

## The CYPHER

Newsletter of the Southern Arizona Chapter American Guild of Organists

Chapter Website: www.saago.org

*Volume 43, Number 2 October 2023* 

Chapter & Member Programs at a glance through December 17, 2023

The Organ Wars of Paris Jesse Eschbach Saturday, Oct. 14,10 a.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church

Evensong Organ Prelude Sunday, Oct. 15, 4:15 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

Johann Vexo, Organ Catalina Organ Festival Friday, Oct. 20, 7 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church \$30; \$25 seniors; \$10 students

**14th Annual Hymn Festival** Sunday, Oct. 29, 2 p.m. St. Andrew the Apostle Church, Sierra Vista

#### Candlelight Concert for All Saints Day Wednesday, Nov. 1, 7 p.m.

Trinity Presbyterian Church

SAAGO Showcase Concert Sunday, Nov. 12, 4 p.m. Christ Church United Methodist

**Evensong Organ Prelude** Sunday, Nov. 19, 4:15 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

**Bálint Karosi, Organ** Friday, Dec. 1, 7 p.m. St. Alban's Episcopal Church Donation

Evensong Organ Prelude Sunday, Dec. 17, 4:15 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church

## The Organ Wars of Paris—The quarrel that just won't go away

**October Program** 

#### **Professor Jesse Eschbach**

Saturday, October 14,10 a.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church 2450 E. Fort Lowell Rd. Light lunch following the presentation.



This presentation by Dr. Jesse Eschbach will give us a glimpse into the fractious split in the French organ world pitting 'reformers' Norbert Dfourcq, André Marchal and organ builder Victor Gonzalez against the traditionalists, Charles-Marie Widor and Marcel Dupré. This split culminated in a tragic rupture between Dupré and the famed Jeanne Demessieux. The presentation will be based on Dr. Eshbach's research into Jeanne Demessieux's diaries as well as recollections of Marcel Dupre's granddaughter and events witnessed by Marie-Madeleine Duruflé.

Dr. Eschbach is the past chair of the division of keyboard studies for the College of Music at the University of North Texas and has served as a faculty member since 1986. Eschbach holds a doctorate of musical arts degree from the University of Michigan where he was a student of Robert Glasgow.

He has appeared as a recitalist and lecturer throughout Europe and the United States. His recording of Franck and Guilmant was released on the Centaur label. With the organ builder Gene Bedient, he co-founded and directed the Summer Institute for French Organ Studies for a twenty-year period. In 2003, his book detailing the original stop lists of Aristide Cavaillé-Coll was published

by the Peter Ewers Verlag in Germany and has become a fundamental source for French symphonic organ research.



#### AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

#### SOUTHERN ARIZONA CHAPTER

P.O. Box 31315 Tucson, AZ 85751-1315

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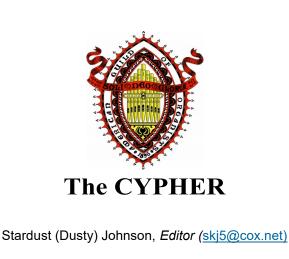
CHAPLAIN The Rev. Canon David Benedict Hedges, BSG

To contact an Executive Committee member by email or phone, please use your membership directory.

Our chapter has a generic email address:

#### southernarizonaago@gmail.com.

This email will be checked by an Executive Committee member at least twice daily. You may continue to contact members using their email and phone numbers printed in the membership directory, which is not a public document.



### Submission Deadlines for the 2023-2024 season are the 15th of each month.

NOTE: Chapter members are invited to submit program information for inclusion in THE CYPHER. We want to include your programs!

Please send program descriptions, along with pertinent information—title, date, location, time, brief description, cost, and photos—to Dusty Johnson, *CYPHER* editor. The information will appear in the print edition as well as in the online edition. Material may be edited as needed.

Please email information to

Dusty Johnson, editor, at <u>skj5@cox.net</u> by the 15th of the month. You may also send it via U.S. mail.

#### Advertising space available

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T o play only what is written is the domain of science. To realize what is not written is the domain of art. —Jean Langlais.

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# message from the dean...

Dear Southern Arizona Chapter Members,

The beauty of music is not only the sound or the beat, but the human interaction with whatever is making the sound. - Unknown

The above quote seems very fitting in response to a beautiful September 17 Evensong service put together by program chair David Gay and The Reverend Canon Debbie Royals, Vicar at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. The superb food, catered by Andy Bruno, was enjoyed by all. We thank hospitality chair Dee Schultz for coordinating the meal and room for us. There truly is nothing like human interaction.

I had the honor of interviewing three of our members who are retiring from active church service. I hope you will take the time to read about them and their careers, and join me in wishing them the best in their future journeys. Two of the articles are in this edition of the Cypher, with the third to follow next month. Pastor Beth Rambikur served the chapter faithfully during her three-year term as our chaplain, even through her struggles with COVID and the effects of long-haul COVID. We are very grateful for her presence in our midst and for the articles she provided for the Cypher.

We welcome our new chaplain, the Rev. Canon David Benedict Hedges BSG (Br. Dave), whose first article appears in this issue. He and his family have a long association with music, as you will read.

Fall is upon us here, temperatures are thankfully cooling, and we look forward to the beauty of music in sound, beat and human interaction at our upcoming gatherings.

Dean Janet Tolman



### Chapter Programs 2023-2024

#### Jesse Eschbach Program "Teaser. . ."

Member Bill Kuhlman found this while glancing at the "Foreward" to James Frazier's superb biography of Maurice Duruflé. The author, Dr. Jesse Eschbach will be our guest speaker on October 14th, at Northminster Presbyterian Church..

Jesse is a "walking textbook" on the French organ scene and brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the discussion regarding the lives and conflicts in Parisian organ circles. It should be an interesting morning as he brings the French organ world to life.

Here is a short excerpt from Jesse's "Foreward."

"My very first experience with Maurice and Marie-Madeleine Duruflé goes back to the recital they performed it First Presbyterian Church in Fort Wayne, Indiana, on September 20, 1966. As a young teen who had recently discovered the instrument and who was under the incomparable guidance of the Duruflés' host, Jack Ruhl, the evening proved to be a turning point in my life. The two major loves in my life, the French language and the organ, suddenly fit together in ways I'm still discovering today. It goes without saving that the playing was phenomenal. Who could have guessed that such virtuosity was possible on the organ? And then, the very elegant reception with both Monsieur and Madilyn autographing programs and providing me with my first earful of native French.

#### Annual Showcase Concert

Sunday, November 12, 4 p.m. Christ Church United Methodist 655 N Craycroft Rd. Donation, Reception Following

Each year SAAGO, the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists, holds an event to showcase the talents of its members.

With the eponymous title of Showcase, this year's event will feature members Janet Tolman, Lynn Moser, Carolyn Smith, Chris Fresolone, and the duo, Yvonne and Bill Kuhlman. They perform on the church's iconic Schlicker pipe organ—41 ranks, 4 divisions, 3 manuals and pedal, 1980. Members of the audience and performers can mingle afterwards at the reception hosted by SAAGO.



Schlicker organ, Christ Church United Methodist

#### **Epiphany Party and Potluck**

Saturday, January 6, 1 p.m. The Highlands Community Clubhouse 332 West Matterhorn St., Oro Valley.

This is a favorite holiday event and this year we'll celebrate following the holidays, specifically on Epiphany. Notice that the location is at The Highland Community Clubhouse in Oro Valley, a new venue for us. Thanks to Bill and Yvonne Kuhlman for recommending it. This is a wonderful opportunity to wind down from the hustle and bustle of Christmastide, and break bread with your fellow members in a delightful evening.

#### Pamela Decker's Accessible Church Music

Saturday, January 13, 10 a.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N. Campbell Ave. *Note the location change* Light lunch following the presentation

Dr. Decker will present various compositions of her own that would be suitable and accessible for church service use. This is an occasion for members to hear new organ music, look at the corresponding scores, and perhaps update one's own repertoire!

#### Pedals, Pipes and Pizza

Saturday, January 27, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Northminster Presbyterian Church 2450 E. Fort Lowell Rd.

Everyone loves SAAGO's Pedals, Pipes and Pizza event, which is designed to give children and youth a brief introduction to the pipe organ and its music at no cost to them. Attendees receive individual instruction on the organ and get to explore the inner workings of the instrument. Pizza and drinks will be provided for lunch. Additional information and a registration form will be available in THE CYPHER and at <u>saago.org</u>.

Chapter Programs continued	
Two to Improvise—Johannes and Susanna Ebenbauer Friday, Feb. 9, <u>7:30 p.m.</u> St Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N Campbell Ave. Reception Following \$20; SAAGO members free. Johannes and Susanna Ebenbauer will present a unique blend of organ works (Muffat, Bach and Frescobaldi), vocal works (Dowland and Byrd) and collaborative improvisation in various styles. Johannes Ebenbauer is a former organist and Director of Music at St. Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna.	Green Valley Organ Crawl Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. Various locations Note: start time subject to change Members will have the opportunity to play and hear pipe organs in Green Valley. Watch THE CYPHER and <u>saago.org</u> for updates and signup details. Fox Theatre Organ Demo and Hands On Monday, May 6, 6:30 p.m. Fox Theatre 17 W Congress St.
Play Tucson's Larger Pipe Organs Saturday, March 16, 9 a.m. Various locations Note: start time subject to change This is an opportunity for SAAGO members to play some of Tucson's larger pipe organs. Catalina United Methodist, St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal and Christ Church United Methodist have graciously offered access to their instruments. Others may be added. Watch THE CYPHER and <u>saago.org</u> for updates and signup details	Members will be treated to a demonstration of the Wurlitzer theatre organ at the Fox Theatre by organ builder and SAAGO member, Grahame Davis, and will have the opportunity to play the instrument themselves. Registration information will be available in future newsletters and on the chapter website: <u>saago.org</u> . <b>Summer Social and Membership Meeting</b> Sunday, June 2, 4 p.m. Colonia Verde Club House 2700 N. Camino Valle Verde
	The annual meeting for all members will take place at 4:00 p.m., followed by a potluck dinner and fellowship time.
<b>Grahame Scott Davis</b> <b>Grahame Scott Davis</b> President and Artistic Director POB 14076 Tucson, Arizona 85732 Cell (520) 437-8906 onlypipes@dakotacom.net Member International Society of Organbuilders	Organ Prelude and Choral Evensong Sunday, October 15, 4:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. St. Philip's in the Hills Episcopal Church 4440 N. Campbell Ave. Free-will Offering St. Philip's pre-Evensong service organ preludes occur every third Sunday at 4:15 p.m. The preludes are performed on the beautiful Holtkamp pipe organ and are live-streamed on the church's website www.stphilipstucson.org/livestream. <u>Dates are:</u> October 15, November 19, December 17, 2023; January 21, February 18, March 17, April 21, May 19, 2024
Pipe Organ Artisans of Arizona, Inc.	

#### Member Programs continued

#### Johann Vexo, Organ Catalina Organ Festival

Friday, October 20, 7 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church 2700 E Speedway Blvd. \$30 online, \$25 seniors 60+, \$10 students with ID card.

Johann Vexo, acclaimed French organist, was appointed Choir Organist at the Cathedral of Notre Dame, Paris, at age 25. Soon thereafter, he was also appointed Organist of the grand Cavaillé-Coll organ of the Nancy Cathedral. He is Professor of Organ at the Superior Music Academy in Strasbourg. His playing has



been described as superb, with nuanced expression and stunning technique.

#### 14th Annual Hymn Festival

St. Andrew the Apostle Church 800 Taylor Dr., Sierra Vista Sunday, October 29, 2:00 pm – 3:30 pm Freewill offering

This is a chance to hear your favorite hymns to the accompaniment of various instruments including the newly re-voiced III/30 Möller pipe organ. The festival includes a community choir singing an anthem as well as other groups presenting musical presentations. Chapter member Rebecca Williams is the Director of Music and Organist at St. Andrew's. Chapter members Lars Andersen and Billie Hayes are also playing in this program.

## A Candlelight Concert for All Saints Day: Music of Remembrance and Hope

Wednesday, November 1, 7 p.m. Trinity Presbyterian Church, 400 E. University Blvd. Free

This is a program of meditative and peaceful music presented by Lynn Moser (keyboard), Christine Harper (flute), several soloists from the Trinity Choir, and handbell players from the Trinity Ringers.

#### **Cameron Carpenter**

Friday, November 3, 7:30 p.m. Fox Theatre, 17 W Congress St. \$20-\$55

Cameron Carpenter accompanying the silent film "Metropolis" on the Mighty Wurlitzer.

Bálint Karosi, Organ St. Alban's Organ Concert Series

Friday, December 1, 7 p.m. St. Alban's Episcopal church 3738 Old Sabino Canyon Rd. www.stalbansaz.org Donation

Dr. Bálint Karosi has been Cantor and Director of Music, Classical at Saint Peter's Church in Midtown Manhattan since 2015. After winning the 2008 Bach Prize in Leipzig, Bálint has been in demand as a recitalist and clinician worldwide, known for the interpretation of Bach's music and his Baroque-style improvisations. Bálint has studied at the Liszt Academy in his native Budapest, Hungary, the Conservatoire Superieure in Geneva, Switzerland, and at Oberlin Conservatory in Ohio. He earned his DMA in composition at the Yale School of Music.

#### Ken Cowan, Organ Catalina Organ Festival

Friday, January 19, 2024, 7 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church 2700 E Speedway Blvd. \$30 online, \$25 seniors 60+, \$10 student with ID card.

Ken Cowan is one of North America's finest concert organists. Praised for his dazzling artistry, impeccable technique and imaginative programming by audiences and critics alike, he maintains a rigorous performing schedule which takes him to major concert venues and churches in America, Canada, Europe, and Asia.

#### Douglas Cleveland, Organ Roy Johnson Memorial Organ Series

Friday, February 2, 2024, 7 p.m. Holsclaw Hall, Fred Fox School of Music, University of Arizona Park Avenue and Speedway and Blvd. Free

Douglas Cleveland, the John Delo Faculty Fellow in Organ at the University of Washington, is considered by critics and musicians to be one of America's finest concert organists. He will present a program entitled "The Tradition and Transcendence of the French Organ Symphony." The program will include the Symphonie II in E minor, Op. 20 by Louis Vierne, movements from Symphonie V in F minor, Op. 42 by Charles-Marie Widor, and *Evocation (Poème Symphonique*), Op. 37, by Marcel Dupré.

#### Member Programs continued

#### David Wickerham, Organ

Fox Theatre Wurlitzer organ 17 W Congress St. Saturday, February 17, 7:30 p.m. Tickets through Fox Theatre

Renowned theater organist, Tucsonan and University of Arizona School of Music graduate, returns to the Fox to play the Mighty Wurlitzer. Mark your calendars now for this very entertaining program!

#### Stephen Keyl, Organ St. Alban's Organ Concert Series

Sunday, March 3, 3 p.m. St. Alban's Episcopal Church 3738 Old Sabino Canyon Road Donation

Stephen Keyl studied organ with Fenner Douglass, Andrew Clarke, and Robert G. Barrow. He received a Ph.D. in musicology from Duke University with a dissertation on the Renaissance organist Arnolt Schlick. He is Director of music at St. Alban's Episcopal Church, Tucson, and was formerly on the faculty of the University of Arizona School of Music.

#### Nathan Laube, Organ Catalina Organ Festival

Friday, March 22, 7 p.m. Catalina United Methodist Church 2700 E. Speedway Blvd. \$30 online, \$25 seniors 60+, \$10 students with ID card.

Nathan Laube, Professor of Organ at the Eastman School of Music, Rochester, New York, is a leading performer and pedagogue. He has earned high praise from critics and peers alike. This concert is free to members of the Southern Arizona Chapter, American Guild of Organists (SAAGO).

Member programs continued on next page.



### 2023 ROY A. JOHNSON MEMORIAL ORGAN SERIES

The Roy A. Johnson Memorial Organ Series, established in memory of Professor Johnson following his tragic death in 1995, showcases outstanding contemporary organists. Professor Johnson made enormous contributions to the organ studies program, the keyboard area, and to graduate studies during his 29 years at the University of Arizona. The installation of the beautiful Schoenstein organ given by Isabelle Harris, in a hall designed for the organ, was the fulfillment of his vision for a flourishing organ program.

Co-sponsored by the Southern Arizona Chapter of the American Guild of Organists

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<ul> <li>Carolyn Smith, Organ St. Alban's Organ Concert Series</li> <li>Sunday, April 14, 3 p.m.</li> <li>St. Alban's Episcopal Church</li> <li>3738 Old Sabino Canyon Road</li> <li>Donation</li> <li>A long-time church organist in Tucson, England and Scotland, Carolyn holds a Masters Degree in English</li> <li>Church Music from the University of East Anglia in conjunction with Cambridge University. She is Organist and Chancel Choir Accompanist at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church.</li> <li>All the Bells &amp; Whistles: A Mother's Day Concert</li> <li>Sunday, May 12, 4 p.m.</li> <li>Church United Methodist 655 N. Craycroft</li> <li>A musical celebration with Organ, handbells, choir, instrumentalists, and piano; with Janet Tolman, organist and Dean, SAAGO and John Neve, handbell the Christ Church Food Bank. Attendees are asked to bring nonperishable food items; monetary donations are also accepted.</li> <li>Scholarship is and chancel of items; monetary donations</li> </ul>	Member Programs <i>cont.</i>	Roy Johnson Memorial Scholarship
	<ul> <li>St. Alban's Organ Concert Series</li> <li>Sunday, April 14, 3 p.m.</li> <li>St. Alban's Episcopal Church</li> <li>3738 Old Sabino Canyon Road</li> <li>Donation</li> <li>A long-time church organist in Tucson, England and</li> <li>Scotland, Carolyn holds a Masters Degree in English</li> <li>Church Music from the University of East Anglia in</li> <li>conjunction with Cambridge University. She is</li> <li>Organist and Chancel Choir Accompanist at St.</li> <li>Andrew's Presbyterian Church.</li> </ul> All the Bells & Whistles: A Mother's Day Concert Sunday, May 12, 4 p.m. Christ Church United Methodist 655 N. Craycroft A musical celebration with Organ, handbells, choir, instrumentalists, and piano; with Janet Tolman, organist and Dean, SAAGO and John Neve, handbell director and member of SAAGO. This event benefits the Christ Church Food Bank. Attendees are asked to bring nonperishable food items; monetary donations	<ul> <li>AGO in memory of Professor Roy Andrew Johnson, the scholarship is available to assist in funding organ study as follows:</li> <li>lessons at any level through collegiate;</li> <li>introductory organ lessons for pianists;</li> <li>Registration fees for an educational event, including a Pipe Organ Encounter (POE);</li> <li>for collegiate level students, registration fees for regional and national conventions of the AGO.</li> <li>for collegiate level students, full membership in the American Guild of Organists, Southern Arizona Chapter.</li> <li>Scholarship awards for organ study will range from \$350 to \$1500. For educational events, the scholarship will cover the cost of registration.</li> <li>An application form may be found online at <u>www.saago.org</u>. <i>Completed forms may be submitted</i></li> </ul>

## Johann Vexo

CATALINA OR

Organist, Notre Dame de Paris & Cathedral de Nancy Prof. at Music Academy Strasbourg, France Fri. Oct. 20, 2023 7 p.m.



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#### Membership Renewal Information



• We want you to be included in our current Membership Directory. If it's time for you to renew, use one of the following renewal methods.

• <u>Online using your credit/debit</u> <u>card</u>. Go to the ONCARD website and follow the instructions: <u>https://</u> <u>www.agohq.org/oncard/</u>

Home of the Roy Johnson Memorial Pipe Organ

• Also, please take a few minutes to update your information on AGO ONCARD. The email address, home address, and phone numbers listed on that database are used for the membership directory.

 <u>Chapter Friends and those without computer</u> <u>access.</u> Please contact Lars Andersen for information on renewal or joining as a new Chapter Friend <u>(LarsAndersen@tvlc.org</u>) at 520-909-9038.

Membership Directories are available. Contact Lars Andersen if you haven't received your copy.

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#### **Position Available**

St. Francis de Sales Church 1375 S. Camino Seco, Tucson, Az 85710-6513

**ORGANIST/COLLABORATIVE PIANIST**. Must be a proficient keyboard musician to play for services and accompany choirs, including traditional adult choir and the children's choir. Dr. Julian Ackerley is the Director of Music (Email: <u>ackerley@boyschorus.org</u>) See the full description on the SAAGO website: https://saago.org/

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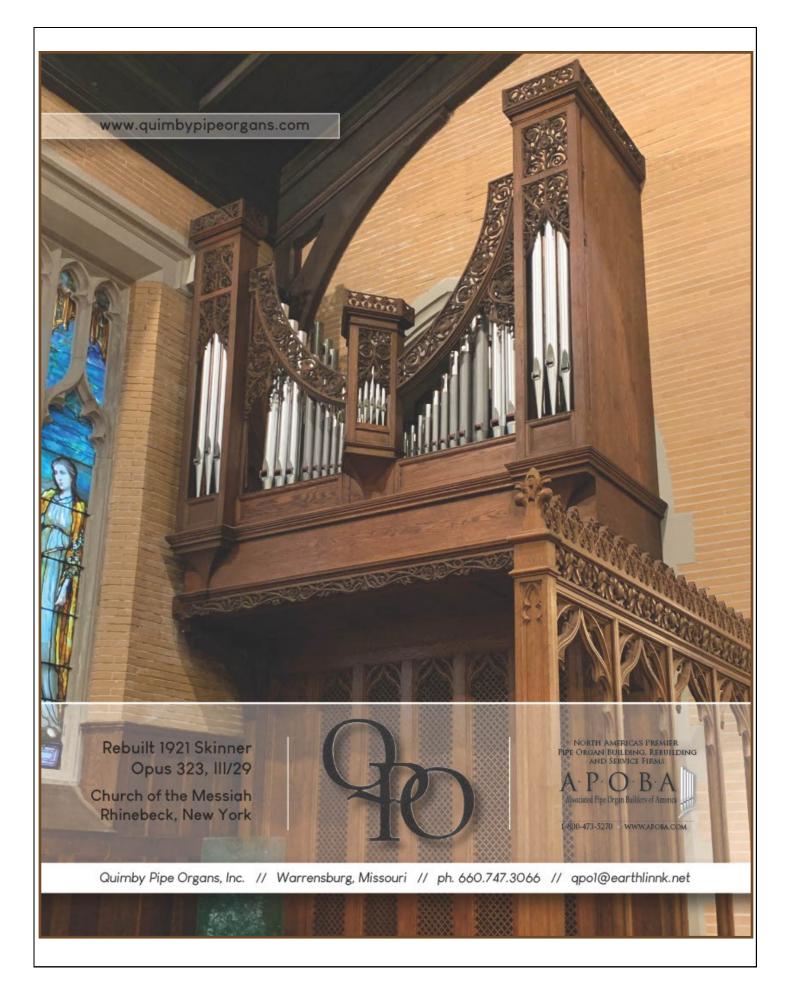


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#### **SAAGO Retirements**

RETIREMENT

#### A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE CHOBAN ON HIS RETIREMENT

George first saw and heard the organ as a child in the church he attended. The instrument was an electronic. He began studying the piano while in 2<sup>nd</sup> grade from a teacher who taught both piano and organ. He wanted to study the organ, also, but his teacher insisted on three years' piano foundation first. When he was in 5<sup>th</sup> grade his teacher took him to



the Hammond organ studio for lessons.

George's mother played the piano and his father was a good singer. His father was from a large musical family who often gathered to sing in four-part harmony (his father was one of 10 children). His mother's aunt was a church musician and was George's teacher when he was in high school.

George attended the Thayer Conservatory and was just shy of presenting a senior recital to earn his degree in Music Education with a concentration in organ. He worked for several organ builders during this time and specialized in console, windchest construction and installation. Life took a turn at this point, and he attended school to become a mortician, his lifelong occupation, but he has always additionally been involved in church music on a part-time basis. His first church job was at an Episcopal church when he was 16 years old, receiving \$5 per service, and splitting the Sunday morning worship services with that church and the Methodist church across the street for another \$5 per service. He has also served UCC, United Methodist, Unitarian Universalist, and Federated churches. Most recently he served the Episcopal Church of St. Matthew for 15 years.

He said during his college years he "rubbed shoulders" with Richard Purvis and was "friendly" with Frederick Swann. Not many of us can say that! He joined SAAGO when Jeffrey Campbell was dean (2008-2012).

He would tell young organists to work hard at practicing and pay attention to what other organists are doing, especially regarding style and registration.

#### former 5-year terms as Associate Organist. The organ there is a beautiful

A TRIBUTE TO DAVID WACHTER ON HIS

A native Tucsonan and long-time member of the

SAAGO, David Wachter played his final service at

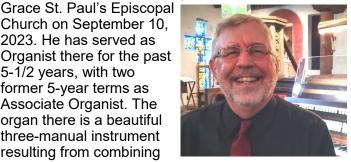
three-manual instrument resulting from combining the organs (1991) from the

Church on September 10,

Organist there for the past

2023. He has served as

5-1/2 years, with two



former Grace Episcopal and St. Paul's Episcopal churches, under the direction of Grahame Davis. David was introduced to the organ by his parents, through recordings of theater organs and a small electronic organ in their home. He was a freshman in high school when he began playing that home instrument. Piano study followed, with private lessons in both piano and organ. At age 16 he got his first paying job playing the Hammond organ at Sacred Heart Catholic Church for the Saturday afternoon mass. That money paid for his tuition at Salpointe High School.

David holds Bachelor of Music and Masters of Music degrees in organ performance from the University of Arizona, both under the tutelage of the late Dr. Roy Johnson.

Former additional church positions in Tucson include the Chapel of the Resurrection for about 10 months in the 1970s (that pipe organ is installed in David's home), Saints Peter & Paul Catholic Church for 16 years, St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal Church 1992-1999, St. Matthew's Episcopal Church 1999-2001, and St. Andrew's Episcopal Church 2008-2013.

David said two highlights of his career come to mind, the first being his recital for the M.M. degree played as part of the Eastside Artists Series at Christ Church United Methodist, with a masterful (my words, not his, as I was there!) performance of the "Sonata on the 94<sup>th</sup> Psalm" by Julius Reubke, and secondly a recital on the Schoenstein instrument in Holsclaw Hall at the Fred Fox School of Music at the University of Arizona in 1996, not long after the death of Dr. Roy Johnson.

Janet Tolman 9/16/23 His favorite things being an organist include achieving mastery over his body to play this complex

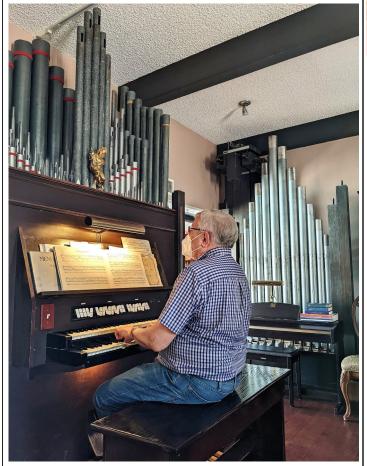
Continued on the following page

#### SAAGO Retirements continued

Welcome our New Chaplain

instrument, the challenge to make the organ "sing," and the joy of communicating with the congregation and leading them in worship.

He'll most miss having access to the 59-rank pipe organ at Grace St. Paul's, and preparing and playing preludes, postludes and hymns. However, he will continue to have access to his very lovely, historic instrument in his home. (see below).



The AGO has been a part of his life over all the years. He attended several national and regional conventions, and continues to enjoy the professional connections with colleagues afforded by the Guild. He served as dean 1992-1994, and was editor of the *Cypher* for a number of years.

He said whatever the ups and downs were over the course of his career, he is very grateful for experiencing this lifelong transformative journey. He is grateful, too, for all those who have encouraged him in learning to play the organ, especially the late Dr. Roy Johnson,

Teacher, colleague, and friend.

We thank David for his faithful service and wish him the very best on his retirement.

Janet Tolman 9/16/23

-12-

#### The Rev. Canon David Benedict Hedges



Greetings from the Chaplain

My name is Brother David Benedict Hedges, or Br. Dave for short, and I've been invited by Dean Janet Tolman to serve as Chaplain to SAAGO. I'm the Rector of St. Michael & All Angels Episcopal Church, where I've served since 2016. Prior to coming to Tucson, I served two churches

in the Chicago area. I grew up in Berkeley, California and came to an adult faith at St. Mark's Church. In addition to serving as a priest since 2005, I'm a professed brother in the Brotherhood of Saint Gregory, a religious community of men in the Episcopal Church, and I made my life profession of vows this summer.

Music has always played a pivotal role in my spirituality. My mother sang in church choirs continuously starting in her teen years and for the rest of her life. She taught me to sing at a young age, and taught me to praise Jesus through song. I grew up singing hymns and choral music, and as a priest it's now my joy to lead the people of God in singing and thereby in praying twice. In particular, I was also brought up to know and love the organ. When I was a little boy I discovered my mother's Virgil Fox album, which was autographed - and when I asked my mother about it, she told me I attended his touring concert in the womb!

For now, I'll leave you with a prayer from the Book of Common Prayer, entitled, "For Church Musicians and Artists."

O God, whom saints and angels delight to worship in heaven: Be ever present with your servants who seek through art and music to perfect the praises offered by your people on earth; and grant to them even now glimpses of your beauty, and make them worthy at length to behold it unveiled for evermore; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Rev. Canon David Benedict Hedges, BSG Rector, Saint Michael & All Angels Church, (520) 886-7292 Emails are checked Tuesday through Friday



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