The Richmond
STOPLIST
September 2026

DEAN'S LETTER TO MEMBERS

Dean's Letter
September 2026

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

As someone with a September birthday, it has always been a conflicting time of year. As a child, I would get excited about my upcoming birthday, but the gift was always paired with the end of summer and the beginning of a new school year. In just a few days, I'll receive both of these things for the 37th time!

This summer brought a great deal of blessings. In July, I attended the French Organ Music Academy by Historic Organ Study Tours (HOST), directed by Bruce Stevens, followed immediately by presenting and performing at the fiftieth anniversary convention of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians

(NPM) in Washington, DC. Just last week, I traveled to St. Louis to present at the symposium "Liturgy in a New Apostolic Age," hosted by Kenrick-Glennon Seminary. This summer offered the valuable opportunity to reflect on my vocation and ministry, to learn new skills, techniques, and music, and to share my knowledge with colleagues and clerics alike.

I am pleased to announce that Diana Chou from St. Stephen's has agreed to fill the Executive Committee spot vacated by Grant Holcomb as he moved into the role of Sub-Dean. Judy Fiske has agreed to serve as Membership Engagement Coordinator. We are seeking another member to assist Judy in these efforts. The role is responsible for "activities focused on chapter member retention" (AGO Richmond Procedural Guide). If you feel you might be able to assist, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Please join us for our first program of the season on Tuesday, September 15, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. We'll gather for dinner at 6:00 p.m., followed by a memorial for deceased members and the installation of this year's Chapter officers. At 7:00 p.m., members who traveled to Paris this summer for the HOST French Organ Academy will offer a program on French organ repertoire, instruments, and technique. As a participant myself, I cannot overstate how invaluable the experience was we look forward to sharing what we learned! My thanks to the academy attendees for their willingness to present and play, and to Dr. Christopher Reynolds and St. Paul's for their generous hospitality. If you haven't been to St. Paul's before, there is a convenient parking garage beneath the church with an elevator that takes you straight from your car up into the building.

At the end of July, I hosted my first Dean's Happy Hour. What looked like it might be a small crowd gathered enough last-minute attendees for a really fun time before an organ recital at St. James's. Let's plan on another Happy Hour on Friday, September 25, from 4–6 p.m. at Väsen Brewing Company, 5047 Forest Hill Ave Ste A, Richmond, VA 23225. Both alcoholic and non-alcoholic options are available, along with food from Kobop.

I look forward to seeing you at St. Paul's on September 15! Enjoy whatever summer you have left before then!

Fondly,

Joel S. Kumro, Dean

UPCOMING CHAPTER EVENTS

Tuesday, September 15, 6:00pm
Presentation by HOST French Organ Academy Participants
St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 815 E. Grace St., Richmond

Chapter members returning from the Historic Organ Study Tours (HOST) French Organ Academy in Paris will offer a lecture recital on French organ repertoire, and share their experiences will abroad.

Chapter Meeting 6:00 p.m.; Program: 7:00 p.m.
Meeting Agenda: Installation of Officers, Memorial for Deceased Members, Dinner.
Menu: Coq au vin, spinach salad, buttered noodles, string beans, baguette, chocolate mousse.
RSVP to Paul Honaker by September 14, Noon.

Friday, September 25, 4:00-6:00 p.m.
Dean's Happy Hour
Väsen Brewing Company, 5047 Forest Hill Ave., Richmond

Join fellow members for a brew (alcoholic or non) as we celebrate *la rentrée* after a long summer. Food available from Kobop. RSVP to Joel Kumro.

Friday, October 16, 6:00 p.m.
ORRS Recital: Bryan Anderson
St. James's Episcopal Church, 1205 W. Franklin St., Richmond

Chapter meeting and dinner: 6:00 p.m., Program: 7:30 p.m.

Friday, November 13 and Saturday, November 14
Hymn Festival and Workshop by Eric Wall

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church, 1627 Monument Avenue, Richmond

Friday, November 13, Chapter dinner: 6:00 p.m., Program: 7:00 p.m.
Saturday, November 14, Coffee & Donuts: 9:30 a.m., Workshop, 10:00 a.m.

Tuesday, January 19, 2027
Presentation on the Renovation of the Casavant Organ by David Storey
First Baptist Church, 2709 Monument Ave., Richmond

Chapter meeting and dinner: 6:00 p.m., Program: 7:00 p.m.

Friday, February 19, 2027
Presentation on Organ Construction and Basic Maintenance by Scott Hayes
All Saints Episcopal Church, 8787 River Rd., Richmond

Chapter meeting and dinner: 6:00 p.m., Program: 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 5, 2027
ORRS Recital: Eric Plutz
All Saints Episcopal Church, 8787 River Rd., Richmond

Chapter meeting and dinner: 6:00 p.m., Program: 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, April 27, 2027
April in Oregon Hill: A Members' Recital
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 236 S. Laurel St., Richmond

Chapter meeting and dinner: 6:00 p.m., Program: 7:00 p.m.

Monday, May 24, 2027
Scholarship Recipient Recital
St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 12291 River Rd., Richmond

Chapter meeting and dinner: 6:00 p.m., Program: 7:00 p.m.

AROUND THE TOWN

September 21, 7:00 pm
Greater Love Tour of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra
First Presbyterian Church, 4602 Cary Street Road, Richmond

Members of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will perform in Richmond as part of their extensive U.S. tour. The evening of soul-stirring sacred and Ukrainian folk music has been curated to inspire audiences to faith, hope, and love. Admission is free, donations welcome.

Sunday, September 20, 3:00 pm
Jazz Performance by Peter and Will Anderson, clarinet and saxophone, with Adam Moezinia, guitarist
St. George's Episcopal Church, 905 Princess Anne Street, Fredericksburg

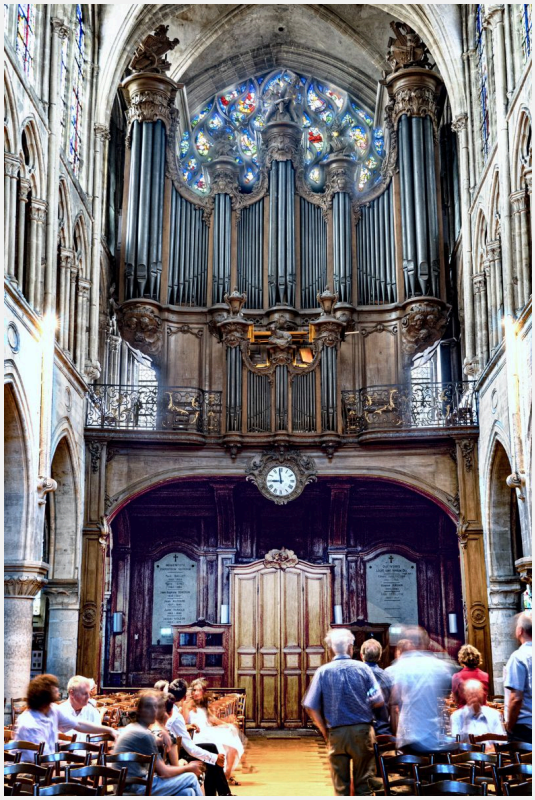
Hailed as “Virtuosos on clarinet and saxophone” by the New York Times, Grammy-Winning Juilliard graduates and twin brothers Peter and Will Anderson present the life and music of the iconic American composer Irving Berlin, featuring guitarist Adam Moezinia. Songs will include “Cheek to Cheek,” "Blue Skies," "Putin' on the Ritz," and "Always." Born and raised in Washington, DC, the Andersons have headlined the Carnegie Hall, Jazz at Lincoln Center, the Kennedy Center, live on Garrison Keillor’s "A Prairie Home Companion," and can be heard on the Grammy-winning soundtrack of HBO’s "Boardwalk Empire" with Vince Giordano’s Nighthawks. They received a 2014 Drama Desk nomination for their off-Broadway production of "Le Jazz Hot" and won a 2018 Bistro Award.

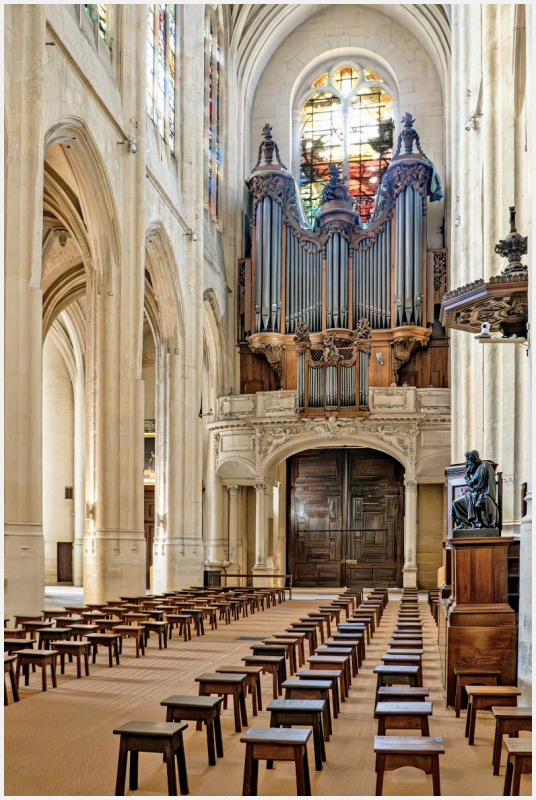
For more information visit www.stgeorgesepiscopal.net/
or www.PeterAndWillAnderson.com. Free admission.

Sunday, September 27, 4:00 pm
The Sundays @ 4 Series
St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 8400 St. Peter's Lane, New Kent

Momentum has begun toward the 350th anniversary of St. Peter's Church in New Kent. A new Rodgers Imagine 359 organ, installed 2025, continues the transformation of our music with the launching of the "Sundays @ 4 Series," beginning with an organ recital by renown organist Daniel Stipe. Infused with history as the 4th oldest active Episcopal parish in Virginia, St. Peter's seeks to live into a rich and lively future. These programs are a gift to the community as we celebrate God's faithfulness across generations. The recital will be followed by an Artist's Reception. No admission fee, but donations to the Music Fund are appreciated.

SEPTEMBER PROGRAM TEASER: NOTES FROM PARIS





Historic Organ Study Tours (HOST) French Organ Academy

At the first chapter meeting on Tuesday September 15, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, chapter members will share exceptional, new insights brought home from Paris. Eight Richmond Chapter members were among 19 participants in a

French Organ Music Academy conducted in Paris, France, July 13-17, as organized by Historic Organ Study Tours, Bruce Stevens, director. The academy consisted of masterclasses taught by Paris titulaires and conservatory professors Christophe Mantoux and Aude Heurtematte. Chapter attendees included Bob Gallagher, Jacob Giancaterino, Grant Hellmers, Joel Kumro, Chris Martin, Bruce Stevens, William Tan, and Bill Van Pelt.

In five days, participants attended 30 hours of classes conducted at two primary venues: Aude Heurtematte taught French Classic repertoire at Saint-Gervais, where she is titulaire (as were eight members of the Couperin family from 1656 until 1826), on the 1758-68 Clicquot organ of 5 manuals and 41 stops, retaining pipes and other parts from organs of 1601 and 1628. Christophe Mantoux taught French Romantic and other 20th-century works at Saint-Maurice de Bécon-les-Bruyères on the 1865 Cavaillé-Coll organ of 3 manuals, 37 stops, and on the 1963 Alfred Kern organ of 4 manuals, 59 stops, built into the magnificent 18th-century organ case at Saint-Séverin, where he is titulaire.

Works prepared and played by participants during the masterclasses, and upon which lessons were based, were by composers Jehan Alain, Balbastre, Beauvalet-Charpentier, Boëllmann, Boyvin, Clerambault, Corrette, Louis and François Couperin, Dandrieu, Daquin, Dumage, Duruflé, Franck, Gigout, Guilain, Guilmant, Grigny, Messiaen, Pierné, Saint-Saëns, Titelouze, Tournemire, Vierne, and Widor.

Photo Captions:

The organs of Saint-Gervais and Saint-Maurice de Bécon-les-Bruyères

Participants: (L to R) Bill Van Pelt, Bruce Stevens, Jacob Giancanterino, Chris Martin, Grant Moss, Joel Kumro, Paul Rutz, August Berchelmann, Shelley Hardin, Grant Hellmers, Charles Eberline, Mary Catherine Levri, Christopher Wrench, Aude Heurtematte, A. J. Lyon, Christophe Mantoux, Bob Gallagher, Fabian Hoey, Larry Schipull, William Tan. Not present: Stephen Morris.

Aude Heurtematte brings a rhythmic emphasis to consider in Jacob Giancaterino's playing of a piece from François Couperin's Mass for the Parishes.

Christophe Mantoux and Mary Catherine Levri (associate professor of organ at

University of Notre Dame, Indiana) confer on her playing of the fourth movement, *Salve Regina*, Widor Symphony 2.

-Bill Van Pelt

LIST AND CONTACT INFORMATION FOR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, 2026-2027

Please contact any member of the Executive Committee with questions or concerns you might have about the AGO or Richmond Chapter.

DEAN
Joel Kumro (2027): jkumro@saintbenedictparish.org 804-254-8810, ext.112

SUB-DEAN
Grant Holcomb (2027): grantholcomb@rrpcusa.org 859-940-8774

SECRETARY
David Purdy, SPC (2027): davidcpurdy1000@gmail.com 804-241-2472

TREASURER
Kenna R. Payne (2027): kennajohnp@aol.com 804-512-5804

AUDITORS
Larry Heath (2027): lwheath51@gmail.com 804-212-9861
Doug Brown, MMA (2028) dbrown.gppc@gmail.com

MEMBERS AT-LARGE
Judy Fiske (2027): judyorganistfiske@gmail.com 804-399-2798
Don Traser (2027): donald.traser@gmail.com 804-644-0888
Gary Kunde (2028): musicdirector@gracelutheranrva.org 912-320-8681
Grant Hellmers (2029): grant.hellmers@gmail.com 804-355-815
Jeannine Uzel (2029): juzel64@gmail.com 804-932-9611

SEPTEMBER RICHMOND AGO BIRTHDAYS

Joel	Kumro	5-Sep
Cathy	Armistead	7-Sep
Judy	Fiske	14-Sep
Elizabeth	Chenault	15-Sep
Jerry	Field	15-Sep
Evelyn	Kerschbaumer	17-Sep
Casey	Dunaway	18-Sep
Patricia	Schrock	18-Sep
James	Kosnik	23-Sep
Harold	Rohrs	23-Sep
David	Mathers	24-Sep
Anita	Williams	24-Sep
LaVern	Moffat	30-Sep

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

Listings in this column appear for a maximum of 90 days and then are removed unless an extension is requested. When a listing is removed, therefore, it does not necessarily mean that the position has been filled. To submit a listing, contact Betty Girardeau at bettyg@redfamiliar.com or 804-647-0825.

Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church
3712 Weems Road, Weems, VA, 22576

Seeking part-time **Traditional Music Director** for one Sunday morning 11:00AM worship service, and special service throughout the year, including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Nativity Pageant, Christmas Eve, and other services as needed. The Music Director may be an organist or pianist.

Responsibilities include selecting music in consultation with the Pastor, coordinating occasional choir, solo, and instrumental music, recruiting and encouraging volunteer musicians, and collaborating with the Contemporary Music Director and church committees on special services and community events. Instruments include a 3 manual hybrid pipe/electonic organ and a Mason and Hamlin grand piano. First refusal is available for weddings and funerals, which average 3-4 per year. Candidates should be familiar with traditional sacred music and hymnody. Annual salary range $15,000-$18,000 per year and 4 weeks paid vacation.

Interested candidates should submit a resume and cover letter describing their experience and interest in serving Campbell Memorial Presbyterian Church. Contact Joel Morgan at joel.morgan@campbellchurch.net

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Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church
1627 Monument Avenue, Richmond

Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church located at 1627 Monument Avenue close to VCU is seeking additional **Soprano and Tenor Section Leaders** to join our Chancel Choir starting in September, $75.00 per call. Rehearsals Wednesdays 7:00-8:30 p.m., September-May, with a warmup every Sunday at 10:30 a.m. before the the 11:00 a.m. service. Additional services include the annual Candlelight Carol Service, Christmas Eve, and Maundy Thursday. Singers must have good sight-reading ability, sufficient confidence to lead their section, and a willingness to perform an occasional solo. For more information, please contact Chris Martin, Director of Music, at martin@gcpcrva.org

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Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church
8 N. Laurel Street, Richmond

Seeking **part-time Assistant Choirmaster and Organist** to share organ playing with the Choirmaster and Organist for one Sunday morning service and to accompany the Parish Choir rehearsals on Thursday evenings from September to May. Special services include Choral Evensongs, Christmas Lessons and Carols, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and a major choral work in the spring with chamber ensemble. Also assist with Intergenerational Choir rehearsals as scheduled on Sunday mornings and accompany them on Children and Youth Sundays, and other services from

September to May. The Assistant also leads the Youth Instrumental Ensemble for rehearsals and services. Occasionally, the Assistant will conduct the Parish Choir or vocal ensembles at worship services and lead sectional rehearsals. The assistant should be willing to embrace opportunities to conduct the Parish Choir, vocal ensembles, and be an advocate for children's participation in worship services throughout the year. Additionally, the assistant should be willing to help support outreach to students, faculty, and staff at the neighboring Virginia Commonwealth University, nearby residents of the Fan, and those that work in the area, and to explore new outreach possibilities.

The church has a 63 rank 1979 Austin pipe organ with Trompette-en-Chamade and antiphonal division. Candidate should have at least a Bachelor's Degree in Music, and be a skilled organist and pianist. Starting salary is $30,000 to $35,000 per year depending on prior experience. Interested applicants should send cover letter, resume, one recording of an organ piece suitable for a prelude, one recording of an organ piece suitable for a postlude, and three references to Dr. Elizabeth Melcher Davis, Choirmaster and Organist at emelcherdavis@ghtc.org. She can be reached by phone at 804-359-5628, ext 18. More information about the church: www.ghtc.org. Full job description at ghtc.org/jobs.

Redeemer Episcopal Church and School
2341 Winterfield Road, Midlothian, VA, 23113

Seeking **part-time organist/choir director** for Sunday morning services and one September-May weekly choir rehearsal. Special services include Christmas Eve, Lessons and Carols, and Easter Sunrise. Hybrid Allen 4 manual Renaissance Quantum organ with 13 ranks of Kenneth Jones pipes. Comprised of over 18 singers, including 2-3 professional singers and 1-4 paid singers during the program year, the Gallery Choir provides choral music at the 11:00 AM service.

Interested candidates should have a Bachelor's degree in music, music education, sacred music or the equivalent, be a skilled accompanist with the ability to improvise between transitions in the liturgy. He/she should have working knowledge of the Anglican music tradition, as well as being a skilled choir director, accompanist and performer on organ and piano. Compensation range $28,000 - $32,000 per annum with 4 weeks paid vacation. Other benefits include book and music allowance, Social Security, and dues for professional

associations. Interested candidates should contact the Rev. Mollie Roberts, mothermollie@redeemerecs.org or 804-379-8899.

St. John's Episcopal Church
12201 Richmond Street, Chester

Seeking a **tenor section leader**. Weekly calls on Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings with occasional extra calls throughout the year (Christmas Eve, Holy Week, etc.) Compensation $600/month, paid as an independent contractor. Contact Aubrey Lindsey at 804-748-2182 or alindsey@stjohnschester.com.

SUBSTITUTES

The persons listed below have indicated a desire to be called for substituting at church services. No specific qualifications are implied by their inclusion on this list. The employer is responsible for determining that a substitute will adequately meet any needs. If you have questions or wish to add or remove your name, contact Betty Girardeau, bettyg@redfamiliar.com or 804-647-0825.

Substitutes Available for All Services and Events (including Sunday Mornings)
Mary Campbell: 804-337-3935 maryecampbell@comcast.net
Raymond Chenault: 404-368-7113 rchenaultduo@gmail.com
Diann Clark: 703-725-9571 cdiannclark@gmail.com
Marianne Crean: 804-360-2976 creanm@stcva.org
Debbie Davis: 804-921-8234 purerair@gmail.com
Peter Edison: 804-755-4828 judgepce@yahoo.com
Sharon Freude: 804-353-4683 freudemusic@earthlink.net
Cathy Grant: (Charlottesville) 434-293-0617 mclgrant@centurylink.net
Terry Hicks: 310-271-4953 rterrick1@gmail.com
Teresa Hudson: 804-245-0827 hudsonrt@alumni.vcu.edu
Carla Kay: 570 234-6544 carlakaymusic@gmail.com

Evelyn Kerschbaumer: 804-744-3147 elkersch@gmail.com
Don Moro: 804-652-9311 donmoro@gmail.com
Jeannine Uzel: 804-932-961 juzel64@gmail.com
Cheryl Van Ornam: 804-814-6677 ago.cheryl@gmail.com (8:30 only)
Kevin White: 434-979-4922 kevinwhitepiano@gmail.com

Substitutes Available for Non-Sunday Morning Services and Events Only
Robert Baird: 703-989-0502 rtbaird11@gmail.com
Mikey Fuller: 804-896-2713 me@mikeyfuller.com
Elizabeth Hargrove: 804-339-5701 f.hargrovejr@comcast.net
Larry Heath: 804-212-9861 lwheath51@gmail.com
Margie K. Heath: 804-387-6948 mbtwig@aol.com
Grant Hellmers: 804-878-4416 grant.hellmers@gmail.com
Joel Kumro: 716-803-4699 jkumro@saintbenedictparish.org
Ed Schutt: 804-564-4887 e.schutt@comcast.net
Ryan Tibbetts: 302-354-2001 rtibbetts@stmarysgoochland.org

INVITATION TO STUDY, FROM KATHY TOOLE

Learn Faster, Perform Better: A Musician's Guide to the Neuroscience of Practice by Molly Gebrian distills research studies offering compelling information about how the brain absorbs and retains new information. One begins to understand how despite our best efforts, how easy it is to work against ourselves. With degrees in both music and neuroscience, Gebrian helps us more purposefully engage different parts of our brain for better long-term retention. For example, one key to learning faster and performing better is to take more breaks: Gebrian helps us understand more fully how the brain continues the work of practice away from our instruments.

While I've been challenged to maintain a sustained focus on working with the material, it is already proving to be a game-changer for me. Early success has me eagerly anticipating previously persistent fragile passages as I return to music performed through the years. My imagination as I approach challenging passages has expanded. Indeed, I am learning to accomplish more in less time.

I am looking to form a small group of those who may be interested in studying

this book together to discuss and record our experiences as we apply the concepts and practices for ourselves and/or those we teach. This endeavor may eventually be foundational for sharing with the chapter in a future program.

Contact Kathy Toole to express your interest or questions.

Members of the Kyiv Symphony Orchestra and Chorus will perform in Richmond on September 21, 7:00 PM, at First Presbyterian Church as part of their extensive U.S. tour. The evening of soul-stirring sacred and Ukrainian folk music has been curated to inspire audiences to faith, hope, and love. Admission is free, and donations will be welcome.

For more than five decades, Canadian Brass has captivated audiences around the world with its extraordinary musicianship, signature humor, and dynamic stage presence. The ensemble has performed everywhere from Carnegie Hall to television specials and international tours spanning North America, Europe, Asia, and beyond. Now, they're coming to RVA for one night at Richmond's First Baptist Church: November 29, from 7-9 p.m.

Tickets are $65 for general admission. Visit rfbc.link/canadianbrass to get yours before they're gone!

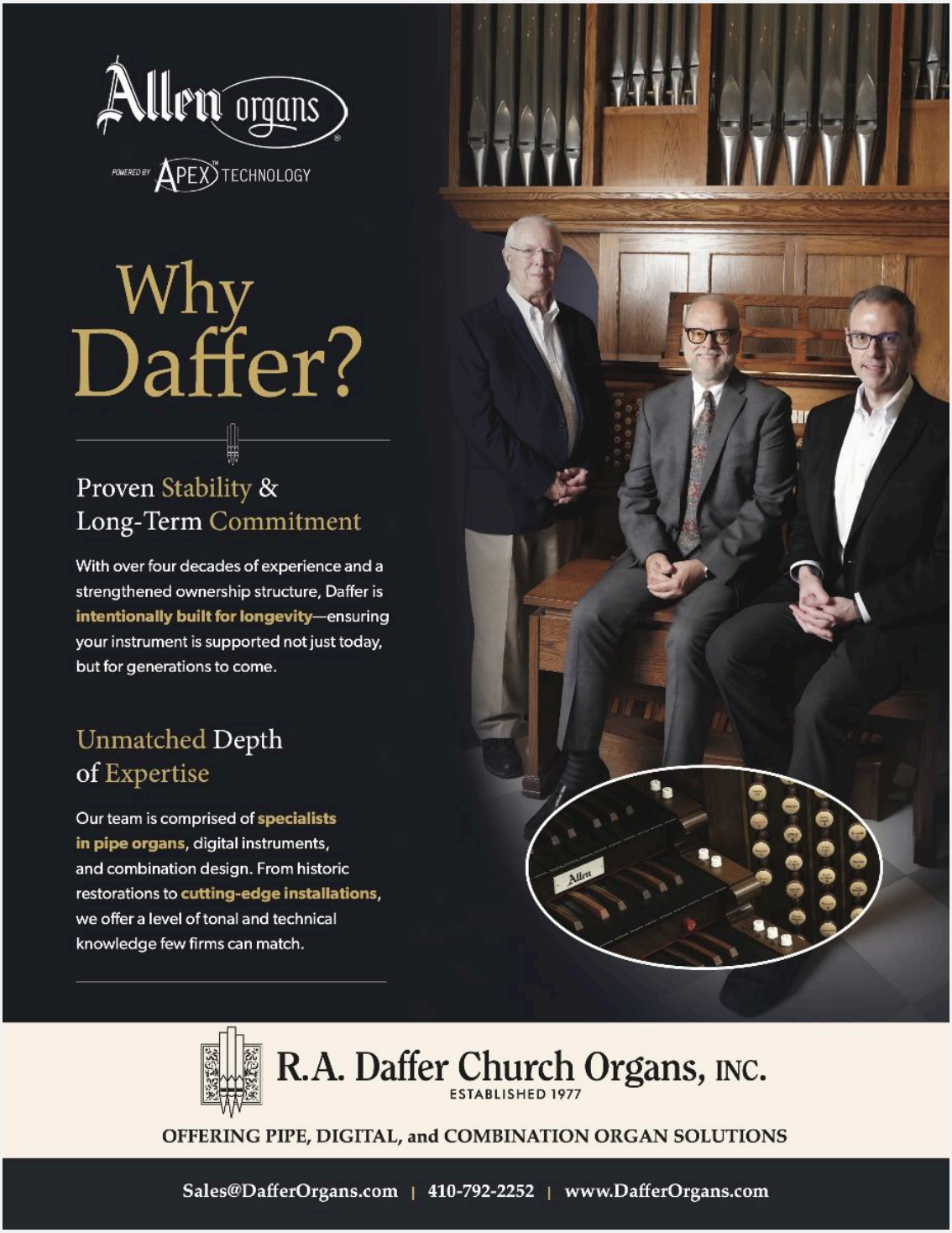
STAY CONNECTED

Please send *Stoplist* submissions to Demas Boudreaux by the 20th of each month to be included in the following month's newsletter.

Notify us of any changes in your mailing or email addresses so you will continue to receive your copy of the *Stoplist* without interruption.

FOR PHOTOGRAPHS AND ORGAN SPECIFICATIONS OF

CENTRAL VIRGINIA CHURCHES,
PLEASE VISIT
www.ChurchesOfVirginia.org



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C-d''' (51 notes) transposing keyboard
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4' Flute
2' Principal

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