



The Prelude

August 2026

Dear Toledo Chapter members,

I hope you are enjoying your summer
- relaxing with a slower schedule,
reconnecting with friends and family,
attending a convention or workshop,
developing a skill, traveling or reading a good book or two!



You will see in this newsletter that the planning committee has put together a wonderful series of programs for the year. Some will require member participation and I hope you will consider offering to assist.

There has been significant activity on the National level of AGO. Executive Director James Thomashower has retired after 28 and a half years. His leadership of the Guild during that time has positioned the AGO on a strong financial and organizational footing.

We welcome Kathy Bringham as the new AGO Executive

Director. A lifelong AGO member and active organist, Brigham brings decades of experience in national nonprofit leadership, member engagement, educational assessment, data analysis, adult education, and organizational strategy. You can read more about Kathy at the AGO website: <https://www.agohq.org/Ago/News/New-Executive-Director-Announced.aspx>.

I would encourage you to read the report on the updated AGO Strategic Plan in the May issue of The American Organist (p. 8). It can serve as a guide for our local Chapter activities to reflect this overall vision for the future.

The requirements for AGO certification are in the July TAO, page 44. Is anybody interested in forming a study group for the Service Playing or Colleague Exam? Send me an email and we will look into organizing a group. Many of us already possess a number of the required skills and may already play some of the repertoire. But each exam offers opportunities to learn or improve a skills. It would be great to see a few Toledo names listed next Spring in the TAO.

Paul Monachino, dean
Toledo Chapter AGO
deantoledo419@gmail.com



TOLEDO AGO PROGRAMS 2026 - 2027

Sunday, September 20, 2026
3:00 PM

Installation of Officers and Potluck

St. Martin's Lutheran Church
203 S. Defiance St.
Archbold, Ohio

Saturday, October 24, 2026
9:00-11:00 AM

Improvisation Techniques for the Church Service
Presented by Nicole Keller (University of Michigan)

St. Paul Episcopal Church,
310 Elizabeth St.
Maumee, Ohio

Sunday, October 25, 2026
3:00 PM
Scholarship Auditions

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
5856 Heatherdowns Blvd.
Toledo, Ohio

Application material will be available soon on the Chapter website.

If you have an interested student or questions contact Kathy Mumy kmumy1959@gmail.com

Sunday, November 22, 2026
3:00 PM

Organ Dedication Concert (Muller Organ, 2026)
Todd Wilson, organist

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church,
871 E. Boundary St.
Perrysburg, Ohio

The program will include the premiere of a new work by Dan Locklair
commissioned for the occasion.

Sunday, February 7, 2027
3:00 PM

Community Hymn Sing &
Sharing of Hymn Accompaniment Literature
(Member's Recital)

First Presbyterian Church
200 E. Broadway
Maumee, Ohio

Sunday, April 25, 2027
3:00 PM

Scholarship Winners Recital

St. Joan of Arc Catholic Church
5856 Heatherdowns Blvd.
Toledo, Ohio

Friday, May 7, 2027
9:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Organ Crawl in Napoleon, Ohio!

- Emanuel Lutheran (Pilcher/Muller, 1915/2002)
- First Presbyterian (Zimmer/Fowler, 1990s)
- St. Augustine Catholic (Votteler, 1880s)
- St. Paul Lutheran (Schantz, 1960s)
- Lunch at Spengler's (proposed)

Job Opening

Director of Music/Organist/Choir Director
Community of Christ Lutheran Church
6517 Finzel Rd.
Whitehouse, OH
(419)877-0607
www.commofchrist.org

Community of Christ Lutheran Church in Whitehouse, Ohio, member of the Northwest Ohio ELCA Synod, is actively seeking one or two music professionals to serve as music director/organist/choir director.

Please send inquiries to:
Pastor Steve Bond

pscbond@gmail.com
724-549-6094

David Saunders is available as a substitute organist.
deasaun@me.com
(734) 558-6146

TOLEDO AGO OFFICERS

Paul Monachino, Dean deantoleado419gmail.com
Matthew Wachtman, Sub-Dean
Dennis Blubaugh, Treasurer
Libby Saxton, Communications Coordinator

At-large members of the Executive Committee

Vanessa Kwiatkowski
Wayne Whitten
Ken Stoops
Sally Mossing

Program Planning Committee: Libby Saxton, Jane Weber,
Wayne Whitten
Chaplain - Rev. Jeff Bunke
Membership Coordinator - Ken Stoops
Scholarship Coordinator - Kathy Mumy
Historian - George Blackney

Items for the Newsletter are due by the 25th of the preceeding month. Send items to toledoagonewsletter@gmail.com and deantoleado419@gmail.com.

Toledo Chapter AGO website

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