



CHAPTER OFFICERS 2025-2026

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2026

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2027

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Geoffrey Bell

Newsletter Editor:

Mary-William Baines

KMKServicesInc@aol.com

Website Coordinator:

Carina Brackin

info@tidewaterago.org

Regional Councilor:

David Schelat

midatlanticra@agohq.org

Website:

<http://TidewaterAGO.org>

FaceBook:

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Greetings from your Board

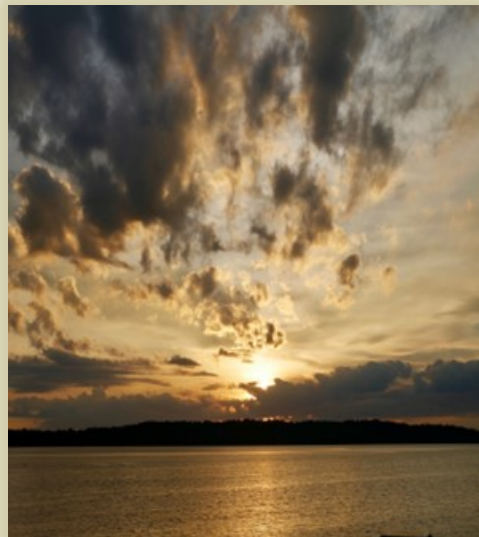
At this busy time of year -- take care of yourselves in the midst of it all!

Last evening I was accompanying the Rutter Requiem and was overcome with emotion during the Lux Aeterna. This was not the first time this had happened for me, so I did some reflecting. We are part of a profession where we regularly bring beauty and depth to ourselves and others. In a world of thin veneers, I get the sense that we are needed more than ever -- is that feeling true for you?

Please mark your calendars for upcoming events, particularly the January 17 workshop at Eastern Shore Chapel with Mary Beth Bennett.

Sincerely, Brad Norris, dean

LUX AETERNA LUCEAT EIS,
DOMINE,
CUM SANCTIS TUIS IN
AETERNUM, QUIA PIUS ES.
REQUIEM AETERNAM
DONA EIS, DOMINE,
ET LUX PERPETUA
LUCEAT EIS, QUIA PIUS ES.



MAY ETERNAL LIGHT
SHINE ON THEM, LORD,
WITH YOUR SAINTS FOR
EVER, FOR YOU ARE GOOD.
GIVE THEM ETERNAL REST,
LORD, AND MAY LIGHT
PERPETUAL SHINE UPON
THEM, FOR YOU ARE
GOOD.

CAPITULI MAGISTRI ET SUBSTITUTI

Deborah CARR	(757) 406-4970	deborahlcarr53@gmail.com
Rebecca DAVY, AAGO, BM, MM, MA	(757) 645-3431	bdavy@brutonparish.org
John S. DIXON, CAGO	(757) 477-2214	JohnSDixon@aol.com
Dr. James W. KOSNIK, SPC	(757) 683-4068	jkosnik@odu.edu
Kevin KWAN, MM	(757) 627-5665	kevin.kwan@christandstlukes.org
Bradley R. NORRIS	(757) 256-6861	brnmusic@netzero.net
Michael REGAN, MM	(757) 489-8168	reganmg@aol.com
Peggy Kelly REINBURG, BAMus, MMus	(757)-625-5888	rvirginia@aol.com
Holly B. SUNDERLAND	(757) 436-6868	HollySunderland20@gmail.com
Carina BRACKIN, AAGO	(757) 784-8958	cbrackin@bedeva.org

<u>Organist</u>		<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>
Geoffrey BELL	WF	(757) 442-0607	bellgeoffreyt@gmail.com
Edna BROADHURST	WF	(757) 617-5345	ednafpc@aol.com
Deborah CARR	WF	(757) 406-4970	deborahcarr53@gmail.com
Eric DOLCH	WF	(609) 214-5818	dolch.eric@gmail.com
Michael GIBSON	SWF	(757) 449-3879	michael@thegibsons.co [not com]
Joseph N. GRAIF	WF	(703) 380-8995	jgraif1@gmail.com
Grace HOLDREN	WF	(757) 434-8187	bandgholdren@gmail.com
Kevin KWAN	WF	(415) 613-7325	kevin.kwan@christandstlukes.org
Jack LEVICK	SWF	(941) 266-6147	jacklevick1944@gmail.com
Dorothy LORENZ	SWF	(757) 650-5041	crittercareinc@cox.net
Brad NORRIS	SWF	(757) 256-6861	brnmusic@netzero.net
Mike REGAN	WF	(757) 575-7480	reganmg@aol.com
Dr. Barbara SALTER	SWF	(770) 598-7476	salt3885@bellsouth.net
Marjorie SETNICKY	WF	(757) 582-3978	setnicky@hotmail.com
Lisa SMITH	SWF	(703) 868-0818	lisa.smith567@gmail.com
Robert STAPLES	SWF		rstaples93@gmail.com
Jean THIEL	SWF	(757) 332-0274	jean.thiel@yahoo.com

KEY: S=Services; W=Weddings; F=Funerals



Newly Composed Choral Compositions Workshop

Mary Beth Bennett, presenter

Eastern Shore Chapel Episcopal Church
2020 Laskin Road ~ Virginia Beach

Saturday, January 17, 2026, 10 AM - 12 Noon

Reservations requested before December 5.

As part of the 2025-2026 program of events for **The Tidewater Chapter of the American Guild of Organists**, nationally recognized organist, composer, and clinician, Mary Beth Bennett, will present a workshop featuring newly composed choral music. Her presentation will include:

- choral works written and/or published since 2000
- selections with easy to medium difficulty
- music from a variety of liturgical seasons
- music with different voicings and accompaniments, and
- composers such as Hagenberg, Stopford, Blackwell, Helvey, Forrest, Hopkins, Trotter, and others

AGO chapter members will join with members of the Eastern Shore Chapel Parish Choir and accompanist, Holly Sunderland, to discover these 'newer' treasures.

To acquire sufficient copies of the music, **early reservations are requested**. Please contact Martin Sunderland at martinRsunderland@gmail.com and indicate your preferred voice part in your email. **We must order music by December 5th.**

Dr. Mary Beth Bennett is a recognized performer, composer and improviser living in historic Richmond, Virginia where she serves on the adjunct music faculty of the University of Richmond, The Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD, and is Organist of Second Baptist Church in Richmond. She also taught piano at Virginia Commonwealth University and Hampton University, and organ at Prince George Community College. Having held various positions in Washington, D.C., including at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and as Ceremonial Organist for the United States government, she holds degrees from the Eastman School of Music, Stetson University, the Staatliche Hochschule für Musik (Cologne, Germany), and the University of Southern California. A choral director for many years, she served as assistant conductor of the professional choir of the Basilica of the National Shrine, and as director for the 150 voice West Los Angeles Chorale, among others. A frequent award winner in performance and composition, she most recently won the AGO/ECS Publishing Award in Choral Composition, and the Performance Award from the Guild of Carillonneurs of North America. Her works include pieces for organ, choir, brass, chamber ensembles and orchestra, and are published by EC Schirmer, Selah, GIA, World Library, Morning Star, Concordia, Hope, Augsburg-Fortress, and Oxford University Press publishing companies. In 2024, she was a featured performer at the National



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CONCERTS AND
SPECIAL SERVICES

CHRIST AND ST. LUKE'S CHURCH

www.christandstlukes.org/sms

Friday, November 21, 7:30pm - Stephen Coxe & Friends

Dr. Stephen Coxe gathers his friends, including violinist Jonathan Richards, tenor Noah Van Niel, mezzo-soprano Anna Farley, flutists Elizabeth Writtenberry and Aefael, harpist Christiana Staten, and the Governor's School for the Arts Chamber Orchestra, to perform works by Vaughan Williams, Prokofiev, Britten, and Bach's masterful Cantata 140 "Wachet auf, ruft uns die Stimme". Not to be missed!

Free-will offering

Sunday, November 30, 5:30pm - Advent Lessons and Carols

The Parish Choir presents our annual service of light to mark the season of joyful preparation. Music of Manz, Macmillan, Poston, Gibbons, and more.

Free-will offering

Sunday, December 7, 4:00pm - The Virginia Chorale

Welcome the holidays with the Virginia Chorale as we celebrate four beloved composers with milestone birthdays in 2025: Arvo Pärt (90), John Rutter (80), Bob Chilcott (70), and Giovanni da Palestrina (500). Tickets at vachorale.org or at the door.

Tuesday, December 16, 7:30pm - VOCES8

Hear one of the finest chamber choirs in the world sing glorious music for the season.

Tickets at vafest.org



TRINITY

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

500 Court Street, Portsmouth, VA
trinityportsmouth.org | 757-393-0431



Sunday, November 9 at 5 pm

Choral Requiem with Orchestra for Remembrance Sunday

Requiem in D Minor, Op. 48

Gabriel Fauré (1845-1924)

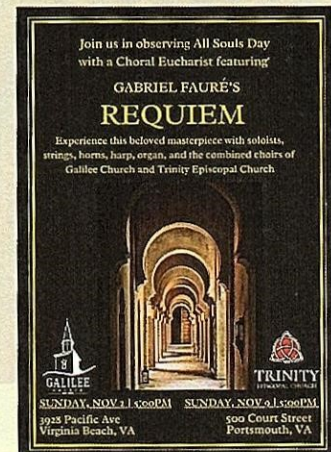
Combined Choirs of Trinity & Galilee
Episcopal Church. Reception follows.

Alternate performance:

November 2 at 5pm

Galilee Episcopal Church

3928 Pacific Avenue, VA Beach



Sunday, December 7 at 4 pm



I.C. Norcom High School Choirs Concert

Dr. Monte Thomas, Director

Join us as we welcome back the multiple choirs of
I.C. Norcom High School for their winter concert!

MUSIC SERIES 2025-26

Events are open to the public and free, unless ticket information is noted. For more information, email music@trinity-portsmouth.org.



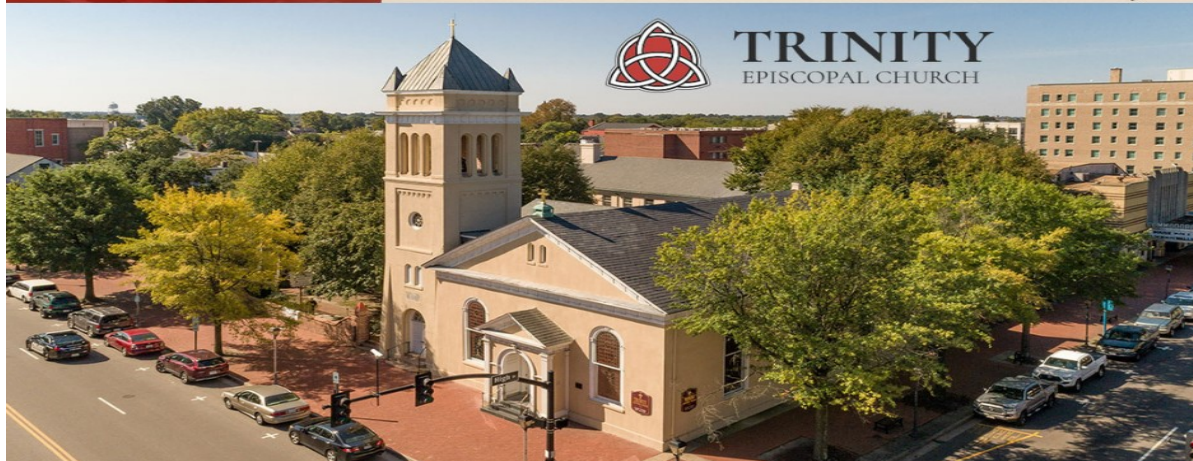
I.C. Norcom High School Choirs

Winter Concert

Dr. Monte Thomas, *Director*

Sunday, December 7 Trinity Episcopal Church
4:00 p.m.

500 Court Street
Portsmouth, VA



Trinity Episcopal Church
500 Court Street | Portsmouth, VA

Christmas Lessons & Carols

CONCLUDING THE 12
DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

January 4 at 4 pm | *Prelude beginning at 3:30*

Contact music@trinity-portsmouth.org for more information.



NIGHTTIME OF OUR SOULS

Tuesday, December 2 | 7:00 p.m.

At a time of year when so many experience feelings of anxiety, grief, and hardship, this service of prayer, music, and reflection invites us into hope and healing.

CANDLELIGHT CONCERTS

Tidewater Guitar Orchestra

Tuesday, December 9 | 7:00 p.m.

This holiday inspired concert has become a staple of the season, bringing everyone so much joy and togetherness for audiences and performers alike! Join us for a festive evening featuring the Tidewater Guitar Orchestra, one of the five community music ensembles that call First Lutheran "home," along with some of Hampton Roads' most talented guitarists. A reception will follow.

I. Sherman Greene Chorale

Tuesday, December 16 | 7:00 p.m.

Under the direction of Dr. Lydia Toliver, the I. Sherman Greene Chorale will perform a vibrant mix of ancient carols, seasonal masterworks, and contemporary reflections on the holiday season.

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH (ELCA)

1301 Colley Avenue | Norfolk

Bruton Parish

Candlelight Concerts & Historic Organ Recitals

November 2025

Candlelight Concerts in Bruton Parish

Saturday, November 1 @ 8:00 pm

Organ Recital

Christopher Reynolds, Organist from St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Richmond, VA

Thursday, November 6 @ 8:00 pm

Organ Recital

Dr. JanEl Will, Organist at Bruton Parish

Saturday, November 8 @ 8:00 pm

Flute, Organ & Harpsichord Recital

Suzanne Daniel, Flute & Rebecca Davy, Organ & Harpsichord

Tuesday, November 11 @ 8:00 pm

Chamber Strings Recital

William & Mary Gallery Players, Susan Via, Director

Thursday, November 13 @ 8:00 pm

Cello & Organ Recital: Music of the Night

Juliana Solstis, Cellist from Richmond, Virginia & Rebecca Davy, Organist at Bruton Parish

Saturday, November 15 @ 8:00 pm

Organ Recital

Dr. JanEl Will, Organist at Bruton Parish

Tuesday, November 18 @ 5:30 pm

Harpsichord Recital

Dr. Faythe Vollrath, from Northern California, where she is a professor of harpsichord & organ at University of California Davis

Thursday, November 20 @ 8:00 pm

Holiday Band Concert

York River Concert Band from Hampton Roads, Jeff Haney, Director

Saturday, November 22 @ 8:00 pm

Organ Recital for St. Cecilia, Music of Women Composers

JanEl Will & Rebecca Davy, Organists at Bruton Parish

Saturday, November 29 @ 8:00 pm

Holiday Organ Recital

Dr. JanEl Will, Organist at Bruton Parish

Freewill offerings are gratefully received.

Rebecca Davy, Music Director & Organist, Dr. JanEl Will, Organist

Contact: bdavy@brutonparish.org or (757-645-3431) Website: www.brutonparish.org



The Susan A. & Joseph N. Graif Foundation Inc.



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Here's what's coming up!

11 October 2025 at 1 P.M. – Mini-concert & Silent Film w/Tedde Gibson
07 December 2025 at 4 P.M. – Alex Hassan – Novelty Piano

Concerts are open to the general public and are free but only 65 seats are available. Reservations must be made in advance. A free will offering is suggested. For more information, visit graiffoundation.org or call 703.380.8995

Invitation for Youth Musicians LSM 2026

St. Olaf College, MN

June 21-July 19

Grades 8-12



LUTHERAN
SUMMER
MUSIC ACADEMY
& FESTIVAL

Connect with Ryan-Michael Blake at rmblake@fncnorfolk.com for more information."

Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church

A Rare Opportunity



Royster Presbyterian Church, in the Talbot Park neighborhood of Norfolk, is seeking a successor to Sharon Foxwell, who will retire from her position as our Music Director and Organist at the end of the year.

The church maintains a rich heritage of traditional worship over many decades. Dr. Charles Vogan had been our organist for two years when he founded the Tidewater Chapter of the American Guild of Organists in 1954.

The church has a three manual Moller organ of 43 ranks, rebuilt by the A.E. Schlueter Pipe Organ Company and totally overhauled within the past decade after a fire. A Steinway grand piano also graces the sanctuary.

These fine instruments support a church music program including a choir of 16 voices with four paid section leaders. We currently have one worship service each Sunday preceded by choir practice.

We plan on maintaining this full-time position with health benefits and competitive salary. Qualified candidates with the experience and ability to nurture and grow our music program are invited to contact Pastor Brian Harroff at (757) 423 8536.



Scholarship Award Recipients

Congratulations to the following students of our chapter members who have been awarded scholarships!

Daniel Rysavy is an 11th grader from Chesapeake, currently studying with Mike Regan. He is in his second year of organ studies, and attended the POE in Minneapolis over the summer.

Jackson Evans is a student of Holly Sunderland. He has been studying with her for 3 years, and is in 9th grade.

We are fortunate to be able to support and encourage students in the area who are working to learn the instrument, and we continue to welcome more students who would like to be a part of the organ community. If you know of anyone who is taking lessons, or who might want to, please contact Mike Regan <reganmg@aol.com> for information about how to apply for scholarship support.





A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND CAROLS

Join us for an evening of music with this beloved service of nine Bible lessons and favorite Christmas carols, featuring all our choirs, organ, and brass.

It is a joyful way to welcome the season!

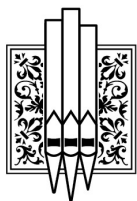
Childcare will be available, as well as
a reception following the service.

December 14 at 5:00 PM



Galilee Church

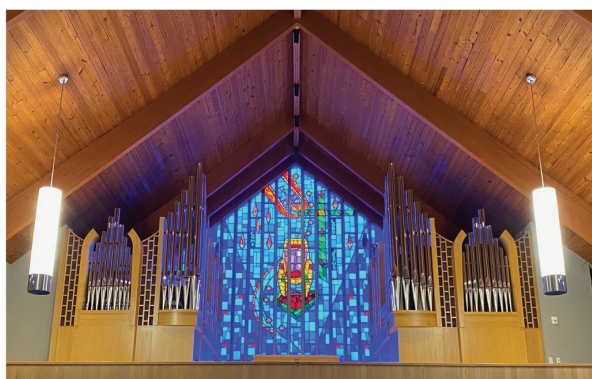
3928 Pacific Avenue, Virginia Beach, 23451



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