



The Coupler

JULY / AUGUST 2024

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Deadline for the September / October Newsletter is August 15, 2024

NOTES FROM THE DEAN



Dear Friends,

First, thank you for the opportunity to serve as Dean for the next two years. I care deeply about AGO and its mission and look forward to working together.

We all owe a debt of gratitude to **Nancy Granert** for her service as Dean. Nancy has been Dean for more than three years in two stints and has done great work waking the Chapter from the COVID coma. For many members Nancy is also the friendly, familiar face they most look forward to greeting when they attend an AGO event. Nancy plans to continue to help the chapter by drafting adjusted bylaws, which are much needed, and I expect that she will be there to greet us at many future Chapter events.

We should also express our gratitude to the other Chapter officers.

John Homko has served as treasurer for the last several years and is dependable and accurate. **Susan Eberlein** serves as secretary and takes accurate minutes and always provides them promptly. **Evelyn Henson**, who now lives in the distant land of Virginia, continues to faithfully maintain our website, social media, and handle communications. Thank you also to our **Executive Committee** and to others who have helped the Chapter in unseen (at least by me) ways and deserve thanks.

The law firm where I practice family law recently selected a new logo (don't look on the website; it hasn't been unveiled yet). The deliberations were unexpectedly complicated and contentious. I think that's because even though selecting a logo is a business decision, the criteria we use to evaluate them is more personal. Countless times my colleagues said things like "I hate that color," to which another would say "Why? I love it," and the first would say "Well, I just don't like it. I don't know why." As we went, the discussion would go far afield with people sharing memories and associations with logos they remembered from the past and expressing why those logos were effective or ineffective. The most telling moment in the discussion came when one of my colleagues, the newest paralegal in the firm and

the bottom of the proverbial totem pole, said “We have to learn from all these old logos, but we can’t just assume that what worked in the past is going to work in the future!”

Many of us have fond memories of past AGO members and activities that we cherish. Those memories create assumptions about what AGO is and does. Those assumptions are useful but must remain malleable and dynamic.

I want to be totally open with you: I am looking to shake things up over the next couple of years. Some of you may even wish at times that you had chosen my competition in the election, which was “none of the above.” My desire to entertain and enact new ideas is not because I don’t love the organ, the music of the organ, our monumental instruments, and the AGO itself. It’s because I do love all of those things and want them to thrive in the future.

The Executive Committee and I will be working over the next couple of months to plan the **slate of activities** and opportunities for the coming program year. We are looking at that task with fresh eyes and are looking at activities the chapter has never done and some that haven’t been done in many years. I would ask you, also, to take a fresh look. If you haven’t participated in the Chapter’s activities in several years, please look at this year’s plan and consider participating more faithfully.

One of the activities that is going to begin this fall is a **new member drive**. We have not yet determined how exactly it will work. Our Chapter is supposed to serve Albuquerque, Santa Fe, and all of New Mexico except the southern area served by the Las Cruces Chapter. We have only forty-three (43) members. I don’t need to provide evidence and exhibits to establish that we have dozens or hundreds of *prospective* members. Once the member drive starts, we are going to be looking to you to help us identify prospects for membership. Maybe it’s another church organist who has substituted for you, a retired organist in your neighborhood, a beginning organ student, or a person who just thinks organs are cool.

In other Chapters in which I have been a member we have had many members who did not actually play the organ. They just liked organs, liked organ music, or supported organists for one reason or another. Many of those organ friends served as officers or were key financial supporters of the Chapter. Our Chapter has a handful of **active non-organists** but could have many, many more.

For nearly all of us, the organ is a hobby or a vocation. Even for those who are professional church musicians, practice time and focus on the organ can be elusive in the face of liturgical planning, staff meetings, and countless administrative tasks. But we all care about the arts of organ performance, organ composition, and organ building. Among your myriad activities and commitments, I would ask you to give AGO a fresh look.

Very truly yours,

Jeremy Wirths, Dean

USEFUL CHAPTER EMAILS

Dean: [Jeremy Wirths](#)

Treasurer: [John Homko](#)

Secretary: [Susan Eberlein](#)

Newsletter/Webmaster:

[Evelyn Henson](#)

Chapter Executive Committee 2024 - 2025

Officers:

Jeremy Wirths, Dean
Susan Eberlein, Secretary
John Homko, Treasurer

Members at large:

Lois Engelkes 2025
Kevin Newman 2025

Stephen Montoya 2026
Margaret-Mary Sauppé 2026

Pauleta Hendrickson 2027
Lana Zoltowski 2027

If you wish to contact another member, including Committee members, don't forget the full Members' Directory is on the website, behind a password. Use the request form on the website to request the password if you have lost/forgotten it. I will check that only current Members receive the password. *Evelyn Henson*

MEET THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



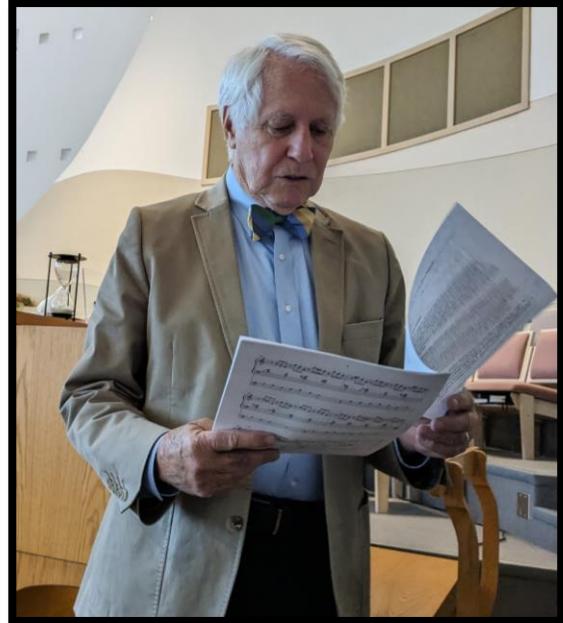
Left to right:
Lana Zoltowski,
Susan Eberlein,
Nancy Granert,
Pauleta
Hendrickson,
Patricia Oakley,
John Homko,
Kevin Newman,
Lois Engelkes,
Stephen
Montoya.

Dean:
Jeremy Wirths,
front and center.

Missing:
Margaret-Mary
Sauppé

REPORT: JUNE 15 - IMPROVISATION WORKSHOP

We were privileged to hold a workshop on Organ Improvisation, led by Dr. James Yeager, on June 15. James provided excellent ideas and examples that will help both the beginner and the organist who is already accomplished at improvisation. About 12 people attended, including members and a few new friends who expressed interest in membership. Our thanks go out to James, and to Faith Lutheran Church, who graciously hosted the event. *Susan Eberlein*



NEW VACANCY: DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Position: Director of Music – Choral Director

St. Mark's Episcopal Church, 431 Richmond Place NE, Albuquerque, NM 87107

Hours: Part-time ~12 hours/week, 10 months/year

Annual Salary: ~\$12,000 negotiable

Apply by July 22, 2024 – (email cover letter, resume and references)

Start Date: August 2024/negotiable

The Community

St. Mark's Episcopal Church is a vibrant and growing congregation in the Monte Vista neighborhood near the University of New Mexico. We are blessed with a diverse congregation full of all the generations, young, old, families, seniors, and a strong LGBTQ+ community. While firmly rooted in the Episcopal Eucharistic tradition, the Book of Common Prayer and the 1982 Hymnal, we are also eclectic and adventurous in our worship life preferring the path of participation and involvement in worship to the stifling need for perfection. We want our children and youth to know that this is their church, and they can take leadership and be involved alongside adults. We use a variety of music resources including denominational hymnals Gather, Lift Every Voice and Sing II, Wonder Love and Praise, various Psalm settings, Music that Makes Community resources and we are always open to learning more and growing. We desire for our musical life to be part of our mission: "Together we are building something beautiful for God in our Neighborhood."

St. Mark's is blessed with an attractive **1954 36-rank Reuters organ** kept in good repair. Recognizing that the instrument is nearing the end of its life, plans are underway to replace or substantially renovate the instrument. We have a **volunteer choir of 20-25** adult and youth voices, supported by paid section leaders, that offer anthems, psalms, service music and support congregational singing during the Sunday morning liturgy and Holy Days. St. Mark's has a **Principal Organist** and two assistant organists who provide musical leadership for liturgies and choral accompaniment for choral rehearsals.

St. Mark's worships as one congregation on Sunday mornings at 9:30, followed by a lively coffee hour and formation opportunities for all ages.

Who are we Looking For?

What we want, more than anything, is someone who loves to help others discover joy, love, and deeper community through making music and singing. St. Mark's puts a very high value on relationship, teamwork, and bringing a sense of joy/delight/fun into our work together, and we want a **Director of Music** who shares these values and will work creatively with our clergy and people to bring it about. We are looking for someone with substantial choral conducting experience. We are searching for a person who will provide musical leadership, education and who will delight in calling forth the musical gifts of the community.

The Position Details

The Director of Music will work with the clergy to select and coordinate the music for all parish liturgies. The Director of Music will also select the choral repertoire for the choir. The work will include one intensive choir rehearsal per week (September through May) and an additional 45-minute choir warm-up and rehearsal on Sunday mornings prior to the liturgy. It is our hope that the Director of Music will also participate in the educational life of the parish, offering occasional classes or writing for our publications that will help to deepen the experience of music in our worship life. The Director of Music will be a part of a hard-working, responsive, and supportive staff, and will be expected to communicate regularly with the clergy team.

- Sunday mornings; ~4 hours/wk (~8am-12pm)
- Rehearsal nights: a minimum of 3 hours/wk (~6:30-9:30pm)
- Thoughtful planning of the choral and liturgical repertoire of the parish 2-3 hours/wk
- Planning meetings arranged with clergy team and coordination with support staff 2 hour/wk as needed
- Participation in special parish social, liturgical, and educational events, TBD in consultation with the rector (up to 4 hours/month)

Skills

Applicants should have substantial choral conducting experience. Applicants need not be Episcopalian but will be expected to become familiar with the Episcopal liturgy and Episcopal resources. A Bachelor's Degree is required; Master's Degree preferred.

Summary

- Call forth and nurture the musical gifts of our community
- Coordinate with Principal Organist and other parish organists and instrumentalists
- Plan and lead one Sunday service per week
- Attend regular planning meetings with clergy
- Holy Day services: Christmas Eve (2 services), Ash Wednesday (2 services), Tenebrae (Tuesday of Holy Week) (1 service), Maundy Thursday (1 service), Good Friday (2 services), Easter Vigil (1 service) Easter morning (1 service).
- Incorporate the wider Albuquerque community's musical talents through concerts, choirs, inviting guest musicians, etc.
- Oversee the tuning and maintenance of all parish instruments.
- This is a 10-month position
- 2 weeks of paid vacation during the 10-month period

- 1 week of continuing education – funds TBD
- Annual review to be conducted with the Rector

Contact: The Rev. Sylvia Miller-Mutia; sylvia.miller.mutia@gmail.com; 510-932-1315 (cell)



IN MEMORIUM: LAWRENCE CRAIG GODDARD (FORMER CHAPTER MEMBER)
FEBRUARY 10, 1953 — JUNE 6, 2024

From Dr. James Yeager

My good friend and wonderful colleague, Lawrence Goddard has died recently after a heroic battle with cancer. I was privileged to become acquainted and eventually enjoy a deeper friendship with Lawrence the last two years. I subbed extensively for him while he was undergoing treatments at House of Hope clinic in Los Angeles where also his son, Ben Goddard, resides. I'm told that at his passing Ben was at his side and Bach was being played as he departed this life.

He was Music Director at the Church of the Incarnation in Rio Rancho for many years and was much beloved by the singers and musicians who served with him.

From Dr. Jeremy Wirths, Dean

I want to share the sad news that longtime Chapter member **Lawrence Goddard** has passed away. Lawrence was most recently the Director of Music and Organist of the Church of the Incarnation in Rio Rancho. Lawrence was a gifted musician and a kind person, and I know he was a friend of many of our members. May his soul and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

[To read the official Obituary, click here.](#)



I hate it when the organist
is away on holiday!



© Alan Weller

TGIF CONCERTS – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, SANTA FE

Thank Goodness It's Friday! (*Masks are optional.*)

Whether you're ending your week or starting your weekend, every Friday evening First Presbyterian Church invites our Santa Fe neighbors and visitors from all over the world to our sanctuary to enjoy a short concert (30-45 minutes) of music: organ, voice and piano, choral, chamber music, solo instrumental, jazz, and more.

If you would like to perform on the TGIF Concert Series, [please see our program submission requirements](#).

July

- 5 — Kehar Koslowsky, mezzo soprano, and Debbie Wagner, piano
- 12 — Charlotte Rowe, piano
- 19 — André Garcia-Nuthmann, tenor, and John Wolf, piano
- 26 — Kimberly Marshall, organ

August

- 2 — SFSOA participants concert
- 9 — Andrew Paulson, baritone, and Richard Bentley, piano
- 16 — Robert Marcus, clarinet, and Edwin Light, piano
- 23 — eternal Summer Symphony Orchestra
- 30 — Sin Nombre Brass Quintet

September

- 6 — David Solem, piano
- 13 — Christina Martos, soprano, and Kristin Ditlow, piano
- 20 — First Presbyterian Church Chancel Choir
- 27 — Bryan Hutchinson, piano

(REMINDER) URGENT - NEW HQ DUES POLICY. DON'T BE LATE IN PAYING!

The AGO national office has implemented a new policy concerning dues payment and their due date. As of now, there is **NO GRACE PERIOD** after the due date of your renewal. Memberships renew at the beginning of each month of the year, based on the member's date of joining the AGO or on July 1st, if the member was a member in 2014, when the ONCARD database system became effective.

The new policy DOES NOT provide for any grace period of paying dues beyond the renewal date. So, if you have a renewal date of July 1st and do not make your payment by that date, your membership will be cancelled approximately two weeks later. This pattern of processing will occur with every renewal date during the year. The AGO accepts payments by both credit cards and personal check.

You can pay your dues by credit card in two ways. First, you can go online into your ONCARD account, select RENEW DUES AND SUBSCRIPTION, and follow the prompts (you will be asked to confirm / update your membership profile). You can print a copy of the invoice and/or receipt (after the payment is processed). Second, you can call the AGO office at 1-212-870-2310 and pay your dues with a credit card over the phone. AGO staff can also help you with any ONCARD problem. **There will be a new computer system soon which requires all members to have an email address.**



HAVE YOU USED THE CHAPTER WEBSITE LATELY?

The whole year's calendar is on the Calendar page (use Agenda tab). Please notify the webmaster of events you would like to have advertised. Also, paid "[Positions Vacant](#)" or requests for volunteer musicians and singers can be advertised free of charge. Our website gets about 400 views per month. **NOTE:** our Facebook page has over 360 followers and can be used for posting notices about events, vacancies, etc. If you "Like" our page, you will receive new postings in your own News Feed.

Contact Us

AGO Albuquerque Chapter
14400 Soula Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123

Find us online at:
Website: agoabq.org
Facebook: [agoabq](https://www.facebook.com/agoabq)

The deadline for submissions for the next newsletter due to be published for September / August 2024, will be **August 15, 2024**. Please email news, articles, or photos, upcoming events or reports, plus any other website items to the Editor, [Evelyn Henson](#), by August 15, 2024.

AGO ALBUQUERQUE CHAPTER

Secretary: 14400 Soula Dr. NE
Albuquerque, NM 87123