

# *The American Guild of Organists*

*Windline—February 2024*

**Clearwater (FL) Chapter**

[www.clearwaterago.org](http://www.clearwaterago.org)

**Dr. Shawn Thomas, Dean**  
**Thomas D. Huffman, Windline Editor**

Friends,

You can't spell Valentine without "lent," the Facebook meme quipped. Just fifty days after Christmas, Ash Wednesday on February 14 begins the forty days of Lent. What a wonderful way to remember the season by attending one of our Tuesday noon recitals. Better yet, invite a friend or a neighbor to join you for one of these thirty-minute programs.

Details are still being finalized for our April weekend with Barbara Lister-Sink. Stay tuned to find out more about this injury prevention guru who is really in the top of her field. Speaking of loose ends, be sure to save the date **June 2** for our end of the year banquet and installation of officers. There are more details to come, but I can tell you we will again welcome a representative from AGO National Headquarters in NYC to bring greetings and install officers. As has become our custom, we will invite and graciously host our friends and colleagues from the St. Petersburg and Tampa Chapters.

Hope to see you on a Tuesday very soon!

*Shawn Thomas, Dean*



## **IN THIS ISSUE**

<i>Dean's letter.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Robert C. Shone.....</i>	<i>2-3</i>
<i>Calendar.....</i>	<i>4-5</i>
<i>Spaghetti and Hymns.....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Lenten Noon Recitals.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Woman Composer Sunday.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Three Organ Extravaganza.....</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>New Members.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Substitutes and Officers.....</i>	<i>10</i>

# ***In Memoriam***

***Robert Charles Shone  
February 16, 1927-January 13, 2024***

For over three decades in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century, Robert Shone established himself as a Gregorian, Renaissance and Baroque music performance presenter and scholar in the Washington D.C. metropolitan area. Assuming the position of organist and choirmaster at the Ascension and St. Agnes Episcopal Church in the heart of the D.C. area at the age of 30, he developed from the ground up a select ensemble of singers whose voices suited the early music and Latin-text masses and motets that he loved, such as those by Heinrich von Biber, André Campra and Jean Gilles and that were embraced by the Anglo-Catholic environment of St. Agnes.

By the time he was forty, in 1967, Shone had built, over the course of two years with volunteer assistance, a two-manual, 1,000 pipe organ utilizing many pipes saved from the 1875 organ that was original to the church and dismantled in 1945. His intent was to build a dependable and artistically successful instrument voiced according to the concept of the Baroque sound accepted at that time. He somehow managed to accomplish all of this while working a forty-plus hour week at his father-in-law's custom mattress business in order to support his wife and three children. Upon the organ's completion, Shone conceived and initiated an annual Bach festival which subsequently continued for the thirty years of his tenure at St. Agnes, making the church a popular center of superb musical culture with appearances by prominent organists such as Dr. Vernon deTar and others as well as early music instrumental ensembles and choirs from the Washington-Baltimore environs.



Shone earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Catholic University, a Master of Arts in Music from Columbia University, and a Colleague of the American Guild of Organists certificate. He had been continuously involved in church music from the age of eight when he was a boy soprano chorister in Baltimore. During his high school years, Shone became an assistant organist to his teacher, Sherman Kreuzburg, at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Washington, D.C. During his WWII military tenure, he served as a chaplain's assistant, ultimately

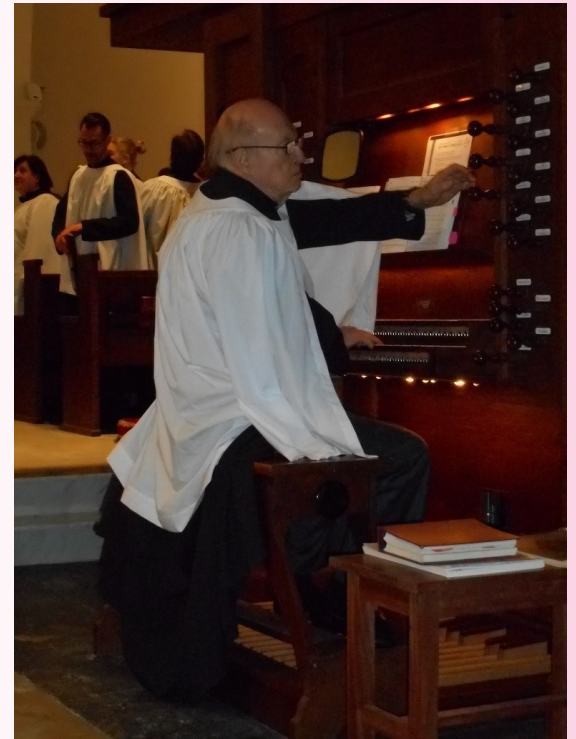
*(Robert Shone, cont.)*

succeeding virtuoso organist Virgil Fox at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. During this time, Shone commenced organ studies with Paul Callaway at the Washington National Cathedral. University years followed after Shone's military obligations ended, and concurrent with his studies, he held church positions as organist and choir director at a number of churches in the Washington D.C. and New York areas until accepting the post at St. Agnes.

In addition to the ground-breaking work he was accomplishing at St. Agnes, Shone's long-standing and intense interest in Gregorian chant led to the development of a select, all-male vocal ensemble—a performance/study group—that ultimately sang in Washington monasteries as well as at the National Cathedral, the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on the campus of Catholic University, and St. Matthew's Cathedral, among others.

In 1989, Shone relocated to Pinellas County and served as organist and choir director at Good Samaritan Episcopal, the Presbyterian Church of Palm Harbor, St. John's Episcopal, St. Matthew's Episcopal, and finally, the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, each time building a strong, dedicated choir and developing an innovative and expansive music program of high caliber. He held his final position until retirement in 2017 at the age of 90.

Throughout his career, Shone actively participated as a member of the American Guild of Organists, having served twice as Dean of the Clearwater Chapter. Additionally, he was a frequent recitalist throughout the Washington Metropolitan and the Tampa Bay areas, performing hundreds of concerts encompassing a wide repertoire of music from all periods. Along with his wife Theresa Villani, a solo cellist, the duo offered programs of both cello/organ and cello/piano that most often included notable but often neglected works of real merit. In 2003, the pair recorded a CD of the organ/cello repertoire entitled *A Royal Dialogue* at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in south St. Petersburg FL employing the lovely Casavant organ there.



*(editor's note) A Celebration of Life service was held at St. Alfred's Episcopal Church in Palm Harbor on January 23. A plentiful amount of music by J.S. Bach, Vierne and Widor was played by Kevin Johnson, Organist. A number of Clearwater Chapter members attended as well as singers from Bob's former choirs. The above story of his musical life was written by his wife, Theresa Villani.*



# Calendar of Events

(Clearwater Chapter events *in bold*)

Sunday, February 11

3:00 p.m. Jacqueline Bruce, Soprano—celebrating music from Scotland  
Peace Memorial Presbyterian, Clearwater

Saturday, February 17

6:00 p.m. Dinner and Hymn Sing—\$15 Spaghetti dinner with dueling pianos. (*see p.6*)  
Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

February 17, 18

Florida Orchestra, Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue

Sat., 8:00 p.m. Mahaffey

Sun., 8:00 p.m. Mahaffey

Sunday, February 18

3:00 p.m. Three Organ Spectacular with Seth Bott, John Lowe, and Shawn Thomas  
with Vierne's *Mass for Choir and Two Organs* (p. 8)  
Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

**Tuesday, February 20**

**12:00 p.m. Lenten Tuesday Noon Recital**  
**Kevin Johnson, Organ**  
**Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Dunedin**

February 23, 24, 25

Florida Orchestra, Beethoven and R. Strauss

Fri., 8:00 p.m. Straz

Sat, 8:00 p.m. Mahaffey

Sun., 7:30 p.m. Ruth Eckerd

**Tuesday, February 27**

**12:00 p.m. Lenten Tuesday Noon Recital**  
**Gabriel Johnston and Timothy Belk, Organists**  
**St. Jerome Catholic Church, Largo**

Friday, March 1

8:00 p.m. The Master Chorale of Tampa Bay (*ticket required*)  
First Presbyterian, St. Petersburg

Sunday, March 3 Echoing Air

3:00 p.m. Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo

*(Calendar cont.)*

**Tuesday, March 5**

**12:00 p.m. Lenten Tuesday Noon Recital**  
**Tom Kurt, Organist**  
**Calvary Episcopal, Indian Rocks Beach**

**Sunday, March 10**

**2:00 p.m. Olivier Latry, Organist**  
**Sykes Chapel, University of Tampa**

**Sunday, March 10**

**3:00 p.m. James David Christie, Organist**  
**Peace Memorial Presbyterian Church, Clearwater**

**Tuesday, March 12**

**12:00 p.m. Lenten Tuesday Noon Recital**  
**Edwin Taylor, Organist**  
**First United Methodist Church, Clearwater**

**Sunday, March 17**

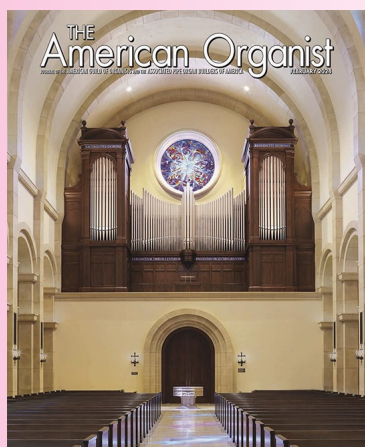
**7:00 p.m. Tampa Oratorio Society**  
**Mozart's Requiem**  
**Church of the Ascension, Clearwater**

**Tuesday, March 19**

**12:00 p.m. Lenten Tuesday Noon Recital**  
**Dr. Linda Pointer, Organist with Kevin Johnson & Scott Garrett, Recorders**  
**Prince of Peace Lutheran, Largo**

**Sunday, March 24**

**7:00 p.m. Tampa Oratorio Society**  
**Mozart's Requiem**  
**Palma Ceia Presbyterian Church, Tampa**



The **February issue** of **The American Organist** magazine, now available in print and online features the Schoenstein organ at St. Michael Abbey in Silverado, California. Other articles include "Bertha Stevens Cassidy: Art, Industry, and Pedagogy in Texas" by Benjamin A. Kolodziej; "An Interview with Ray and Beth Chenault" by Kirk Rich; "An American in Piteå: Aaron Sunstein on Organ and Church Music in Sweden" by Nicholas Bergin; and "Max Reger Festival 150 in the City of Organs" by Leonardo Ciampa.

Prince of Peace Lutheran Church  
455 Missouri Ave  
Largo, FL 33770  
727.585.9969



Saturday, February 17  
6:00pm-8:00pm

\$15 tickets available in church office  
(Mon-Thurs 8:30am-2pm)

Proceeds going to Prince of Peace Youth Trip to Churchwide Youth  
Gathering in New Orleans

Join Shawn Thomas and John Lowe on dueling pianos as we sing some of our favorite hymns. Dinner includes spaghetti, salad, bread, and dessert. Provide the titles of your favorite hymns when purchasing your tickets, and as many of your requests will be honored as time permits. **Space is limited.** Tickets must be picked up in advance by **Wednesday, February 14.**

## 2024 Lenten Tuesday Noon Recitals



**February 20**

**Kevin Johnson, Organist**

**Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd,  
639 Edgewater Dr, Dunedin**

**February 27**

**Gabriel Johnston and Timothy Belk, Organists**

**St. Jerome Catholic Church,  
10895 Hamlin Blvd., Largo**

**March 5**

**Tom Kurt, Organist**

**Calvary Episcopal,  
1615 1st Street, Indian Rocks Beach**

**March 12**

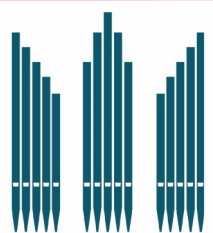
**Edwin Taylor, Organist**

**First United Methodist Church,  
411 Turner St., Clearwater**

**March 19**

**Linda Pointer, Organ**

**with Kevin Johnson & Scott Garrett, Recorders  
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church,  
455 Missouri Ave. N., Largo**



**WOMAN  
COMPOSER  
SUNDAY**

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

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* magazine: *Largo*, 1857, by Elizabeth Stirling (Jan.); *Children of the Heavenly Father*, 1964, by Roberta Bitgood (Feb.); and *Let Us Break Bread Together*, 2020, by Martha Sobaje (March).

The Task Force will also present a webinar on Monday, February 12 that will highlight further repertoire and explore the legacy of the president, Dr. Roberta Bitgood (1975-81). [Click here](#) to register for the webinar.



# *Prince of Peace Lutheran Church*

*455 Missouri Ave*

*Largo, FL 33770*

*727.585.9969*



*Three Organ Spectacular!*

## *The fourth annual...*

*Three Organ Spectacular!*

*Sunday, February 18*

*3:00 p.m.*

*Free Admission, reception to follow*

*A freewill offering will be received*

*Prince of Peace Festival Choir performing Louis Vierne's Mass for Choir and Two Organs, along with organists Seth Bott, John Lowe, and Shawn Thomas performing music arranged for three organs*

## *A Concert for a Cause...*

*Bring packs or pairs of unused socks for homeless friends in our Largo community*





## ***New Members***

We welcome three new members to the Clearwater Chapter:

**Dr. David Krah** is originally from Akron, Ohio, David has been a resident of the Tampa Bay area for the last 32 years. He began his organ playing career at the age of 7. He has experience as a part-time church musician as an organist and choir director in churches of various denominations, and has experience in the performance of Lutheran, Episcopal, and Roman Catholic liturgical settings.



Now retired from full-time teaching in the field of criminology and sociology, David is now exploring the realm of musical composition as well as improving and perfecting his organ playing technique. He has recently composed several non-seasonal hymns for general church use and two compositions for Easter utilizing voices, brass, flute, violin, and pipe organ in their instrumentation. David is now in the process of re-orchestrating one of his Easter compositions for performance by a full orchestra, chorus, and organ. David currently resides in St. Petersburg with his wife, Wren, and their three cats – Amelia, Tinkerbelle, and Ruby.



**Andrew O'Connor** is Director of Music at Christ the King Catholic Church in Tampa.

**Mitch Weisiger, CAGO** is Director of Traditional Worship and Organist at Anona United Methodist Church, Largo



# SUBSTITUTES AVAILABLE

(O=Organist only; O/D=Organist/Director; D=Director only; V=Vocalist)

Please send updates or corrections for this list to Placement Coordinator Priscilla Ortoski by calling (727) 845-4745 or emailing [tap.tortoski1@verizon.net](mailto:tap.tortoski1@verizon.net). Inclusion in the lists below does not constitute the Chapter's endorsement of skills, and thus it encourages interviews with prospective substitutes. Those listed must be a member of The American Guild of Organists.

Rhonda Griffin	(618) 409-3143 O
Grayce Hillman	(727) 642-7322 O, O/D, V
Roberta Hoopes	(727) 560-3962 D
Dr. Linda Pointer	(727) 441-1099 O, O/D
Dr. Sandra Rogers	(727) 539-9903 O, O/D, V
Ron Turner	(727) 772-3268 O, O/D

## AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS—NOT SUNDAY MORNING

Stephen Allen	(813) 968-7095 O, O/D
Peggy BeVille	(727) 726-8457 O (727) 403-8166 (cell)
Cheryl Brouette	(727) 453-0317 O
Brent Douglas	(727) 459-7025 O, O/D



## Clearwater AGO 2023-2024 Officers

### DEAN:

Dr. Shawn Thomas  
[shawn@poplargo.org](mailto:shawn@poplargo.org)

### BOARD MEMBERS

Dr. Linda Pointer (2024)  
Tom Kurt (2024)  
Bradley Swope (2025)  
Jan Highsmith (2025)  
Cheryl Brouette (2026)  
Carl Gravander (2026)

### GROM EDUCATION FUND

### PETERSON SCHOLARSHIP

### FUND

Tom Huffman, Chair  
[hufftom@aol.com](mailto:hufftom@aol.com)

### SUB-DEAN:

Timothy Belk

### SECRETARY:

Peggy BeVille

### TREASURER:

Bob Booth

### PLACEMENT COORDINATOR

Priscilla Ortoski  
[tap.tortoski1@verizon.net](mailto:tap.tortoski1@verizon.net)  
(727-807-3334)

### THE WINDLINE

Tom Huffman, editor  
Submit information by the 20th  
of the month: [hufftom@aol.com](mailto:hufftom@aol.com)