

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

January 2024

Message From the Dean



Happy New Year 2024

By the time you read this, you've hopefully attended our Christmas event January 2nd at St Marks. However, as I write this on 12/27, it's about to turn cold by south Florida standards and I'm counting down to a new year. If you're still getting over Christmas, I completely understand. Just as at Easter, we work hard. Thankfully, there are guest artists coming in January and February, giving us a reprieve. You are cordially invited to attend.

JANUARY EVENT

FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH OF FT PIERCE

Rudy Lucente will present a concert on Sunday, January 21st at 4:00 pm at First United Methodist of Ft. Pierce, hosted by Jerry Myers. Rudy is a concert artist and church musician who has been serving congregations and entertaining audiences nationally and internationally for decades. Currently in his 46th year at the console, Rudy has the distinction of being the longest continually serving assistant grand court organist for the Wanamaker Organ at Macy's Department Store in Philadelphia, PA. An internationally known recitalist, he has performed for an audience of over two thousand people at a concert in the Cathedral of Valladolid in Spain. Closer to home, Rudy thrills crowds with his performances on the organs at Longwood Gardens in Kennett Square, Pennsylvania and Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He also coordinates organ demonstrations for special tour groups at the Kimmel Center for the Performing Arts. As a recitalist, Rudy is known for his "family friendly" presentations and dedication programs. Rudy is a highly respected consultant to many church musicians in the Philadelphia area and serves as the Director of Liturgical Music for Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Community in Doylestown, Pennsylvania.



TCCAGO Chapter Lunch

Ocean Grill Vero Beach

Thursday, February 1st 12:00 Noon

RSVP to scgiddens@hotmail.com

TRINITY
Episcopal Church & School

ORGANIST IN RECITAL

JASON ROBERTS

Thursday, February 8, 2024 at 3:30 p.m.

**Trinity Episcopal Church
2365 Pine Avenue
Vero Beach, FL 32960**

Free Admission



**Trinity Episcopal Church is pleased to
present this recital in collaboration with
The Treasure Coast Chapter of the
American Guild of Organists.**

For More Information
email abaron@trinityvero.org or call 772-567-1146



Mark Herman is one of America's busiest theatre organists, performing concerts and silent film presentations across the US and abroad. In 2012, he was named the American Theatre Organ Society's Organist of the Year and is the youngest person ever to receive the prestigious honor. Previously, he was overall winner of the 2004 Society's Young Theatre Organist Competition.

Mark has been featured on several episodes of American Public Media's *Pipedreams* program, and has performed for countless conventions of the American Theatre Organ Society, American Guild of Organists, and Organ Historical Society. On the international stage, he has toured in Australia, New Zealand, Switzerland, & the United Kingdom.

**Sunday, February 18, 2024 4:00 p.m. Mark Herman
First United Methodist Church of Ft. Pierce
Hosted By Jerry Myers**



" Your car has been keyed. The good news is that the damage appears to B minor. "

TCCAGO'er of the Month



Thomas Hall is a native of South Central Pennsylvania, but has lived for 43 of the last 46 years in Florida.

Tom's musical studies began with piano at age 6. He began studying the organ at age 13, with Robert Clippinger, professor at Gettysburg Theological Seminary, and Organist and Choirmaster at Grace United Methodist Church in Harrisburg. As a teenager, he played cello in various youth orchestras in central Pennsylvania, and began studying orchestral conducting and orchestration with Kenneth Landis. Following High School, he worked for a year for W. Zimmer and Sons, organ builders, in Charlotte, NC. In this position, he gained valuable experience in tuning and voicing, as well as insights into the construction of both electro-pneumatic and mechanical action organs.

This was shortly after a new material called "perflex" was introduced into the construction of pitman chests by some builders, including Zimmer. In spite of its initial strength, the material proved a disaster because of rapid breakdown. Thus Tom spent a good deal of that year helping to replace the perflex with leather in a number of organs.

Tom's college career began at Penn State, but he soon transferred to Eckerd College (formerly Florida Presbyterian College) in St. Petersburg, Fl. There he studied with William E Waters, who was to have a lasting impact on his organ playing and choral directing, as well as on his musical thought generally.

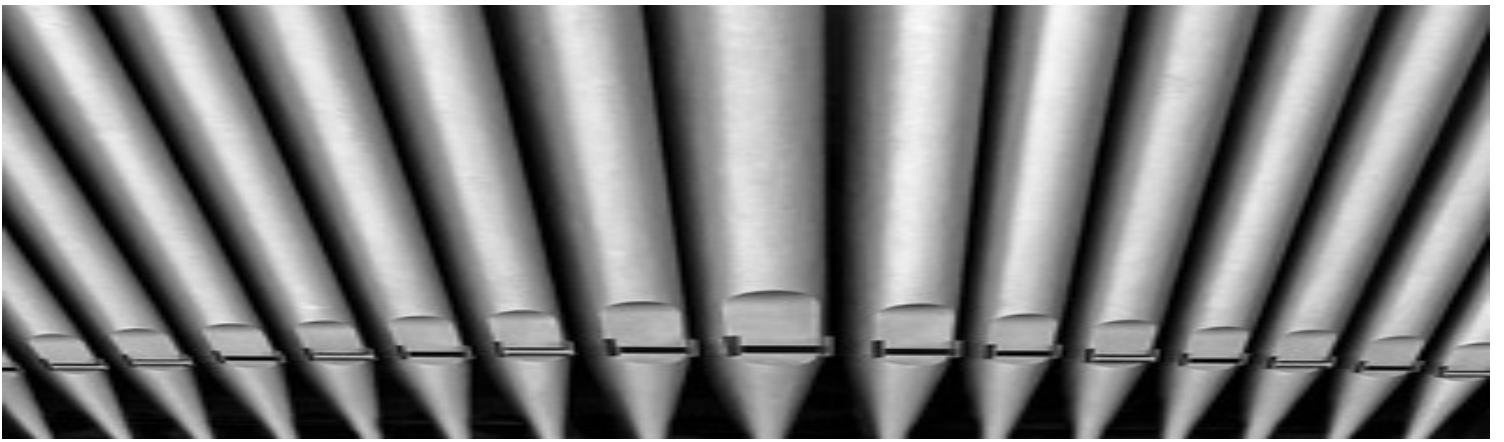
Professor Waters introduced him to an uncommonly wide variety of organ repertoire, including pieces of the early Italian and Iberian composers. Following graduation from Eckerd, Tom went on to the Florida State University College of Music where he earned a Master of Music degree, and did some further study following his degree work. At Florida State, he studied organ with Dr. Michael Corzine, harpsichord with Dr. Karol Lowenaar and choral conducting with Dr. Clayton Krehbiel.

Tom held various part-time church positions through high school and college, and after graduate school was appointed Minister of Music of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Sarasota. In 1992 he became Organist and Director of Music at Trinity Lutheran Church (ELCA) in downtown St. Petersburg, FL, a position he held for 26 years. In 2005, in addition to his ongoing work at Trinity, he was appointed College Organist and Adjunct faculty at his Alma Mater of Eckerd College. During this time he was also organist for the Estonian Lutheran Congregation of Central Florida.

In 2019 Tom moved to Lima, Peru, to be with his wife, Sandra, while waiting for the U.S. Immigration Service to process her request for United States residency. In Lima he was organist for the German Lutheran Congregation of Lima and taught organ students from several countries. He also played and researched a number of colonial Spanish organs in Peru. An intriguing aspect of organ history in Peru is the number of historic organs spread out in various places in the country awaiting restoration. Many of these are known to the community of organ aficionados, who tend to want to keep their locations "secret" until proper restorations can be done.

As the immigration process for Sandra appeared to be reaching a conclusion, Tom began to search for positions in the United States. In February 2022, he was appointed Director of Music at St. Augustine of Canterbury Episcopal church in Vero Beach. He is quite happy to be making music on the treasure coast.

Tom is the father of four adult sons; three in Ohio and one in St. Petersburg. He lives with his wife in Vero Beach.



Our Board meets the first Monday of every month by Zoom.
For minutes of our meetings, contact Dan Kroger, secretary.



What's wrong with this picture?



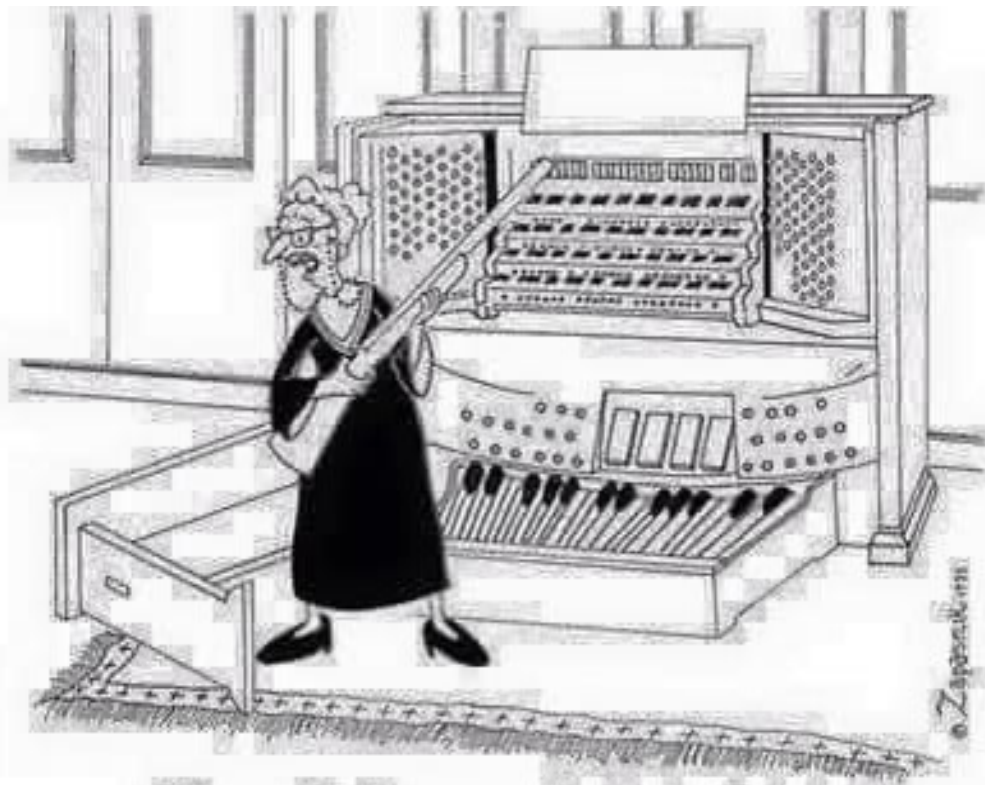
THANK YOU FOR BEING AN AGO MEMBER

**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

**If you need assistance with your membership, please call
212-870-2310.**





Wilma quiets the congregation for her Prelude.





It's not too early to begin planning your trip to San Francisco for the 2024 National Convention! The AGO has secured a deeply discounted rate of \$169 per night at the National Convention headquarters hotel, the San Francisco Marriott Marquis in the SoMa (South of Market) district.

The hotel is now accepting reservations.

Registration for the convention will open in November.



TCCAGO Officers for 2023–2024

Dean:	Steve Giddens
Subdean:	Anthony Baron
Secretary:	Dan Kroger
Treasurer:	Tom Goetz
Board Member :	Jerry Myers
Scholarship Chair:	Brady Johnson
Chaplain:	Rev. Dr. Michael Carter
Webmaster:	Claire Klein