


First United Methodist Church

GARLAND PIPE ORGAN





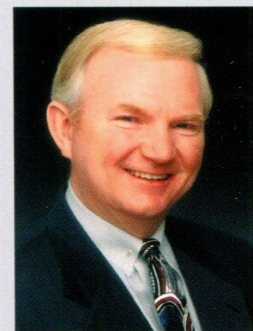


MUSIC awakens the mind,
revitalizes the spirit, and stirs the soul.
Almost from the beginning of recorded
time, worship and music have been
brilliantly blended.

Early Christians chanted quietly
in the catacombs, and Roman missionaries
established choir schools to evangelize the
heathen. The Wesleyan Revival in England
was powered, in large part, by both solemn
psalms and joyous choruses. Today, United
Methodists continue to sing hymns from
the prolific pen of John Wesley's brother,
Charles Wesley.

But voices have not worshiped
alone, not since organ's golden speech
brought wing to the silver sound of music.

We celebrate the time-honored
wedding of worship and music, as we
dedicate our own triumph of artistry, this
magnificent messenger of praise. From
dulcet tones to stentorian sounds, our
renewed instrument melds old and new,
just as our church theology merges past
with present, all for the glory of God!



What a magnificent occasion this is in the life
of First United Methodist Church. The completion and
dedication of this beautiful organ means that we are once
again affirming the central role of worship and music in
the life of faith. This great instrument will stir the soul,
calm the heart, and help lift people up toward a more
moving and meaningful relationship with God.


I would like to thank the many people who have
made the renovation and dedication of this exquisite
instrument possible. A generous gift by a special family
has given our church one of the most splendid organs in
all the world.

I am confident that every member of First United
Methodist Church will take pride in this new addition to
our Sanctuary. But, more than pride, I hope each of us
finds a deeper and more meaningful experience in the
worship of God because of this magnificent organ.

ROBERT L. ALLEN
Senior Minister




MUSIC MINISTRY

ince a band of trombone and trumpet players awakened our city in 1927 with hymns from the highest platform of the construction of our present Sanctuary and chimes pealed out over our city for the first time in 1928, the music ministry of First United Methodist Church has glorified God through music—and a tradition of excellence. Our mission is to praise and worship God as we teach, help, and encourage others.

The music ministry is led by a professional staff with the support of the Worship Committee. Our six singing choirs, two handbell choirs, instrumental ensembles, and youth-led contemporary worship team are comprised of gifted, dedicated volunteers who are “regular and committed” to the gifts with which God has blessed them, using those gifts to serve and inspire others in worship and mission. Our Music and More program provides children in fourth through sixth grades with time before and after choir for Bible study, spiritual enrichment, and fellowship.

Through the years, First Church has benefited greatly from our musical traditions, including the Easter Lily Procession, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, Mother’s Day Choir Celebration, choir musicals, and music for the Perkins Lectures. These provide us a wealth of knowledge as we continue to assess the needs of our church community, and plan creative programs rich with opportunities for musical growth and interaction. Now, our newly renovated and restored Dan Garland pipe organ will allow us to continue this rich legacy. As we dedicate this fine instrument, let us re-dedicate ourselves to the service and glory of God.

KRISTEN GOSSETT
Choir Director

ow often, making music, we have found a new dimension in the world of sound, as worship moved us to a more profound Alleluia!”

—Fred Pratt Green

OUR ORGANIST

Kiyo Watanabe has served as organist at First United Methodist Church since November 1996. After receiving his bachelor’s degree in organ performance from Baylor University, he earned a master’s degree in organ performance and a doctor of musical arts from Manhattan School of Music (MSM) in New York.

He has participated in numerous regional, national, and international organ performance competitions, and his skills as an organist have earned him a variety of accolades, including the 1990 Claire Coci Award and the 1991 Bronson Ragan Award.

Kiyo and his wife Chiemi, also an organist, present solo and duo concerts throughout the United States and abroad. He has appeared as a featured organist at international organ festivals, including those at Spreckels Organ Pavilion in Balboa Park in San Diego, Calif., (1993, 1995, 2000) and at Iglesia Cathedral in Morelia, Michoacan, Mexico (1996, 2000). This fall, Kiyo and Chiemi are scheduled to present four duo concerts in Japan.

Kiyo’s principal avocation is composing and arranging church music. Publications by Harold Flammer Music include *Three Hymn Preludes for Organ* (2002) and *Sakura (Cherry Blossoms) for Handbells* (2003). His *O God Beyond All Praising for Handbells* (Harold Flammer Music) and *Six Contemporary Hymns for Flute and Piano* (G. I. A. Publications) are scheduled for publication in 2004.

A HISTORY AND TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

As we dedicate our new Dan Garland pipe organ, we salute the organists who have served our congregation for more than 100 years:

Mrs. H. E. Keyes	Before 1891
Elma Keyes	Before 1891
Daisy Wilson	1891-1896
Charles V. Durland	1911-1914
Ila Cook	1914-1924
Nita Akin*	1918-1968
Margaret Terry	1968-1975
Mary Ann Hickman	1976
Larry Hammerling	1976-1980
Kerry Johnston	1980-1982
Suzanne Antley	1982-1984
Mary Ann Detrick (interim, 5 months)	1984
Casey Cantwell	1984-1989
John Tarver	1990-1996
Don Owens (interim, 1 month)	1996
Brent Stratten (interim, 1 month)	1996
Kiyo Watanabe	1996-Present

*Assistant Organist from
1918-1924; Organist Emeritus
from 1968-1989

GEORGE BAKER

Organ Consultant

Indeed, it is a great honor to have been chosen to serve as consultant for this unique and fabulous project. It is a rare opportunity to be able to help bring to life a wonderful and unique musical work of art. Today, that work of art is ready to lead, support, and inspire the church choirs, the congregation, and the entire community. I am so very grateful to the donors, the church ministry and staff, and the congregation who trusted my guidance throughout this daunting, yet exciting, endeavor.

Designing an organ is a complicated and interesting process. After a thorough examination of the instrument and thoughtful discussions with both the donors and the church, it was decided that the organ should be completely redesigned and renovated. This allowed the organ builders and me the latitude to conceive a grand and unique instrument—one that was great and fabulous, rather than simply good or adequate. This, in turn, resulted in changes to the structure of both the church and the organ's façade, which have enhanced the acoustics of the Sanctuary, as well as the appearance of the organ itself. Now, the sounds of music are rich, warm, and satisfying. There



is vibrance and life to the sounds in the Sanctuary!

Today, the new organ has the resources to offer virtually perfect accompaniment to congregational singing, the church choir, and other musical instruments. In addition, as a solo instrument, it is equipped to perform the entire organ literature with stops and sounds appropriate to this vast body of music. To all who will hear this magnificent organ: I wish you many years of enjoyment of the fruits of this true labor of love for so many people.

Glory to God! Alleluia!
With all best wishes,
George Baker, DMA, MD, MBA

“My first organ teacher, Phil Baker (no relation), had been a student of Nita Akin, one of the great organists and organ teachers in America. It was with great anticipation that I drove up to Wichita Falls during the fall of 1972 to meet Nita and her husband, Jake Akin. At the time, I was a junior organ student at Southern Methodist University. Nita and Jake rolled out the red carpet for me and provided the opportunity for me to spend about two hours with the organ at First United Methodist Church. The Akins took me to lunch (a steak dinner!), and I spent some time in their home. Nita and Jake made me feel right at home, and I shall never forget their hospitality and down-to-earth friendliness.”

Dr. George Baker

