



The Tulsa Tracker

Newsletter of the Tulsa Chapter,
American Guild of Organists

September, 2024

Website: www.tulsaago.org

From the Dean:

Welcome to a new year with the Tulsa Chapter of the American Guild of Organists!

At my church, I am both organist and choir director, and volunteers are much on my mind. Our vocal and bell choirs have mostly been off duty over the summer and resume weekly practices after Labor Day, so we are in ramp-up mode! I am recruiting: trying to talk some new people into trying choir and trying to energize the returning folks about our upcoming season.

If you also work with choirs and if you've worked in the church very long, I bet you have a lot of ideas for recruiting new volunteers. Here are some of the approaches I take:

1. Personal contact: I try to catch them in person and have a face to face talk. If this isn't possible I give them an old fashioned phone call. I find that recruiting emails and even texts are too easily ignored.

2. A party: I invite them to an event. This year our event is a potluck supper before our first vocal choir rehearsal. (I don't know if Lutherans invented the potluck supper, but we act like we did. All calorie and cholesterol charts seem to be left at home on potluck day!)

3. Other choir members: I remind my choir members periodically that we all need to be in the business of recruiting. Everyone prefers singing in a section that has several voices, so effective recruiting is in their own interest. Some people won't, but some will, and being approached by someone singing in, rather than leading, the choir can be effective in convincing someone to give it a try.

4. Spies in the congregation: Get the word out to people who attend church regularly that you are on the lookout for good voices and ask them to "inform on" their pew neighbors when they hear good singing. Some will do this without being asked!

5. Seasonal opportunities: This doesn't really work for bell choir, but I try to create opportunities for folks to enlist temporarily for special events such as our Christmas Program, creating a short-term vs. endless commitment. If they enjoy the experience, they may be ready to bite off a bigger commitment.

6. Response to "I can't sing, I can't read music, I can't (whatever):" "There are others in the choir who can't (whatever), so you are definitely not alone! There are many different components to music, and few people are good at all of them. The rest of us practice!"

7. Small group close: I try to end our rehearsals with a few minutes where we pray for the needs (usually sick relatives) of our choir members.

8. Ego at the door: Here I am speaking of my ego. I have learned that certain people are going to say no, other recruits will be short term and then disappear, and a few might stick. As sad as it makes me, choir is not for everyone.

I hope you have enjoyed your August and the preparations you are making for the coming season of music. Meanwhile, we have a great season of programs planned for the Tulsa AGO. Many thanks to **Mike McCrary** and **Bruce Cross** for opening their home to us at 6pm on September 13th as we kick off a new season with a Welcome Back party. I look forward to seeing you there!

Blessings,

Ann

Ann Boelzner, Dean, Tulsa Chapter AGO

Calendar of Events:

Tuesdays at Trinity • Free half hour concerts at 12:05pm

Sept 3 – **Beau Baldwin**, Organist – Cathedral of St. Andrew, Little Rock, AR
Sept 10 – **Richard Jobe**, Organist – Casady School, Oklahoma City
Sept 17 – **David Anderson**, Organist – Christ the King Catholic Church, OKC
Sept 24 – **Karen Rich**, Organist – Trinity Episcopal Church
Trinity Episcopal Church, 501 S Cincinnati, downtown Tulsa



Welcome Back Party! • Friday, September 13 at 6:00pm

Join us for food and fun to welcome everyone back to a new year of chapter programs.

Home of Mike McCrary and Bruce Cross, 5331 S Joplin Avenue, Tulsa

RESERVATIONS DUE BY TUESDAY, **SEPTEMBER 10** TO

karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com or 918-809-9748

There is no charge for the dinner – just bring yourself (and a guest if you wish) and be ready to party!!

Second Saturday Silents • September 14 at 11:00am

The featured silent movie is the 1928 classic *“The Last Command”* starring Emil Jannings, in the movie that won him the very first Academy Award for Best Actor in a Leading Role. It will be accompanied by **Bill Rowland** on the 96-year-old theatre pipe organ. Walk-in music will be provided by staff organist **Michael Huffman**.

Tickets \$5 Adults/\$2 under 15 • Circle Cinema, 10 S Lewis, Tulsa

Evensong Recital • Sunday, September 15 at 4:30pm (preceding Evensong)

William Schlueter, Organist (Parish of the Most Precious Blood) playing music of Cook, Litaize, Vierne & Guilment

Choral Evensong • Sunday, September 15 at 5:00pm (following the Organ Recital)

Sung by the Trinity Choir, music will include: Responses by *Kenneth Leighton*; Service Music in C Major by *C. V. Stanford*; Anthem “O Trinity, most blessed Light” by *C. Kenneth Turner*

Trinity Episcopal Church, 501 S Cincinnati Ave, Tulsa • Reception following

Fall Celebration • Friday, September 20 at 7:00pm

The Sooner State Chapter of the American Theatre Organ Society will feature Fall-related popular music on the Robert Morton theatre pipe organ and the Kimball grand piano. FREE!

Conference Center, Tulsa Tech, 4000 W Florence, Broken Arrow

Music for Royalty • Saturday, September 28 at 7:30pm

The Tulsa Chorale, under the direction of **Dr. Zach Malavolti**, will present a concert that will include Handel’s Coronation Anthems Zadok the Priest and The King Shall Rejoice, as well as Mozart’s Coronation Mass.

First Baptist Church, 420 S Detroit Avenue, Tulsa • Tickets are available at tulsachorale.org.

Kerr Chapel Organ Dedication and Concerts • Sunday, September 29 at 4:00 and 6:00pm

Ron Pearson, Director of Music and Organist, will present two identical concerts to demonstrate the newly completed Foley-Baker Chapel Organ. Because of the limited seating in the Chapel, a free ticket is needed.

Claim yours here: <https://firstchurchtulsa.org/event/kerr-chapel-organ-dedication-concert-400-pm/2024-09-29>

A reception will be held between the two concerts. This 11-rank organ was highlighted in the June issue of *TAQ*.



Choral Evensong • Sunday, September 29 at 5:00pm

Sung by the congregation in the choir stalls, with music and responses from Hymnal 1982.
Trinity Episcopal Church, 501 S Cincinnati Ave, Tulsa

In the Region:

Noonday Recital • Friday, September 6 at 12:45pm

Brad Newcomb will present a 30-minute recital on the newly refurbished organ
St. Mary's Catholic Church, 408 S 8th Street, Ponca City, OK

Organ Recital • Sunday, September 15 at 3:00pm

Alcee Chriss III in recital with the Dallas Symphony Chorus
Meyerson Symphony Center, 2301 Flora Street, Dallas, TX • dallasymphony.org

25th Anniversary Celebration • Sunday, September 15 at 5:00pm

A Service of Hymns and Anthems for Evening will be offered in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the installation of the Bigelow organ in the Chapel of Saint Mary. A reception will follow
All Souls' Episcopal Church, 6400 N Pennsylvania, Oklahoma City

Brett Valliant in Concert • Monday, September 16 at 7:00pm

Brett is a featured organist at Organ Stop Pizza in Mesa, Arizona. He will present a program of popular songs, jazz standards, and show tunes of the Great American Songbook on the 4/15 Kilgen organ.
Oklahoma History Center, 800 Nazih Zuhdi Drive, Oklahoma City • Call 405-522-0765 for tickets

Robert T Anderson Recital Series • Tuesday, September 24 at 7:30pm

Organist **Bryan Anderson**, winner of Longwood Gardens Competition in 2023, in recital
Canyon Creek Presbyterian Church, 3901 North Star Road, Richardson, TX

Vespers and Reception • Sunday, September 29 at 5:00pm

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, 1901 NW 18th, Oklahoma City

Coming Events:

Faculty Recital • Thursday, October 10 at 7:30pm

Dr. Damin Spritzer in recital • Gothic Hall, Catlett Music Center, 500 W Boyd, Norman

Annual Organ Recital • Sunday, October 13 at 4:00pm

Ron Pearson in recital, performing music of Sigfrid Karg-Elert, J.S. Bach, Felix Mendelssohn, Joseph Jongen, and Denis Bedard • Reception following • First Presbyterian Church, 709 S Boston Ave, Tulsa

Douglas Nelson Memorial Concert • Friday, October 18 at 7:30pm

Dr. Kola Owalabi, Professor of Organ at the University of Notre Dame, in a special concert
Boston Avenue UMC, 1301 S Boston Ave, Tulsa

East Texas Pipe Organ Festival • October 20-24

This year, the festival will take place in Houston and Galveston. The festival honors the memory and work of Roy Perry, the Texas representative and tonal finisher for the Aeolian-Skinner Pipe Organ Company of Boston, Massachusetts. This marks our first time in the Houston/Galveston area, and we will present programs featuring Mr. Perry's work, also showcasing many other fine instruments in the area played by noted organists from Houston, Galveston, the organ departments of Rice University and University of Houston, and other concert organists of international acclaim. Visit www.easttexaspipeorganfestival.com for information and to register.



Very nice Kawai upright piano that belongs to a friend of Dale LeSturgeon. The friends are moving to Florida at the end of September and are not taking the piano. They would like a student that needs a practice piano to have it. They cannot deliver it and it would be nice if they could make \$100-200 but that is not imperative. Does anyone have a student studying piano/organ that needs a good practice piano? Please text Dale if you know someone or have any questions. This could be a great opportunity! Dale LeSturgeon 918-698-5433.



It's a party! Friday, September 13 at 6:00pm.

Join us for food and fun – invite someone to come!

There is no charge for the dinner, but we do need to know if you are coming! Please email karen.rich.tulsa@gmail.com or text 918-809-9748 by **SEPTEMBER 10. See you then!
Home of Mike McCrary and Bruce Cross, 5331 S Joplin Ave.**

Help Wanted

First Presbyterian Church, Stillwater is seeking a full time Director of Music and Organist/Pianist. The organ is a Reuter pipe organ 1956/1996/2009/2021/II30. Salary is negotiable, competitive, and dependent on experience. 2 weeks of

professional leave and 4 weeks of vacation annually. Options for health insurance and retirement savings. Must be able to ascend and descend steps to chancel organ/choir loft. A background check is required. For more information, contact Dustin Reavis, organistsearch@stillwaterfpc.org. To apply, send a letter of interest, resumé and three professional references to the same address.

Meadowcreek United Methodist Church in Collinsville (located right off 169 at the 146th St. N. exit) is seeking an organist or pianist to lead our single worship service at 10am each Sunday morning. Typical order of worship includes 3 hymns from the United Methodist hymnal, along with an offertory, to be selected at your discretion. We have a praise team that plays music as people gather from about 9:50-10am, but the music is turned over to the paid accompanist along with a volunteer accompanist who can take the piano or the organ (a 1954 Hammond) and a volunteer guitarist who plays chords along with the hymns. If the candidate wishes to join in with the praise team pre-worship music, they are invited but not required. Whoever is hired will be in charge of the pre-service warm up at 9am, during which the traditional accompanists and praise team (2 guitarists and a bassist) share space. Successful candidate will be able to transcribe chords for the guitarist for the worship hymns selected. For more information or to apply for this position, contact Pastor Nathan Mattox at nathanmattox@yahoo.com or 918-371-3250 (church) or 539-235-3630 (cell).

Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church, Broken Arrow is seeking an interim choir/handbell director for a period of six to twelve months, while we are searching for a permanent rector. Responsibilities will include leading the vocal and handbell choirs – rehearsals on Thursday evening and performing at the 10:30 service. A brief practice is held on Sunday morning at 9:30am. Vocal choir offers an anthem twice a month, and the handbell choir will offer a piece once a month. We are looking for someone who is fun, enthusiastic and good with people. Interested applicants should contact Suzanne Shepherd at suzanne@saint-patricks.com.

Saint Patrick's Episcopal Church is also searching for an organist to play in regular Sunday worship services (8:30 and 10:30) and all special services throughout the year. The organist will select music to be included in each service, will accompany choir and handbells when scheduled and will be present at choir practice at 5:30pm on Thursdays. All service music used is from the 1982 Hymnal. Prelude and postlude music selections are at your discretion. The organ is a II/16 Austin/McCrary. Interested candidates should contact Suzanne Shepherd at suzanne@saint-patricks.com.

Thanks to Karen Hiller, the Tulsa Chapter Directory will be available at the party on September 13! Now is the time to make sure your membership and donations are current. We want to include YOU!!



Friends of the Tulsa Chapter AGO

BOMBARDE (\$200 and above)

Michael Bedford
Fred Elder
Gerry Frank
Tom and Shelia Harrington
Red River Pipe Organ Co, LLC
Karen Rich
Bruce Wilkin
Nick Wilson



SWELL (\$50 - \$99)

Joe Fincher
Michele Cowen
Lyndon Meyer
Gay Miller
Teresa Petray
Paul Pinkosky
Tom Starnes
Richard and Peggy Ziglar

CHOIR (Up to \$49)

Casey Cantwell
Steve Fischer
Khadija Goz
Jon Grigson
Rocky Kollmeyer
Ginny LeDoux
Cheryl Melvin
William Schlueter
Rebecca te Velde
Chris Winston

GREAT (\$100 - \$199)

Ann Boelzner
Mike Gibson
Marjoleine Gravley
Julia Leifeste
Mike McCrary
Cathy Venable
Steven Wright (in honor of Julia Leifeste)

(Updated 8/29/2024)

Available to substitute:

CAFFEY, Carol 918-747-1714
GRAVLEY, Marjoleine 918-841-1951
HILLER, Karen 918-406-1776
PETRAY, Teresa 918-521-6556
SMITH, Vicki 918-607-3170

vickis2@cox.net

Teacher List:

BEDFORD, Dr. Michael 918-346-8104
CANTWELL, Casey 918-809-9162
FRANK, Dr. Gerald 405-372-3357
PEARSON, Ron 918-584-4701
SMITH, Vicki* 918-607-3170

*Instruction in Harp also available

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Members-at-Large

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William Schlueter
Evan Anderson

Fr Lee Domenick, Chaplain

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Mike McCrary, Treasurer

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