

# The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

September 2024



## MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

I'm back! Actually, I never went anywhere.

As you all know, we elected the Board of Directors for our chapter several months ago. We held our first meeting in early August, and plan to meet again September 9th at 4 pm.

I've been subbing for Jack VanderPlate at Redeemer Lutheran in Vero Beach for the last three months. He's back soon and I move to my next assignment.

But first, let me just announce that there's movement in our chapter. After serving faithfully for the last several years at St Andrews, Tom Goetz is moving to St Mark's Anglican Church in October. Jerry Myers has decided to return to teaching and I will begin my tenure at his church, First United Methodist Church of Ft Pierce soon. Having subbed there many times, I feel like I'm returning home really, as I know almost everyone.

In the meantime, Jerry and I are working hard to schedule our events for the upcoming year. What we do know is that so far our first event is Phantasies and Phugues, October 27, 4 pm at Christ By The Sea, graciously hosted by Marcos Flores. This is a Fall Festival event and costumes are encouraged. We've been asked to refrain from gore or inappropriate attire. This is an event where ALL are invited to perform, with the donations going to our chapter's scholarship program. This has been a very successful event in the past and I urge you to put the date on your calendars and attend! More to come on signing up and practice times with Marcos. Plan your piece now.

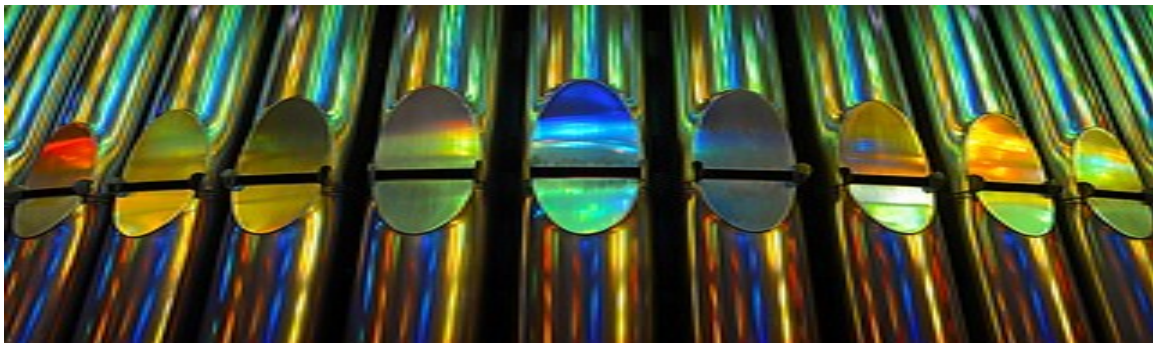
As we follow our scholarship recipients as they go off to college, on behalf of the chapter, let me wish them a very successful future. We are very proud of their accomplishments and want to let them know that they are always invited back. There's been discussion about having an event that features present and past students.

It has been decided that we hold our monthly luncheons on Wednesdays rather than Thursdays, so that more can attend. It was also discussed about trying different restaurants and so far, I can honestly say, that the Ocean Grill is still the best bet for ambiance, menu choices and even the price for lunch. However, that's not set in stone. Because it's already September, the next lunch will be October 2nd at 12 noon. RSVP to me if you'd like to attend!

Keep practicing,

Steve Giddens  
Dean TCCAGO

# **WHEN YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO PLAY THOSE NOTES IN THAT PASSAGE**



**THANK YOU FOR BEING AN AGO MEMBER**

**Is your AGO membership current?  
To manage your membership, renew, change your  
address, find an AGO member, and more just go to  
the national website:  
[www.agohq.org](http://www.agohq.org)**

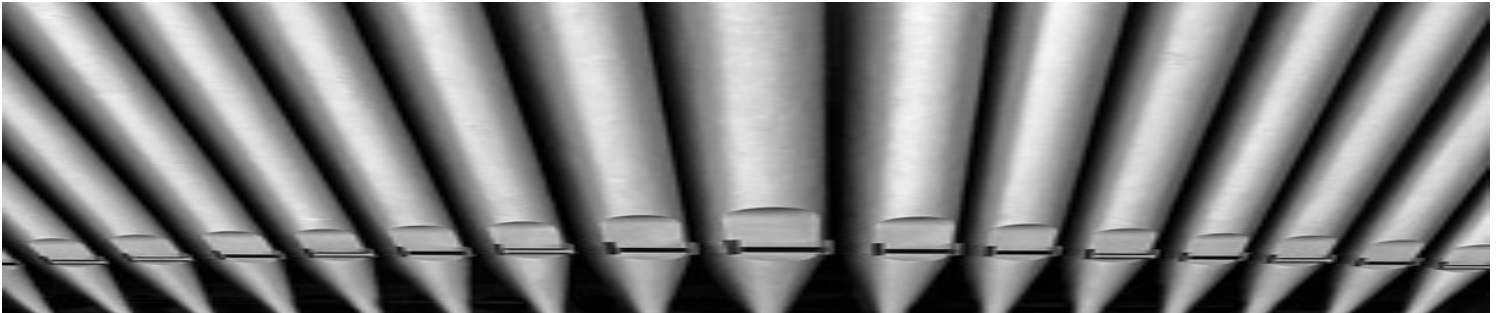
**Or  
To become "Friends of the Chapter"\*  
send \$25 to TCCAGO, PO Box 643814, Vero Beach,  
FL 32964**

*\*this special membership does not include the AGO magazine or voting  
rights*





**TCCAGO Chapter Lunch**  
**Ocean Grill Vero Beach**  
 The next luncheon will be  
**October 2, 2024 at 12 Noon**  
**RSVP with Steve Giddens**



## **“D.C. al Fine”**

*a Senior Recital*  
*Joseph Rumberger, organ*

First Baptist Church of Vero Beach  
 Four o'clock  
 Sunday, August 4, 2024

## **Program**

1. Prelude and Fugue in a minor BWV 559.....J.S. Bach
2. Variations I and III from “Four Variations for Organ on  
 “DOWN AMPNEY”.....Jan Bender
3. Prelude in e minor BuxWV 143.....Dieterich Buxtehude
4. No. 7 “Offertoire” from “Sept Pieces in Ut majeur  
 et ut mineur” (from “L’Organiste”).....Cesar Franck

**Dr Ray Adams and Joseph Rumberger at Joey’s Senior Recital, Sunday,  
 August 4, 2024 hosted by First Baptist Church of Vero Beach**

# **TCCAGO'ER OF THE MONTH**

## **Jeff Edwards**

Jeff Edwards has served as the organist and choir director at Trinity Lutheran Church (Missouri Synod) since 2011, and he has been a member of our chapter since 2006.

Jeff moved from Akron, Ohio to Fort Pierce in December, 2005. He soon took a position at White City UMC as organist and choir director, and served there 5 years until he was hired at Trinity Lutheran Church



Jeff grew up in the small town of Ravenna in northeast Ohio, the oldest son of a church pastor and a musical mother. His mother played the piano and directed the choir in their local church. Jeff started piano lessons at age 7, studying with Mr. David L. McClure, who was also a Ravenna School System principal, and quite the disciplinarian. Jeff started accompanying the church choir at age 12. He loved practicing at home and serving in the church.

At age 13, Jeff started studying with Mrs. Olive Stoerkel, the organist at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church in Ravenna. He paid for his piano and organ lessons by working summers mowing grass.

The Ravenna Public School System was blessed to have a great music program. In middle school and high school, Jeff took up trombone and baritone with Mr. Lou Marini and choir and vocal studies with Mr. David Maske, both great educators and fine musicians. Jeff was selected to be one of the student choir directors and the tenor section leader. Besides singing in the choir and ensembles and playing in the band, Jeff was coached to become one of the vocal and instrumental accompanists for State Contests.

As a high school sophomore, Jeff was selected for the All Ohio State Youth Choir, along with other high school students from all over the state, under the direction of Glenville Thomas. This advanced choir rehearsed monthly in Columbus and performed in different cities around the state, and culminated with a 10 country concert tour in Europe, quite the experience for a small town young man. (Jeff was singing in Rome when Neil Armstrong landed on the Moon!)

After high school, Jeff started his college studies, then left school to join the AirForce, always playing and directing music at churches wherever he was stationed in Germany and California.

Upon finishing a 6 year enlistment in the military, Jeff moved to Akron and continued college studies at the University of Akron, and organ studies with Mrs. Barbara McGregor.



Jeff graduated from The University of Akron with a degree in electronics, while juggling being a husband and father, working full time, and raising a young, musically talented family. All 5 of his children play musical instruments.

Jeff taught piano lessons part time for 10 years, and sang with the Akron Symphony Chorus, under the direction of Dr. Betsy Burleigh. Jeff also sang with the Summit Choral Society under the direction of Dr. Frank Jacobs. But the best singing experience came from the direction of Mr. James Mismas. Mr. Mismas graduated from Oberlin Conservatory with degrees in both organ performance and vocal performance and was professor of voice at Kent State University. James also directed the Hudson Community Chorus, a 60 voice auditioned choir peppered with great musicians from all over northeast Ohio. Jeff sang with this choir for 10 years, from 1995 to 2005, and it was while singing in the Hudson Community Chorus that he met his second wife, Sally.

For those same ten years, Jeff served as the director of a small non-audition chorus called the Serenity Singers, a group of musicians in recovery, singing in nursing homes and assisted living facilities. Jeff also served as organist at a church in Tallmadge, Ohio.

After Jeff and Sally left Ohio to “retire” in Florida, Jeff used his electronics degree to work for a few more years at Natalie's Orchid Island Juice Company and the Cargill Company to finish out his career. During this time, he also took over as Music Director of the Sunrise City Community Chorus, which he headed for 11 years with the help of many fine musicians over the years. Sadly, Sally passed away in 2016.

As an additional blessing that happens only through music, Jeff met Susan Callahan 6 years ago, and they enjoy life and musical events all over the world. Jeff feels thankful to have been raised in a family with a deep love of music, for having very fine teachers and mentors over the years, for his membership in our great chapter, and for the associates and colleagues he has known and worked with over the years! Soli Deo Gloria!





## CHRIST BY THE SEA PRESENTS 2024-2025 Concert Season

### CHRIST BY THE SEA 2024-2025 CONCERT SEASON

#### **Sunday, Nov 24, 2024 • 3 PM      Two Piano Concert**

*Young piano star Becca Harrison will join Marcos Flores for their first two-piano performance together. Two concert grand pianos and 20 fingers will be beautifully synchronized to create double the emotion, double the excitement, and double the virtuosity display from the inspiring two-piano repertoire by great master composers of all times. Tickets available.*

#### **Saturday, Dec 14, 2024 • 4:30 and 7 PM      Christmas Cantata**

*Please, join us to celebrate the Birth of our Savior Jesus Christ set to a full musical production with a mixed choir, a full orchestra, liturgical dancers, dramatic scenes, and uplifting narration! Featuring singers and musicians from many colleges in FL. Free will offering appreciated.*

#### **Sunday, Feb 16, 2025 • 3 PM & 7 PM      Broadway Concert**

*World-renowned opera star Susan Neves, along with rising star soprano Diana Flores, and acclaimed tenors Edmund Nalzar and Fernando Silva will be delighting the audience with highly enjoyable music from some of the best musicals from Broadway. Marcos Flores on the piano, Pete Hengen on the bass, and Gully Shell on percussion will provide the orchestration with lights, cameras, and action for the 2 performances available for this very popular concert. Tickets available.*

#### **Sunday, Mar 30, 2025 • 3 PM      Piano Quintet Chamber Concert**

*Violinists Henry Hutchinson and Matt Stott, violist Viera Borisova, cellist Ana Ruth Bermúdez, and pianist Marcos Flores once again will captivate our audience with beautiful, spicy and uplifting chamber music. Enjoy this exquisite international string quartet joining forces with the majestic concert grand piano for a truly memorable musical experience. Tickets available.*

#### **Saturday, Apr 19, 2025 • 4:30 and 7 PM      Easter Cantata**

*Please, join us to experience the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ set to a full musical production with a mixed choir, full orchestra, liturgical dancers, dramatic scenes, and uplifting narration! Featuring singers and musicians from many colleges in FL. Free will offering appreciated.*

*\*Cantatas are free admission with a free will offering appreciated.*

*\*Tickets for the concert series will be available starting on June 1, 2024 online at [cbtsumc.org/concert-series](http://cbtsumc.org/concert-series), at the church office Monday-Thursday 9am-4 pm, and at the door.  
\$30 adults and \$10 youth.*

CHRIST BY THE SEA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
3755 Highway A1A Vero Beach, FL 32963 • [cbtsumc.org](http://cbtsumc.org) • (772) 231-1661

# Phantasies & Phugues

Christ By The Sea UMC

3755 Hwy A1A, Vero Beach, FL 32962

October 27, 2024 at 4:00 pm

## **FALL FESTIVAL!**

Costumes encouraged

(please no gore or inappropriate attire)

*\*Donations go to the chapter's scholarship program*



If your church would like to host the “Blessing of the Musicians” event this year, please contact any Board Member. This event can piggyback an event the church has planned and is simply the clergy holding a small ceremony inviting all musicians for a blessing. It includes all musicians, organ, piano, choir, instrumental, etc.

Please let us know ASAP so we can schedule the event.





# SAINT JOHN *of the* CROSS

## Roman Catholic Church

7550 26<sup>TH</sup> STREET • VERO BEACH • FLORIDA • 32966

[www.stjohnsvero.org](http://www.stjohnsvero.org) • 772.563.0057

From Ryan Kasten —

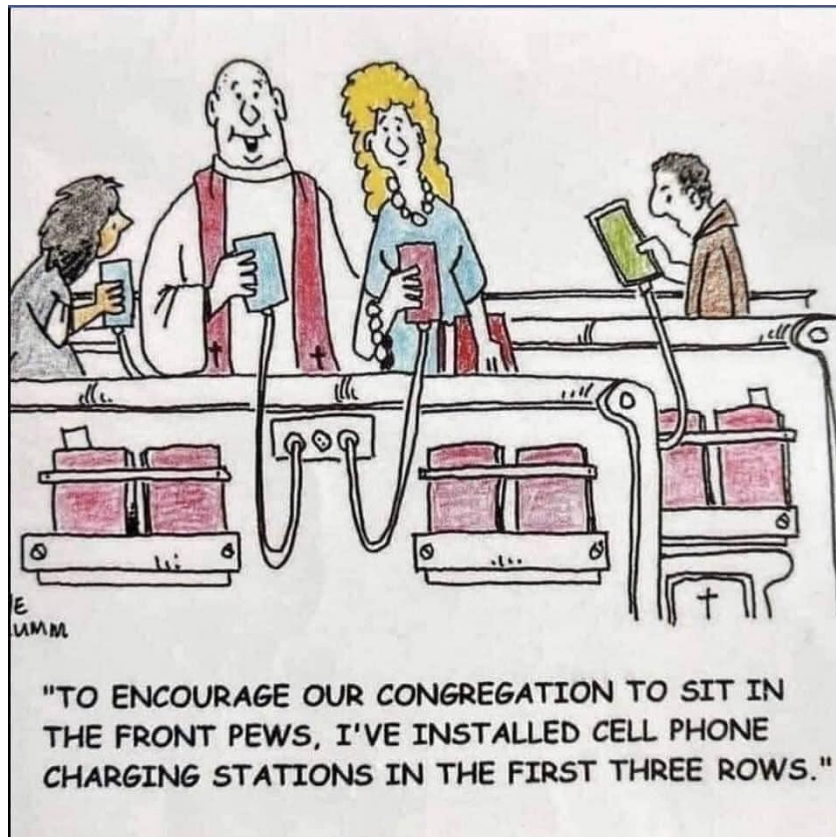
**I just got word the other day that they are starting to build the new four manual console.**

**The first major program with the organ will be Durufle Requiem on All Souls' Day, and I will do the dedicatory recital probably in January 2026. The organ is to sit and get acclimated for at least 6 months before we do any more programs besides weekend masses to be sure we have worked out any kinks and subtle voicing issues.**



Members Recital 2024 at St Andrew's  
Episcopal Church, Ft Pierce





### **TCCAGO Officers for 2024—2025**

<b>Dean:</b>	<b>Steve Giddens</b>
<b>Subdean:</b>	<b>Jerry Myers</b>
<b>Secretary:</b>	<b>Dan Kroger</b>
<b>Treasurer:</b>	<b>Tom Goetz</b>
<b>Board Member :</b>	<b>Kathleen Knott</b>
<b>Scholarship Chair:</b>	<b>Brady Johnson</b>
<b>Chaplain:</b>	<b>Rev. Michael Carter</b>
<b>Publicity:</b>	<b>Ursula Rosenberg</b>
<b>Webmaster:</b>	<b>Dan Kroger</b>