



Lanny Allen
Music Minister

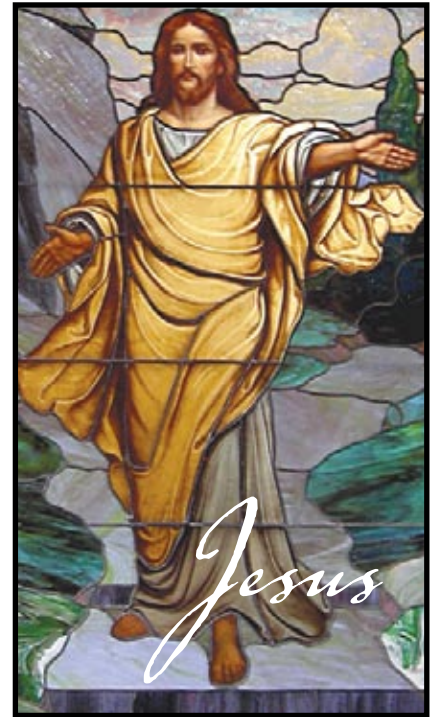
Lines from Lanny



I first heard of and met Lynn Garrett when he was serving as minister of music at the First Baptist Church of Seminole just 41 miles from where I was serving at the First Baptist Church of Lamesa. I can't remember the exact time but the time frame was 1966-1969. I can't remember if his hair was white then, but I do remember we both were full of a lot more energy! Sometime during one of the

associational music festivals our handbells choir attended Lynn's church. We presented a piece that I had arranged for handbells, 2 flutes, a trumpet and organ. I recently related this event to Lynn. He said he remembered it well. I remember his strong leadership and joyous personality as he led the evenings event. Before I had ever heard of a Living Christmas Tree presentation - Lynn Garrett was presenting one there in Seminole. It was for everybody to drive by and experience. That's right! They built their "Tree" outside year after year. Lynn shared with me that one year (as we all know about West Texas) a strong December wind blew so hard that it picked their "Tree" up and turned it around!!! What a great effect and surprise for the audience, the choir and director! Each year many people came to know the Lord as a result of this witness through the telling of the Christmas story. This has been true of Lynn's heart intent for music ministry. I recently received from him 2 CD's that were burned from records he had made. He used these in his many revivals and evangelist opportunities. These songs of faith are such a blessing to hear as you listen to Lynn's sensitive and robust voice interpret each one. After leaving Lamesa for FBC San Antonio - I must admit that I lost track of Lynn until our time together here at FBC Amarillo. I love this servant of God. I like him a lot as a friend and respect him as a mentor for my life. He's shared his heart about many things and taught me a lot! Hearing him tell all the stories of his life experiences as a minister has been a special treat and joy. It has been a special privilege and joy to have him participate in Sanctuary Choir through these years together. And speaking of together- singing duets with him has always been a thrill. I really have to hang on to the pulpit to match his strong and marvelous baritone/tenor voice. When Lynn became our minister to Senior Adults, it was a no-brainer that he should direct our Heritage Singers. What a blessing for our entire church! Under Lynn's leadership and inspiration - this group has grown, excelled and been constant in its music witness and ministries. These folk love each other and they love their leader. They have responded joyfully and let me say, playfully to Lynn's leading. Sounds of strong laughter and joy have always been present in their rehearsals. It's been apparent that Lynn dearly loves our Heritage Singers and they love him right back!

As Lynn and LaVerne move to Houston to be closer to their children - I wish for them continuing health, strength and joy as they witness to each one they come in contact with of who they are in Christ. We all will sorely miss them. They have made a huge difference in our staff, church family and around this world for the sake of the gospel and our Lord, Jesus Christ. **Thank You Lord, for Lynn and LaVerne Garrett. Thank You for the privilege of having served side by side with them.**





Mike Wright

President 2007

Happy New Year!

Another year has come and gone. As we look forward to what 2008 has to offer, I would ask that everyone take a moment and consider what you can do to make our ministry even better than it already is. While the coming year will always bring change, our goal needs to stay focused on spreading the good word. We can all do our part by devoting ourselves to make rehearsals, Sunday services and special events. We have so much talent in our choir, both in membership and leadership, that it would be a shame not to use that talent to let others know our love of Christ. It is truly a worthy ministry and I look forward to being an active part of it with you during this coming year.

During our past couple of rehearsals we have been introduced to a new series of music that looks to be very powerful. While final plans on when it will be sung have not been determined, it looks to be a truly wonderful work that will be a lot of fun to sing.

As always, please let me know your thoughts as to how we can enjoy yet another year of fellowship and worship.

In Christ,

Mike

Lynn and LaVerne have done great things for me since I joined FBC. I want to wish them God's blessing as they continue in His work. ***Theda Booker***

Lynn and LaVerne, I'm going to miss the sweet and happy spirit that you both gave to First Baptist Church. We are most fortunate to have had you "in the family."

Linda Brian

Lynn was one of the first people I got well acquainted with when I joined FBC. He needed a pianist to help him with the services he was conducting at Independence Village and I volunteered. His spontaneity was great fun. I never knew what we were going to sing until we got there and then he'd say, "Let's sing this as a duet. You sing melody. I'll sing harmony." or "We'll sing a few hymns and then you do a solo." At first, I was very nervous but grew to look forward to the services and the fun we had serving others. Lynn and Laverne, we'll all miss you.

Kay Anderson Mote

Lynn's infectious laughter and kindness has been a blessing to so many at First Baptist. He and LaVerne give so much of themselves graciously. We can only hope to learn to be the kind of Christians that shine the love of God in their very being. I have enjoyed singing with Lynn and getting to know them both. Your presence will be missed. Thanks for everything.

Cathleen, Alissa & the Tyson's

Lynn had been our music minister at another church and when we came to "hide" at First Baptist he gave us about 3 months and then one Sunday evening he dragged us out of the balcony, took us to Lanny and told him to get us some music for the Living Christmas Tree. Lanny told him there wasn't enough time because it was already Thanksgiving. Lynn told him we could do it and we've been doing it ever since. Lynn and LaVerne are very dear to us and we wish them much joy as they move closer to their family. ***Vicki, Vanessa, Sam and all "The Baileys"***

I don't know any stories on Lynn and Laverne, but I taught their precious daughter Hope Elms in the seventh and eighth grade. She was a strong Christian even in her young teenage years. Many years later, I had the privilege of teaching Hope's son Gatlin. He, too, is a living testimony to the Godly upbringing he's had in this fine Christian family. Now, I work with Laverne in the International Ministry, teaching English to immigrants. Laverne has such compassion for hurting and needy people, and Lynn shows the same compassion for the elderly and infirm.

Eileene Moss

Lynn has visited me several times when I was in the hospital, and it's one of the things he does best. You know when he prays over you, God is listening and things are going to be OK. Last time I was in the hospital, he left one of his cards and said I could go to any McDonald's in Amarillo and get a cup of coffee for 49 cents. I don't know if that was true, if he has that much pull or if coffee is regularly 49 cents, but it sounded good!

Also when I would follow Lynn and LaVerne in Sunday School from Extended Session, the preschoolers always seemed happy and engaged. I appreciate that as a preschool teacher.

I've also had the advantage as secretary at South Georgia of working with Lynn in Associational things, revivals and other events. He is always a gentleman and a scholar and I will miss his wit and ministry.

Thanks for your many years of service. We pray for you guys as you go and begin a new ministry in Houston.

We love you. ***Beverly***

My first couple of years in choir, Lynn really helped me feel comfortable. He always had a smile and I really liked Lynn because he knew his tree music about as well as I did (not at all). Anyway, he is a great mentor and fellow tenor. I just hope I have as much hair at his age.

Love ya, Doug Walker

Tom and I have known Lynn and Laverne for a long time. We have played the game 42 with them, gone on several trips with them, have known their children, but mostly Hope, and have enjoyed their gifts and talents in many numerous ways.

Lynn and Laverne have given themselves to so many activities, but mostly our church. We have loved hearing Lynn sing in the choir, sing solos at lots of different church functions, and I've recently enjoyed being under Lynn's directions with the Heritage choir. I'll never forget Lynn continually asking me to join the Heritage choir where years ago, I would tell him that I wasn't old enough.

One evening I saw he and Laverne and he said, "Hello old lady". Of course I knew Lynn was being funny in his usual humorous personality, but had really forgotten that I had once told him I wasn't old enough, so I was surprised he called me an old lady as I think I am about his age.

Therefore, I guess he is getting older also.

Lynn and Laverne are such special, sweet, wonderful, Christian friends. I will miss them so very much. I hope and pray that they will lead a few more trips for us to go on in the future. I really regret that they are leaving FBC and Amarillo, but completely understand their need to be near their children and Laverne's mother. Thanks again, much love and always prayers, and may we continue to hear from them.

Dorothy Caldwell

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Lynn & LaVern Garrett



WE WILL MISS YOU!

I recall a fantastic Sunday lunch with L&L last year. We found ourselves discovering folks we mutually know from Texas Baptist life and Hardin-Simmons. I am sure that Heaven will be spent praising God directly but also fellowshiping with the saints recalling what God has done, how he did it, and through whom. I will always be grateful for that afternoon.

Marcus W. Norris

PHOTOS FROM "A LIGHT STILL SHINES" CHRISTMAS 2007



JANUARY

- 20 Margie Blades
- 21 Darcie Raines
- 22 Marcus Norris
- 24 Linda Chaddick
- 29 Terrie Turner

FEBRUARY

- 1 Sandy King
- Lynn Lankford
- 3 Darl Finkenbinder
- 4 Don Small
- 5 Jimmy Tak
- 6 Janette Kornegay
- 13 Jerry Don Taylor
- 14 Ronnie Nelson
- 19 Randy Sharp
- James Beckham
- 24 Richard Miller
- 25 Laura Hamilton
- 26 Paul Ackerman
- Marcella Hanna
- 27 John Scott



2008 FBC Choir Officers

- President** - Mike Wright
- Membership Vice President** - Krystal Haase
- Ministries Vice President** - Roxy Kelley
- Asst Ministries Vice President** - Beverly Reed
- Social Vice President** - Kristi Bownds
- Asst. Social VP** - Gale Shaeffer
- Publicity Vice President** - Janie Wiseman
- Historian / Website Coordinator** - Cathleen Baldauf
- Secretaries:** *Alpha*-Joe Crowley; *Omega*-Darcie Raines
- Section Leaders:** *Alpha* - Ramona Hutchens, Clarecia Jackson, Jerry Don Taylor, Gary McKinley;
- Omega* - Dorothy Caldwell, Genie Murray, Doug Walker, Bob Hewett
- Librarians:** *Alpha* - Ruth Ann Taylor, Ron Nelson;
- Omega* - Sherry Jensen, Trace Garvey
- Robe Chairmen:** *Alpha* - Gerry Chapman, Marcella Hanna;
- Omega* - Don Small, La Faun Ward
- Seating Chairmen:** *Alpha* - Marcus Norris, Anson Cagle;
- Omega* - Frank Page, Calvin Murray

Thank you to all the choir officers who accepted their responsibilities for 2008. With this being Lanny's last months with our church as Music Minister, we need to particularly be on our toes to support him and the music staff with our prayers and dedication.

<http://digibytedesign.com/CALENDAR.HTML>

CALENDAR

JANUARY 2008

- 6** - Lord's Supper - 6:30 pm
- 9** - Children's Choir Mid-Year Enrollment Emphasis/Party Family Life Center at 5:45 pm
- 16** - Sanctuary Choir Membership Committee Meeting at 6:30 pm Music Suite
- 18 / 19** - BGCT Children's Choir University Workshop, Richardson, TX
- 20** - Reception for Lynn & LaVerne Garrett, 7:30 pm, Fellowship Hall
- 27** - Heritage Singers 6:30 pm Service

FEBRUARY 2008

- 17** - Music Makers & Young Musicians 6:30 pm
- 24** - AABA Children's Choir Festival, 2:00 pm First Baptist Church, Amarillo

