

American Guild of Organists
Blue Ridge Chapter

April 2024

www.blueridgeago.org



Soli Deo Gloria

J.S. Bach as Theologian and Preacher

April 14, 3pm · St. Barnabas Catholic Church, Arden

Music is theology's *alter ego*, or perhaps its better half: cold theological statements spring to life through music. This is certainly the case with Johann Sebastian Bach. This lecture will peel away the various levels of theological demonstration in his works, beginning with the *St Matthew Passion*, continuing with settings of the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, and concluding with the theological underpinnings of the *Passacaglia and Fugue in c minor*. Bach wrote that 'the aim and final end of all music should be none other than the glory of God and the refreshment of the soul,' and his intention to praise God, preach God's Word, and encourage his hearers is present in his music.

The Rev. Dr. W. Becket Soule OP is Emeritus Professor of Canon Law at Saint Paul University in Ottawa, Ontario, and has taught Classical Languages, Mediaeval History, and Law at the Pontifical College Josephinum (Columbus, OH), the Dominican House of Studies (Washington, D.C.), and Oxford University. Fr. Soule is a member of the Eastern [U.S.] Province of the Order of Preachers (Dominicans), and has served Anglican and Catholic parishes in New Hampshire, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and England. Since 2020 he has been pastor of Saint Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church in Maggie Valley, North Carolina, and has been a member of the AGO since 1976.



Dr. Marilyn Keiser Organ Recital

May 16 · 7:00pm

**St. James Episcopal Church
766 N Main Street, Hendersonville NC**

Sponsored by the Blue Ridge AGO and St. James Episcopal

Trumpet and Organ Concert

April 7, 3:00pm · Porter Center, Brevard College

Longtime colleagues, Dr. Brad Ulrich and Dr. Vance Reese will play a concert of trumpet and organ music at 3pm on Sunday, April 7th, in the Scott Concert Hall of the Porter Center, Brevard College. Music will include a Baroque period sonata by Marcello; the four movement Suite for Trumpet and Organ by modern Canadian composer, Gerhard Wuensch; the "Prayer of St. Gregory," and the movement, "Tamborines" from Libby Larsen's solo organ work, *Aspects of Glory*. For those who have not heard the combination of trumpet and organ, the sounds range from the gentle and sublime to the majestic and powerful. Admission is free, and the artists will be glad to answer questions after the concert.




Joyce Guyer
Soprano
Richard Riccardi
Piano
Stories of Love and Loss

APRIL 12, 2024 at 7:00 PM
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 61 Church Street
 Downtown Asheville
 Free & open to the public.
trinityasheville.org - 828-253-9361



Marilyn & Her Babies
 Organ Recital
Marilyn Keiser
 with former students
 kyle ritter ned tipton

APRIL 18, 2024 at 7:00 PM
 Trinity Episcopal Church
 Downtown Asheville
\$20 Adults | \$10 Students
trinityasheville.org/registrations
 Reception to Follow





2024
Swingin' Spring

Sunday, April 28, 4:00 p.m.
Converse University, Daniel Recital Hall, Spartanburg, SC

Thursday, May 2, 2:00 p.m.
** Ardenwoods Retirement Community, Arden, NC

Sunday, May 5, 4:00 p.m.
First Congregational UCC, Asheville, NC

Monday, May 6, 3:30 p.m.
** Tryon Estates, Columbus, NC

Sunday, May 12, 3:00 p.m.
Fletcher United Methodist Church, Fletcher, NC

Monday, May 13, 6:30 p.m.
** College Walk Retirement Community, Brevard, NC

*For more information, email us at
theblueridgeringers@gmail.com*

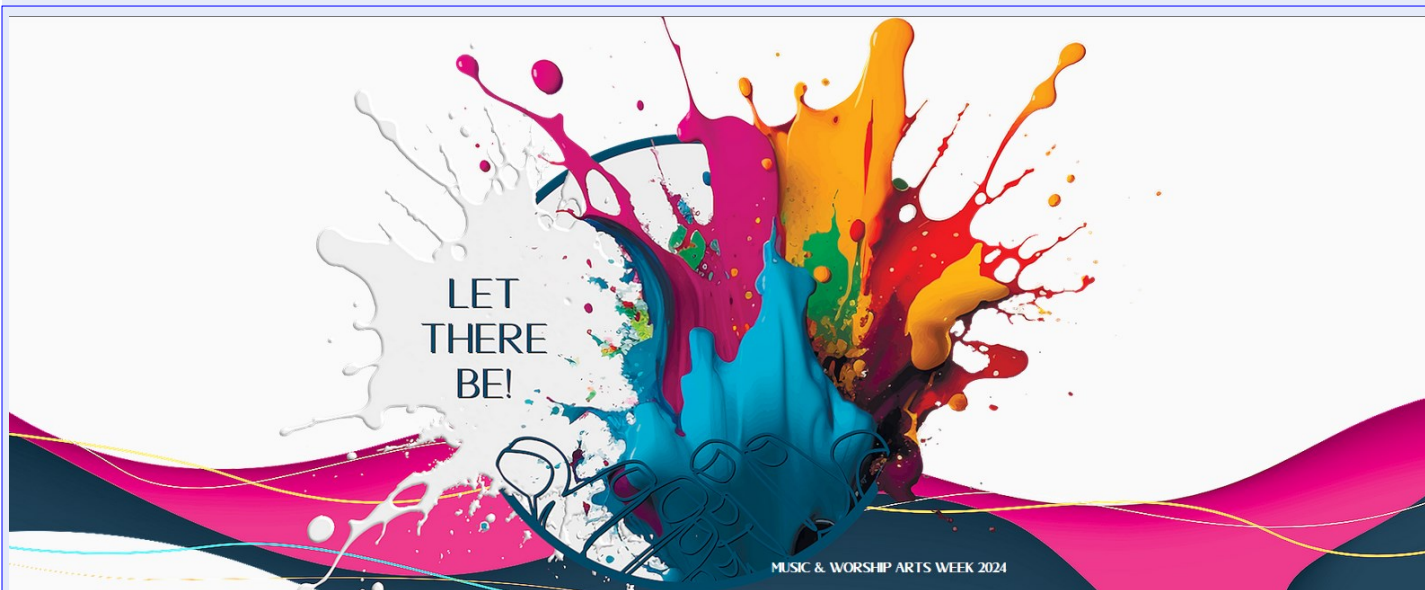
*Follow us on social media!
facebook.com/theblueridgeringers*

*Free admission! Donations
will be gratefully accepted.
The Blue Ridge Ringers are a
501(c)3 non-profit corporation.*

**** This concert is at a Senior facility. Check with them to see if they are allowing visitors.**

www.SacredMusicDownloads.com

Past Dean Tim Shepard is reviving his sacred music website after 15 years of neglect and invites you to check out www.SacredMusicDownloads.com. On it you will find music for handbells, organ / piano, and choir. There are also a couple of original hymns, and a music setting for the Great Thanksgiving. These are arrangements and anthems by Tim from many years of music ministry. It is a work again in progress. Look for an expanded roster of composers in the future.



Let There Be! Lake Junaluska, June 24-28 2024

Music & Worship Arts Week 2024 will magnify God's miraculous permission – Let There Be! – as a universe-shaping refrain of hope, wonder, and endless possibilities for all who work and volunteer in the glorious array of worship arts. Come! Join us as we embark on an awe-inspiring journey into God's creative power at work in the world! Music & Worship Arts Week (MWAW) is a multi-generational event hosted by The Fellowship of Worship Artists in the beautiful mountains of North Carolina at Lake Junaluska. This annual event is designed for worship leaders, musicians, artists, dancers, actors, and pastors of all denominations who seek education and renewal in a spirit of inclusivity and grace. We welcome all. MWAW offers participants the opportunity to work with and learn from renowned leaders in the fields of worship arts, make new friends and reconnect with colleagues, be renewed in a beautiful setting, and worship daily in creative and inspiring ways. Music & Worship Arts Week has been described as "one of the most palpable examples of God's artistic gifts at work", so if you haven't already done so, we hope that you'll take some time to learn more about this transformative event and make plans to join us at Lake Junaluska.

<https://www.thefellowshipowa.org/mwaw2024-registration>

Is your AGO membership current? In addition to the great programming from the Blue Ridge chapter, your membership includes this newsletter, and a subscription to *The American Organist*, the glossiest magazine around. Please visit agohq.org to check on the status of your membership, or contact the registrar, Tim Shepard.



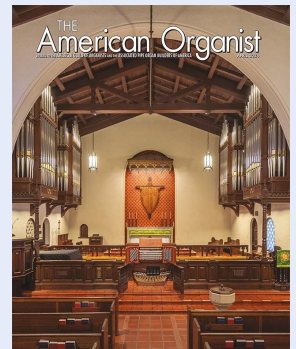
New STEAM Guide Launched at MTNA



The AGO kicked off the Pipeworks STEAM Initiative at the Music Teachers National Association convention, March 21–25 in Atlanta. Chief membership officer Elizabeth George, chair of the Board of Regional Councillors Sue Mitchell-Wallace, and AGO volunteers introduced hundreds of MTNA members and their students to the Orgelkids miniature organ kit. They also demonstrated STEAM (Science–Technology–Engineering–Arts–Mathematics) projects and shared related curriculum and lesson plans for classroom teachers. The new Pipeworks guidebook was completed last year by the working group and is available for download. To learn more, visit: <https://www.agohq.org/pipeworks-steam-initiative/>

TAO April 2024

The April issue of *The American Organist* magazine, now available in print and online, features the Rosales/Parsons organ at St. James by-the-Sea Episcopal Church in La Jolla, Ca. Other features include information about the 2024 national and regional elections and candidate statements, announcement of the semifinalists for the 2024 National Young Artists Competition in Organ Performance, "Rebirth in Lake City: An Interview with John Panning" by Nicholas Bergin, "Hyperorgan, Part 1: Reinventing the Wondrous Machine" by Randall Harlow, and "Young Organists in Chapter Leadership" by Laura Bottei.



Acts 29: 1-15

¹And it came to pass, when Paul was at Corinth, he and certain disciples came upon a mob that was stoning an organist. ²And Paul said unto them, "What then hath he done unto thee that his head should be bruised?" ³And the people cried with one voice, "He hath played too loud. ⁴Yea, in the singing of psalms, he maketh our heads to ring as if they were beaten with hammers. ⁵Behold, he sitteth up high in the loft, and mighty are the pipes and mighty is the noise thereof, and tho' there be few of us below, he nonetheless playeth with all the stops, the Assyrian trumpet stop and the stop of the ram's horn and the stop that soundeth like the sawing of stone, and we cannot hear the words that cometh out of our own mouths. ⁶He always tosseth in the variations that confuse us mightily and playeth loud and discordant and always in a militant tempo, so that we have not time to breathe as we sing. ⁷Lo, he is a plague upon the faith and should be chastised. ⁸Paul, hearing this, had himself picked up a small stone, and was about to cast it, but he set it down and bade the organist come forward. ⁹He was a narrow man, pale of complexion, dry, flaking thin of hair. ¹⁰And Paul said unto him, "Why hath thou so abused thy brethren?" ¹¹And the organist replied, "I could not hear them singing from where I sat, and therefore played the louder so as to encourage them." ¹²And Paul turned round to the mob and said loudly, "Let him who has never played an organ cast the first stone." ¹³And they cast stones for awhile until their arms were tired and Paul bade the organist repent and he did. ¹⁴And Paul said unto him, "Thou shalt take up the flute and play it for thirty days, to cleanse thy spirit." ¹⁵And afterward, they returned to Corinth and sang psalms unaccompanied and then had coffee and were refreshed in the faith.



PONDER ANEW

SERVING AND LEADING
THE CHURCH'S SONG

JULY 22-25, 2024

VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY

A worship and music conference
sponsored by the Association of
Lutheran Church Musicians in
conjunction with the 2024 Lutheran
Summer Music Academy and Festival

This conference – held in conjunction with Lutheran Summer Music – would have us Ponder Anew how to communicate God’s saving grace to all peoples in meaningful, relevant ways. Through workshops, discussions, worship, and hands-on learning opportunities, participants will strengthen their gifts and develop new skills in topics such as worship leadership, technology, composition, enriching assembly song and more, all the while forming connections from Generation to Generation with musicians in the LSM Academy. Thanks to a generous donation from Pauline and John Kiltinen, a high point of our exploration for this week will be a celebration of the 300th anniversary of Johann Sebastian Bach’s St. John Passion in the form of a presentation of this work by the ALCM and LSM communities. We will have opportunities to ponder the current relevance of Bach’s church compositions alongside other current practices to enliven and nurture the song of the church.

www.alcm.org/2024-valparaiso/



Arts, Recreation, and Worship Conference May 6–11, 2024

ARW is a week long experiential opportunity to participate in recreation, worship, community, creativity, and the arts. The conference is designed for those who want to deepen their creativity, broaden their leadership skills and experience personal spiritual renewal. In addition to whole group worship and recreation events, participants select from a wide range of unique courses. Our learning together provides space for us to share in community that includes all of God’s voices.

www.montreat.org/events/arw24

For more information, please email Lisa Diedrick at artsrecreationandworship@gmail.com



JULY 7-12, 2024

FOR ADULTS

Arden, N.C.

Hands-on learning & daily creative worship experiences with nationally renowned clinicians.

- Adult Choir
- Organ Workshops
- Handbell Choirs
- HymnFest Choir
- Reading Sessions
- Hymn Festival

Organ

Adult Choral

Handbells

Chaplain



**CATHERINE
RODLAND**
ST. OLAF
COLLEGE



**ZEB
HIGHBEN**
DUKE
UNIVERSITY
CHAPEL



**MICHAEL
HELMAN**
BREVARD-
DAVIDSON RIVER
PRESBYTERIAN



**REV. AMANDA
HIGHBEN**
DUKE
UNIVERSITY
LUTHERANS

LUTHERIDGE.ORG/ADULT-MUSIC-WEEK

Open Positions

St. Andrew's on-the-Hill Episcopal Church, Canton, NC

St. Andrew's seeks a part-time (10-12 hrs/wk) musician who is called to serve in ministry in a mutually creative and collaborative relationship with the Priest-in-charge, choir, and congregation. St. Andrew's is a congregation that is deeply committed to prayer, service, and community. We have musicians in our congregation who sing in a quartet, play the dulcimers (hammered and mountain), and direct our children's choir.

We seek a music director with experience on organ and piano as well as directing a small, volunteer adult choir. We currently have choir rehearsal on Wednesday evenings and before Sunday morning worship, which begins at 10:30. A year-round position is preferred, but other options will be considered. Compensation: \$19,000 - \$20,500, based on experience for a year-round position. Benefits include 4 weeks paid vacation and \$500/year for continuing education. If you are interested in seeing the full job description, please check our homepage at: www.standrewscanton.org or contact Karen Barfield at: [rectorstandrewscanton \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:rectorstandrewscanton@gmail.com)



The Carolina Lakes Choral Society of Sun City (Indian Land, SC) is seeking a new Artistic Director to lead the ensemble through the second half of the 2024 season and beyond. The group is a voluntary chorus made up of 50 -70 singers who are residents of the Sun City community. The group sings four-part music "from Bach to Broadway" with an emphasis on more contemporary selections. Novelty numbers frequently add to the fun at performances. Two concerts are presented each year, Spring and Fall. Each concert is a series of three performances held on a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Rehearsals are held during the day. The Artistic Director is assisted by a professional accompanist at all rehearsals and at performances. The Artistic Director will have primary responsibility for selecting the theme of each concert. The primary requirement for the Director position is a love of choral music and the ability to conduct a group of volunteer singers who share that love of singing. While degrees in conducting and/or choral music are desirable, and experience is definitely a plus, the determining factor shall be the perceived ability and commitment to enhance the love of singing and to form the ensemble into an ever more professional sounding group. Revenues in support of the Choral Society are derived entirely from ticket revenues and member fees (to a small extent). Modest compensation for the position can be discussed. This is a perfect opportunity to supplement on-going studies or to serve the community by keeping a now 15-year tradition alive and well.

For further discussion, please contact: Joe Silien, President: andijoe@comporium.net, Kent Newcomb, Vice President: cknewcomb@att.net

**First Presbyterian Church, Newton NC
Director of Music staff position (Part-time)**

First Presbyterian Church of Newton, NC (www.fpcnewton.org) is seeking a part-time Director of Music. Our active congregation of 320 members has a deep and long-standing love for what music brings to our worship, and we appreciate the same diversity of musical styles that we see represented in the diversity of Christ's church. The Director of Music position will require 15 – 18 hours weekly with a salary commensurate with training and experience. This staff position works alongside the minister to plan thematic worship services that incorporate appropriate and varied music through both choral and instrumental participation. He/she is responsible for the directing of the chancel choir that participates weekly in worship, and the handbell ensemble that participates quarterly or more either together or as a few members for special accompaniments. Also, he/she is responsible for administrative parts of the job such as copyright compliance for livestream services and bulletins, staff representative on some committees, maintenance of the church organs and pianos, and supervisor of and support to our staff organist/pianist/accompanist.

**Organist/Pianist/Accompanist staff position (Part-time)**

First Presbyterian Church of Newton, NC (www.fpcnewton.org) is seeking a part-time Organist/Pianist/Accompanist position requires 10 – 12 hours weekly with a salary commensurate with training and experience. This staff person supports the Director of Music in the church music ministry. He/she serves as accompanist to the Chancel Choir in weekly rehearsals and worship services. He/she also accompanies soloist, duets, and instrumentalists who are participating in worship services. He/she will prepare liturgically appropriate music for the worship services to share as preludes, voluntaries, offertories and postludes. Our church organ is a Casavant Frères, Opus 3806, with three manual console and 47 ranks. Our sanctuary grand piano is a Yamaha C6X – 7ft. with polished Ebony finish.

To apply for either of these positions, please send a resume, references and contact information to
First Presbyterian Church: Organist Search Committee
701 N. Main Ave, Newton, NC 28658
kberry@fpcnewton.com

A full job description can be requested from the church office.



Warren Wilson Presbyterian is seeking a part time Director of Music Ministry to lead our music program as we continue to grow and prayerfully follow where God is leading us. We are a casual, warm, and friendly congregation, who values the Sacred worth and dignity of each person. We are an open and affirming congregation, committed to creating a welcoming and inclusive environment for all. As Director of Music Ministry, you will be responsible for leading our choir and providing musical accompaniment on organ and/or piano for our worship services. You will be essential, incorporating your own gifts and creativity. This position is for 16 hours per week, with a salary of \$20,157 - \$21,657 including paid vacation and sick leave.

Applications are being accepted now. A job description is posted on our website: warrenwilsonchurch.org
Interested applicants please submit a CV, or resume, and three references to: [info \(at\) warrenwilsonchurch.org](mailto:info@warrenwilsonchurch.org)



Fletcher United Methodist Church, Fletcher NC is seeking a part-time Organist/Pianist. Under the direction of the Director of Music and the Pastor, this person is responsible for the planning and participation of organ and piano music in support of the worship services and programs of the church. He/she ensures that the music is presented in a manner that preaches the Gospel of Jesus Christ, provides glory to God, and inspires holy worship at all worship services. The Organist/Pianist will accompany rehearsals of the Chancel Choir one weekday evening per week (from early September through early June) and provide a year-round musical component for both Sunday worship services (8:30 and 11:00),

as well as special worship services throughout the year (i.e. Good Friday, Christmas Eve, etc.) Occasional assistance may also be needed for our Anticipate Ancient-Modern services, which occur on Wednesday evenings during Advent and Lent. A degree in organ and previous church-related music experience is preferred. For more information, email Blaine Russell, Director of Music: blaine (at) fletcherumc.org

First Baptist Church, Weaverville, NC is seeking a part-time organist. Qualifications: be a person feeling called by God and showing a love for Church music. 4 year college music degree preferred. Experience at the keyboard to help guide the church in worship. Comfortable with a wide variety of musical styles, possess good interpersonal skills. Duties: In cooperation with the Minister of Music, Pastor and the Music committee, be responsible for providing music for and accompanying choirs in all the regular services of the church (currently Sunday AM), special services and funerals (as schedule allows). Accompany the Adult Choir rehearsals (currently Wednesday evenings) and other Choirs as needed. Assist the Minister of Music and others in places of responsibility to carry out the ministry of the church. Advise and work with the Minister of Music on instrument maintenance: tunings and repairs. Benefits: Receive 2 Wednesdays and 2 Sundays paid vacation after the first six months of employment. Be allowed to attend conventions, conferences, and music meetings as the budget allows. Receive a salary and benefit review annually. Typical considerations will include cost of living, job performance, years of service. (Currently position - \$250 weekly approx. 15-20 hrs a week) Be treated with love and respect in keeping with the high calling as a minister of God in this chosen field. Further information about our church can be discovered at the website: www.fbcwvl.org/ Please send inquiries and/or resumes to position (at) fbcwvl.org, (828) 645-6720

Montmorenci United Methodist Church, Candler NC

Montmorenci UMC is seeking a part-time Music Director/Organist for our church in Candler, NC. We are a loving congregation nestled in the mountains west of Asheville. We are known for our warm and inclusive spirit, where everyone is treated like family! The position is 8-10 hours a week with a salary of 12,000. Benefits include 2 weeks paid vacation. Primary job responsibilities include selection of music, Sunday morning worship, adult choir rehearsals, and special services. A more detailed description of duties can be obtained by contacting us. We have a three manual Johannus. If you have a passion for traditional music with a few twists, a heart for service, and a desire to be part of a warm and caring church family, we invite you to apply for this position. Inquiries and resumes can be sent to Glenda Patterson at allie100 (at) currently.com

First Baptist Church, Burnsville, NC,

First Baptist Church, affiliated with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, is looking to fill the part-time position of "Pianist". FBC Burnsville appreciates a blended music program that includes choral, hand bell, brass, small ensemble, and solo work. More information about First Baptist can be found on Facebook, FBCBurnsville, or our web site: fbcburnsville.com. Applicants should email a resume to: fbcburnsville (at) gmail.com. Applications accepted until position is filled. Salary commensurate with experience. Call 828-682-2288 for more information.

St. John's Church, Marion NC

Organist/Church Musician (Part Time) Church musician will provide music and musical leadership at the regular Sunday services of the Parish, and for Holy Week, Christmas, and additional services. Musician will assist the Rector in the selection of hymns, anthems, and service music. Provide music for other occasions as requested. The ideal candidate will provide direction for a seasonal choir, handbells and other musical groups as needed and work to develop, and encourage, small ensembles, soloists and other talented musicians within the congregation. St. John's has a 2007, three manual Rodgers Allegiant digital organ. Qualifications: Knowledge of church music and organ repertoire for church services. Experience within the Episcopal/Anglican tradition preferred or willingness to learn. Proficiency in organ and piano. Experience directing a choir or ensemble (ideal) Self-motivated with a collegial style of leadership Part time salaried position requiring an average of 9-12 hours per week. Additional hours required for special services. Salary is \$805 per month (\$10,200 per year) 4 Sundays off per year \$250 towards continuing education per year. To apply send cover letter and resume via email to Rev. Erin Kirby, stjohsмарionclergy@gmail.com, or as a hardcopy to St. John's Church, Attention Rev. Kirby, P.O. Box 968, Marion, NC 28752. Position open until filled

Black Mountain Presbyterian, Black Mountain NC

Black Mountain Presbyterian Church, a vibrant and progressive community of faith in Black Mountain, NC, is seeking a classically trained organist. This individual would support worship services that elevate the rich heritage of sacred choral and organ music found in the Presbyterian (PCUSA) liturgy. The organist will serve an integral part-time role, joining an energetic and collegial staff. The Organist will report to the Director of Music and assist in the development and implementation of a comprehensive music ministry plan congruent with the vision and mission of Black Mountain Presbyterian Church. Bachelor's degree in music or related field preferred (equivalent experience will be considered). Since this is a part-time position, benefits are not included. Salary is negotiable and will be dependent upon experience level. For more information about Black Mountain Presbyterian Church: bmpcnc.org Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter to Aaron Price, Director of Music and Worship Arts, at "aaron (@) bmpcnc.org". Candidates are encouraged to include links to audio and/or video recordings of past performances. For more information, contact Aaron Price at 828-669-2725.

Lutheran Chapel Church, Gastonia NC

Lutheran Chapel Church seeks an Organist/Assistant to the Director of Music. Position Objective: To coordinate and assist with the music programs primarily through accompaniment on the organ and piano while reflecting the church mission and theology. Part-time position, 4-5 hours/week average. Salary Range: \$10,400 - \$13,400 Responsibilities: Collaborate with the Pastor, Director of Music and Worship and Music committee in preparation for worship services and any special music requests. Enthusiastically accompany and assist with Music Ministry programs that facilitate cross-generational spiritual growth and enhance the worship experience. Be an active participant in weekly and seasonal worship services. Provide accompaniment for funerals as needed and as available. Necessary Qualifications: Must love music! Highly skilled accompanist. Proficient in most styles of playing piano. Proficient organist preferred, but not required. Must have a desire to learn. Competent music director. Experience working with children. Bachelors or Associate degree in music or equivalent training/work experience. If you are interested in applying for this position, please send your professional cover letter and resume to: Lutheran Chapel Church, Attn: Organist/Assistant to Music Director Search Committee, 702 N. New Hope Road, Gastonia, NC 28054 or by emailing churchoffice (at) lutheranchapelchurch.org

First Presbyterian Church, Albemarle NC

First Presbyterian Church of Albemarle, NC seeks an organist for Sunday morning worship, adult choir rehearsals, and special services. Past worship services can be viewed on YouTube. Worship occurs on Sundays at 11:00. Applicants for this position should contact Ann Crutchfield, 704 985 2050 or ann.benson.crutchfield@gmail.com to arrange an interview and audition opportunity. Applicants will be expected to play traditional hymns for singing, a prelude, offertory, and postlude. The applicant may be requested to accompany a vocal and/or instrumental soloist during the audition. Piano proficiency is expected in playing open score during adult choir rehearsals. Salary: \$18,000 – 24,000. Vacation: 3 weeks. Degree in Church music or Organ performance preferred. Organ: Orgues Letourneau – Opus 105 2007, 2 manuals, 30 ranks, 22 stops.

Blue Ridge AGO Chapter

www.blueridgeago.org

Founded
August 15, 2013

OFFICERS

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About Us

Our mission is to enrich lives through organ and choral music. To achieve this, we encourage excellence in the performance of organ and choral music; inspire, educate, and offer certification for organists and choral conductors; provide networking, fellowship, and mutual support; nurture future generations of organists; promote the organ in its historic and evolving roles; and engage wider audiences with organ and choral music.

Area Organs

First Baptist Church, Waynesville · Reuter Organ Company Opus 1025



19 Ranks - 1,250 Pipes

An Order for Easter Evening

The Priest goes home.

<i>People</i>	Do you have some time Monday morning to get together?
<i>Celebrant</i>	No.