

*First Baptist Church  
Hickory, North Carolina*

*Dedication of the Byler Organ*

*Casavant Opus 3827*



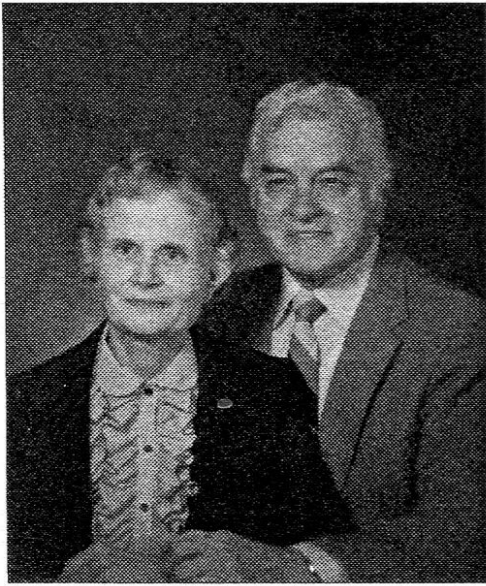
*October 17, 2004*

*Three o'clock in the afternoon*



# The Life of David Byler

as told by "Dottie" Byler



Mr. and Mrs. David O. Byler

Dave was born (1920) into a conservative Mennonite family, the eighth of ten children. His father was a minister and two of his brothers also became ministers. Music was a very big part of their family life. When Dave was six years old, his father decided that he would pack up the family and go around giving musical programs in various churches and states. They toured for 14 months!

One of the churches happened to be the Church of the Brethren in Bremen, Indiana – the church which my family attended! My mother often said that she never knew the little boy who went to sleep during the service would one day become her son-in-law!

Dave, his younger and older brothers and his younger sister all attended Goshen College in Goshen, Indiana, at the same time. His older brother decided to find another young man with a good voice and form a quartet. The "Byler Quartet" became well known in the area. A minister in South Bend, Indiana, had them come to his church once a month and make recordings that he sent down to South America for missionaries to use in their work.

Dave and I were married after he graduated from college. Two years before he graduated, Calvary Baptist Church in South Bend, Indiana, called him as their part-time Minister of Music. After serving four years, he wanted to go on to seminary, so we moved to Louisville, Kentucky, and he enrolled in the music school. Dr. G. Othell Hand was enrolled in the seminary at the same time, and so Dave and Othell became friends.

First Baptist Church of Kingsport, Tennessee called him as soon as he graduated from music school. He served there for nearly five years when Brainerd Baptist Church in Chattanooga, Tennessee, persuaded him to move there.

In Chattanooga we bought our first little house, and we thought we were settled in for many years. However, about five years later, Dave got a call from Dr. Hand telling him that the First Baptist Church in Hickory, North Carolina, wanted him to come as their pastor. He said he told the search committee that he wouldn't go unless they also called Dave as Minister of Music. First Baptist of Hickory had not had a full-time Minister of Music, and so this was a big step for them...hiring two ministers at the same time.

I did not want to move, and I prayed and told the Lord that if we were to move, three things would have to happen: 1) The Hickory church would have to accept two ministers rather than just one; 2) the church would have to find us a home to rent, (Dr. Bill Yelton told Dave that rented homes were scarce in Hickory); 3) and we would have to sell our house, (I thought that wouldn't happen because houses weren't selling at that time in Chattanooga). Well, within two weeks, First Baptist voted to hire two ministers and Dr. Yelton called a little later and said they had found us a house to rent. We put our house up for sale, and it sold within three weeks. How quickly God answered my prayers.

On our drive to Hickory, Mike, who was 11 at that time said, "Dad, you know they have more snow in Hickory than they have in Chattanooga. Dave said, "Now Mike, I don't think that is true." What a surprise to see the deep snow when we arrived! And Mike was excited saying, "See, I told you, Dad." And for three Wednesdays after that, we had more snow!! When we got to the house, several wonderful ladies had already made up the beds and had unpacked and washed all the dishes. There was even a big pot of Mrs. Pruitt's delicious vegetable soup simmering on the stove. What a wonderful welcome to Hickory!!!

Our 27 wonderful years in Hickory were filled with so much kindness from the church and various members – delicious pies and cakes and vegetables; the beautiful new blue Buick, and the money for a camper, a new sofa and chairs when we bought our house; a new television – How can we ever thank First Baptist for all they have done! Thank you, too, for the support you have shown to me since Dave passed away. It meant so much to the family and me.



Todd Wilson

## Todd Wilson

Todd Wilson is Director of Music and Organist at the Church of the Covenant (Presbyterian) in Cleveland, Ohio, where he heads a program of choirs as well as a concert series. He is also head of the Organ Department at the Cleveland Institute of Music, and Organ Curator of the recently restored Norton Memorial Organ (E.M. Skinner, 1931) in Severance Hall, home of The Cleveland Orchestra.

Mr. Wilson received his Bachelor and Master of Music degrees from the College-Conservatory of Music at the University of Cincinnati, where he studied organ with Wayne Fisher. Further coaching in organ repertoire was with Russell Saunders at the Eastman School of Music. He has won numerous competitions, including the Grand Prix de Chartres (France) and the Ft. Wayne Competition. An active member of the American Guild of Organists, Mr. Wilson holds the Fellow and Choirmaster certificates, and was a featured performer for the Centennial National Convention of the Guild in New York City in July 1996.

Todd Wilson has been heard in concert in many major cities throughout the US and Europe, including concerts at Chicago's Orchestra Hall, Cleveland's Severance Hall, Dallas' Meyerson Symphony Center, and Uihlein Hall in Milwaukee. In June of 2003 he dedicated the organ in the new 21,000-seat Mormon Conference Center in Salt Lake City. During 1992 he appeared as a solo recitalist for Austrian Radio in Vienna, as well as in concert with the Slovakian Radio Symphony. Past orchestral appearances include performances with the Cleveland Orchestra, members of the Atlanta Symphony, the Naples (FL) Philharmonic, the Calgary Philharmonic, City of London Sinfonia, the Canton Symphony, the New Mexico Symphony, and the Ft. Worth Symphony, and the Orchestra at Temple Square in Salt Lake City. Last evening he was guest soloist with the Western Piedmont Orchestra under the baton of Maestro John Gordon Ross.

# TODD WILSON

## PROGRAM

Toccata and Fugue in D Minor, BWV 565

J. S. Bach  
(1685-1750)

Three English Miniatures

A Fancy

John Stanley (1712-1786)

Tuba Tune

C.S. Lang (1891-1971)

Londonderry Air

arr. Edwin H. Lemare (1865-1934)

Scherzo, Op. 2

Maurice Duruflé  
(1902-1986)

Variations on a Noel, Op. 20

Marcel Dupré  
(1886-1971)

Theme

Larghetto

Poco animato

Canon 'a l'octave

Vif

Vivace

Canon, 'a la quarte et 'a la quinte

Vivace

Canon 'a la seconde

Animé

Fugato et Presto

## INTERMISSION

Variations on "America"

Charles Ives  
(1874-1954)

Introduction – Theme

Variation I – Allegro

Variation II – Andante

Interlude (in two keys)

Variation III - Allegro

Variation IV – Polonaise

Interlude

Variation V – Allegro (“ as fast as the pedals can go”)

Sonata on the 94<sup>th</sup> Psalm

Julius Reubke  
(1834-1858)

Introduction – Grave

Larghetto – Allegro con fuoco

Adagio

Allegro – Allegro assai

Sonata on the 94th Psalm

Introduction – Grave

- 1 O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth;  
O God to whom vengeance belongeth, show thyself.
- 2 Lift up thyself, thou judge of the earth;  
render a reward to the proud.

Larghetto – Allegro con fuoco

- 3 Lord, how long shall the wicked,  
how long shall the wicked triumph?
- 6 They slay the widow and the stranger,  
and murder the fatherless.
- 7 Yet they say, the Lord shall not see,  
neither shall the God of Jacob regard it.

Adagio

- 17 Unless the Lord had been my help,  
my soul had almost dwelt in silence.
- 19 In the multitude of my thoughts within me,  
thy comforts delight my soul.

Allegro – Allegro assai

- 22 But the Lord is my defense,  
and my God is the rock of my refuge.
- 23 And He shall bring upon them, their own iniquity,  
and shall cut them off in their own wickedness;  
yea, the Lord our God shall cut them off.



## Organ Committee



(left to right): Ben Nine, chair; Becky Icard; Randy Canaday; Mark Knuckles; Carol Kammer; Mike Watson; Dr. Max Smith, organ consultant; Jim Bailiff  
Not pictured: Peter Ballhausen, Murray Tate, and Vivian Key Rozzelle

Special thanks to the following people involved in this project:

### *First Baptist Church*

First of all, our thanks go out to Dr. Max Smith, our organ consultant, who has done a magnificent job. We do not really know how to thank him enough.

Our thanks to Jim Bailiff who had the vision and experience to lead us in this overall endeavor. We feel this was part of his call to First Baptist.

A debt of gratitude to Doug Brady, who has been very instrumental in the design of the new instrument, and the removal of the old one. We thank him for all he has done.

Thank you also to the following:

Baptist Men

Decorations Committee

Robert Clark, Architect, Unifour Designs

First Citizens Bank

Dennis Fleisher, Acoustician

Hickory Construction Company

Hickory Sheet Metal  
Hospitality Committee  
Industrial Electric Company, Clifford Moore  
Dr. Bill Leathers and the church staff  
Maintenance Staff  
Eddie Mulligan  
Organ Committee  
Organ Donors  
Volunteer Workers

***Casavant Frères Organ Company***

President, André Gremillet

Vice President, Stanley Scheer

Tonal Director, Jean-Louis Coignet

Associate Tonal Director, Jacquelin Rochette

Project Director , Simon Couture

Case Designer, Benoît Gendron

**Drafting**

Pierre Drouin

Jasmin Garneau

**Installation**

Germain Cormier

Serge Leclerc

Richard Lemay Mario Vanasse

**Tonal Finishing**

Richard Marchand

Sebastian Kardos

Daniel Fortin