



MIXTURES Newsletter

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From Peggy Graff, Dean

“December is a month of enormous potential. It’s a time when we can all give and receive, a time when the spirit of humanity shines brightest.” - Michael Josephson

My wish is that during December, one of the busiest times of the year for musicians, you have had the time to experience the joy of serving others and have received generous appreciation expressed by those who are inspired by your musical gifts and talents.

Jordan Smith, Chair of the 2025 AGO SW Regional Convention, is expertly overseeing our Steering Committee. We meet once monthly to report on various aspects of the convention (finance, workshops, recitals, housing, convention website, etc.) and we are full steam ahead! Jordan will soon be sending you an update on convention preparations, so please look for his message in January. Your financial contribution, no matter how large or small, is essential as we continue to plan the convention. To contribute, please go online to agohq.org, log into ONCARD, and in the “Make a Contribution” menu, you can contribute to the convention electronically. If you have issues navigating this website, please call AGO Headquarters at (212) 870-2310. If you prefer to contribute to the convention by check, please contact Convention Treasurer, Bradley Reznicek at brtx78@gmail.com.

Please join me in acknowledging **Ken Surley** for his three years of faithful service to our chapter as Secretary of the Executive Committee. Ken has served Plymouth Park UMC for over 30 years as Organist; and in the past year, he has taken on additional responsibilities at the church as Office Manager. Whatever Ken aspires to do, from earning his CAGO certification, to helping others and creating culinary delights, he does so with grace and excellence. Thank you, Ken, for giving your time and expertise to our chapter, and congratulations to you on your new position!



Happy Holidays from the Fort Worth AGO Executive Board!

Directors: Aaron Walton, Andy Rose, Dana Chavarria, Dennis Opferman, Echo Wilson, Josh Lang

Officers: Peggy Graff, Dean; Dr. Devon Howard, Sub-Dean; Dr. Jerry Aultman, Secretary;

Dana Chavarria, Publicist, Elizabeth Kutz, Treasurer

A MESSAGE FROM THE PROGRAM COORDINATOR

DR. DEVON HOWARD

Greetings FWAGO Friends and Colleagues!

Another year has come and gone in the cycle of church music. One of my favorite parts of the Advent season is the focus on a new year and fresh beginnings several weeks before the rest of the world comes around to it. It can be easy to get lost in the busyness, but I hope you find moments of peace, thoughts of hope, feelings of love and outpourings of joy as you make music now and into 2024!

As you look forward into the new year, please keep our upcoming chapter events in mind and on your calendars!

To start off the new year we are partnering with Dr. Joseph Butler and TCU to welcome David Higgs to town for a concert on Friday, January 26th at 7.00p. Higgs is one of America's leading concert organists, and serves as Chair of the Organ Department at the Eastman School of Music. He performs extensively throughout the United States and abroad, and is known for his versatile and accessible programming. You will not want to miss the concert or the opportunity to talk with Higgs at the reception following the program.

February's event centers around the opportunity to experience the new console and additions to the organ of St. Stephen Presbyterian Church, with host Jordon Smith. Quimby Pipe Organs has been busy at work building a new 4-manual console for the main Gallery organ as well as expanding the chancel division by over 20 stops. Plan to bring your favorite piece and enjoy exploring the updated instrument and beautiful acoustics of St. Stephen's with colleagues and friends. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided for this social event!

Finally we will wrap up the spring season on Friday, May 3rd at 7.00p with the winner of the Southwestern Region AGO/Quimby Regional Competitions for Young Organists, Marshall Joos. Joos is currently studying organ with Ken Cowan at Rice University in Houston. His recital will be held at St. Stephen Presbyterian Church and represents a wonderful contribution to the various events planned to celebrate the dedication of Quimby's upgrades to their beautiful instrument. A catered chapter meal will precede the concert, so please check the chapter website for more information about dinner reservations.

These concerts and events are planned for you! Please plan to attend, and don't forget to invite friends, colleagues and family members along with you. In addition to being free, our chapter sponsored events this spring represent arts and culture at the highest levels. Plan to be part of celebrating and sharing the instrument we love!

Plan to attend, plan to invite, plan to enjoy! See you each soon!



Introducing the William E. Hayes Scholarship recipient!

FELIX PING

Felix first learned about the organ at church while he was living in the Hill Country with his family. He started with piano lessons at age 8 and continued those until COVID pushed everything online. Felix desired to continue music lessons in person and an organ teacher was found in Austin who was willing to take him on. He studied with Dr. Brooks Whitmore for a year until Dr. Whitmore relocated to Wyoming with his family. During that time, Felix began to play at his church for weekly services as required until he relocated to Fort Worth in January 2023. By Easter he sent his mother on a mission to find a local organ teacher. Dr. Joseph Butler was contacted and Felix happily continued his studies on the organ with him.



THANK YOU, DONORS !!!

With grateful thanks to our donors who support the mission of the Fort Worth Chapter of the American Guild of Organists. *Donors are listed whose donations were deposited January 1- November 1, 2023.*

WILLIAM E. HAYES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FOR YOUNG ORGANISTS

Distinguished Benefactors (\$1000+): *Put your name here!*

Benefactors (\$500-\$999): *Put your name here!*

Guarantors (\$250-\$499): *Put your name here!*

Patrons (\$150-\$249): *Put your name here!*

Sponsors (\$100-\$149): Peggy Graff, AAGO; Kyla Rosenberger, CAGO

Underwriters (\$50-\$99): Dr. Emmet G. Smith

Subscribers (Under \$50): Cheryl N. Harris; Alan C. Kerr, Carol A. Kocher, SPC; Elizabeth A. Kutz, CAGO; Joshua Lang; Lorraine Mearns; Michael L. Reed, SPC; Rebecca Sawyer; Minette Sicard

DONATIONS FOR CONCERT PROGRAMS

Distinguished Benefactors (\$1000+): Peggy Graff, AAGO; Anonymous Donor (non-member) memorial gift of \$20,000

Benefactors (\$500-\$999): Dr. Burton H. Patterson, SPC

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Underwriters (\$50-\$99): Danny Brooke; Joshua Lang; Rev. Raymond L. McDaniel, Jr., ARCO; Lucille Pumphrey; Maryanne Visconti-Pfeffer; Bradley W. Volk; CAGO

Subscribers (Under \$50): Dr. Laurence D. Furr; Kurt S. Hilsabeck, CAGO; Carol A. Kocher, SPC; Elizabeth A. Kutz, CAGO; Lorraine Mearns; Michael L. Reed, SPC; Rebecca Sawyer; Katie Minion Scheetz

2025 SW AGO REGIONAL CONVENTION DONORS

Distinguished Benefactors (\$1000+): Charles McLure (non-member) memorial gift

Benefactors (\$500-\$999): *Put your name here!*

Guarantors (\$250-\$499): Dr. Yoonmi Lim

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Subscribers (Under \$50): Clive Driskill-Smith; Kurt S. Hilsabeck, CAGO; Elizabeth A. Kutz, CAGO; Lucille Pumphrey; Katie Minion Scheetz

/// CONVENTION UPDATE ///

An extensive update from the 2025 SW Regional Convention Coordinator will be sent out after the first of the year.

MEMBERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

As of December 19, 2023, we have 142 paid members in our chapter (29 of these members have dual membership). Breakdown by membership category as follows:

- 60 Regular Members (17 dual membership)
- 66 Special Members (9 dual membership)
- 12 Young Organists (3 dual membership)
- 4 Chapter Friends

(Reported by Dana Chavarria, CAGO, Membership Committee Chair/ONCARD Database Administrator)

Chapter Financial Report as of December 15, 2023

Chapter Frost Bank checking account balance: \$18,885.30.

Chapter Frost Bank money market account balance: \$67,884.40

(Submitted by Elizabeth A. Kutz, CAGO, Treasurer)

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Elected Positions as of July 1, 2022)

OFFICERS (2-year term expire June 30, 2024)

Dean	Peggy Graff, AAGO	pgraff@myfumc.org
Sub-Dean	Dr. Devon Howard	devonhoward@mac.com
Secretary	Dr. Jerry Aultman	jerry.aultman@gmail.com
Treasurer	Elizabeth Kutz, CAGO	flutepipe@gmail.com

DIRECTORS (MEMBERS AT LARGE) Divided into 2 classes on staggered 4 year terms

CLASS A (4-year term expire June 30, 2024)

Director Position	Dana Chavarria, CAGO	romans10dmr@gmail.com
Director Position	Echo Wilson, SPC	fwagocomms1ewilson@gmail.com
Director Position	Dennis Opferman	dcopferman@yahoo.com

CLASS B (4-year term expires June 30, 2026)

Director Position	Joshua Lang	joshua.lang@tcu.edu
Director Position	Aaron Walton, SPC	theaaron.walton@gmail.com
Director Position	Andy Rose	arose@myfumc.org

STANDING SUBCOMMITTEES - Appointed Committee Chairs and Appointed Members

Chaplain	The Rev. Raymond McDaniel	raymcd07@yahoo.com
Communications	Echo Wilson, SPC	fwagocomms1ewilson@gmail.com
Email Administrator	Echo Wilson, SPC	fwagocomms1ewilson@gmail.com
Social Media Coordinator	Alissa Brewer, SPC	alissad74@yahoo.com
Webmaster	Andy Rose	arose@myfumc.org
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Courtesy	Glenda Robinson, CAGO	glendaprobinsont@sbcglobal.net
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Deputy Treasurer	Ed Ackermann, CAGO	ackermannstudio@sbcglobal.net
Historian	Ed Ackermann, CAGO	ackermannstudio@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Dana Chavarria, CAGO	romans10dmr@gmail.com
ONCARD Chapter Administrator	Dana Chavarria, CAGO	romans10dmr@gmail.com
Placement & Substitutes	Dr. Beverly Howard	hymneditor@aol.com
Professional Development	Peggy Graff, AAGO	pgraff@myfumc.org
Certification Exam Coordinator	Peggy Graff, AAGO	pgraff@myfumc.org
Scholarship Administrator	Joshua Lang	joshua.lang@tcu.edu
Program	Dr. Devon Howard	devonhoward@mac.com

CONTACT INFORMATION

Chapter Website:	www.fortworthago.org
Chapter Facebook page:	Fort Worth Chapter, American Guild of Organists
AGO HQ website:	www.ago.org
Southwest AGO Region Facebook page:	AGO Southwest Region

Update your email contact list to make sure emails from the following are sent to your inbox and not your junk mail box:
AGO HQ: renewals@agohq.org