

SYMPHONY NEWSLETTER

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY CHOIR

DECEMBER 2007

Lanny Allen
Music Minister

Lines from Lanny



It's Christmas time, and thank the Lord, A LIGHT STILL SHINES!

“Who is he in yonder stall at those feet the shepherds fall? ‘Tis the Lord, O wondrous story! ‘Tis the Lord, the King of glory;”

There is no busier time for our Sanctuary choir than Christmas. Preparation for each worship event adds to the rush of the season. Garlands, Christmas trees, bows, poinsettias become nothing more than props that must be quickly and properly placed. Costumes, robes, special uniforms help bring us a special feeling as we present each song or drama of the season. Candles and candy, parties and presents, a year's dose of Christmas carols in the space of a few short weeks; it's a warm and mostly happy kind of chaos. Special lighting, seating, narrations, solos and dead microphones compete with candles and bows for our time and creativity. And, oh yes, in the manger - a ceramic baby this year or will it be a real baby? Who is that in yonder stall?

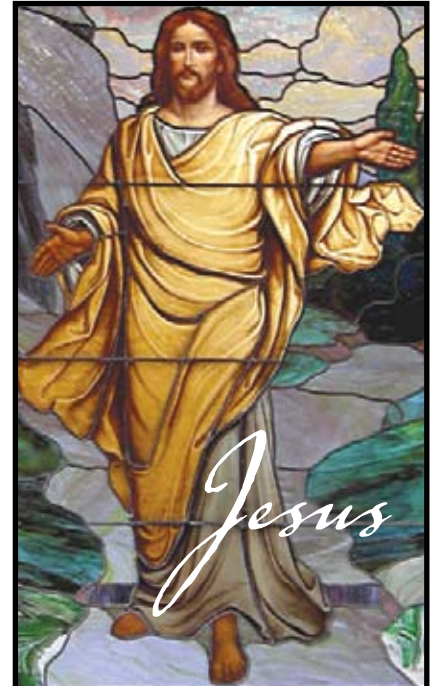
The smallest participant in the nativity scene, lying in the roughest of the props, is the center of the whole frenzied celebration. Even in the center, the Christ child can be ignored. Musicians, don't let this happen to you or to our music. Don't let it happen to our church. Keep asking who is in the manger. Ask, too, who is in the music. If the Christmas music is just a part of your seasonal pressure, the question is all the more important in the midst of the greater rush.

There is a baby in the center of it all. The almighty God lies helpless as a baby because of God's love for us. If Mary doesn't care for him, he'll be run over by the Bethlehem crowd. Just like Mary, we must care for Jesus in the midst of the rush or he'll be run over or passed by. There's a baby in yonder stall, reminding us that we must become as children in order to enter the kingdom. Who is that in yonder stall? It is Jesus, reminding us that Christ is to be found among the poor and powerless. There's a baby in yonder stall reminding us of the power of humility; reminding us of the servant heart of our God.

Rehearsing the soul for this season will mean listening to the baby's cry in the Gospels and in your heart intently enough to be able to recognize it in the midst of all the holiday noise. The baby's cry is the birth of salvation. It is light breaking into darkness. Thank God, His light still shines to reach and save us!

- P R A Y E R

“Dear God, bring your peace to our hearts this Christmas. Renew the warmth of the season in our lives. Use us as we present “A Light Still Shines” to proclaim your message of salvation with passion and compassion to all who will listen. In Jesus' name. Amen.” ~



Happy Birthday

Also celebrating birthdays in December...

- | | |
|----|----------------|
| 2 | Eileene Moss |
| | Hugh Wilson |
| 4 | Tommy Needham |
| 13 | June Bearden |
| 14 | David Wiseman |
| 27 | Rosalind Bates |
| 28 | Dan Shaeffer |
| 29 | Andrea Burke |

WELCOME
New Member (Returnee)
Gwen Seales - Alpha Alto



FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AMARILLO
CHRISTMAS 2007

A Light Still Shines

Jesus said, "The am the Light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness,
but will have the Light of life." John 8:12 (NIV)
Jesus, the Light of the world...a Light still shines!

presented by the
Sanctuary Choir and Orchestra

Sunday, December 16
at 6:30 p.m.

Orchestra Rehearsal
Monday, December 10, 7-10 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
Wednesday, December 12, 7-9:30 p.m.

Dress Rehearsal
for choir and orchestra is
Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 p.m.

(Meal following rehearsal for choir and orchestra in Fellowship Hall.)

Exaltation Youth Choir
Sunday, December 16, 8:30 & 11:00 a.m. services



Mike Wright
President 2007

Well, another year is nearly over and we find ourselves sometimes wondering where the time goes. While this may seem distressing to some, please take some time during this time of year to reflect on the true meaning of the season of Christmas. It is so easy to get caught up in the materialism that seems to be so important to some. Remember that the only real reason for celebration is the birth of our beloved Christ.

Also, I would like to thank all those who have helped so much in all choir activities. Your efforts are noted and greatly appreciated. For those who have served in an Officer's position, thanks so much for your continued dedication. We will have a fresh batch of Officers next year and I look forward to seeing if we can make it an even better year.

In Christ, *Mike*





Terrie Turner

WELCOME TO THE FAMILY

Ever since Dan & I moved back to the Panhandle 33 years ago, I have admired the ministries of First Baptist Amarillo. During our years in the Music Ministry of First Baptist Dumas, I looked forward to times of choir festivals and hearing all the wonderful choirs of all ages from FBC Amarillo. And it was always fun to see and visit with the music leadership at Music Week at Glorieta. We both loved watching the worship services on TV as we got ready for Sunday School on Sunday morning. We felt the worship experiences at FBC would definitely meet our spiritual worship needs. So we knew that when it came time in our lives to move our membership to a church in Amarillo, there was no question and basically no discussion as to which church that would be. About a year ago, God began to show

me that it was time to retire from my position as Coordinator of Gifted Services for Dumas ISD, a job I had held for fifteen years. That retirement made a move to Amarillo to live a possibility. Then as He does, God began to show me through circumstances what was next for my life. And that included becoming Children's Choir Coordinator at FBC Amarillo. What a joy getting back into Children's Choir Ministry has been for me! Lanny, David, and Linda have all been so supportive and helpful, as have all the choir workers. I'm gradually learning the kids and the families (though I did get one man married to the wrong woman as I made phone calls to line up "wreath hangers"!), and every week has brought new joys and new challenges. And singing once again in an accomplished and wonderful adult choir every week has meant so much to me! You guys are an amazing choir!!! I'm so proud and grateful to be a small part of Sanctuary Choir.

So far I haven't gotten to do two of the things that I said were my reasons for retiring from teaching gifted children--- traveling and painting. Then I realized that I have---I have painted room walls in preparing our house to sell, and I've traveled LOTS of miles up and down Highway 287!!! So as soon as God shows us our new house, and we get moved and settled, I plan to do the real thing---paint on canvas not walls, read, and travel to new and old places. Our daughter Alison and her husband Dr. Chris Edwards have recently moved from Washington, DC to Las Vegas (yes, that Las Vegas), so I plan to drive through the desert (good sunsets to paint!) to see them. And our son Shane, an attorney, and his wife Krista who live in Dalhart keep us busy with visits from our two beautiful, brilliant, and fun grandsons, Matthew, seven, and Morgan, almost three.

Though change is sometimes stressful and leaving a home of thirty-plus years is bittersweet, I look forward with anticipation and excitement to this new phase in our lives. Thank you, thank you, Sanctuary Choir and Lanny and David, for all you have done to welcome and support me in the new ministry and experiences God has planned. You are a part of God's fulfillment of one of my favorite scriptures, Jeremiah 29:11

Dan Turner

I wholeheartedly second all the things that Terrie said about our joy in being a part of First Baptist Church, Amarillo.

I was born and raised in Pampa and grew up in the First Baptist Church there. My high school choir director was Hugh Sanders, a man who greatly shaped my life. I attended college at Texas Tech graduating with a BA in history with the intent of being a college history professor. However, God had other things in mind for me, and the next thing I knew I was entering Southwestern Seminary to study music and religious education. After graduation from seminary, I served as a combination Minister of Music and Youth for many years before going straight music. I served the Arnett Benson Baptist Church in Lubbock for 31/2 years while at Tech. After a summer stint at First Baptist Shamrock, I served the rapidly growing First Baptist Church in Saginaw during my time in the Seminary. From Saginaw, I then went to First Baptist Church in Dumas where I served for over 26 years. God was so good and blessed our ministry in Dumas in ways that surpassed even our wildest imagination. For the past 7 years, I have served as the West Texas Church Music Specialist for the Baptist General Convention of Texas. My primary responsibility is to minister to Ministers of Music and to assist churches with their music needs. During this time, I have served as interim Minister of Music at First Baptist Church, Plainview for 9 months; Paramount Baptist Church, Amarillo for 22 months; and Central Baptist Church, Pampa for 2 years. During this time, I also have had the opportunity to supply in many churches and lead in a number of church revivals.

God has richly blessed me with a wonderful wife, my high school sweetheart, and a fine son and daughter, and two of the most joyous grandsons on earth. I am told I have too many hobbies. I love to hunt especially quail hunting with my English Setters, walleye fishing including tournament fishing (5 national Tournaments), history, running (sometimes competitively), and collecting things.

Thanks for letting me sing with you!



BANQUET 2007



SANCTUARY CHOIR
King & Queen
MARIAN & SAX MURDOCK



SANCTUARY CHOIR
Sweetheart
2007
LA FAUN WARD



FAITHFUL SERVANT
Appreciation
ROSE LIVINGSTON



SPECIAL THANKS TO KRISTI BOWNS AND ALL THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE SUCCESS OF THE BANQUET





FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF AMARILLO
CHRISTMAS 2007

Christmas Concert

presented by the
David Lowe, Organist

Friday, December 21
at 12:10 - 12:45 p.m.



CALENDAR

DECEMBER 2007

- 2-** Cherub & Music Choirs - 6:30pm
"The Symbols of Christmas"
- 9 -** Young Musicians Choir - 6:30pm
"The Mystery of the Manger"
- 12 -** Choir Rehearsal 7:00-9:30pm
- 16 -** A.M. Service
Exaltation Choir
at 8:30 & 11:00
P.M. Service
Sanctuary Choir &
Orchestra Rehearsal @ 4:00pm
Presentation at 6:30 p.m.
- 19 -** Round the Table Carol Sing
5:00pm Fellowship Hall
- 21 -** David Lowe, Organist
Christmas Concert
at 12:10-12:45 p.m.
Sanctuary
- 24 -** Christmas Eve Service
6:00pm
- 26 -** No Choirs

Happy 2008!

JANUARY 2008

7:00 pm Sanctuary Choir
Rehearsals
Wednesdays 2, 9, 16, 23 & 29