist Church since 1983. Ms. Solem has played in many cathedrals and major churches in England, Italy and Spain, including Westminster Abbey (England), St. Peter's Basilica (Rome), Cathedral of St. Mark (Venice), and others during her time at Dunwoody. She has played several recitals for her Dunwoody congregation. Mary Ruth also teaches piano and organ privately. In 2019 she was delighted to have the opportunity and honor of presiding over Dunwoody's newly installed, 100-rank Quimby organ.



A native of North Carolina, **Pamela Radford** holds a Bachelor of Arts degree, *magna cum laude*, from Gardner Webb University, and a Master of Music degree from Converse College. She currently serves as organist/choir

director at First Presbyterian Church in Cartersville.

Prior to coming to Cartersville, she was the Director of Music/Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Statesboro for 25 years. Pam was also a staff accompanist at Georgia Southern University. She played for the GSU Women's Choir, University Singers, and accompanied student recitals. She traveled to Italy with Dr. Maureen Simpson and performed a series of concerts. In addition to these, she played for Cardinal Mass at St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. In demand as a collaborative pianist, Pam recently played for the state, regional, and national competitions for the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS), and performed at the International Double Reed Society conference, premiering works of Georgia composer Charles Sayre.

Appointed to fill the remainder of Alvin Blount's term:



Jeff Daniel is a retired church musician from the Episcopal Church of the Holy Spirit in Cumming, GA, where he served as organist/choirmaster for 17½ years. Previously he served for years as organist in various Lutheran and United Methodist churches in the

Atlanta area. He was also a middle school choral and elementary general music teacher for 10 years, from 1989-1998. He enjoys being a member of, and working with, the AGO. Most recently he served as Co-Chair of Exhibits on the Steering Committee for the AGO 2020 National Convention, originally planned for July (though unfortunately cancelled due to COVID-19).

2020 AGO National Convention in Atlanta Cancelled

Dear Atlanta Chapter Members,

The AGO National Council, the Committee for Conventions, and the Convention Steering Committee for the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists regret to announce the cancellation of the AGO 2020 National Convention scheduled for July 6-10 this summer. The uncertainties surrounding the spread of the coronavirus require us to take this action. We felt that we could not adequately guarantee the health and well-being of our convention attendees, performers, presenters, exhibitors, worship leaders, and all others who would have been involved in the convention. We are deeply saddened at having to make this very difficult decision, but we feel it is in the best interest of all AGO members, their families, friends, and colleagues.

If you have previously registered or paid fees as a convention participant or exhibitor, you should have received an e-mail from the convention with details on how to obtain a refund or make a donation. Advertisers will also be entitled to obtain a refund or make a donation and will receive a separate email communication with associated details. If you have questions, please call 404-981-7210.

The Hyatt Regency Atlanta advises us that in light of our decision to cancel the convention, they are automatically canceling the reservations and refunding the deposits of all convention attendees who made hotel reservations within the convention's room block. You do not have to contact the hotel or Hyatt reservations to cancel. Please be advised that because of the high volume of hotel cancellations taking place all across the country, the refund process may take up to 10 days. If the person who made the reservation provided an e-mail address at the time of the booking, the hotel will send a notice to that e-mail address with the confirmation of the cancellation.

Stay safe.

With all best wishes,

James E. Thomashower, Executive Director
Michael Bedford, President
Michael Velting, Councillor for Conventions
Nicole Marane, National Convention Coordinator
2020 Steering Committee



**SUNDAY, MAY 10, 2020,
3:00 P.M.**

Join us at
firstpresatl.org/livestream

Concerts @ First presents
Trumpet & Organ Spectacular
Stuart Stephenson
& Mike Tiscione, Trumpet
Jens Korndörfer, Organ

Enjoy a memorable afternoon with masterworks from three centuries, including Vivaldi's brilliant *Concerto in C* for two trumpets and Dupré's remarkable *Variations sur un Noël* for organ solo, performed by Atlanta Symphony Orchestra's principal trumpeters and FPC's organist.

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

Central Congregational United Church of Christ, Atlanta, seeks a part-time organist/pianist. Send resumes to keyboardposition@central-ucc.org.

Cross of Life Lutheran Church, Atlanta, seeks an interim organist. Contact pastorterri@crossoflifelutheran.org for information.

Peachtree Road Lutheran Church, Atlanta, seeks a Director of Music Ministries. Send resume to: peachtreerd@earthlink.net.

Grace-Calvary Episcopal Church, Clarkesville, seeks a part-time organist. Send resumes to gcalvary@windstream.net.

First United Methodist Church, Dalton, seeks an organist/pianist. Send resume to daltonfumcmusic@gmail.com.

Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Marietta, seeks an organist/pianist. Send resume to jamie.dick@epres.org.

Mountain View United Methodist Church, Marietta, seeks a part-time organist/pianist. Send resume to khginc@bellsouth.net.

Pilgrimage United Church of Christ, Marietta, seeks a pianist. Send resume to pilgrimageuccworship@gmail.com.

Newnan Presbyterian Church seeks a Director of Music. Email lallagentry@gmail.com for information.

St. George Catholic Church, Newnan, seeks a Director of Music/Organist. Send resume to mcormier@stgeorgenewnan.org.

Christ Church Episcopal, Norcross, seeks a part-time organist. Send resume to office@ccnorcross.org.

Roswell Presbyterian Church seeks a part-time organist. Email resume to organistsearch@roswellpres.org.

Rivercliff Lutheran Church, Sandy Springs, seeks a part-time choir director. Mail resume to 8750 Roswell Road, Sandy Springs, GA 30350.

Trinity Presbyterian Church, Montgomery, AL, seeks a full-time Assistant Director of Music & Organist. Send resumes to talAlexander@trinitypca.org.

Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church, Lexington, SC, seeks a part-time Organist/Music Associate. For more information, contact Hal McIntosh at hmcintosh@saxegotha.org, 803-359-7770.

Singers

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, seeks an alto staff singer. To schedule an audition, contact Jeffrey McIntyre at 404-805-4816 or jdmatl@aol.com.

First United Methodist Church, Atlanta, seeks a tenor staff singer. For an audition, contact Christopher Bryant at Christopher@atlantafirstumc.org.

First Presbyterian Church, Cartersville, seeks a bass or baritone staff singer. To arrange an audition, contact pam@cartersvillepres.org.



The Organizer

Atlanta Chapter A.G.O.
Timothy Gunter, *newsletter editor*
2744 Peachtree Rd. NW
Atlanta, GA 30305

Chapter Officers

Jack Mitchener, DMA, *Dean*
Peter Waggoner, *Sub-Dean*
Charlene Ponder, *Treasurer*
Nancy Dickson, *Assistant Treasurer*
David Barber, EdD, *Registrar*
Keith Williamson, *Secretary*
Timothy Gunter, *Newsletter Editor*
The Reverend Dr. John Beyers, *Chaplain*
Lamar Savage, *Auditor*

Class of '20

Joyce Johnson, DMus, AAGO
Jens Korndörfer, DM

Class of '21

Alvin Blount
Tim Young

Class of '22

Vicki Fey
Justin Maxey