



# Grace Notes

*A Publication of Metropolitan Music Ministries, Inc. • SEPTEMBER, 2014*

G. Mitchell Hagler, Editor

## *From the President's Desk*



*Diann Back*

There's an old proverb that says, "The best things in life are free." Certainly, those words describe the Twenty-ninth MMM Annual Celebration of Music in Worship (The Annual Service) scheduled for Sunday, September 28 at 6 PM at Providence Baptist Church. Presented each year as a gift to the community for its continued support for MMM and its projects, this program presents the community's best church choirs and musicians in a wonderful service of music and praise.

Mother Teresa said, "There are many people who can do big things, but there are very few people who will do the small things". This quote applies to the dedicated MMM members who work behind the scenes on the day of the Annual Service by assisting the choirs, preparing a supper for the volunteer vocalists and musicians, and organizing a reception for guests and performers following the Annual Service. With tremendous cooperation, the little things associated with the social aspects of the Annual Service are completed with quiet efficiency and courtesy.

Someone once said, "The end of one thing is only the beginning of another." This quote aptly describes the feeling that MMM members share at the end of each Annual Service. While they remember the beauty of the music and the promise of the scriptures, they know that within a few weeks, planning for the next year's Annual Service begins. A team of dedicated MMM members start working diligently through numerous details to organize the next Annual Service.

Please join me at this year's MMM Annual Celebration of Music in Worship. You'll find that, indeed, some of "the best things in life are free" and all the more meaningful when they come to us from hearts of MMM volunteers, vocalists, and musicians.

Sincerely,

*Diann P. Back*

President

### **Need Your Email**

If you haven't checked out our new updated website, please go to [www.metromusicministries.org](http://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*



*Martha Iley*

### **Keep on Singing**

The 45 seniors at the Adult Day Care were singing their hearts out! The monthly Sing-along was supposed to stop at 11:00 so the staff could get everything organized for lunch. When I glanced at my watch, I realized that we had gone 15 minutes overtime. As I called attention to the time, a gentleman called out, "Let's skip lunch and keep on singing!"

Singing is one of the delightful activities that we enjoy in our MMM Outreach. Although many of us cannot sing as well as we could when we were younger (myself included), our modest efforts bring much joy.

The emphasis on congregational singing, along with choral anthems and solos, is an important element each year in our Annual Service. If you could join this year on September 28, we would welcome your voice to blend in with the voices of 6 choirs, scholarship winners, and the faithful from many churches.

Through the ages, communities of believers have experienced the power of hymnody to enrich worship. Singing songs of different ages and cultures offer opportunities to affirm and proclaim our faith. Beloved hymns always seem new when "the children of grace" sing with devotion and conviction. One of the newest hymnals used the following words at the end of the book:

We lift our voices in a song of praise to you, Lord,  
knowing that the very gift of song comes from you,  
knowing that without song, life would lose its luster,  
knowing that one day our song will have no end.  
Alleluia! Amen!

The man at the day care had the right idea. Blessings are bound to come if we Keep on Singing.

Grace and Peace,

*Martha Iley*

### **SERVICE RECORD**

**Cumulative October 7, 1984—August 31, 2014**

Number of Services, Programs, Meetings, and Projects:

**11,513**

Number of Times an Individual Participated in Ministry

Work:

**34,374**

Total Known Audience:

**470,037**

# Meet the Choir Directors for the Annual Service



**DeVona Boyd**

## DeVona Jaworski Boyd

DeVona Jaworski Boyd, affectionately known as D.J., is a native of Whitmire, South Carolina. As God called him at an early age into the ministry of music, he attributes all of his success and praises to God. He started playing piano at the age of five, later taking lessons and being involved in the school marching and symphonic band programs.

Boyd graduated from Winthrop University with a Bachelor of Arts in Music. After college, he served for seven years as the Assistant Director of Music and Arts at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte. He is a member of the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association of Negro Musicians. He is an avid supporter of the Calvin Institute of Worship, The Hampton Minister's Conference and Organist Guild, and The Gospel Music Workshop of America. He is currently working on his Master's Degree in Worship and Arts at Liberty University.

He currently serves as the Minister of Worship at the St Luke Missionary Baptist Church in Charlotte. The choirs have participated in the Verizon How Sweet the Sound Choir Competition and as the opening group for the Ryan White AIDS Project.

DJ enjoys spending time with family and friends when not busy with musical activities. He is a proud foster parent and is grateful for the opportunity along with his partner Steven in providing care for youth. DJ also is the owner of his own business, DeJaBo Designs, where he is an interior decorator and custom bowtie designer (dejaboties.com).

MMM applauds D. J. Boyd and welcomes St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church.



**Dr. Robert Frazier**

## Dr. Robert E. Frazier

Our guest conductor for the Choir of Choral Directors is Dr. Robert E. Frazier, Director of Music and the Arts at Centenary United Methodist Church, Winston-Salem.

A native of Radford, Virginia, Dr. Frazier has also served Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte and First Presbyterian Church in York, PA.

His education is extensive: BA in Piano Performance, East Tennessee State University; MM in Organ Performance and Church Music, Indiana University; MM in Choral Conducting, Eastman School of Music; and DMA in Organ Performance, Eastman School of Music.

As a patron of community musical organizations, Dr. Frazier is on the conducting staff of the Charlotte Symphony as assistant conductor and accompanist of the Oratorio Singers. He is a member of the Chorister's Guild, Presbyterian Association of Musicians, Chorus America, and American Guild of Organists, to name a few.

He has been organist at many conferences in the U.S. and abroad. In addition he composed "Prayer of Unity" and was guest conductor for the premiere in Debrecen, Hungary.

MMM thanks Dr. Frazier for contributing his talent to our Annual Service.



**Timothy Hill**

## Timothy Hill

Timothy Hill has just barely settled in as Minister of Music at Providence Baptist Church with his first service on August 17. He was born in Greenville, SC and educated at Anderson University with a BA in Music Education. He is currently pursuing a Master of Worship Studies at the Institute of Worship Studies.

Hill has also served Boulevard Baptist Church, Central Presbyterian Church, Greater Anderson Musical Arts Consortium Youth Chorus, and Westside High School, all in Anderson, SC. He has been honored as Teacher of the Year at Westside High School and Teacher of the Year for the Anderson School District 5. MMM

welcomes Timothy Hill to Providence and to Charlotte.

He is reluctant to name a favorite sacred composer; however he has conducted major works including Vivaldi's "Gloria," Handel's "Messiah," "Dubois's "The Last Seven Words of Christ," in addition to numerous other choral works.

His theater resume is also impressive, having played lead roles with his baritone voice in Grease, Pirates of Penzance, and Fiddler on the Roof, just to name a few. Hill's directing hits include Honk!, The Wife of Bath's Tale.

Children of Eden, and others.

When not singing, acting or conducting, this multi-talented man loves golf, travel, and technology. He plays guitar and piano and "just enough on other instruments to be dangerous.



**Joseph Judge**

## Joseph Judge

Joseph Judge serves as Director of Choral and Vocal Music and Assistant Professor of music at Pfeiffer University. He has sung with Opera Carolina, The Charlotte Symphony, The Charlotte Philharmonic, Colorado Lyric Opera, and Colorado Lyric Theater Festival, The Boulder Philharmonic, The Colorado Music Festival Orchestra, and The Union Symphony.

Prior to his appointment at Pfeiffer, Judge served for nearly a decade as Director of Music and Worship Arts Ministries at Matthews United Methodist Church. Judge received a B.A. from Pfeiffer University and his M.M. from the University of Colorado.

An active member of the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS) and a respected teacher, Judge maintains a private voice studio in Charlotte. He has taught for the University of Kentucky at Lexington and serves as Master Clinician in the Charlotte Metropolitan area, presenting master classes in vocal technique, vocal diction and interpretation. His students perform in concerts, operas and musical theater productions throughout the United States and abroad.

The Pfeiffer Choir has received acclaim for its rich tonal sonorities, its adaptability and flexibility in performing varied styles of choral works and its precise musicianship. The choir has performed at numerous conferences and conventions. The Concert Choir tours frequently throughout the United States and abroad.

MMM welcomes Joseph Judge and the strong voices of the Pfeiffer Choir.



**Regina Love**

## Regina Graham Love

For one year shy of a quarter of a century, Regina Love has been Director of Music/Organist at Avondale Presbyterian Church. She brings her choir to the MMM Annual Service for the sixth time. Both of these are extraordinary achievements.

A native of Lynchburg, Virginia, she holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Converse College with a minor in Organ.

Her career spans more than 35 years in church music, teaching piano, teaching voice, and accompanying. In addition to Avondale Presbyterian, Regina is principal accompanist for the

Charlotte Children's Choir, the South Mecklenburg High School performing choirs, and also operates Graham Studios as instructor/performer.

Regina has been active in interim choral director positions and regularly serves as piano contest adjudicator. She is a member of the American Guild of Organists, the American Choral Director's Association, the Charlotte Piano Teachers Forum, and the Charlotte Music Club.

MMM is pleased to have Regina Love to join us once again for this special service of sacred music.



**Robert Pritchard**

## Robert Pritchard

A native of Beckley, West Virginia, Robert Pritchard has served Dilworth United Methodist Church for 16 years as Director of Music. He has also held positions at Myers Park Baptist Church and Central United Methodist Church in Charlotte and Blackwater United Methodist Church in Baton Rouge.

Robert earned a Bachelor of Music at Mars Hill College and Master of Music at Louisiana State University. He has held teaching positions from middle school through college level and has been active as a singer, conductor, clinician, adjudicator, and church musician for more than 30 years.

His contributions to the Charlotte musical community include Oratorio Singers, Oratorio Chamber Choir, and as soloist with the Charlotte Symphony. His choirs have appeared at the Piccolo Spoleto Festival for the past nine years.

A favorite composer? "No single favorite, but J.S. Bach if I must name one."

MMM is pleased to have the Dilworth Choir under the direction of Robert Pritchard.

**METROPOLITAN MUSIC MINISTRIES, INC.**  
*cordially invites you to the*  
**Twenty-ninth Annual Celebration of Music in Worship**  
*A Service of Sacred Music*

**Sunday, September 28, 2014– 6:00 pm**

**Providence Baptist Church**  
**4921 Randolph Road**  
**Charlotte, North Carolina**

David M. Hines, Dr. Martha S. Iley, Ginger G. Wyrick, *directors*  
Diann Clark, *organist*  
Dr. Luther I. Wade, *reader*  
*Brass Quartet:* Richard Spangler, Eric Knight, Rich Austin, Patti Lutz,  
Kent E. Love, *timpani,*

*Choirs and Directors*

Avondale Presbyterian Church Choir.....Regina Graham Love  
Dilworth United Methodist Church Choir.....Robert Pritchard  
Pfeiffer University Concert Choir.....Joseph D. Judge  
Providence Baptist Church Sanctuary Choir.....Rev. Timothy P. Hill  
St. Luke Missionary Baptist Church Choir.....D. J. Boyd  
Choir of Choral Directors, with guest Conductor.....Dr. Robert Frazier

*Accompanists*

Christopher Bryant, Diann Clark, Charlotte Judge, Regina Graham Love,  
Dr. Larry Stratemeyer, Dr. Gregory Thompson, Ginger Wyrick

*Clergy and Lay Participants*

Dr. Diann P. Back.....*President*, Metropolitan Music Ministries  
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The Rev. Mr. John C. Fitzgerald.....*Senior Pastor*, Providence United Methodist Church

*Participating 2014 MMM Church Music Scholarship Winners*

Jordan Prescott, *organist*, Richard Van Sciver Scholarship  
Noel Reese, *mezzo soprano*, Martha Strawn Iley Scholarship  
Ran Sun, *pianist*, Cheryl Iley Lindstrom Scholarship  
Joshua Wald, *baritone*, Patricia Corbett McKenzie Scholarship

Participating 2014 Music Therapy Scholarship Winner

Hailey Kater, Cicely Evelyn Forde Scholarship

*Reception following the service – All are welcome*

For more information, visit MMM's website at [www.metromusicministries.org](http://www.metromusicministries.org)  
Or call 704-529-1616, MMM Office

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*Front Row: Marian Purcell, Taffy Anderson, Shirley Green  
Back Row: Rachel Porter, Kitty Hughes, Carole Whittington, Lisa Honeycutt*

## Unexpected Friends

By Lisa Honeycutt

“With some unexpected friends never asking where I've been; just a hand of mercy and words of love call me back again. Oh, it feels like home with unexpected friends.”

*Words and Music by Greg Nelson and Bob Farrell.*

These enigmatic lyrics penned by Nelson and Farrell describe the lovely senior adults who reside at Charlotte area retirement communities. For the past eight years I have had the privilege to share energetic musical programs with these “friends.” I am often joined by fellow singers Carole Whittington and Kitty Hughes and pianists Nancy Lucas and Carolyn Nelson. Our participation in this mission of Metropolitan Music Ministries (MMM) has been a blessing for us and for the people we serve.

Moreover, MMM's outreach musical programs reside in the heart of our ministry. And the friends we have made reside in our hearts. These senior friends greet us with cheery hellos, smiles and voices that lift our spirits. Our revival of familiar hymn tunes recalls a cherished chapter in our lives. As a result, for sixty precious minutes we find ourselves transported: oblivious to our aches and pains, our boredom and our melancholy. This scenario exemplifies how the Lord has directed our ministry and opened a musical gateway for unexpected friendships.

Perhaps lyricists Nelson and Farrell envisioned a different manifestation of unexpected friends. Additional lyrics in the song described, “friends I may never see again.” The composers may have been describing ubiquitous guardian angels. Whatever the case may be, our unexpected friends live, sing and worship among us and our shared love makes us feel at home.



*Martha Iley shown here during MMM's early beginnings.*

## A Friend at Caldwell

MMM has had a long and strong relationship with Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church, East Fifth Street, Charlotte. Caldwell is an historic urban church established in 1912. In the last eight years it has experienced a rebirth and is growing.

Martha Iley recalls that she became involved when she and her husband the late Bryce Iley were newlyweds. The post WWII apartment boom had not begun, and apartments were difficult to find. For about a year they lived in a little cottage back of Miss Ruby Medlock's Boarding House. It was located on the site where Hawthorne Nursing Center was built later

Martha says that “Miss Ruby looked after all of us like a genial Mother Hen, keeping her pet ducks in the back yard, tending a prolific flower garden, and serving wonderful meals in her spacious dining room.”

As the choral teacher at Alexander Graham Junior High School, Martha often needed a piano and the gracious people at Caldwell let her come any time to practice on their piano. At the time, Caldwell was a big central city church, with many prominent families like the Belks attending.

In 1984 when Metropolitan Music Ministries started, the organization needed a headquarters. Pastor Jim Moseley offered space adjoining Caldwell's Pioneer Chapel and the ministry used this space for several years. Church members were welcoming, even letting MMM borrow some church furniture. The church secretary, Wilhelmina Flowers became interested in MMM and became an active Board member for the rest of her life. MMM's first Annual Service was held at Memorial. Later, the headquarters was moved to treasurer Mac Willet's house.

Recently MMM needed a place to store its music library and again Memorial came to the rescue. Pastor John Cleghorn and Director of Music Anne Hunter Eidson are working on an arrangement to move the library.

MMM is grateful to have a friend such as Caldwell Memorial Presbyterian Church.

## “I Sing the Mighty Power of God”

One of the hymns that we will sing together at the Annual Service is the powerful “I Sing the Mighty Power of God.” It was originally included in a hymnal written for children, where it was entitled “Praise for Creation and Providence.” Isaac Watts loved children. In 1715 he published *Divine and Moral Songs for Children*, in the preface of which he wrote, “Children of high and low degree, of the Church of England or Dissenters, baptized in infancy or not, may all join together in these songs. And as I have endeavored to sink the language to the level of a child's understanding . . . to profit all, if possible, and offend none.”

At the time of the Reformation, Martin Luther instructed his followers to sing hymns. However, the great reformer John Calvin only allowed the singing of versified, or paraphrased, Scripture. By Watt's time, the psalm singing had become dull and lifeless. When 19 year old Isaac complained to his father about this, his father challenged him to write something better. Watts then proceeded to write hundreds of hymns.

In spite of being called “flights of fancy” in his time, and causing dissention in churches, Watts' hymns are still sung and loved today. Instead of paraphrasing Scripture, “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” compiles imagery from multiple passages: the story of Creation, [Genesis 1](#); [Psalm 19:1-3](#); [Psalm 95:3-6](#), the creation hymn, [Psalm 104](#), and [Jeremiah 10:12-13](#).

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



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