# CHARLES CALLAHAN to play SEPTEMBER 13 at THE SHRINE

Punch Bowl at 6 PM Dinner at 6:30 PM Recital at 8 PM

# **AGO National Pedagogy Conference**

University of Notre Dame Notre Dame, Indiana Dates: September 11-14, 2005

The conference will focus on works of Dieterich Buxtehude in anticipation of the Buxtehude year in 2007.

The conference will begin Sunday evening, September 11 with the opening recital at 7 PM.

[The program will be repeated at 8:30 PM.]

The conference will end at 1 PM on Wednesday.

The Pedagogy Conference will be part of the year-long events to celebrate the new Fritts Organ at Notre Dame (2/35, 2004).

View the Fritts, gather more information and register online at: <a href="http://marketplace.nd.edu/cce/">http://marketplace.nd.edu/cce/</a>

- For more details, see Page 5 -

Our 2005-2006 season opens on *Tuesday, September 13*, with a recital by CHARLES CALLAHAN at the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 48 Martin Luther King Drive, SW, Atlanta. The evening will start with the punchbowl at 6:00 p.m., dinner at 6:30, and the recital at 8:00. Jeffrey McIntyre, SP, CAGO, will be our host for the event.

Mr. Callahan, a prolific composer and organist, was born 1951, in Cambridge, Ma. He is a graduate of the Curtis Institute in Philadelphia and the Catholic University of America, Washington, DC. Additional study was in Mechelen, Belgium with Flor Peeters. He has served on the faculty of Middlebury College, Catholic University and Rollins College; presently, Mr. Callahan serves as Director of the Vermont Conservatory of Music. He also has served as organist and choir director for churches in Philadelphia, Washington, New York City. He has composed numerous works for organ, piano, chorus, chamber ensembles, and orchestra, and has performed widely, including the Washington Cathedral; St. Patrick's Cathedral and St. Thomas Church, NYC; Cathedral of the Angels, Los Angeles; and in London at Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral.

PLEASE NOTE: Some street parking may be available, but members are advised and encouraged to car-pool and park in one of the Underground Atlanta parking garages just across the street from the Shrine (the State lot we usually use will not be available). The Shrine is also convenient to both the Five Points and Georgia State MARTA stations.

Michael Morgan Sub Dean

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# THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

The 2005-2006 season's calendar of events for the Atlanta Chapter, AGO, may be found in the Chapter Yearbook. Here is a list just to summarize them for you:

September 13

Charles Callahan, Organist

Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Jeffrey McIntyre, host

Musician/Clergy Dinner with Austin Lovelace October 11

and Evening Prayer

Columbia Theological Seminary

Workshops with **Tamara** and **Timothy Albrecht** November 12

St. Bede's Episcopal Church

(Saturday, 10:00-2:00, with lunch)

Christmas Party at the home of Warren Williams December 27

(complete with pipe organ and exquisite food!)

Celebration of African-American Organ Music January 10

St. Paul's Episcopal Church

Trey Clegg, host

February 17 Christopher Pardini, Organist

North Decatur Presbyterian Church

Jamie Shiell, host

Members' Recital — "Organ Plus One" March 14

First Presbyterian Church, Marietta

Commissioned work for Easter April

> David Kocsis, composer (no meeting this month)

**Annual Guild Service** May 9

Covenant Presbyterian Church, Atlanta John Coble, host

Mark your calendars, and plan to attend as often as you are able!



# A Message from The DEAN

Welcome back, friends and colleagues, to a year of events planned by our dedicated & creative Sub-Dean, Michael Morgan - these dates should be listed on our calendars right away! Don't wait until the last minute to invite your favorite (or obligatory) clergy to what I know will be a beautiful evening prayer service led by Austin Lovelace at Columbia Seminary on October 11th.

What a grand time some of us had in Columbus at the Region IV Convention - I enjoyed the trip with the year's most celebrated Chapter Member, Betty Williford, who had just retired as Editor of The Organizer. Co-Chairs for our 2007 Regional here in Atlanta, John Brandt and Bruce Neswick, did a snappy presentation! Two members of our Chapter who passed away this summer are Helen Whately, SP (who had moved to Florida when her husband Jerome retired), and Herb Archer (The Rev. Herbert S.Archer, Jr.), for whom a service was held on August 22nd at First Presbyterian, Atlanta, with many of us in attendance.

As I begin the final year of this big, 4-year commitment to serve you, the Atlanta Chapter of AGO, it occurs to me that opportunity seldom knocks on our doors at the most convenient of times in our busy lives. From recent experience, I don't believe such decisions should be based upon logic and common sense - but upon one's inspiration and motivation to embark upon the tasks at hand. If these are present, I urge you to say 'YES!' even amid daunting circumstances, and be willing to ask knowledgeable people for their help.

I'm very grateful to those who answered in the affirmative when I phoned this summer to ask them to do various jobs necessary to run our Chapter! Please refer often to the newly-organized Committees page in your 2005-2006 Yearbook. Many long hours were spent preparing this yearbook, especially by Cindy Forbes, Charles Redmon, Michael Morgan, Turley Higgins, and by our Webmaster Tim Shepard (who already has the roster of this year's events on the website as I write this on 8/18). Just opposite the Yearbook list of Past Deans of the Atlanta Chapter, you will see an amazing color photo of 23 Past Deans, which was taken by our Chapter Photographer, Will W. Rogers, just before we devoured every slice of the 90th anniversary cake (given by John Widener and Tommy McCook) on October 12th, 2004! Copies of that day's Anniversary Booklet with a short Chapter History (conceived by Dan Pruitt and a gift from Parkey Organ Builders) are still available. Two new yearbook categories listed in our Table of Contents are 'Find a Place to Practice' and 'Find an Organ Teacher' - both in response to requests by our Members. You'll also find a first-time-ever page from our Committee on Investment and Endowment (watch for their informative brochure,

coming this Fall!), and an ad from which the Planning Committee for AGO Region IV Convention which reminds you to mark your calendar for June 17-20, 2007 and GET **INVOLVED!** 

This year I've realized, as never before, the vital connection between AGO Professional Concerns (particularly our Grievance Procedures) and a wide and healthy AGO Membership base! I am indebted to our District Convener, Andre Lash, FAGO, and to our District Councilor, Sarah Hawbecker, for their guidance, experience, and patience. I encourage each Chapter Member to avail himself/herself of the sample contract/agreement between musicians & churches, provided on the National AGO Website. A Job Description alone is not adequate or fair because it is one-sidedfrom the employer's point of view. It is wise to be informed and prepared before unexpected, negative changes take place, and AGO provides specific ways for us to protect ourselves and to support one another.

If, on November 5th, you'd like to play the magnificent Opus 45 Jaeckel organ which adorns our Ninety-first anniversary yearbook cover, you should contact boxoffice@emory.edu immediately while 15-minute time slots are still available! As we move on to our 91st, let us congratulate the Atlanta Music Club (to which some of us belong) upon their 90th anniversary, and remember their charter role in much of the orchestral and choral music which continues to enrich Atlanta!

On a rainy Sunday afternoon several months ago, I attended a memorable concert given by Charles Callahan at All Saints Episcopal Church. Don't miss Charlie as he plays our opening concert on September 13th, and invite a friend to join you!

Joanne Brown, CAGO

#### Dinner Notes

**Dinner Reservations** David Barber, Chair by email: d barber@bellsouth.net

Karen Bunn, Chair

by phone: 404.979.4318

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 make a reservation and are unable to keep it, you are responsible for canceling the reservation 24 hours in advance of the dinner date - OR– you will be expected to pay for it regardless of your attendance.

Thank you in advance for honoring these requests.

# A Note of Thanks

Those of you who have email have already received my thanks for the Fräbel glass sculpture and generous gift that you gave me at the May meeting. However, I know only too well that many of you still live in the snail mail world, so this is for you. I was deeply moved by the thoughtfulness of Tim Eastling for organizing this project, and of all of you who made it possible. The glass sculpture is beautiful, and I did find a good, safe place for it in my living room. I treasure it, as well as the many friends who have helped me in so many ways during my seven years as newsletter editor.

Although I have passed the newsletter responsibilities on to Charles Redmon, I will still be working for AGO in other ways. I look forward to seeing you in the fall.

Betty Williford

# About the Chapter Family

Please remember these other chapter members in your thoughts and prayers:

Martha Clay as she recovers from hand surgery in August.

**Bill Wells** is recovering from a blood clot in his leg and has recently been hospitalized.

**Sarah Porter** has serious complications from kneed replacement surgery.

Adele McKee is mending from foot surgery.

#### Our Sincere Condolences to the families of ....

**Helen Whately**, S.P., who passed away in July. She had moved to Ocala, Florida. Many of you may have enjoyed chatting with Helen and her husband Jerome at AGO dinners.

**Herb Archer** — long time chapter member and former Dean who died on August 17th. A memorial service was held at Atlanta's First Presbyterian Church on August 22nd. A complete obituary may be found on the Chapter website and insert.

A \$25 Chapter donation was made in each name to the Scholarship Fund in their memory.

# Dinner Menu for 9/13

Rotisserie Chicken —or— Marinated Pork Loin Potato Salad & Selected Vegetables Dinner Rolls Dessert: Cobbler



# The Redeemer Concert Series

Sunday, September 11, 2005 1:30 PM Allegro String Quartet

Sunday, October 16, 2005 1:30 PM Charles Boyd Tompkins, Organist

LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER 731 PEACHTREE ST. NE, ATLANTA, GA 30308

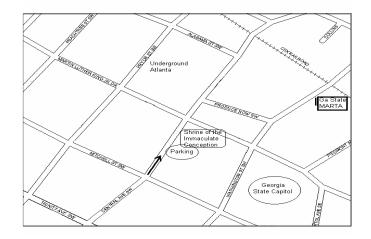
Sarah Hawbecker, Organist and Director of Children's and Instrumental Music

David Hansen, Director of Adult Choral Activities 404-874-8664 www.redeemer.org

#### Did You Know?

After many years as church musician at Living Grace Lutheran Church, (formerly St. Matthews) *Philip Newton*, a vibrant member of our chapter, has taken a position at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church on Signal Mountain, TN, near Chattanooga. He is musically responsible for two of the three Sunday services. St. Timothy's, a parish of some 950 communicants, has a two-year old, 20 rank pipe organ built by Randall Dyer of Jefferson City, Tennessee. Philip will continue his membership in the Atlanta chapter as well as joining the Chattanooga chapter.

Best wishes, Philip, for wealth of blessings in your new position.



# In Memoriam

# Helen Whatley

December 25, 1918 - July 29, 2005



# The Reverend Herbert Sitton Archer, Jr.

November 3, 1922 - August 17, 2005

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

#### **EVENTS CALENDAR for SEPTEMBER**

Sunday, 11th - 1:30 pm Sunday, 11th - 3:30 pm Tuesday, 13th - 8:00 pm Wednesday, 14th - 7:30 pm Thurs - Sat, 15-16-17 - 8:00 pm Sunday, 18th - 3:30 pm Sunday, 18th - 4:00 pm Sunday, 18th - 7:00 pm Saturday, 24th - 7:30 pm Sunday, 25th - 3:00 pm Sunday, 25th - 3:00 pm Sunday, 25th - 3:30 pm

ALLEGRO STRING QUARTET **BRUCE NESWICK, Organ CHARLES CALLAHAN DOUGLAS WHEELER, Percussion** ASO & CHORUS: Mahler, Symph. No. 2 DAVID COLEMAN, Organ **TIMOTHY ALBRECHT, Organist** CAMERON CARPENTER, Organ/Piano ATLANTA CHORAL ARTISTS - all Briten All Saints' Episcopal IAN BOSTRIDGE, Tenor ATLANTA BAROQUE ORCHESTRA **BRINK BUSH, Organ** 

Redeemer Lutheran Church Cathedral of St. Philip **Shrine of the Immaculate Conception** Spivey Hall, CSU Season Opener at Symphony Hall Cathedral of St. Philip Schwartz Center, Emory **Peachtree Presbyterian** Spivey Hall, CSU Peachtree Road United Methodist Cathedral of St. Philip

--continued from cover page --

The American Guild of Organists (AGO) and the University of Notre Dame have partnered to produce the 13th AGO NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ORGAN PEDAGOGY at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, September 11-14. Organists, scholars, performers, students, and teachers will gather for three days of performances, lectures, masterclasses, and discussions on the music of Dieterich Buxtehude (1637-1707).

The AGO Pedagogy Conference will be part of a year-long series of events celebrating Notre Dame's new Fritts organ (II/35) in the Reyes Organ and Choral Hall, and the opening of the DeBartolo Performing Arts Center. Reyes Hall is noted for its superb acoustics, similar to the North German churches in which the music of Buxtehude was first heard.

The conference will unite teaching, scholarship, and performance, and the overriding goal will be to integrate these three disciplines always with an eye toward a more enlightened performance style among students and professionals. The conference lectures will concentrate on keyboard techniques, improvisation, theoretical issues, performance, practice topics, and the historical situation of music in 17th-century North Germany.

The AGO Conference on Organ Pedgogy is sponsored by the University of Notre Dame Department of Music, College of Arts and Letters, the Boehnen Fund in the Arts, the Henkels Guest Lecture Fund, the Graduate School, and the O'Malley Endowment for Performances in Sacred Music. Complete Conference information was published in the July issue of The American Organist Magazine. Conference registration is available online at www.agohq.org/pedagogy. For further information, please contact:

> Dr. Craig Cramer, Professor of Organ University of Notre Dame 574-631-7836 Email: ccramer@nd.edu

# A Note from James Thomashower

As a member of A.G.O., you are encouraged to register for "Music in Worship: A Prophetic Voice—Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow" - a symposium to be held at Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, October 9-11, 2005. The symposium will deal with music in worship, the role of music in the seminary, where we are (?) and best practices. We will also examine the historical, current and future places of the organ and choral music in worship.

For further information, check your July and August TOA magazines or email infor@agohq.org.

# Happiness is Being Certified!

There will be a session for those considering the Basic Organ Certificate (NPM), Service Playing or Colleague examinations at the Catholic Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on **Monday, October 3 at 7:00 PM.** Participants will learn the requirements for each level, the process for application, the many reasons to pursue certification, and pointers for preparation. This is an information session, and there is no cost to the participants. Free parking is available in the lot adjacent to the church.

For additional information or directions, please contact Jeffrey McIntyre, CAGO, at 404-521-1866.



Further details on these and other positions may be found at the Chapter's web site: www.agoatlanta.org — then click on "Employment."

Oakhurst Presbyterian Church (USA) 118 Second Avenue, Decatur, GA 30030, 404-378-6284; e-mail <a href="mailto:oakpres@earthlink.net">oakpres@earthlink.net</a>; fax 404-378-6295. Send resume to Rev. Nibs Stroupe at the above postal or mail addresses or fax number by Sept. 16, 2005

Sandy Springs Christian Church 301 Johnson Ferry Road, NW, Atlanta, GA 30328-1819, 404-256-2582 Interim Director of Music Ministries (8/31/05 thru 12/31/05) <a href="https://www.sandyspringscc.org">https://www.sandyspringscc.org</a>. Send resume to <a href="mailto:map@mindspring.com">map@mindspring.com</a> or Fax to 770-956-7766.

**First United (ELCA) Lutheran Church** 3481 Frey Lake Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144. 770-427-0325. Liturgical Music Director wanted for Sunday 11 a.m. worship service of 500 member north Atlanta church. Please send resume and letter of application to Pastor Coleman at First United Lutheran Church, 3481 Frey Lake Road, Kennesaw, GA 30144 or to <a href="mailto:tocleman@mindspring.com">tocleman@mindspring.com</a>.

St. Luke Lutheran Church (ELCA) 1123 McDonough Place, McDonough, GA, 30253. 678-432-0845. Immediate opening for part-time Director of Music. Please fax resume (678) 432-3381 or e-mail <a href="mailto:storyofGod@bellsouth.net">storyofGod@bellsouth.net</a> to the attention of Music Search Team. A position description is available at <a href="https://www.storyofGod.org">www.storyofGod.org</a>.

**Kingswood United Methodist Church** 5015 Tilly Mill Road, Dunwoody GA, 30338 (770-457-1317) <u>www.kingswoodumc.org</u> Full-time Director of Music Ministry. Send resume to "Music Director Search" c/o Dr. Dave Benson, Senior Pastor at the above address, or fax to 770-454-7330, or e-mail to: musicsearch@kingswoodumc.org

Conyers Presbyterian Church (USA) 911 North Main Street, Conyers, GA 30012 (770) 929-0700. Part-time Director of Music for 450 member suburban Atlanta church. Please send resumes to Carolyn Hutcherson, Chair of the Music/Worship Committee to the address above. Questions may be to directed to Carolyn Hutcherson at (770) 388-0645 or <a href="mailto:sooner78@aol.com">Sooner78@aol.com</a>

**Lutheran Church of the Incarnation** 1200 Indian Hills Parkway, Marietta, GA 30068-2552. 770.971.2738. Organist for a growing suburban Atlanta church. Send resume or contact Jerid Morisco at 404.643.8586, or email him at <a href="mailto:musicdirector@lcilutheran.org">musicdirector@lcilutheran.org</a>.

**East Point First Mallalieu United Methodist Church** 2651 Church Street, East Point, GA 30344 (404) 761-3183 has an immediate opening for an Organist / Pianist to serve as accompanist for the music program of our 150 year old multi-cultural church. Please contact Winston Jones 770-612-0452 (H) 404-767-8763 (W) or Don Sumlin 678-478-0456 or fax resume to 404-767-4168.

**First Presbyterian Church** — 206 Willowbend Road, Peachtree City, Georgia is seeking an organist for traditional worship. Interested musicians may contact Tom Perkins, 770-487-7757 or <a href="mailto:tperkins@firstpres.com">tperkins@firstpres.com</a>.

St. Clare's Episcopal Church (USA) 1272 Ledford Rd., Blairsville, GA 30512 706-745-0607 Organist/choirmaster for 130 member church in the mountains of North Georgia. Send resume or contact The Rev. Susan Johnson (fathersue@alltel.net).

**Chattahoochee Christian Church** 10800 Bell Rd., Duluth, GA 30097 is searching for a Part-time Director of Church Music. For job description and interview contact Dr. Jack L. Snellgrove at chchch@bellsouth.net or call 770-418-1101.

# Music at The Cathedral of St. Philip

**Sunday Afternoon Recital Series** All recitals begin in the Cathedral at 3:30 p.m. as a prelude to the 4 p.m. Evensong, which is sung by the Cathedral Schola or Choir. Evensong on Third Thursdays at 5:45 p.m. is sung by the Choir of Girls, Boys and Adults.

#### SEPTEMBER

- 11 Bruce Neswick
- 18 David Coleman (Raleigh, NC)
- 25 Brink Bush (Providence, RI)

#### OCTOBER

- 2 Daniel Stipe
- 9 Brandon Beacham, (Atlanta)
- 16 David Houston (Atlanta)
- 23 Mario Duella (Tivero, Italy)
- 30 Patrick Pope (Charlotte, NC)

**Autumn Concert Series** 

#### SUNDAY - 16 OCTOBER - 7:30 PM

at Peachtree Road United Methodist Church
Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart *Requiem*William Fred Scott, Conductor
Peachtree Road United Methodist Chancel Choir
and the St. Philip Cathedral Choir

Have you hugged your employer lately?

### The Organizer & Other Important Information

Charles Redmon, *Editor* (404) 931-8668

chazredmon@aol.com

#### **DEADLINE for October issue: September 15, 2005**

Advertising space available:

Per issue — \$60 half page; \$30 quarter page; \$15 business card size

Chapter Web site www.agoatlanta.org
National Web site www.AGOHQ.org
Chapter Listserve AGOAtlanta-@listserve.uga.edu

#### **Executive Board Meeting**

Saturday — <u>September 10, 2005</u> — 9:30 AM Central Presbyterian Church 201 Washington St., SW

# COUNTDOWN TO CHICAGO!

We hope you can join us in magnificent Chicago! In addition to world-class ensembles, performers, dining and shopping, you will have the chance to experience one of the most wonderful fireworks displays anywhere! It is also a chance to celebrate the centenary of the Chicago Chapter of the AGO. We invite you to visit our Web site; you can access it from the AGO National Headquarters home page, www.agohq.org. Visit it early and often for exciting updates and venue information! See you in the Windy City!

Dr. Dennis E. Northway, Ch.M. Promotions Chair ChicAGO 2006 Convention



# **ORGAN PREMIERES AT EMORY**

# Tuesday, October 11, 8 PM

John A. Lennon – *Misericordia* - World Premiere
Steve Everett – *Vanitas* - World Premiere
For organ with live electronic manipulation

Karlheinz Stockhausen - Klang: Erste Stunde - U.S. Premiere

For organ, soprano, tenor, quadraphonic amplification, and video projection

Randall Harlow, Organ Teresa Hopkin, Soprano Steve Everett, Electronics

SCHWARTZ CENTER FOR PERFORMING ARTS, EMORY UNIVERSITY
JAECKEL OP.45 EMERSON CONCERT HALL ORGAN
— Free Admission —



The Organizer

Atlanta Chapter A.G.O. Charles Redmon, *Newsletter Editor* 509 Garden Court NE Atlanta, QA. 30328

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As we continue working on our 2005-2006 schedule, the ownership and staff of A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company welcome the opportunity to consult with you about new instruments, organ rebuilding, additions, or service.

# In Memoriam

# REVEREND HERBERT SITTON ARCHER, JR.

Herb Archer gently departed this earthly life on the morning of August 17th, 2005 to be with the God with whom he had faithfully walked his entire life. He will be remembered by all who knew him for his quiet, selfless devotion to worship and for his humble service to the transforming power of God through sacred music and pastoral care.

Herb was born in Seneca, SC, on November 3rd, 1922, and grew up in Anderson, SC, where he began piano lessons at age seven. Following graduation from Furman University in 1943, he served in the U. S. Navy for three years during World War II. He then studied at the Juilliard School of Music and earned a Masters degree in Music Education from Columbia University in New York City. In 1950 Herb accepted a position of Chairman of the Music Department at Anderson College, Anderson SC, where he fell in love with fellow faculty member Mary Skinner, who had a studio next to his. They were married the following year, leading to 54 years of a partnership in music and life. In 1957, they felt a call to music ministry, leading to additional study at Union Theological Seminary's School of Sacred Music where Herb received a Masters in Sacred Music. In 1976 Herb became ordained to the Ministry of Word and Sacraments through studies at Columbia Theological Seminary in Decatur, Georgia, so he could perform weddings, baptisms and funerals.

Reverend Archer served Presbyterian churches in Anderson, SC, Rutherford, NJ, and Macon, GA, before coming to First Presbyterian Church, Atlanta in 1964, where he served as Minister of Music until retirement in 1988 and from 1996 as Parish Visitor, visiting congregants in hospitals and nursing homes. He served as interim organists in many churches in Atlanta following formal retirement. To each church he brought an ability to work with ministers to deepen and enrich worship, inspiring choristers and instrumentalists to give their best to the glory of God. He truly led the worship at First Presbyterian, even coordinating with WSB when the service was broadcast live. He never put himself forward but led the service in a way to bring attention to God, not himself or even the music. Upon retirement, the church commissioned a portrait of Herb and Mary, which hangs prominently in the corridors with portraits of past ministers.

Herb was a past Dean of the Atlanta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists and was the Director of the Presbyterian Music Conference at Montreat, NC in 1970. Throughout his music ministry, Herb enjoyed teaching piano students, several of whom have become distinguished musicians. As an active Rotarian, he was the Atlanta Rotary Club's musician-in-residence for decades.

Anyone wishing to honor Herb's memory may send donations c/o First Presbyterian Church, 1328 Peachtree St. NE, Atlanta, GA 30309 for Childspring International (volunteer medical care in the U.S. for impoverished children), the Cipo Project (an educational mission in Brazil), the Pastoral Care Ministry, and the Music Ministry of First Presbyterian or to the Salvation Army, Atlanta Area Command, 1424 NE Expressway, Atlanta GA, 30324. AGO members may, also, honor Herb's work as Dean and his teaching by contributing to the AGO Scholarship Fund in his memory.

One of Herb's closest friends was former Dean Adele Dieckmann McKee. She declared: "Herb stood for the best. He believed in doing the best kind of music as well as he could possibly do it. He always had soloists with outstanding voices who worked well together." Though gentle and soft-spoken, Herb did not hesitate to fight for his principles. Sam Hagan, tenor soloist at the church from 1970 to 1988 remembered: ."Herb stuck his head out a little bit when he hired me, because First Presbyterian had never had a black soloist before. I'm sure Herb took some flak for it. He was a fantastic person who grew the music program tremendously." Dr. Paul Eckel, senior pastor at First Presbyterian from 1977 to 1988 commented on Herb's skills as a worship leader: "Herb would plan the music around the sermons and Scripture readings, from the introits to the hymns to the anthems. He wanted to contribute to the total atmosphere of worship." One of his students Mark Stringer, now in Vienna, Austria has conducted major orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, remembered Herb fondly: "Herb introduced music to me and made me love it. I started with him when I was 6, and stayed with him until I went to Juilliard at 18. I was incredibly intense and driven then, an overwhelming perfectionist. Herb taught me how to never lose sight of perfection but to calm down and enjoy the music and be nice to the musicians. I later studied with many great conductors, including Leonard Bernstein and Simon Rattle, but Herb taught me the basic lessons of what it meant to be a professional."

As someone who knew of Herb's work as Parish Visitor, Charlie Beford said: "A visit from Herb Archer meant more than a typical minister coming by. Herb was always able to say just the right thing. He was a person of quality.