

EN CHAMADE

September 2026
Newsletter

"TO FOSTER A THRIVING COMMUNITY OF MUSICIANS WHO SHARE
THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND INSPIRE PASSION FOR THE ORGAN."

THE WINCHESTER CHAPTER AMERICAN GUILD OF ORGANISTS

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**“Greetings to my Winchester Guild colleagues”:
Welcome message from
Linda Beville, WAGO Chapter Dean**



Click photo to view welcome video



Prevent Aches & Pains on the Organ Bench



Sunday

September 27th

3:00 pm

First Baptist Church: 205 W. Piccadilly Street
Winchester, VA 22601

October 16 is our Watts/Rescue Mission Fundraiser.

It is an Epic Program of music written by 8 composers of the Bach Dynasty.

You will hear music from Heinrich Bach, born in 1615, through Wilhelm Friedrich Ernst Bach, born in 1759.

These selections will include pieces performed on organ, fortepiano, flute, clarinet, oboe, and one piece written for 6 hands at one keyboard!!

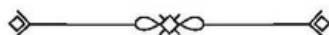
Come enjoy a stellar concert!

**Braddock Street United Methodist Church will be hosting this event
Friday, October 16, at 7 pm.**

A reception will follow the concert.



2026-27 WAGO Schedule of Events



Sunday, September 27 - 3:00pm

First Baptist Church, 205 W. Piccadilly St., Winchester

How to prevent Aches & Pains on the Organ Bench with Anne Brewster, Physical Therapist

Friday, October 16 - 7:00pm

Braddock Street United Methodist Church, 115 Wolfe St., Winchester

Free will offering for W.A.T.T.S. and Winchester Rescue Mission

Bach Dynasty Concert – Music by 9 different Bach's born between 1615 and 1759

Played on Organ, Fortepiano, Flute, Clarinet and Oboe by WAGO members and friends

Monday, November 23 - 7:00pm

Trinity Episcopal Church, 9108 John S. Mosby Hwy, Upperville

Scholarship Concert featuring 2026 Scholarship Recipients Anna Smith and JD Brewster along with young organ students of local teachers

December - No program

Sunday, January 10 - 4:00pm

Cross Creek Village Clubhouse, 100 Cranberry Court

Epiphany Potluck Social - Bring a munchy, appetizer, salad, side, main dish or dessert to share. Come prepared to have a good time!

Saturday, February 20 – 9:00am to 12:00pm

Location TBD

The Art of Accompanying using Laban efforts to create variety in touch and sound, presented by Marilyn Shenenberger

March - No program

Friday, April 9 – 7:00pm

First Presbyterian Church, 116 S. Loudoun St., Winchester

Jubilee concert with Bryan Kirk performing on the Austin organ in Celebration of its 70th Birthday

Saturday, April 10 – 9:00am to 12:00pm

The Village at Orchard Ridge, 400 Clocktower Ridge, Winchester

Bryan Kirk Workshop for us on Making Friends with a New Organ and Literature

- appropriate Registrations on the TVOR organ

Saturday, May 22 – 9:30am to 12:30pm

Location TBD

Steve Kalnosky will present Improvisation for EVERYONE!

Be there to participate or watch and get some new ideas

Saturday, June 5 – 8:30am to 3:30pm

We need all hands on deck to **Welcome the Chambersburg AGO chapter for an Organ Crawl.**

We will meet them at Joshua Benkendorf's *First Presbyterian Church on 220 S. Queen St. in Martinsburg*. Then we will come to Winchester to have a potluck lunch together visit 3 or 4 additional churches.

New members, a new Treasurer, and a Food Maven!

We welcome Josh Benkendorf and his lovely wife, Miriam, who is responsible for the flyers you will be receiving throughout the year. Josh is the Organist at the Presbyterian Church in Martinsburg, and his wife is a teacher. Miriam Meglan (not Josh's Miriam) has been a dual member for many years, but not lived in the area. Last summer, she and her husband, Vaughn, moved to Westminster Canterbury, and she has agreed to be our Treasurer! Carol Westervelt had resigned from that position, and she is now going to be our Food Maven for events that require EATS! She will be contacting you!!!

WAGO Member Directory

The 8 1/2 x 11 Print-at-Home WAGO Directories are completed. Miriam Benkendorf is working on a 5 1/2 x 8 1/2" booklet directory that will no doubt be more convenient. We hope to have these available for everyone by Christmas.

WAGO Monthly Schedule of Events

The 2026-27 WAGO Calendar is attached. PLEASE mark these events in your calendars, and attend all events humanly possible.

We have 4 beneficial workshops planned:

1. Preventing aches and Pains on the Organ Bench (and keep playing the organ pain- free), with Potluck Snacks after the workshop so we can enjoy each other's company.
2. The Art of Accompanying using Laban (quick and effective way to get the sound you want by altering the touch based on 8 simple words),
3. Making Friends with a New Organ (how to get up and running efficiently)
4. Painless Improvisation for EVERYONE

The Program Committee spent several hours searching for educational programs that would enhance the skills of our members. And, I know from experience how much effort our clinicians put into their workshop presentations. We do NOT want to insult them by having only a handful of people come out. I have discovered that I always learn something at these events, whether the topic is new or I've been doing it for years. So, in the spirit of cooperation, respect for the clinicians giving up their time for our chapter, and the possibility of learning something new or just a new way of accomplishing a familiar task, please attend these workshops!!

The first one is **Sunday, September 27 at 3 pm at The First Baptist Church, 205 W. Piccadilly St., Winchester.**

We have 3 concerts planned for which we are hoping for audiences of 100 or more.

You can help by posting the flyers for these events on your church bulletin board and a notice in your church bulletin 2 or 3 weeks before the events.

1. The Friday, October 16, Bach Dynasty Concert is our W.A.T.T.S. and Winchester Rescue Fundraiser. We are asking the audience for a free-will offering to benefit these organizations.

2. The Monday, November 23 Scholarship Concert raises money so we can continue to give out Scholarships each year to keep Dr. Cooksey's legacy alive.

3. The Friday evening, April 9 Jubilee Concert by Bryan Kirk is in conjunction with First Presbyterian Church in celebration of the 70th Anniversary of their Austin Organ.

Proceeds from this go to funding repairs on the organ.

We will have our Epiphany Social Event at Cross Creek Village Clubhouse again. Despite Daniel Hannemann moving to the Midwest, Betty Cunningham has applied to the Board to let us use the room for our yearly celebration. And the be-all to end-all the year is an Organ Crawl WE ARE HOSTING for the Chambersburg AGO, who so graciously hosted the 8 of us who went to Chambersburg in June for a delightful time with four of their organs in lovely, historic churches.



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