

To foster a thriving community of musicians who share their knowledge and inspire passion for the organ.



## CAPE COD and the ISLANDS CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD of ORGANISTS

### March 2025

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Where are you finding light, happiness, and joy these days?

If you attended the Midwinter Dinner at St Mary's Episcopal in Barnstable, you'll recall a lively gathering that included a delicious dinner, lots of conversation and laughter, music to take home, and the introduction of some new Chapter members. Thanks to Mark and Betsy Lawlor for being such generous and welcoming hosts, in spite of the messy weather!

As we move toward Spring and warmer weather, let's now look at some Chapter news and events, more fully described elsewhere in this newsletter. (Be sure to read all the way to the end.)

Our next Chapter event is coming up soon, on Saturday, March 22, at West Parish in West Barnstable. Based on the enthusiasm of those who attended last year, Richard Bunbury has organized another collection of "Lightning Round Workshops," which will include a broad range of topics. Paula King and Cindi Verrill have been working with Richard on details and a flyer, which you'll find in this newsletter. Invite your friends and colleagues –

it's not limited to AGO members. Share the flyer and take a moment to RSVP today!

Remember that mention of new members at the recent dinner? Yes, we have *three* new members in the last month! Andrew Hanrahan, Glenn Starner-Tate, and Stephanie Scarano have joined the AGO, and Cindi Verrill is planning to feature an interview with each in the next newsletter. Each AGO chapter has unique ways of offering support to its members at the local level as well as making use of the wonderful resources available nationally, so please welcome Stephanie, Glenn, and Andrew as they continue to offer their musical talents here on Cape Cod.

You may recall that several years ago we explored the possibility of a program at Thacher Hall in Yarmouth Port. As they underwent renovations and changes, it was determined that the organ needed extensive work, and Chapter members Mark Lawlor and Maggie Bossi were instrumental in helping their board move ahead in planning and raising funds toward that project. Our next newsletter will have an update from Mark on progress to date. Meanwhile, the photo below reminds us of the days of wind supplied by hand - check out the signatures of the "organ boys" who worked the bellows behind the organ 100 years ago. Some signed their names on the south wall alcove!

Another organ has gotten a makeover, as the installation of a Southfield Organ Co instrument at St Peter's Lutheran Church in Harwich has now been completed. Chapter member Craig Tocher is minister of music at St Peter's and provides an update on the "rehomeing" of the organ from a church that closed.

With the changes to our Operating Procedures last year, board descriptions and terms of office now in place will not require an election this year. There is plenty of opportunity for getting involved at all levels, especially as we look at ever-expanding ways to communicate within and beyond our membership. Think of ways you can assist, and when asked to help with a task, consider it an opportunity to strengthen our mission and get to know your colleagues.

This year's Annual Meeting and dinner is moving to Monday, June 9, so as not to exclude our members who play for services on Saturday or Sunday evenings. Craig Tocher has graciously offered St Peter's in Harwich as the location, and we will have time to "meet" the new organ as well as enjoy social time and dinner together.

And now for something completely different! Our program year has typically ended after the Annual Meeting, but summer is when people from "off Cape" arrive and enjoy cultural events as well as miniature golf. This year, we are collaborating with St Andrew's by the Sea Episcopal Church in Hyannis Port to co-sponsor a concert on their Sunset Series. Mark your calendars *right now* for Sunday, August 3, at 5 pm, when Dr. Carol Williams will present a program that is shaping up to be quite exciting. Dr Williams ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carol\\_Williams\\_\(organist\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Carol_Williams_(organist))) is an international concert organist and composer, who also served as Civic Organist for San Diego, CA. More details will emerge, and you truly won't want to miss this!

And now, back to the opening of this article. In these turbulent times, I hope you are well and finding ways to care for yourselves and others. Let's continue to look for light, happiness, and joy in all that we do and reach out to those around us to let the healing power of music fill our lives.

I look forward to seeing you soon!

Peace,  
Charlene





Cape Cod and the Islands

# Lightning Rounds

(Mini - workshops)



**1** "NEW" WORSHIP MUSIC

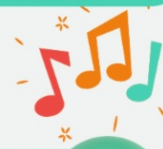
MUSIC MINISTERS: RICHES WITHIN - POLISHING THE "GEMS" **2**

**3** MUSICIANS AS PASTORS: WHAT TO SAY, WHAT NOT TO SAY

COULD WE TALK ABOUT IT? BALANCING TRICKY SITUATIONS **4**

**5** BIG ANTHEMS FOR SMALL CHOIRS

GOODNESS NO, I DON'T IMPROVISE! **6**



**West Parish of Barnstable**  
**Saturday March 22, 2025 10am-12pm**

(light lunch served)

music@westparish.org

[Please click here to RSVP](#)

## **St Peter's Lutheran Church, Harwich: The Problem of a Failing Church Organ**

In 2021, a group of St. Peter's Lutheran Church members assembled to study the problem of their church organ which was breaking down more and more frequently. They quickly determined the 30-year old electronic organ could not be repaired and maintained. The manufacturer had gone out of business and parts were unavailable. The next part to fail would leave the church without an organ. With Martin Luther regarding music as integral as words in the Lutheran worship experience, a working organ was essential. In addition to providing music to the congregation, the group dreamed of acquiring an organ that would be a community

resource and bring people together for concerts and recitals

### **Search for a New Organ**

The group began searching for a replacement organ to reside in the church sanctuary. Choosing the best replacement solution was a complex decision: new versus used; electronic versus pipe organ. To make their decision the group visited and heard 14 organs of all types from Maine to Nantucket and Connecticut, and consulted with organ builders and restorers. Several Cape Cod churches opened their doors and gave advice to the group.

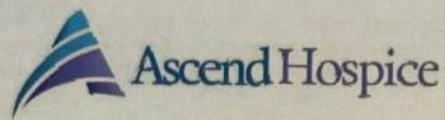
### **A Solution Arises**

In the spring of 2022, after months of work, the group was closing in on an organ replacement recommendation to make to the St. Peter's congregation. They say God can work in unexpected ways—or maybe fate intervened. It was then that the group was contacted by St. Paul's Lutheran Church of East Longmeadow, MA who had made the difficult decision to close their doors. St. Paul's had a buyer for their building who did not want their beautiful Southfield pipe organ. A member of St. Paul's who was also a part-time St. Peter's member knew of the organ replacement search. Wanting to see their organ continue to bring music to another Lutheran church and forgoing a sale, St. Paul's generously offered their valuable organ to St. Peter's as a gift. Pipe organs have a long lifespan and are built into the space they occupy. It would take substantial funds to make the organ fit St. Peter's and renovate the church sanctuary to accept the organ.

### **Accepting the Gift**

In October 2022, the St. Peter's congregation held a special meeting and voted to accept the St. Paul's pipe organ and raise the funds to renovate the organ and church building as needed. After the vote, the pipe organ was moved to safe storage for the Foley-Baker company to begin its work. Renovations to the building were completed in January 2024 and installation of the organ began in October. The organ was ready to be heard on Thanksgiving Sunday November 2024 and the final voicing was completed in January 2025. The Foley-Baker organ company of Connecticut did a magnificent job of redesigning and installing the organ to fit the new sanctuary space. Their craftsmanship and expertise are unmatched in the business and the organ is a beautiful aesthetic and musical addition to worship. A Dedication recital is planned for late spring.

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February 14, 2025

PO BOX 1186  
Eastham, MA 02642

Dear American Guild of Organists CC Chapter:

Our sincerest gratitude for the generous donation you made on February 5, 2025 in honor of Sandra Cole. We were privileged to have served Sandra. Your donation will allow us to continue our hospice work with other patients, their families and the communities that we serve throughout Massachusetts.

Through your kind donation Sandra Cole is part of a legacy that will continue through the work of our program. We appreciate our recognition of the value of hospice and what it brings to individuals at end-of-life. Ascend Hospice is committed to fulfilling this important mission.

Thank you again for your contribution. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us.

Warm wishes,

Allison Tambolleo, Executive Director  
Ascend Hospice & Palliative Care  
352 Belmont Street, Worcester, MA 01604  
Office: 508.229.8390  
[Allison.Tambolleo@ascendhealth.com](mailto:Allison.Tambolleo@ascendhealth.com)

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## Instruments for Sale

Harpsichord: one manual with 8 and 4 foot strings. The instrument copies a harpsichord by the Flemish builder, Andreas Ruckers. It has Hubbard jacks and a bone keyboard and was built by former Cape Cod chapter AGO Dean Patricia Brown in 1984.

Estey 2 manual full pedal board reed organ with a Steinmetz blower and bench. Doesn't take up much space and is wonderful as a practice instrument.

**For more information please contact Cape Cod AGO member Marsha Zafiriou, [marshazafiriou@gmail.com](mailto:marshazafiriou@gmail.com) or 508-548-5852.**

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## Upcoming Local Events

## **North Park University, Chamber Singers Tour**

Monday, March 10th; 7:00pm

St. Christopher's Episcopal Church, Chatham

[Click here](#) for more information.

## **Vespers for Hope - Presented by the choirs of Church of the Messiah and Saint Barnabas's Church, Falmouth**

Sunday, March 30th; 5:00pm

Church of the Messiah, Woods Hole

[Click here](#) for more information.

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## **Upcoming Regional and National Events**

### **2025 Phoenix AGO Convention**

June 16th -19th, 2025

Phoenix, AZ

[Click here for more information.](#)

### **2025 Fort Worth AGO Convention**

June 30th - July 3rd, 2025

Fort Worth, TX

[Click here for more information.](#)

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## **Guidelines for Submitting Material to the Newsletter**

All articles or flyers must be submitted in PDF or JPG form as you would like them to appear in the Newsletter.

The ability to advertise our musical events to our colleagues is one of the privileges of membership in the AGO.

Articles and flyers must be submitted to [brittany.haskell@gmail.com](mailto:brittany.haskell@gmail.com).

Thank you

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## **Cape and Islands Chapter Board 2024-25**

### **Officers**

Dean Charlene Higbe [cthighbe@aol.com](mailto:cthighbe@aol.com)

Sub-Dean Richard Bunbury [rbunbury@me.com](mailto:rbunbury@me.com)

Secretary Jeff Mereschuk [jeffmereschuk@comcast.net](mailto:jeffmereschuk@comcast.net)

Treasurer Gary Mazzola [garymazzo@aol.com](mailto:garymazzo@aol.com)

### **Members-at-large**

Joe Hammer, Registrar, [joehammer01@att.net](mailto:joehammer01@att.net)

Paula King, Membership [paula.jwumc@gmail.com](mailto:paula.jwumc@gmail.com)

Brittany Lord, Communications [brittany.haskell@gmail.com](mailto:brittany.haskell@gmail.com)

Craig Tocher, Hospitality [craigtocher67@gmail.com](mailto:craigtocher67@gmail.com)

Cindy Verrill, Chapter Life [cindiverrill@aol.com](mailto:cindiverrill@aol.com)

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