



Antiphon

*News from the Annapolis Chapter
of the
American Guild of Organists*

August 2026



Dear Colleagues,

August is here, the last full month of summer and typically the end of vacation season. I hope everyone had a happy July 4th as America celebrated its 250th Birthday! The "Dog Days of Summer" (the hottest and most humid days of the year) finally end on August 11th. Back in August 1762, the sandwich was created when the Earl of Sandwich requested meat between two slices of bread.

This month Christ Church, Port Republic will host their 159th annual Jousting Festival that includes an Organ Concert as part of the festivities on Saturday, August 29, 2026 (see details below in this newsletter). The ceremony for the installation of chapter officers will take place at Saint Thomas Episcopal Church in Upper Marlboro on Sunday, September 27, 2026. The chapter's America 250 organ concert at the United States Naval Academy (USNA) is in the final planning stages and we are lining up performers for a target date of Sunday, October 18, 2026.

The chapter is in the process of establishing a membership category called "Chapter Friend". This is being established for people who want to support their local AGO chapter but are not interested in the benefits of National membership (i.e.; organ enthusiasts, volunteer organists, organ students, etc.). Betsy Lord is putting the finishing touches on the proposed Chapter Friend membership application form which we anticipate will have an annual fee of \$35.

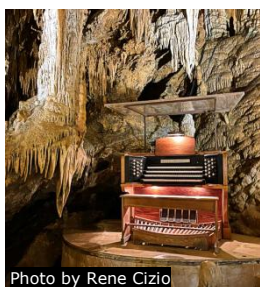


Photo by Rene Cizio

Continuing with our unusual organ theme from last month, here is an overview of the Great Stalacpipe Organ located at Virginia's Luray Caverns. The organ was created in 1954 by Mr. Leland W. Sprinkle of Springfield, Virginia, who worked at the Pentagon as a mathematician and electronics scientist. He began his monumental three-year project by searching the vast chambers of the caverns, with the aid of 13 English tuning forks, tapping potential formations. Stalactites were selected from over 3.5 acres of the caverns and painstakingly altered to precisely match the tone needed to become what would eventually become the world's largest musical instrument. Electronic mallets were wired throughout the caverns and connected to a large four-manual console. When a key is depressed, a tone occurs as the rubber-tipped plunger strikes the stalactite tuned to concert pitch. Today, the organ is played by activating an automated system but is also fully capable of being played manually, as Mr. Sprinkle did for many years. Perhaps we should look into an organ crawl at Luray Caverns!

Composers celebrating birthdays this month: English Baroque Organist Maurice Greene (1 AUG 1632); Samuel S. Wesley (14 AUG 1810); Antonio Salieri (18 AUG 1750); Claude DeBussey (22 AUG 1862); Leonard Bernstein (25 AUG 1918) and Itzhak Perlman (31 AUG 1945).

Warm Regards,
Bill

JOUSTING TOURNAMENT, ORGAN CONCERTS, & MORE!

Susan Yoe warmly invites all to come out on **August 29th** for the 159th Calvert County Jousting Tournament at Christ Church, Port Republic. There are concerts in the church from 1 to 4pm, beginning on the half hour. Your support as an audience member is also greatly appreciated!

- ♦ Bazaar ~ 10am to 2pm ~ NO EARLY BIRDS ~ Attic Treasures, Country Store, Baked Goods, Books, Toys, Hospitality, Memorabilia; Reel Time Fishing Booth. Refreshments available. Pony Rides, Face Painting, Balloon Artist, and other activities for Children, plus music by Port Tobacco Pickers, and Tours of the One-Room Schoolhouse
- ♦ Jousting ~ Begins at 12 noon ~ Riders of all ages and their steeds compete for cash prizes and glory in Maryland's oldest competitive sport
- ♦ Tours ~ 10am to 1pm of Historic Christ Church
- ♦ Concerts ~ In Historic Christ Church ~ 1-4pm ~ A variety of music in the air-conditioned church:
 - 1:00 Jonathan Hellerman, organ
 - 1:30 Elizabeth Lord, organ
 - 2:00 Ken Taylor, mandolin and Jim Yoe, ukelele
 - 2:30 Anne Baker, soprano and Susan Yoe, organ
 - 3:00 Thomas Yoe, piano and vocal
 - 3:30 Marcia van Gemert, violin and Susan Yoe, organ
- ♦ Parish Hall Supper ~ 2-6pm ~ Tickets on sale 1:30pm-5:30pm ~ Served Family Style: Deviled Crab, Fried Chicken, Baked Ham (choice of 2), assorted side dishes, dessert, and drinks. \$28 Adults/\$12 Child (ages 6-12). Under 6 Free with paying adult. Note: Child's plate does not include crab.
- ♦ Boxed Supper ~ Noon to 6pm ~ Deviled Crab, Fried Chicken, Baked Ham (choice of 2), assorted side dishes, and dessert- \$28 each adult, no child box suppers. **Call 410-586-0565 the morning of August 30th to reserve.** Do not leave dinner orders on answering machine. Hosted by members of Christ Church, Calvert to benefit the ongoing mission of their church. Calvert County Leash Laws Apply to the Event.
<http://www.christchurchcalvert.org>



ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The annual conference of the Hymn Society of the U.S. and Canada was held this year on the beautiful campus of Princeton at the Theological Seminary in N.J. July 19-23.

Cindy Carlton and Isaac Borocz attended this marvelous 4-day conference entitled "Rebirth: Singing death, Singing life." The conference had Morning Prayer led each day by the Seminary Chapel Team, days full of sessions, an organ recital and master classes, daily plenary addresses, evening Hymn Festivals, each led by a different person or team, and plenty of glorious 4-part singing everywhere we were together. A particular highlight for Cindy was a private visit to the Seminary Library to the Special Collections. Most of the sacred music and hymnology collection we observed had been donated by Dr. Louis F. Benson in 1930 upon his death. It was an extensive and impressive collection. For Isaac, highlights included the thrill of meeting people whose names he has seen in print for decades: Carl Daw, Marty Haugen and Lloyd Larson (among others). They were all very friendly and 'normal'. Everyone at the gathering was open, friendly, and willing to share insight and materials. Prayer together every morning was a particular joy as well.

Next year the Hymn Society will be at Duke Divinity School in N.C. July 11-14, 2027. The theme to be explored is "Justice and Peace Shall Kiss."

- submitted by Cindy Carlton

EVENTS

**Tuesday,
August 25, 7pm**

"Magic Strings" (Võlukeeled), a renowned group of talented violinists, ages 12-16, from Estonia, will perform at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 461 College Parkway Arnold, MD. Presented by World Artists Experiences in cooperation with the Embassy of Estonia. Freewill donations accepted.



JOB LISTINGS

(newest listings at top; older listings have been updated)

This link brings you to some detailed job descriptions for the job postings listed below.

<https://annapolisago.org/job-openings/>

St. Martin's in-the-Field Episcopal Church

in Severna Park, MD is seeking a skilled and collaborative Long-Term Supply (Interim) Music Director to lead the parish music program through the autumn and Christmas season, concluding at the end of December. Note that St. Martin's will be conducting an active search for a permanent, part-time Director of Music during this interim period. The ideal supply candidate will be a proficient organist and choral director capable of inspiring our parish choir, supporting our traditional liturgy, and keeping our music ministry vibrant while a permanent search is underway. Contact The Rev. Lauren R. Holder, Rector: rector@stmartinsinthefield.org.

Woods Memorial Presbyterian Church in Severna Park, MD is seeking a dynamic and talented Bass-Baritone/Section Leader to lead their vocal ensemble and enhance our worship experience through powerful, expressive singing. This paid position offers an exciting opportunity to combine musical excellence with theatrical artistry, contributing to our vibrant community events and services. To inquire, please email David Merrill at dmerrill@woodschurch.org.

R.A. Daffer Church Organs in Jessup, MD is expanding their team and is seeking an experienced **Pipe Organ Builder / Technician / Tuner** to work on some of the Mid-Atlantic's finest instruments. Responsibilities include tuning, restoration, service, installations, and tonal work on both historic and contemporary pipe organs. Click here for [Full Job Description](#).

All Hallows Episcopal Church in Davidsonville, MD, an historic Episcopal community worshipping in two locations, is seeking a new Director of Music/Organist. Currently this paid role is half time, but with potential to grow as the congregation and musical program grows. Office: 410-798-0808 <https://annapolisago.org/job-openings/>

Ginger Cove in Annapolis, MD seeks organist **or pianist**. 11am Sunday non-denominational service includes prelude, postlude, three hymns, no choir, no rehearsals. Our organ is a two-manual Rodgers with MIDI. Piano is a Yamaha baby grand. Pay to be discussed. Applicants should send resume or questions to Fran Jackson, Religious Life Committee at Franjackson756@gmail.com.

Holy Family Catholic Church, in Randallstown, MD is seeking a part time Director of Music and Organist.

https://www.holyfamilyrandallstown.org/_files/ugd/76d452_1dc63885960d4905b4a93de874967523.pdf

SAVE THE DATES!



Sunday, September 27, 4pm Installation of Officers at St. Thomas' Episcopal Church, Croom, MD. Cindy Carlton, hosting; David Schelat, presiding. Light refreshments following. 14300 St. Thomas Church Rd., Upper Marlboro, Maryland.

Sunday, October 18, 3pm America 250 Member Recital at USNA Chapel, Annapolis. Monte Maxwell, hosting; Paul Griffin, coordinating.

Sunday, November 8, 2:30pm Organ Maintenance Workshop (and Chapter Meeting) at Calvary UMC, Annapolis. Asher Hammond, clinician; Isaac Borocz, coordinating.

SEPTEMBER ANTIPHON

As members of the American Guild of Organists, we want to encourage and support each other in our church music ministries. We would also like to include news about members. We want to know if:

- you recently changed jobs or retired
- you are traveling somewhere over the summer for a workshop, class or performance opportunity
- any personal news you would like to share

Please send submissions for our next issue to Kerry Heyes, kadams61@yahoo.com by **August 20th**. Thanks!

AGO WEBSITE - agohq.org

Updates have made things easier when renewing dues. You may also want to explore new features on the website. Here is an easy step-by-step guide:

<https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Welcome-to-our-new-website-.html?soid=1130570232331&aid=NRrPX8fKqLs>

CHAPTER OFFICERS

Dean: Bill Gilligan

Sub-Dean: Isaac Borocz

Secretary: Cindy Carlton

Treasurer: Scott Romanoski

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Class of 2027: Kerry Heyes, Betsy Lord

Class of 2028: Ben Touzeau, Diane Kinsley

Class of 2029: Michael A. Clarke, Susan Yoe

CHAPTER WEBSITE

annapolisago.org

CHAPTER EMAIL

AGOAnnapolis@gmail.com



<https://www.facebook.com/AnnapolisAGO>