



Grace Notes

A publication of Metrolina Music Ministries, Inc, September 2018

From the President's Keyboard



When our parents passed away, my sister and I divided the family pictures. The same thing happened when my mother-in-law and father-in-law died some time ago. My husband and his brother divided the family pictures as well. As we look through the albums and boxes of photos, we realize that there are many pictures of people for whom we have no names.

One of my favorites is that of a boys' basketball team from a little town in west Texas. We are sure that one of the boys is my husband's father, but the little town had a big population of Danish people, and there are several blond fair-skinned boys, one of which is Aage Jensen Back, my father-in-law. Another favorite family picture is one of my fraternal grandparents standing in a doorway of the White County Courthouse in the county seat of Searcy, Arkansas. In the picture, there is a little bare foot sticking out from behind my grandmother's long skirt. We know that the foot belongs to either my father or my uncle, but we can't determine which one. Again, there is no one left to tell us the answer to the owner of that little foot.

Family photos remind me that it's important to put names to pictures because these photos are like pieces of a jigsaw puzzle. When names are missing, pieces of our family history could be lost. Whether we take pictures with our smart phones or hand-held cameras, it's a good idea to find a way to identify the people in our photos because they are important connections to our past and ultimately to who we are today.

Part of MMM's ministry is to connect with people and let them know that they are valued for their experiences and knowledge, that they are cared for beyond their immediate families, and that they are appreciated simply for being themselves. MMM volunteers go to long-term care facilities and rehabilitation centers to share the gift of music with the residents. While sharing musical talent, the volunteers also take time to talk to the residents and develop relationships with them. The MMM Board wishes to extend its gratitude to all the volunteers who take time to make others feel good about themselves through conversations, hugs, and music designed to lift spirits. Thank you if you are currently a volunteer or if you've been one in the past.

Diann P. Back
President, MMM

From the Former Chairman and Founder -Martha Iley

The Mystery of the Passion Flower



When I look out my kitchen windows, I see a panorama of colorful blossoms. Several years ago my long-time friend, Mary Ellen Eison, began tending my backyard flower garden. She envisioned a beautiful, fragrant spot for all seasons, and a mecca for hummingbirds, butterflies, and song birds. She planted roses, petunias, geraniums, hollyhocks,

sweet peas, pansies, chrysanthemums, tulips, blue sylvias and many more. However, there is one vine climbing my fence that she did not plant. Called the "passion flower," it has a symbolic connection to the Crucifixion. The stunning white blossom represents Jesus' purity; the petals stand for the apostles; the purple corona is like thorns in His crown. The flowers die after a single day, the time Jesus spent on the cross. Legend claims that during that time the passion flower sprang up wherever Jesus walked. Cold chills run down my spine as I try to imagine Jesus walking in my garden! How it came to be in this place is a mystery. Deeply imbedded in Christian theology is the concept of Divine Omnipotence, Omniscience and Omni-Presence. But still... Just before His ascension, Jesus told His followers: "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." The challenge to Christians today is making sure that we stay close to our Lord on our life's journey. A spiritual that was sung at the MMM Dedication Service in 1984 is "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me." In early days of our ministry, a talented gospel singer, Annie Rosie Poole, often sang that song at Rebound. As Jesus walks with us, whatever the circumstances, we may be assured of blessings beyond measure!

Grace and Peace,
Martha Iley

MMM CUMULATIVE SERVICE RECORD (October 4, 1984 – August 31, 2018)

Number of Services, Programs, Meetings and Projects	12,583
Number of times an individual participated in the ministry work	38,129
Total Known Audience	497,714

MMM Volunteer Spotlight: Cicely Forde



Cicely Forde, a native of Barbados who moved to Charlotte from Queens, NY in 1986, has been described as a “volunteer extraordinaire. Since moving to Charlotte, Cicely has tirelessly worked to bring God’s word to residents of numerous long-term care facilities through the spoken messages and through music. Until recently, she regularly presented musical programs at The Arbors at Carriage Club of Charlotte, a large assisted living facility. Cicely noticed that the residents always seemed to responded to music. It seemed to open a little window into their memories, so she began to plan her programs more around music than spoken messages. In addition, she regularly served communion to The Arbors’ residents.

For many years, Cicely served as the chaplain for the monthly Metropolitan Music Ministries Prayer Luncheon. Members of MMM and friends meet regularly for lunch, a devotional, and a collective prayer to remember friends, loved ones, and others in need. Cicely’s devotions were examples of thoughtful research, witness to her faith, and prayer. If Cicely could not be present for the monthly luncheon, her daughter Angela stepped in and presented equally lovingly thought out devotions.

Cicely is a member of St. Martin’s Episcopal Church where she was active in the outreach programs of the church. To honor her on her 90th birthday, church members, family, and friends donated enough money to MMM in her honor to fund a one-time scholarship in music therapy, something Cicely strongly supports. On August 1, 2018, Cicely celebrated her 98th birthday, and it is obvious that she continues to exemplify the purpose of MMM as she keeps up with MMM’s service to the community.

Faithful volunteers like Cicely Forde help MMM meet its purpose “to provide live musical performances and devotional services to community citizens who are most likely to be the ‘forgotten ones’. Thank you, Cicely, for caring for the residents of your community and for bringing music into the lives of people who may no longer be able to attend church services at regularly scheduled times. Indeed, she is an MMM “volunteer extraordinaire.”

MMM Prayer Luncheon
Second Thursday of each month
12-1 PM
St. John’s Episcopal Church
1623 Carmel Road

Annual Service Directors



TIMOTHY PAUL HILL has served as Minister of Music at Providence Baptist Church (Charlotte) since August, 2014. He has served with many congregations in the upstate of South Carolina since 1997. Timothy earned a BA in Music Education from Anderson College in 1999. and a Master of Worship Studies degree from the Robert E. Webber Institute for Worship Studies.



KATHY C. WHITE is the Music Ministry Associate/Organist at Matthews United Methodist Church. She directs the Adult Handbell Choir and the Senior Adult Community Choir, “The Melody Makers” and currently serves as organist for traditional services. She received degrees at Virginia Commonwealth University in Sacred Music, and a Masters of Divinity at Candler School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta, Georgia. An ordained Deacon in the United Methodist Church, she has also studied at the Royal School of Church Music in England.



FRANK MCGINNIS JR., is thrilled to serve as Director of Music and Arts at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. A native of Pensacola, Florida, he has gained wide-ranging experience within sacred music, holding church positions as pianist, organist, and music director. He earned a Master of Arts degree in Music from Florida State University and Bachelor degrees in Music and Psychology from Oakwood University.



ALAN SLEDGE is the Director of Music at First Presbyterian Church in Mooresville, NC. He oversees children’s and adult choirs, handbell choirs, and the First Praise band. His wife and three children are an integral part of the music life at FPC. This fall marks the beginning of his twenty-second year.



DR. JEREMY MIMS, Director of the Winthrop University Chorale is Director of Choral Activities at Winthrop. We are also pleased that he is Guest Director for the Choir of Choral Directors for our annual service.

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In Remembrance –Eugenia Y. Warner

November 14, 1931 –May 17, 2018

For many years, Eugenia was a member of the Board of Directors of Metropolitan Music Ministries, where she served in many capacities that included conducting the combined choirs for the ministry's Annual Service and organizing volunteers. Eugenia gave many hours to the ministry's work along with her husband, Bruce and daughter, Elaine Levi. They sang concerts for the community's elderly who resided at The Methodist Home (now Aldersgate) and the Wesley Nursing Center (now Asbury). She served in the greater music community as Executive Secretary for the Charlotte Choral Society and later as Business Manager for the Oratorio Singers for a number of years. Eugenia also developed the first music ministry at St. Stephen United Methodist Church in Charlotte, serving there for 27 years. We deeply appreciate all the hours of her service and dedication to Metropolitan Music Ministries and to others. You will be missed Eugenia.

Your contribution to Metropolitan Music Ministries will place you in one of the following levels of support. Contributions are cumulative within each calendar year.

Friend: \$1-24 Sustainer: \$50-99
Supporter: \$24-49 Benefactor: \$100-499
Patron: \$500 and above

General Fund \$ _____ Scholarship \$ _____

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