



Grace Notes

A Publication of *Metropolitan Music Ministries, Inc.* ✦ MAY, 2015

From the President's Desk

The vegetable garden, small and simple, is planted. Each of the three tomato plants has its own big pot, and the five sweet peppers are safely nestled in large planter boxes. After giving them the appropriate amount of fertilizer, garden soil, and compost, all I have to do is water and wait. Actually, gardening, even in pots, isn't quite that simple, but it can be rewarding.



I don't have a lot of experience planting and growing a large garden, but I come from a long line of gardeners. Both sets of grandparents always planted big gardens. After living through the Great Depression, they always relied on the produce from the garden to reduce their grocery bills. My parents were children during the Great Depression, and as adults they followed their parents' examples by always planting a garden. In the early years, the garden provided our family with fresh vegetables during the summer, and in the winter we enjoyed green beans, tomatoes, and black-eyed peas that surpassed any vegetables in cans from the grocery store. In later years, my parents enjoyed sharing their harvest with neighbors and friends. The garden seemed to grow bigger and bigger every year allowing them to give away as much as they "put up." The ability to share the bounty was the reward for the hours spent preparing the soil, planting, and weeding.

The garden could serve as a metaphor for MMM and its work in the community. Our volunteers tend individuals' spiritual needs through programs and music. Often, as with our gardens, they are pleasantly surprised by the harvest! There are hugs, kisses, kind words, and tears that truly warm their hearts. MMM nurtures our scholarship winners through cards, calls, and opportunities to perform at the MMM Annual Service each fall. The reward for caring for these talented college students is the joy of seeing them grow into dedicated church musicians. No matter how small or great the contribution of our MMM Board members and volunteers, their efforts are always rewarded. We tend our gardens, and the reward is fresh home-grown vegetables; we tend our friends in need and our scholarship winners, and the reward is the intangible joy of helping others that is planted in our hearts.

Diann
Diann P. Back, PhD, President

From the Former Chairman of the Board

God's Providence

"He that keepeth thee will not slumber." Psalm 121:3b

Over the years people of faith have found comfort in this marvelous psalm. Our life circumstances often validate the Biblical promise that God cares for His own. My recent experience on Sunday, March 22, still leaves me stunned and deeply thankful.



The setting: a peaceful late afternoon. I had stretched out on a couch reading in our family room. This is a large area, with vaulted ceiling, a favorite gathering place for family and friends. My house guests had left the house to visit a nephew nearby.

(When we built this home in 1987, the carpenters worked hard to make their mill work special. In this room they used oak, cherry, birch, and white pine to work their "wonders." Their crowning work of art was a heavy wooden beam stretching across the center ridge of the ceiling.)

I was startled to hear a loud noise like a gun shot, and a few seconds later a thunderous roar. In horror I watched as the beam pulled away from the ceiling and crashed to the floor. One end leaned against the second floor staircase landing. It passed over the fireplace mantle and several small tables that held lamps and delicate breakable treasurers. The beam itself was damaged; the brass Casablanca fan was destroyed; the attached ceiling light smashed into many slivers of glass. However, I was not touched as my couch was a few feet away from the crash site. Nothing else was broken! Workmen estimated the weight of the beam to be around 150 pounds, with the ceiling fan around 80. Many times each day I walked under that beam, and also, from time to time, many others did also. Little did we realize the terrible danger that threatened.

Now a new beam has been securely installed, but no words can express my gratitude for God's perfect timing and deliverance on that day.

"The Lord shall preserve thy going out and thy coming in from this time forth and even for evermore." Psalm 121:8.

Grace and peace,
Martha Iley

2015 Church Music Scholarships Awarded

Metropolitan Music Ministries continues its nineteen-year tradition of supporting deserving undergraduate or graduate students pursuing degrees or having an interest in church music. The ministry sent scholarship applications to colleges in North and South Carolina. Consequently, students competed for Church Music Scholarships on March 21 at St. John's Baptist church. Additionally, much appreciation goes to the scholarship committee members Nancy Armstrong, Diann Back, Lisa Honeycutt (co-chair), Carole Whittington, Ginger Wyrick (co-chair) who assisted with auditions.

The Cheryl Elise Iley Lindstrom Church Music Scholarship in Piano was awarded to Jenna Ferrazzo, a sophomore at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, a student of Dr. Dylan Savage, and daughter of Laura Ferrazzo of Weddington, NC. Jenna delights in sharing her musical gifts with church congregations, choirs and nursing home residents.



She also accompanies events such as weddings, memorial services and holiday pageants. She currently serves as

accompanist for Prosperity Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, NC and Matthews Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Matthews, NC. The MMM judges were Dr. Peter Leo and Andrew Pester.

The Martha Strawn Iley Church Music Scholarship in Voice was awarded to Valencia Callens a graduate student at the University of South Carolina, student of Janet Hopkins, and daughter of James and Barbara Callens of Columbia, SC. Valencia is a member



of Columbia Church of Christ in Columbia, SC and volunteers with their worship team. Valencia writes in her essay, "...I am a part of its worship team not as a paid musician, but as a disciple who loves God..." The MMM judges were Dr. Leo and Mr. Pester.

All the winners have been invited to participate in the Annual Celebration of Music in Worship Service on September 27, 2015. We look forward to having these talented and accomplished musicians join us in the fall.

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Third Annual DOLCE a Big Success!

"Dolce," MMM's third annual buffet and variety showcase fundraiser, was a big success! The event was held on February 7, 2015, at Providence Baptist Church and featured decadent desserts and savory treats. The variety showcase featured Scott Pacitti, director of improv comedy from Actor's Crib, Inc. as our Master of Ceremonies along with a delightful mix of musical entertainment.

Artistic volunteers included Rick Bean, jazz piano improvisation; Francis Crochet and J. L. McDaniels-Milliken, vocal soloists; the swingin' "Little Big Swing Band" and the dynamic men's quartet "8 Per Cent."

All proceeds from the event benefit MMM's scholarship fund. Donations to the fund may be made at any time.



Manwarren Releases CD

Former MMM Board member Dr. Matthew Manwarren wanted to preserve his work and share it with others and so he has just released a CD titled *Youthful Passion and Fantasy*. Among other compositions, the recording includes Schumann's "Fantasy in C Major, Op. 17" and Brahms' "Sonata No. 3 in F Minor, Op. 5."



Matthew explained that "These two works are pinnacles in the piano repertoire. I have studied and performed them now for nearly twenty years. The recording represents much of my life's work in the last two decades. Studying works of this magnitude is a life-time journey."

The CD was produced by Arlan Harris Productions and recorded at Oktaven Studios in Yonkers, NY. It is available on Amazon, on iTunes, or by emailing Matthew at manwarrenm@winthrop.edu.

Matthew is completing his ninth year at Winthrop University where he teaches both piano and organ to music majors. For thirteen years he was at Erskine College in Due West, SC. While at Erskine he chaired the Department of Music

and held the Caldwell Professorship of Music. Prior to that appointment, he was Professor of Piano at Belmont University in Nashville, TN. Currently Matthew serves as church organist at Myers Park Baptist Church. He holds a B.M. from Texas Tech University, graduating summa cum laude; a M.M. and D. M.A. from the University of Cincinnati College—Conservatory of Music.

Twice Matthew served as president of the South Carolina Music Teachers Association. He is also a member of the Music Teachers National Association. As a member of the American Guild of Organists, he serves as secretary of the Charlotte Chapter Board and is co-chair of the Charlotte Regional AGO convention to be held in July. Matthew has been program chair on two separate occasions for the Charlotte Piano Teachers Forum.

And in his spare time? Matthew enjoys reading, cooking, movies and travel.

MMM is pleased to have had Matthew serve on our Board for a number of years and thank him for sharing his love of music by releasing this CD.

Service Record

Cumulative October 7, 1984—April 30, 2015

Number of Services, Programs, Meetings and Projects:	11,655
Number of Times an Individual Participated in Ministry Work:	35,140
Total Known Audience:	479,618

Chaplain's Circle Prayer Lunch

Meets 2nd Thursday of each month at 12:00 Noon at St. John's Episcopal Church located at 1623 Carmel Road (Room 208). Lunch is provided .

The purpose of the ministry is to meet and pray for individuals, families, groups, churches and our military who are in need of prayer and support for sickness and death that has touched their loved ones.

Below is a list of dates for upcoming lunches:

Thursday, May 14
Thursday, June 11
Thursday, July 9
Thursday, August 13
Thursday, September 10

If you are able to attend please call 704 529-1616 on the Monday prior to luncheon.

If you are not able to attend, please take a moment and pray for those around you.

Howard Willis Stephenson

On March 17, 2015, a stalwart champion of the Christian faith went Home to be with the Lord. Howard Stephenson had a tender heart and a deep capacity for service in the Kingdom.

A native of Kentucky, he attained the rank of Eagle Scout as a youth. He graduated from the University of Kentucky and was a life-long supporter of UK football. His degree from Yale Divinity School amply prepared him for a life-time of ministry involvement.

For years Howard served on the Board of Directors of MMM. During his time as a MMM Chaplain he supervised the monthly Prayer Luncheon at St. John's Episcopal Church and contributed in many different ways to assure the success of this project. To his widow, Annette and his daughter Mary Berkeley and to other family members we express our sympathy for your great loss. Our ministry has also lost a faithful friend and a devoted fellow worker. Howard's life among us with his rich gifts of the spirit will long be remembered.

Do we have your email address?

Go to www.metromusicministries.org, click on "Contact Us," and give us your email address. In the future we hope to offer an electronic version of the newsletter to those who prefer it.

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 \$ _____

Thank you!

May we list your name in our Annual Report? Yes No

I am interested in volunteer opportunities

Any gift to Metropolitan Ministries, Inc., may be made in Honor or Memory of Family or Friends.

ENCLOSED IS MY GIFT FOR \$ _____

Name _____
 Address _____
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Mail to:

Metropolitan Music Ministries
PO Box 12736 ✉ Charlotte, NC ✉ 28220-2736

New Board Members

MMM welcomes two new Board members: Carol Burnett and Richard Spangler.



Carol hails from Durham. She is married to Ted and they have Matt and Laura and six grandchildren. Carol graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with an undergraduate degree in Music and from UNC-Greensboro with a Master's Degree in Choral Conducting. She has also completed doctoral course work at the University of Cincinnati.

Carol is a retired church musician, organist and choral conductor who enjoys reading, traveling and supporting the Tarheels.

Richard Spangler was born in Germany. He is married to Mary and has two daughters, Victoria and Katherine. He is a graduate of N.C. State University and works for Duke Energy as an electrical engineer. Richard attends Assurance United Methodist Church. He enjoys the trumpet and is an amateur ham radio operator.



Isaiah 65:14
 "...my servants sing for joy of heart."



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