

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

MINISTER of WORSHIP ARTS and ORGANIST | venicepres.org

Venice Presbyterian Church (2014 - 2017) 825 The Rialto, Venice, FL 34285

DIRECTOR of WORSHIP ARTS | firstmethodistmidland.com

First United Methodist Church (2009 - 2012) 300 North Main Street, Midland, TX 79701

DIRECTOR of MUSIC | cbcnyc.org

Calvary Baptist Church (2005 - 2007) 123 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019

DIRECTOR of MUSIC and ORGANIST | umcmadison.org

The United Methodist Church (1995 - 2005) 24 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940

MINISTER of MUSIC and WORSHIP | calvaryefc.com

Calvary Evangelical Free Church (1993 - 1995) 498 White Plains Road, Trumbull, CT 06611

MINISTER of MUSIC and ORGANIST | lfc.org

The Lafayette Federated Church (1988 - 1993) Route 15, Lafayette, NJ 07948

RELATED EXPERIENCE

TEACHER | tcasarasota.com

The Classical Academy (2016 -) 8751 Fruitville Road, Sarasota, FL 34240

DRAFTSMAN | hpfconsultants.com

HPF Consultants, Inc. (2012 - 2013) 3106 North Big Spring Street, Midland, TX 79705

CHURCH MUSIC and WORSHIP ARTS CONSULTANT | glenolsen.org

For Anglican, Baptist, Disciples of Christ, Evangelical Free and Methodist Churches (2007 -)

ADJUNCT ASSISTANT PROFESSOR of MUSIC HISTORY | drew.edu

Drew University (2001 -) 36 Madison Avenue, Madison, NJ 07940

DIRECTOR of CHORAL ACTIVITIES | hca.org

Hawthorne Christian Academy (1995 - 2005) 2000 Route 208, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

EDUCATION

MASTER of ARTS: Liturgical Studies

Caspersen School of Graduate Studies, Drew University (2006)

DOCTOR of LETTERS: History of Art and Music

Caspersen School of Graduate Studies, Drew University, Madison, NJ (2001)

MASTER of MUSIC: Choral Conducting

Mason Gross School of the Arts, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ (1989)

BACHELOR of ARTS: Music (major) Biblical Studies (minor)

Wheaton College, Wheaton, IL (1987)

PUBLICATIONS

The OP::First Set EP recording of praise songs and re-mixed hymns by Glen Olsen (2015)

"Time and Its Expression in the Eucharist" *Worship* (2006)

Now and Ever CD recording of the Hawthorne Christian Academy Chamber Choir (2003)

I'll Sing On CD Recording of the Hawthorne Christian Academy Chamber Choir (2000)

PRESENTATIONS

Creativity In (and Out of) the Loft, Mississippi A.C.D.A. Summer Conference, Natchez, MS (2016)

A.C.D.A. Southwestern Convention, Dallas, TX (2012)

Steve Green at Lincoln Center, Conductor, Calvary Baptist Church Orchestra (2006)

The Piano in Worship, E.F.C.A. Student Ministries Challenge, Purdue University, IN (2006)

Summary of Ministry Involvement

In every church I have served, beyond the foundational duties of program administration and staff collaboration, my primary involvement in their worship life has been in the traditional/classic forms of expression, yet I have also incorporated a great amount of contemporary music to the worship life of each congregation. In each church I have served, there have been differing levels of my contributions to worship planning as well as integrating different outreach programs for each church.



For Lafayette Federated Church in northwestern New Jersey, I was their first full-time Minister of Music. Besides building a traditional ensemble ministry of choir, orchestra and graded vocal ensembles, I also started the church's first praise team to lead primarily on Sunday evenings, but found them also participating more and more on Sunday mornings. To the existing ensembles of Chancel Choir, youth choir and children's choir, I added a wind ensemble, a jazz combo, and purchased the church's first set of handbells. From the initial participation level in the existing ensembles, with the added ensembles, the members involved in the music ministry tripled during my tenure at Lafayette. I also developed a seasonal concert series on Sunday evenings and collaborations with other churches for concerts, as well as re-starting the youth choir, adding drama to their work in ministry. Major works that we performed included the Easter portion of Handel's *Messiah* on the 250th anniversary of its premiere and *The Kingdom Is at Hand* by David Maddux.

I had various praise teams in place at Trumbull, Connecticut; I would add horn sections and drama teams to the "traditional" band of contemporary worship in addition to strengthening a graded vocal program and beginning a graded instrumental program. I conducted the 25-member Worship Choir and the 20-member Teen Choir, as well as the graded instrumental program, and directed a drama company and readers theatre from small vignettes in worship to performing one-act plays. I also administrated a summer outdoor concert series and led the Teen Choir on regional ministry tours each year.

The most significant part of my time serving this Evangelical Free Church was the missions trip the Worship Choir sent me on with the youth group in the summer of 1995. The two weeks we spent in state-run camps ministering to the children of Russia changed my life.



I introduced The United Methodist Church in Madison, New Jersey, to praise and worship music, starting out by leading it myself from the piano and then developing a vocal praise team to lead this singing. Towards the end of my tenure at this church on the northeastern corner of Drew University, we developed an alternative worship service on Sunday evenings, employing the praise team, dancers, poets and artists in our monthly corporate gatherings.

My primary work for this church, though, involved playing the organ for worship and directing the Chancel Choir (15 members) as well as a handbell choir (11 members); I also accompanied the children's choir and developed a wind ensemble of volunteer brass and woodwind players in the congregation. Major works incorporated into worship include Bach's Cantata 79, *Jesu meine Freude* by Buxtehude, the sacred portions of Aaron Copland's *Old American Songs*, Elgar's setting of Psalm 29 (*Give Unto the Lord*), Mendelssohn's *Hear My Prayer*, the Pergolesi (Durante) *Magnificat*, and the Vivaldi *Gloria*. In addition to adding an organ-led Tenebrae service on Good Friday, I also composed the music for and premiered a musical on the biblical story of Esther.

At Calvary Baptist Church in New York City, I planned the service, directed the Calvary Choir and led singing for the 800-attending traditional service at 11:00 AM. The 35-voice Calvary Choir was one of the last all-volunteer choirs in New York City. This choir participated in an annual concert series at the church by singing three concerts each year: the Christmas Candlelight Concert, a concert of spirituals and a concert of sacred music in the spring. Major works performed in concert include the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*, Purcell's *Rejoice in the Lord alway* and Vaughan Williams *Five Mystical Songs*.

I planned and led the two contemporary services at 9:30 AM (150 in attendance) and 6:00 PM (around 100 attending). In addition to working with a band and vocalists, I also began a training program for each of these singers and players in leading worship.



For the First United Methodist Church in Midland, Texas, I was only involved in the traditional worship services (around 500 attending two Sunday morning services) – the contemporary and traditional services are kept separate – but I incorporated contemporary expressions into the traditional services as much as I could. Besides conducting the 30-voice Chancel Choir, I directed two handbell choirs and accompanied the youth choir; each year the youth choir toured to a different part of the country and the Chancel Choir had a standing invitation to sing with Mark Hayes in New York City. Major works incorporated into worship, primarily on Maundy Thursday, include the 1888 version of the Fauré *Requiem* and Reger's *O Haupt voll Blut und Wunden*.

My goals for Venice Presbyterian Church included exploring the possibilities for worship and the potential for ministry. During "season" 1100 people gathered for the two identical services held from November to May – we employed a convergence of styles and forms into our worship each week, maintaining a traditional Presbyterian structure. The Chancel Choir (60 members) and the Summer Choir (25 members), with the organ, led the worship service; yet, in exploring possibilities, some weeks the piano would lead, or the orchestra, or even just a djembe. In addition to the vocal choirs listed above – I added the Summer Choir with just a Sunday morning rehearsal for the around 400 people that gathered at the one service from June to October – I directed the Handbell Choir, developed a church orchestra, and included different youth ensembles and expressions in worship.



PHILOSOPHY of MUSIC and WORSHIP

*Praise the Lord!
I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart,
In the company of the upright and in the assembly.
Great are the works of the Lord ...*
Psalm 111:1-2a (NAS)

The primary focus of the Church is worship.

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the lands!
Serve the Lord with gladness! Come into God's presence with singing!*
Psalm 100:1-2 (RSV)

Worship is the central part of the Christian's life and of our relationship to God. Worship proclaims the excellence of God, declaring his glory to all people and demonstrating our desire to service for his sake. God called Israel out of Egypt so that they might worship him (Exodus 3:12, Deuteronomy 7:6-11), Christ commands us to worship God "in spirit and truth" (John 4:24), and the apostle Paul urges us to present our bodies a "living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God" and then continues by calling this our "spiritual service of worship" (Romans 12:1). God has called us to worship him, to give glory to his name, to celebrate his salvation, and to honor him as our Lord and Savior.

... for song in the house of the Lord ... for the service of the house of God.
I Chronicles 25:6 (KJV)

When David established worship in Jerusalem, music became one of the central aspects in this worship – David appointed members of the tribe of Levi to lead the people in celebration and praise to God with their musical instruments (I Chronicles 16:4-6). Martin Luther wrote: "Music is a fair and glorious gift of God ... I am strongly persuaded that after theology there is no art that can be placed on a level with music; for besides theology, music is the only art capable of affording peace and joy of the heart..." With the central focus of our worship being the Word of God, music, as a form of expression, becomes a vital part in the corporate worship of God's people. The emotions that are inside of us all are adequately expressed through music, and there is only one thing beyond music with a greater ability to heal our spirits – the Word of God. The ministry of music, while always striving for excellence to the glory of God, seeks to encourage spiritual growth and minister to needs of the congregation. Through the use of all forms of musical expression: a Brahms motet, Japanese shakuhachi music, a John W. Peterson cantata, Jewish chant, or a contemporary praise song; the ministry of music must maintain a well-rounded repertoire in order to bring joy and peace to all who come to worship. Johann Sebastian Bach, the great Lutheran church musician, said it best: "The aim and final reason of all music should be nothing but the glory of God and the refreshment of the spirit." This is our desire for music and in worship – to glorify God and refresh the spirits of his people.

*Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs.
Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord ...*
Colossians 3:16 (NIV)

WORSHIP and ARTS MINISTRY

*Give unto the Lord, O ye mighty, give unto the Lord glory and strength.
Give unto the Lord the glory due unto his name; worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness*
Psalm 29:1-2 (KJV)

Worship is expanding. Going beyond traditional expressions of praise – three hymns or a praise set of contemporary choruses, an anthem or two, service music, responsive readings – the people of God now enjoy new, and new-found old, ways in which to worship each week. The language spoken in worship is moving beyond the spoken and sung word to a more symbolic expression and construction for worship each week. Grounding itself in the Word of God, worship expands the communication of that Word through differing contemporary media as well as traditional sound. And worship continually strives for excellence – the best we have to offer in praise – in its creative expressions, to the glory of God, making the praise of our God glorious. This expands our understanding.

God is spirit, and they that worship him must worship in spirit and in truth.
John 4:24 (KJV, alt.)

Worship is broadening. Music and the spoken word deepen into multi-sensory areas for worship; different forms of media provide new avenues for praise. Working within the language of the symbol, the arts engage a gathered congregation on many levels. For rather than logically arguing God's existence, faith accepts God as present in our midst when we gather so that worship can lead us to truth. Communicating through spoken word, sung text, sounded music, silence, image, movement, gesture, environment, these elements combine in liturgy – the work of the people – to open the imagination; with imagination engaging worshipers, taking them on a path of discovery, guided by the Holy Spirit, to the truths about God. This broadens our horizons.

*Christ is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation.
For by him all things were created ...*
Colossians 1:15-16a (NIV)

Worship is growing. In addition to the music and art forms of many different cultures, worship includes the artistic expressions of many different ages. Continually measuring artistic expression to biblical standards, musical compositions and works of art from all parts of God's creation – geographical and historical – become tools for God's people to praise and even minister. A ministry of worship and the arts – music, dance, fine arts, drama, multimedia – aids us in praising, helps us in understanding, and strengthens us to reach out to others. Because, in worshiping God, in finding God's dwelling amongst our praise, we, in turn, are blessed, ministered to, lifted up, made new again. This is where our hearts find the heart of God: in delighting and enjoying the triune God through all the gifts given for us, for all the days given to us as we grow to be more like Christ.

*With Jesus' help we will continually offer our sacrifice of praise to God
by telling others of the glory of his name.*
Hebrews 13:15 (LB)

Faith Journey

I remember going to my grandparent's house, many times, for a meal. After breakfast or dinner, my grandfather would get out his old and worn Bible as well as their devotional book. We would read a passage from the Scriptures and then a devotional based on the verses we had just read. This brief time would close in prayer and then we would depart from the table and go about the rest of our day. My parents had us read devotions after dinner as well and I make every effort to do the same with my wife and children. Beginning from home and with my first days of Sunday School, the Bible has been an integral part of my upbringing. From stories told at a young age about an ark and giants and fishing to intense memorization and Bible study in my teen-age years; from Scriptures read and preached on in worship to a minor in biblical studies at college, the Word of God has played an influential role in my life. This is my heritage.

I thought I had asked Jesus into my heart at the young age of four; I made sure one night while in the fifth grade. During the eighth grade my life changed: I went forward at a Missions Conference, dedicating myself to serve Christ, I was baptized on Easter Sunday and then, after a year of training in belief and doctrine, was confirmed. Before this time I had wanted to be an architect. After this momentous year, I was headed for the ministry. Throughout high school I went on numerous mission trips, teaching those same stories I had heard about Jesus, and working to build the kingdom of God. To this day I still tell those stories and strive to bring God's people to a life of worshiping God. This is my faith.

I have become a student of worship, seeking to understand the many ways in which the people of God give worth to God. I have sought to discover truth about the triune nature of God; I continually search the Scriptures to discern the truths contained therein. My vocation is church music. I have studied organ performance and choral conducting in an attempt to bring the people of God together in a sacrifice of praise, an offering of excellence. My passion is worship; continually exploring all avenues in which the people of God may praise God, I strive for a deeper love and a broader faith. This is my life.

(Identify a person who has had a significant influence on your life and describe that significance)

One might think that the only things you learn in music classes are pitch, tonality, scales, and the like. Although my music classes did teach me those things, I believe that I learned important values, all because of a man who is very dear to me. That man is my former teacher, and great friend, Dr. Glen Olsen.

On my very first day of eighth grade, I met Dr. Olsen, or as I like to call him, Doc. He came off as a geeky kind of person; whether it was the high-water pants, or the glasses, I am not certain. However, upon entering my freshman year at Hawthorne Christian Academy, I began three classes with Doc. Unbeknownst to me, the three classes, which I had signed up for, would become the most important parts of my day, progressively teaching me the values of passion, service, and personal availability.

During those early years of high school, I did everything without real reason. Doc taught me that passion for your work improves its purpose and success. In order to practice anything to make it better, you must have the passion and drive to do so. During rehearsals for handbell ensemble, chorale, and a select-choral group, Servants of the King, I would grow tired of the repetition and my patience would run thin. But the continued reminders of passion, which this man exuded, encouraged me to work harder. Doc works harder than any man I know. During his early years at Hawthorne, Doc completed his doctorate in music. In addition to the classes he taught at Hawthorne, he also taught graduate-level courses at Drew University, and played the organ and directed the music program at a church in Madison, NJ. Doc amazes me with his ability to balance his life in such a way that his hours and hours of work do not affect his mood or relationships with others. Recently it dawned on me that Doc only achieved this great balance with passionate dedication to the work and relationships he was involved in.

Doc instilled in me a desire to serve others. It was Doc's attitude of service which I modeled after for many years and developed into my own attitude. Our choral groups and handbell groups took many trips to nursing homes, tree lighting ceremonies, malls at Christmas time, and to churches throughout the county. It was his desire that we spread our positive message to others. Slowly, it became my desire as well. It was not until a missions trip to New Stanton, Pennsylvania and to Pembroke, Virginia that I really demonstrated this attitude. On this trip, we performed a musical based on the Biblical book of Esther, and we participated in church services. This trip changed my outlook on others and on my purpose in others lives. I felt that in serving others, I could learn more about them and make myself available to them. I made lifelong friends in the most unlikely of places.

Finally, Doc taught me the importance of personal availability in relationships. Doc shows great love, loyalty, and dedication to his students, friends, family, and his wife. He made himself available to any who needed him. Doc is the epitome of dependability. Whether you needed someone to help you with a problem, someone to vent to, or someone to share your excitement, Doc is there. Doc and I have sat for hours talking about spiritual matters, career choices, future plans, wishes, relationships, and of course, music. Doc genuinely cares and listens to you so that he may help you and guide you in any way that he can. Doc taught me that personal availability is an important quality to have, especially so that you may serve and help others. By maintaining a trustworthy and welcoming reputation, you may help others in ways that you may never know. It is my desire that I make myself available as well, so that others may use me as an outlet to find themselves and maintain a positive attitude.

Words could not express the love and appreciation I have for my Doc. This past year, Doc left Hawthorne to pursue a new opportunity to run the music program at Calvary Baptist Church of Manhattan, NYC, a church which serves thousands and thousands of parishioners. I miss him terribly. However, I try with great persistence to become the type of person whom Doc has encouraged me to be. I never would have thought that my music teacher would become one of the most dependable friends I have ever had.

(This essay was written for a college application by Stefanie Sauer Jennings, a former student of Dr. Glen Olsen at Hawthorne Christian Academy)

REFERENCES

Ms. Kathy McGaughy, former Senior Worship Coordinator, Venice Presbyterian Church
5238 Bay Pointe Drive, Mason, Ohio 45040
941.223.4527 • kathy.marie63@live.com

Kathy and I immediately "clicked" as colleagues and have become close friends since I began my ministry in Venice a few years ago. We sat many hours in either her office, my office, or in the Sanctuary talking, creating, praying and laughing about our kids, our work, the Church and our faith journey that brought us together. Kathy has a beautiful spirit about her work and ministry and has been greatly missed since she left Venice to return home to Ohio.

Dr. Joan Lucas, former Organist, First United Methodist Church of Midland
3612 Mission Court, Midland, Texas 79703
432.934.8568 • peggypiano@gmail.com

Joan and I have been close friends since we first met in Midland. We worked together, we performed together, we shared fellowship together and we did Kingdom work together, not only in Midland, but also throughout West Texas. We share a lot of the same loves in music, the arts and food – sharing a meal with Joan was a real blessing. And Joan's artistry on both the piano and the organ allowed us to have some special times collaborating in worship.

Rev. Dr. Robb Shoaf, Pastor
The United Methodist Church in Madison, 24 Madison Avenue, Madison, New Jersey 07940
973.377.1231 • church@umcmadison.org

Robb was my supervisor while I served for 10 years at Madison Methodist Church, a wonderful ministry and a time of great joy in doing church music. For these years, Robb let me do a number of "experiments" in worship and basically let me choose songs and structure worship in different ways. Robb and I still visit and spend time talking about ministry and family-related things.

Dr. Dan Sharp, Minister of Worship
First Presbyterian Church, 106 East Church Street, Orlando, Florida 32801
407.423.3441, ext. 1274 • dsharp@fpco.org

Dan has been a mentor and friend since my days at Wheaton College. Dan encouraged me to continue my education beyond Wheaton and demonstrated true servant leadership and "lead worshiping" through the many rehearsals and worship services I attended at Grace Chapel during my college years. Years later God did a "God-thing" and Dan, living on the West Coast at that time, showed up one night at my wife's family home on Cape Cod and we reconnected. Dan and I have talked together and prayed together over the church and our burden for worship.

Mr. Charles Reuben, former Elder, Calvary Baptist Church
9 Roxbury Court, Chestnut Ridge, New York 10977
917.488.0719 • charlesreuben@yahoo.com

Charles became a close friend when I joined the staff at Calvary Baptist Church. On the search committee that recommended my joining this ministry in New York City, Charles also served in a supporting capacity as handbell choir director and a bass guitarist for the Sunday evening worship team. As an elder in the church, Charles had oversight for the music and worship ministry while I was on staff, and there were many times that he and I spent discussing music not only for this historic church in Manhattan, but also for the future of the Church.