



October 2024

From the Dean

A lot has happened since our first newsletter of the 2024-25 season went out. I pray that everyone is safe and is recovering from the destruction hurricane Helene wrought on our area.

Our 2024-2025 season started on a high note with a wonderful recital by Dr. Joseph Causby at St. Thaddeus in Aiken. Thank you to Don Dupee for organizing the dinner and recital!

The October meeting will feature Dr. Bradley Welch at St. John's United Methodist Church in Augusta on Monday, October 28th. Dr. Welch will lead a workshop titled, "The Organist as Choral Collaborator". Dinner will start at 6:00 and the program at 7:00.

Our November meeting is entitled "Encores: Favorite Preludes and Postludes". I need your help for the program to be a success. Please send me the names of a few of your favorite prelude and postlude pieces. Lesser-known compositions that resonate with congregations will be featured. I will compile a list and distribute it at the November meeting. Contact me if you would like to perform one of your selections.

I hope to see you at our October meeting!

Sincerely,

W. Leigh Fleury, DMA - Dean

Bradley Welch Choral & Organ Concert featuring Duruflé's Réquiem

Sunday, October 27th - 3pm
St. John United Methodist Church

Concert organist Bradley Welch will return to accompany the St. John choir under the direction of Jamie Garvey in the requiem of French organist Maurice Duruflé. The program will also feature several solo organ pieces to show off St. John's Dobson Opus 78. Bradley was the 2003 winner of the Dallas International Organ Competition, and holds a doctoral degree in Organ from Yale University. Save the date for what is sure to be a high point of the 2024-2025 music season.



Program

Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, BWV565

Johann Sebastian Bach

Partita on *For All the Saints*

David Cherwien

Chorale

Bicinium

Aria

Toccata

All are invited to stand and join in singing:

711 For All the Saints

Sine nomine

1 all 2 men 3 choir alone 4 women 5 all

Choral varié sur le thème du *Veni Creator Spiritus*, Opus 4

Maurice Duruflé

Requiem, Opus 9

Maurice Duruflé

October 28th Meeting:



Dr. Bradley Welch Master Class:
**The Art of Choral
Accompanying and
Collaboration**

St. John United Methodist Church
Host: Jamie Garvey

Monday, October 28th
6pm Meal & 7pm Master Class

Menu: Chicken and rice from Sweet Azalea RSVP by Thursday, October 24th (\$15)
jcgarvey@stjohnaugusta.org

Kirkin' o' the Tartans

**Sunday, October 27th, 9:45am
Covenant Presbyterian
3131 Walton Way, Augusta.**

Aiken Sheriff's Pipes & Drums,
Tartan Processional,
Celtic Instrumental Ensemble

Pre-service music at 9:45am, Worship Service at 10am
Lyn Patterson, Music Director & Organist



The Life of a Concert Organist

As you flip through the pages of The American Organist magazine each month the inside covers are filled with competition winners and organists of famous churches throughout the world. Over the years, St. John United Methodist has made a tradition of welcoming these artists to share music with the community.

On a recent Sunday morning, Bradley Welch who will be performing at St. John on Sunday, October 27th at 3pm took time from his schedule to answer a few questions about being a concert organist juggling church and a successful touring career. With 21 years under his belt, Bradley knows a thing or two about concertizing.



When did your career as concert organist begin?

I've been with Truckenbrod since winning the Dallas International Organ Competition in 2003.

How many recitals do you typically play a year?

About 15-20

Who covers your services at Preston Hollow Presbyterian in Dallas when you're away?

We have a bench of some pretty fantastic people who sub for me, Isabelle Demers, Jonathan Gregoire, Jared Cook, Henry Webb, and my colleague Steve Jobman

What is process for putting together solo programs? Your favorites? Host church selects, etc...?

I focus on what literature would likely work well on the instrument, aiming to show off all its color possibilities, having great diversity of styles, composers, fast versus slow, loud versus soft, and aiming to show the massive range of what the instrument can do always with the overarching goal of engaging the particular audience for which I am performing.

What has been your most intimidating concert engagement?

I would say the most intimidating ones are when I am performing for organist colleagues at conventions. We can sometimes be our own best supporters but also our own harshest critics. Those have always gone well, thankfully, but they still amp up the intensity of preparation a good bit.

The other challenging situations are when there are maintenance challenges with the organ. I remember one concert engagement immediately following when I won the Dallas International Organ Competition: the church was supposed to have a new pipe organ installed, but because of delays in installation, I played on their old instrument in the abandoned sanctuary that had been partially demolished with carpet ripped up and some pews removed.

Needless to say, the organ had not been maintained for many months, and it was a humbling experience that brought me right back down to earth! 😅

Another was in Europe this past summer on our church choir tour when we had difficulty getting information on the organs for the venues. I had given a set of American hymn tune preludes at the request of our Director to play as organ solos. When I showed up, I found this short compass instrument: 😳😱



How much do you practice a day? Do you have home organ, what type, etc...?

As for practice time each day, it really depends on what I have coming up. As a Dad, there are some days during the relatively slower seasons when I don't practice at all, but most of the time I practice between one and three hours a day but up to five or six during the really intense times of preparation. Whenever I go to a new organ where I am playing a concert, I spend up to 12 hours a day "speed dating" the instrument to get to know what it does well and get everything ready for the concert!

No home organ... but our little spinet piano 🎹 gets a workout for learning notes!! ❤️



ASMI Chamber Ensemble
October 22nd, 12pm



Seipp Williams
Trumpet & Organ Duo
November 5th, 12pm

St. Paul Episcopal Church
Augusta, GA
Free Admission



All Saints' EVENSONG
Sunday, 3 November 2024 at 5:30 pm

Music of Richard Shephard, John Rutter, and Henry Ley
Reception Following in the River Room
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 605 Reynolds Street



Solemn Choral EVENSONG For All the Faithful Departed

Sunday, November 3rd
125 Pendleton St. SW, Aiken, SC

4:30pm Recital: Ken Courtney, organist

Chaconne - Louis Couperin (c. 1626-1661), Trans. By Joseph Bonnet

Berceuse, 24 Pieces in Free Style, Book 2 - Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

March Upon a Theme of Händel, Op. 15, No. 2 - Alexandre Guilmant (1837-1911)

Pie Jesu, from Requiem in D minor, Op. 48 - Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924), arr. Noel Rawsthorne

Carillon de Westminster, Op. 54, No. 6 - Louis Vierne (1870-1937)

5pm Service:

Preces and Responses - Robin Stopford

Evening Canticles - Geoffrey Shaw

Anthem - Grant Them Rest Eternal, O Lord - Greene
(during which the necrology will be read)

Evensong Recitalist, Kenneth Courtney

Ken Courtney received his Bachelor of Music degree, Cum Laude, in Organ Performance from the University of Memphis, and his Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. He has also studied choral conducting and group vocal techniques at Westminster Choir College, Princeton, New Jersey. Mr. Courtney was inducted into Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Music Fraternity, Theta Rho Chapter, at UM, and Pi Kappa Lambda, National Music Honor Society, at UL.

Having served Presbyterian Churches in the South since 1979, Mr. Courtney was the Director of Music/Organist at Aiken's First Presbyterian Church, August 1988 - July 2016, where he directed an active Music Ministry that included the Midday Music Concert Series. In addition to his position at First Presbyterian Church, he was an adjunct faculty member at the University of South Carolina Aiken, where he taught Organ, World Music, and Introduction to Music, in the Visual and Performing Arts Department.

Mr. Courtney has served as Dean, Sub-Dean and Secretary of the Augusta Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, a member of the Executive Board of PAM, and as President of the Presbyterian Association of Musicians. He has also served on the Leadership Program for Musicians National Board, and as Conference Director for the 2010 PAM Montreat Worship and Music Conference and the 2015 PAM/M0-Ranch Worship and Music Conference. Most recently, he served as the Registrar for the Southeast Region AGO Convention, hosted by the Augusta Chapter, in June 2023. Mr. Courtney has played concerts in most of the Southeastern states as organ soloist, and harpsichord with the Continuo Collective of the South and the Aiken Civic Orchestra.

Although Mr. Courtney is retired, he keeps active in music ministry by serving as a substitute or interim organist and/or choir director in the Aiken, Augusta and Columbia areas.





Vigil for National Life

Prayer Service and Eucharist

Monday, November 4th at 6pm

St. Thaddeus Episcopal Church
125 Pendleton St. SW, Aiken, SC

Chris Leysath in Recital

"Miniature Miracles", pieces under 6 minutes in length. Music by JS Bach, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, John Ireland, Florence Price, Fela Sowande, and more.

Rescheduled due to Hurricane
Helene



St. John United Methodist Church
Augusta, GA
Free Admission



4th - Christopher Nash

16th - Bill Dolen

17th - Leigh Fleury

20th - John McCraney

22nd - Kathy Clark

Welcome to New Member Dan Hardin

Dan recently retired from Florida International University, where he came in 2000 as its first music librarian to develop a music research collection of books, scores, sound recordings and electronic resources to serve the needs of a growing School of Music. A member of the music faculty as well, he taught graduate courses in the School of Music and performed frequently on the school's 4-manual Schantz organ, playing solo concerts and other university events.



He served for 14 years as Organist and Choir Director St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, Coconut Grove where he grew the choir into one of the finest church choirs in South Florida, singing a cathedral-style repertoire and incorporating semi-professional singers.

A native of Western North Carolina, he holds the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in organ performance and literature from the Eastman School of Music, where he served as a teaching assistant and as assistant to his professor David Craighead at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Rochester. Additionally, he holds masters degrees in organ and library science from Northwestern University and Clark Atlanta University, respectively. With Dr. N. Lee Orr, Dr. Hardin co-authored *Music in Nineteenth Century America: A Guide to the Sources* published by Scarecrow Press, in 1999.

While in South Florida, he served as Dean of both Ft. Lauderdale and Miami chapters and this past year chaired the search committee for Southeastern Regional Councilor. He serves as a member of a national chapter workgroup comprised of Elizabeth George, James Thomashower, and other national officers which strives to invigorate individual chapters and chapter groups and build membership in the national organization.

He chose Augusta in which to relocate after visiting the city at the June 2023 regional convention. Here in retirement he is available for subbing in a variety of denominations and may be contacted at the number listed in the appropriate section of the newsletter.

Substitute Organists Available

Ken Courtney 803-443-8885

kencourtney56@gmail.com

Brad Cunningham 706-414-7007

bradfordco@mindspring.com

Dan Hardin 954-593-0085

hardin4438@yahoo.com

Andrew Barnick (Midweek Services) 805-268-1505

andrew.barnick@stmaryonthehill.org



2024-2025 AGO Meeting Schedule

October 28th - 7pm - Dr. Bradley Welch workshop at St. John United Methodist Church. "The Organist as Choral Collaborator". 6pm Meal

November 18th - 7pm - Encores: Favorite Preludes and Postludes at First Baptist Church, Augusta. 6pm Meal

January 6th - 6:30pm - Epiphany Party at home of Don Dupee

February 9th - Hymn Festival at Reid Memorial Presbyterian Church.

March TBA - Workshop with Dr. Alicia Walker

May 12th - Guild Service

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Please remember to submit your news and events to the Newsletter Editor

Steinway Grand for Sale \$5,000 obo

1920's vintage rebuilt 40 years ago. Some sun damage to finish, and needs work. Regularly tuned. From Estate of Wilma Franz.

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