

The Treasure Coast Chapter of The American Guild of Organists



Monthly Newsletter

March 2024

MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN



Growing up, my dad was a Deacon in the neighborhood Baptist church. He was called upon to be in charge of benevolence. That's when folks would call the church asking for food, clothing, help with bills, etc. My dad would get in his truck and go out and buy what was necessary and fill boxes with food and clothing or whatever he thought was needed and deliver it. He taught me how to be benevolent.

Fast forward to today, I play funerals at a local Catholic church. From time to time, I get a call to play a funeral that is benevolent, usually a poor family or a person who has done so much for the church. And without a second thought, I tell them it would be an honor. The priest offers to pay me directly from the church, but I refuse. That wouldn't be benevolent. When I ask the cantors to be benevolent, they refuse. I don't argue or pressure them to comply, but simply give the message to the church and they are paid.

Here's the thing: When you give, you get back tenfold. That's a famous quote, but it is absolutely true. I can attest to it. Last week I was asked to play a funeral that was benevolent. As I was walking out the door of the church, a lady rushes up handing me an envelope thanking me for all I do for the church. Thinking it was a thank you note, when I got outside, I opened the envelope and there was 6-50-dollar bills in it or \$300. I turned to the cantor and said, see? When you give, you get back. Not always this quickly.

As church musicians, we are always called on to do more than what we sometimes feel necessary. Only you can set that standard, and you have every right to do so. Benevolence is different. It's when you're not asked to do for another, but you gladly offer. See if you experience what I know to be true. When you give, you get back. Thanks, Dad, for that important lesson!

Keep practicing.

Steve Giddens
Dean TCCAGO

CHRIST BY THE SEA UMC PROUDLY PRESENTS THE EASTER CANTATA

FOOTPRINTS IN THE SAND

a Journey to the Cross and Beyond

BY JOSEPH M. MARTIN

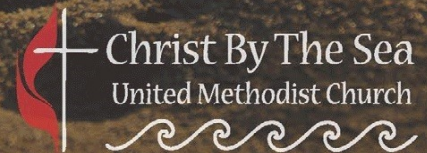
Saturday, March 30, 2024

4:30 pm & 7:00 pm

Free will offering appreciated

Come to an uplifting journey of the Passion and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ through our *Easter Cantata* set into a full musical production with a mixed choir, full orchestra, liturgical dancers, and lively dramatic narration.

3755 Hwy A1A, 32963
772.231.1661 | cbtsumc.org





TCCAGO Chapter Lunch
Ocean Grill Vero Beach
Thursday, April 4th, 12:00 Noon
RSVP to scgiddens@hotmail.com

The Christiaan Teeuwesen Workshop and Concert this month has been cancelled due to a family medical condition. We plan to reschedule the event for next year's season.



TCCAGO'ER OF THE MONTH

JERRY DAVIDSON



LEFT TO RIGHT
Older son Doug,
Doug's wife
Debbie, Jerry,
and Susan

Jerry Davidson was born in 1942 in a tiny southeastern Arkansas town. His grandmother was the organist for a church in nearby Pine Bluff and some of the earliest memories was sitting on the organ bench and listening to her play. Fortunately, there was an excellent piano teacher nearby by the name of Miss Kathleen Powers and Jerry started lessons at the age of seven. The local high school band was Jerry's ensemble experience growing up and he became proficient on the saxophone, playing in the Allstate band three years, later at college, moving on to the oboe and bassoon.

Jerry had some remarkably good teachers along the way, which led him to the University of Arkansas and the perfect organ teacher for him, Kenneth Osborne. The school had an exceptionally nice three manual Moller in the concert hall.

After graduation, Jerry served a year in El Paso TX in the army and a second year in Korea as the Logistical officer for a Hawk missile battalion. Returning to the US, he enrolled as a master student at the Union Theological Seminary in New York, where he studied organ with Vernon DeTar and had classes with Alec Wyton, Robert Baker, Searle Wright and Leonard Raver, and was able to meet some outstanding church musicians in New York City. The most important aspect of his time at Union? Meeting his wife-to-be, Susan. They received their degrees on a Tuesday and were married on Wednesday at the Cathedral of St John the Divine in New York. Mr. Wyton played this service, and having to leave for rehearsal, his assistant, Marilyn Keiser, played the closing voluntary.

After a honeymoon in England, with a week of study at New College, Oxford, Susan and Jerry moved to Chicago, where Jerry spent an August as organist and choirmaster, filling in for Morgan Simmons at 4th Presbyterian Church. They lived in the northwest suburbs, where he was a member of the faculty of Harper College, a new Community College with 150 music majors. After ten years, he was appointed to the faculty of Louisiana State University as the director of the church music program, taught music theory, and played renaissance wind instruments with the Collegium Musicum. After a promotion to associate professor, he became the associate dean and head of the music theory program.

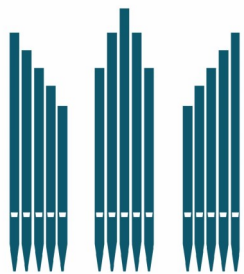
Jerry's next stint was chair of the Music Department at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Soon he was led to semi-retirement and a move to Hot Springs, where he became the organist and choirmaster for St Luke's Episcopal Church and director of nine different music ensembles in Hot Springs. Meanwhile, Susan had become an Episcopal priest and subsequently called to be the rector of All Saints Episcopal Church in River Ridge, LA, a suburb of New Orleans. The dutiful husband followed along and shortly found himself as a visiting professor of music theory at Loyola University in New Orleans, which he enjoyed and was there 10 years. Following Hurricane Katrina, he was overwhelmed, as full time at Loyola and $\frac{3}{4}$ time at St Paul's Episcopal Church in the Lakeview district of New Orleans. This was disrupted by an offer to become music director of the newly formed Choir School of East Texas and a move to Tyler, TX. An unusual turn of events produced an offer to become music director for Trinity Episcopal Church in Torrington, CT, where he found a lovely 3 manual organ, insufficient funds to maintain it, the makings of an excellent choir and a sympathetic and encouraging parish.

A truly remarkable set of events led the Davidson's to move to Florida in 2019. They were here only a few months when the Canon to the Ordinary for the Diocese of Central Florida persuaded Susan to become priest-in-charge of St Luke's Episcopal Church on Merritt Island and then invited Jerry to join him at St Andrew's Episcopal Church in Ft Pierce. What was to be a five-month interim tenure at St Andrews evolved into two and a half years, while waiting for their new organ. Jerry left in the summer of 2022 and immediately took up the reins at St John's Episcopal Church in Melbourne, where he has established regular Choral Evensongs.

His accomplishments include a BA with high honors (and elected to Phi Beta Kappa), a Master of Sacred Music with honors, and a PhD from Northwestern University in music theory. He won the Nichols Prize as the outstanding honors student for U of A in 1965, the Seth Bingham Prize in composition at Union Seminary, and holds the associate and choirmasters degrees for the AGO, where he has served five chapters as dean, two more as a board member and as the Director of the National Committee on Continuing Education.

Susan and Jerry have two sons, 3 biological grandchildren, 5 step grandchildren, and one grandchild-in-law—quite a mob!



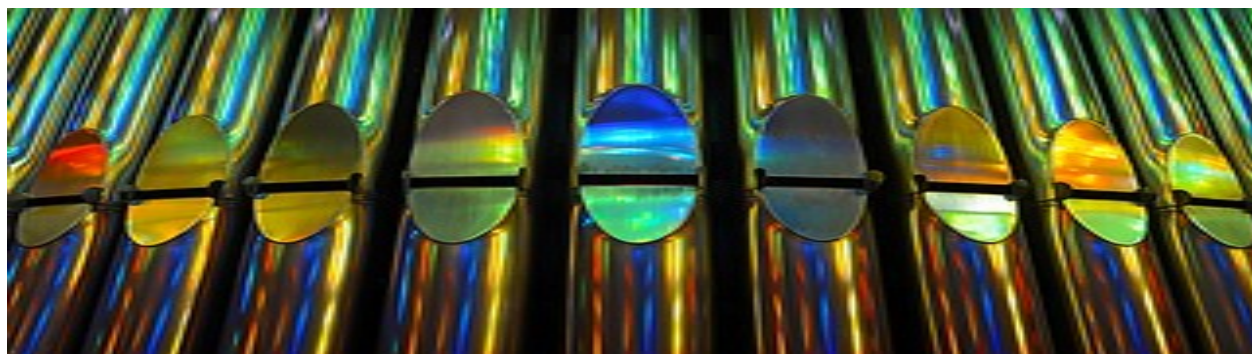


WHAT WILL YOU PLAY ON WOMAN COMPOSER SUNDAY?

The AGO will once again observe Woman Composer Sunday March 10, 2024. Members are encouraged to include music by women composers in their services and other performances on that day.

WOMAN
COMPOSER
SUNDAY

If you're not sure what you might play or are seeking new repertoire, the AGO Task Force on Gender Equity arranged for three works by women composers to be reprinted in *The American Organist*



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.**



SUNDAY,

MARCH 10, 2024

4:00 PM

Admission is Free

GAINSVILLE BRASS QUINTET

Donations Accepted



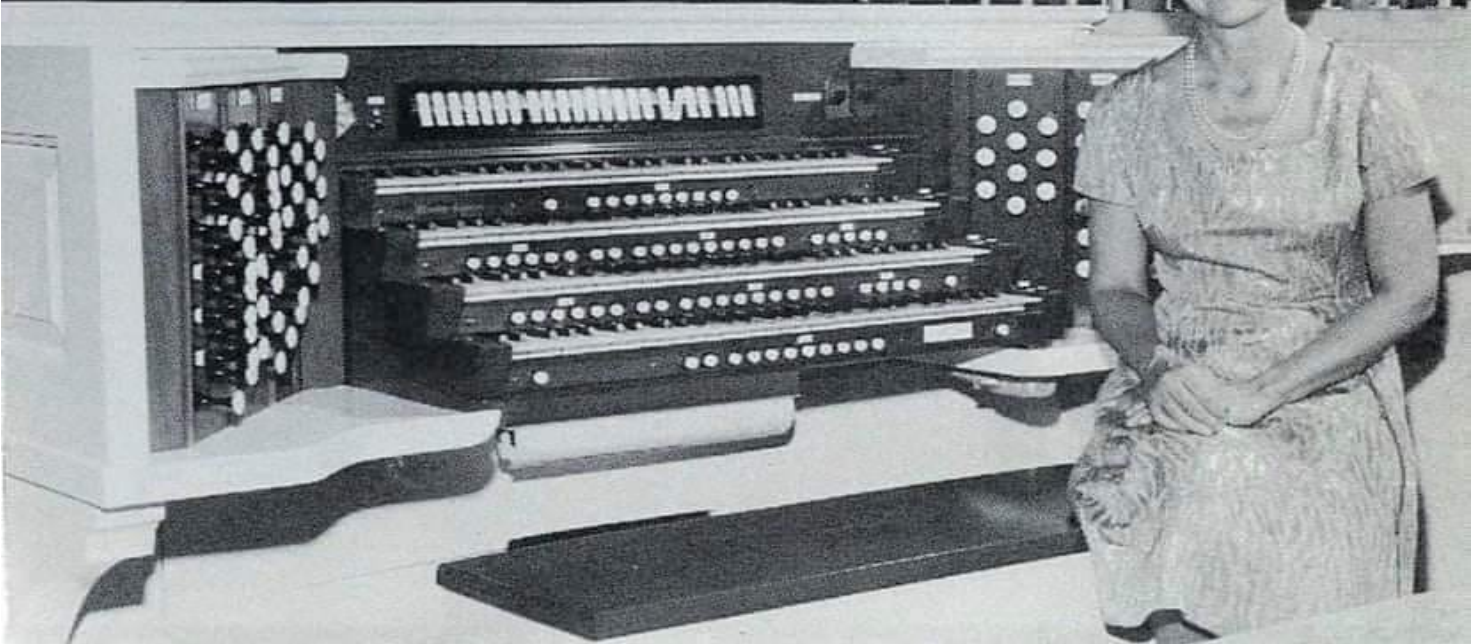
JOB OFFERING

WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VERO BEACH IS LOOKING FOR AN ORGANIST/ ACCOMPANIST FOR MUSIC DURING THEIR WEEKLY SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES, INCLUDING REHEARSALS AND SPECIAL MUSIC. MUST BE ABLE TO PERFORM AND EMBRACE DIFFERENT STYLES, FROM TRADITIONAL, CLASSICAL, GOSPEL AND MODERN MUSIC. COMPENSATION NEGOTIABLE.

TO APPLY FOR THIS JOB, PLEASE CONTACT REV. DR. BRAD KLOSTREICH FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AT bradklostreich@gmail.com. BE PREPARED TO SEND RESUME, REFERENCES AND OTHER APPLICABLE MATERIALS.

**"We all make mistakes. . .
and everybody else enjoys finding them."**

**Catherine Crozier (1914-2003)
American Concert Organist**



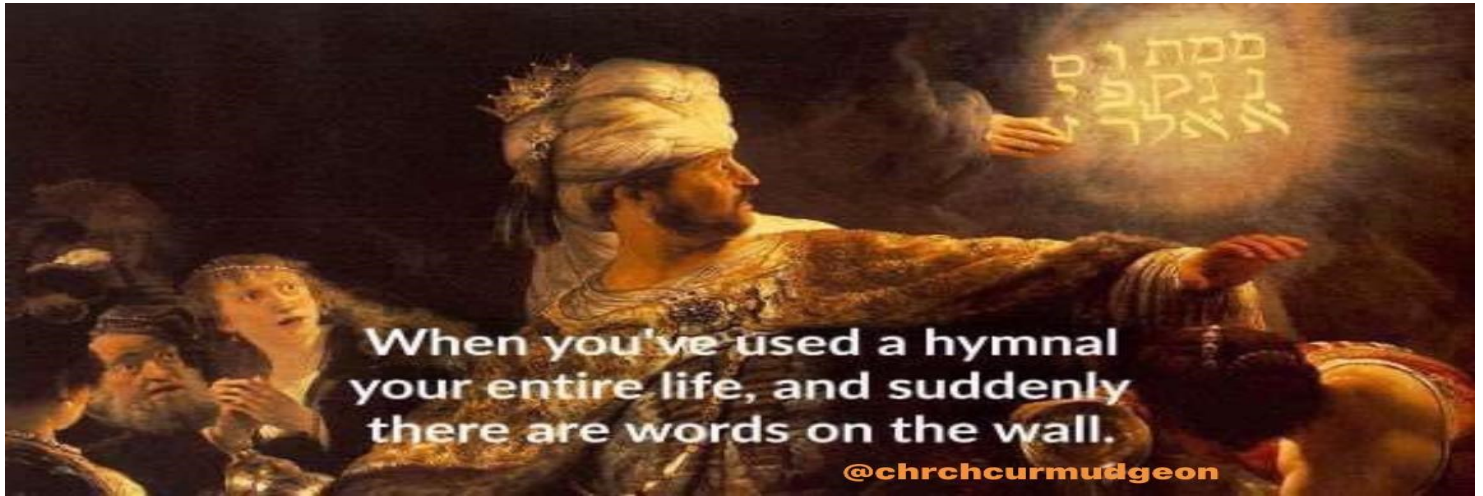
**Our Board meets the first Monday of every month by
Zoom. For minutes of our meetings, contact Dan**

"Learn to play the organ," they said. "It'll relax you,"
they said...





AGO 2024
SAN FRANCISCO
June 30–July 4



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