



Grace Notes

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FROM THE PRESIDENT,
Dr. Diann Back



Our attitude toward time is interesting. For many of us, it is a fleeting commodity. We comment that the older we get, the faster the months and years seem to go by. Is it possible to slow the passage of time? No, but

we can alter our attitude toward time. As we grow older, we often decide to prioritize our activities, and we end up choosing those things that we value for their spirituality, community service, and ability to challenge us. Metropolitan Music Ministries' vision exemplifies these thoughts through the following words, "The faithful, joyful witness of the People of God who serve in the MMM ministries are making and will continue to make an impact upon the Charlotte-Mecklenburg area, bringing blessings, comfort, encouragement, friendship, challenge, hope, and spiritual enrichment to many people." MMM's mission outlines the way that this organization will achieve its vision.

SEE "FROM THE PRESIDENT CONT."

Continued on Page 2

WEBSITE

If you haven't checked out our updated website, please go to www.metromusicministries.org and give us your email address by clicking on Contact Us. In the future we hope to offer an electronic version of the newsletter to those who prefer it.

FROM THE PAST CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD,
Dr. Martha Iley



Who would question the power of a story? Listening to stories ranks among the most beloved memories of my childhood. After our naps, my mother often gathered my brother, sisters, and me into a warm circle to hear her reading a chapter

of *Heidi* or some other good book. When my Great-Aunt Sally visited us, we begged her to share her spine-tingling true stories, dating back to the Civil War and Reconstruction. Grandpa Faircloth was a gifted story teller, of the legendary Southern manner. His accounts were so dramatic and exciting that we children sat in rapt attention, not wanting to miss a single word. He described life on his tobacco farm near the Cape Fear River in Cumberland County, or his experiences as a deputy Sheriff.

I have heard of an Eskimo tribe that is noted for the extraordinary and excellent behavior of their children, and the peaceful, congenial relationships among their families. A spokesperson revealed their secret. Instead of using harsh disciplines in correcting an offending child, parents tell stories to achieve the desired behavior.

Jesus, ever the Master Teacher, often used a story, or parable, to highlight an eternal truth. These parables are recorded in the gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke.

Through our visits to sheltered places, Metropolitan Music Ministries participants have the opportunity to share the stories of Jesus through music or the spoken word. In devotionals and chapel services the Good News of the Gospel is proclaimed. This is a great privilege. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,
Martha Iley

FROM THE PRESIDENT CONT.

It states, "Metropolitan Music Ministries is a Christian service organization of volunteers committed to sharing the gifts of music with the community for the glory of God by awarding scholarships to aspiring church musicians and music therapists and by presenting programs of music and devotions."

The MMM officers, directors, and advisors want to take this opportunity to thank all of the volunteers who have helped make our vision and mission realities. Whether you offered a financial gift, prayers, words of encouragement, or your talent, we are grateful.

Diann Back

CUMULATIVE SERVICE RECORD

October 7, 1984 - April 30, 2019

Number of Programs, Services, Meetings and Projects	12,741
Number of Times an Individual Participated in Ministry Work	38,802
Total Known Audience	500,986

Host Choir. The B. A. Thompson Singers, a 35 member choir of primarily African American vocalists, led by Bruce Thompson of Tyler, Texas, will present a classical anthem and a spiritual. Other choirs have not been confirmed as of this date. Clergy and lay speakers for the service are The Rev. Dr. Lee Canipe, senior pastor of Providence Baptist Church, The Rev. Betsy Williamson, recently retired pastor of Amity Presbyterian Church, Dr. Diann Back, MMM President, and the Rev. Judah Jones, MMM Chaplain. The service will be held at Providence Baptist Church, 4921 Randolph Road, at 6:00 pm, Sunday, September 29. A Reception will follow the service. **PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!**

THIRTY-FOURTH ANNUAL SERVICE OF SACRED MUSIC

Plans are underway to make our September 29 ANNUAL SERVICE, a wonderful event. This is our once-a-year program of Christian worship for the community. The scriptural theme, THINK ON THESE THINGS, comes from Paul's message to the church at Phillipii, listing the ideal attitudes for Christian living: "...fill your minds with those things that are good and that deserve praise; things that are true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and honorable." The three Church Music Scholarship Winners will participate in the service. Ginger Wyrick will conduct the six choirs in combined anthems. Martha Iley, one of the MMM Founders, will again lead the ritual declaring the Good News of the Gospel. Diann Clark will be the Organist. Supporting instrumentalists are Brass Quartet musicians (Richard Spangler, Eric Knight, Jason Holden, and Patti Lutz), and Kent Love, timpanist.

Dr. Luther Wade, with his magnificent voice and elegant style, will again use scripture and commentary to tie all of the music and theological ideas together.

Dr. Katherine S. Kisney, distinguished Professor of Choral Music, Winthrop University, will be the Guest Conductor for the Choir of Directors. After the Memorial Prayer they will sing one of the most dearly beloved compositions of all time: "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" from Johannes Brahms' *Requiem*. Providence Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir is the

MEET THE NEWEST MMM BOARD MEMBER,

Christy Stephens



MMM welcomes Christy Stephens as a new advisor. She is shown with Dr. Martha Iley, one of the founders of MMM. Christy attends St. Stephen United Methodist Church where she sings in the chancel choir. Christy is chair of the Staff/Parish Committee at St.

Stephen. She attended Indiana University where she earned her BSN. Recently retired, Christy enjoys reading, time with grandchildren, theater/movies and classical music. She and her husband Wesley reside in Charlotte.

METROPOLITAN MUSIC MINISTRIES HOLDS AUDITIONS

Recently, young musicians competed in the 2019 MMM Scholarship Auditions on March 30th at St. John's Baptist Church. While each student showed poise and proficiency in his or her discipline, three outstanding artists were granted scholarships carrying a \$1,500 award. Each recipient has been invited to perform for the MMM Annual Service on September 29th, 2019 at Providence Baptist Church.



The Cheryl Iley Lindstrom Church music Scholarship in Piano was awarded to **Laura Brooke Smith** a student of Dr. Matthew Manwarren of Winthrop University and the daughter of Charles and Heather Smith of Rock Hill, SC. Laura holds a junior academic standing at Winthrop University where she studies music education and is named on the Dean's List. Additionally, Laura was the recipient of the Rock Hill Music Club piano award. Laura is actively involved in the music ministries at Harvest Hill Baptist Church in Rock Hill. She writes, "This (Truth Trackers children's ministry) has been a wonderful experience for me in learning how to communicate musical ideas to children and learning how to help them engage in music-making for the purpose of glorifying Jesus Christ." Laura intends to teach elementary school music and use her musical talents in church ministry as an accompanist or director.

The Martha Strawn Iley Church Music Scholarship in Voice was awarded to **Regan Susana Sawyer** a student of Christina Pier of The University of North Carolina at Charlotte and the daughter of Scott and Stephanie Sawyer of Sherrills Ford, NC. Regan holds a junior academic standing and is a music education major. Also, Regan advanced to the regional level in both the 2018 and 2019 National Association of Teachers of Singing competitions. Regan has participated in various musical programs and served as a soloist at Bethel United Methodist Church, Denver NC. Regan writes in her essay, "Music is a near perfect reflection of God's beauty and grace. Music opens our hearts and minds and makes us feel something that nothing else in the world can make us feel." Regan aspires to work in church music ministry.



The A. Lee Royal Church Music Scholarship was awarded to **Lyubov Draga** a sophomore piano student of Dr. Dylan Savage at UNC Charlotte, and the daughter of Vera and Aleksander Draga. Lyubov serves as the Main Choir accompanist and Kid's Choir director for Church of New Hope in Charlotte. In addition, Lyubov participates in missionary trips abroad. She assists in assembling camps for orphans and refugees and shares the gospel through stories, games and songs. In her essay Lyubov writes, "...I am so thankful that I have been given so many opportunities of use my gifts of music to share the gospel to little children. It gives me great joy to be about my Father's business, and in such a fun way! I can't wait to

Metropolitan Music Ministries extends its thanks to audition judges Diann Clark and Meagan Lacher.

Frances McClain

Metropolitan Music Ministries marks a 35-year tradition of sharing musical programs with individuals in nursing homes, shelters and rehabilitation centers. While most of our team members are volunteers we are grateful for the participation of Frances McClain who is a professional therapist. Frances has graciously shared her talents with our ministry and served on the MMM Board of Directors. Frances Jones McClain is a retired music therapist whose career has involved using music in various settings to address the emotional, cognitive, physical, and social needs of children and adults. As a child and the daughter of parents who were both ministers, she witnessed the power of music in church services to elicit joy, comfort, hope, spiritual and emotional healing. Although the field of music therapy was still relatively young at that time, she knew, however, that she wanted to pursue this discipline to help individuals with challenges experience similar therapeutic goals.

SEE "FRANCES MCCLAIN CONT."

Continued on back

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Friend \$ 1-24 Sustainer \$ 50-99
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FRANCES MCCLAIN CONT.

Frances received her B.M. and M.M. Degrees in Music Therapy from Michigan State University, a Master's Degree in Special Education from Winthrop University, and a Ph.D. from Temple University in Philadelphia. Her career has included working as a junior high choral music teacher, a music therapist for children and adults with special needs, and culminated as the Director of Music Therapy at Queens University for 25 years.

While at Queens, she established a music therapy clinic for majors to gain experience working with children and young adults. She wrote articles for professional journals, authored a book about the history of the program at Queens, co-authored a music therapy songbook, and presented at various music therapy conferences and health organizations. In recognition of her contributions as a professor, Frances received several outstanding teaching awards during her tenure at Queens.

In her retirement, Frances continues to direct the AMEN Male Chorus, which sings throughout the community, including annually at the Charlotte Rescue Mission Men's Shelter (Rebound). She also serves as an interim musician when needed in her church. Frances is grateful to her husband, Ernest, for his faithful commitment and support throughout the years! Music is her love and gift to others!

**“...my servants sing
 for joy of heart.”
 Isaiah 65:14**



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