

General Congregational Profile

Abington Presbyterian Church

Abington, PA

Organ Position 2020

Abington Presbyterian Church is blessed with a comprehensive, nationally renowned worship and concert music ministry which includes a graded choir program, comprehensive bell program, symphony orchestra, and a substantial concert series, *Music at Abington*. The congregation is well-known for its long-standing commitment to excellence in liturgy and music.

Rev. Dr. Kirby Lawrence Hill serves APC as Pastor and Head of Staff. Other colleagues of the professional staff include Rev. Aaron Twitchell, Associate Pastor for Christian Education and Youth (began January 2020), Rev. Dr. Jade King Bass, Minister for Congregational Care (began April 2020), John Sall, Director of Music Ministries, Ruth Ideen-Sall, Director of Children's Ministries and Choirs, and Janet Tebbel, Director of Handbells (retiring Dec. 2020).

The church is currently in the midst of a significant capital campaign to increase complete accessibility and to update physical structures of its beautiful campus for ongoing ministry.

The organist works closely with the Director of Music Ministries, to whom s/he is responsible and with whom s/he plays an integral role in the planning of the entire music program. The highest priority of music ministry is to provide quality leadership and support for worship marked by music of integrity, support of the scriptures, and collaboration and integration with the focus of each service. The music, whether for organ, piano, bells, other instruments, choir, or congregation serves to enhance the total experience of worship.

The sanctuary's pipe organ was originally installed by M.P. Moeller in 1969 with 58 ranks. It was given a partial upgrade in 1996, converting to a digital relay and combination action with some tonal augmentations. In 2014, Robert Gladden & Assoc. oversaw a total refurbishing and expansion including a new Walker digital relay and combination action, new four-manual console, and expansion of all divisions of the organ to 77 pipe ranks and 26 digital ranks. Congregational hymns, choral anthems, and organ repertoire represent a rich variety of traditional masterworks and new musical expressions of worship, faith, beauty, and humanity. *Music at Abington*, entering its 49th Season, annually presents performances by our choirs and the Abington Symphony Orchestra, a month of "Tuesday Noon" recitals in partnership with the AGO chapter, and guest performances by a wide variety of musicians including professional chamber groups, handbell and gospel choirs, children's programs, solo recitals, and jazz. Major works in recent years have included the Mozart, Duruflé, Brahms, and Fauré Requiems, Hadyn's *Creation*, Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Brahms' *Nänie*, and newly commissioned works by Timothy Shaw and Peter Hilliard. There is a strong history of solo organ recitals by both the resident organist and guest artists along with organ concertos and symphonic works with the orchestra.