

R. G. HUFF



HOME ADDRESS:

108 Pleiade Circle
Waxahachie, TX 75165
214/399-4052
rghuff@ymail.com

MOST RECENT POSITION:

Minister of Worship and Discipleship
University Baptist Church
100 S. Columbia Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
919/942-2157

STATUS:

Semi-retired as of May 2009
Adjunct Faculty in School of Fine Arts of Dallas Baptist University

CURRENT CHURCH MEMBERSHIP:

First Baptist Church, Waxahachie, TX – Dr. Shane Kinnison, pastor

HOMETOWN:

Pigeon Forge, TN
Birth Date: October 21, 1949

EDUCATION:

Carson Newman College - Jefferson City, Tennessee
BA 1971 - Bible Major/ Art & Music Minors
Southwestern Seminary - Fort Worth, Texas - MCM 1977 –
Degree in Church Music with worship emphasis
(some hours toward uncompleted doctorate)

PREFERRED WORSHIP STYLE: Traditional / Traditional-Blended

PREVIOUS CHURCH EXPERIENCE:

First Baptist Church – Independence, MO
Colonial Presbyterian Church - Kansas City, MO
University Hills Baptist Church - Denver, CO
First Baptist Church - Waxahachie, Texas

WEBSITE CREATOR/MAINTAINER:

www.WorshipRx.com (Resources for traditional worship planning and ministry)
www.QuickEmusic.com (downloadable choral music)

CURRENT SITUATION:

After 41 years in local church music ministry, R. G. has recently semi-retired to Waxahachie, Texas, to be near the children, grandchildren and Carlita's mother. As an adjunct faculty member at Dallas Baptist University, R. G. is currently teaching Fundamentals of Music, Introduction to Fine Arts, and conducting the school's handbell choir.

As part of the Celebrating Grace Hymnal Project, he has written sixty devotionals based on hymns and songs included in that book and with their online presence.

PHILOSOPHY:

I have a real interest in worship planning, and spend several hours each week coordinating various worship events (musical and non-musical) with the pastor's sermon and/or special emphases. This involves working directly with the service accompanists (including a rehearsal of the service music) and the soloists/duets/etc. I have a traditional, hymn-based approach to worship planning and execution, with a real desire to make the services meaningful and varied enough to prevent dullness and routine. The key word to my planning is "appropriate" to the church and the event at hand.

Chorally, I consider myself an eclectic, seeking to bring varied styles of music and texts into worship and concert literature. While I prefer mainstream traditional choral literature, I gladly do a wide variety of musical styles; I have done everything from Mendelssohn's ELIJAH to Gene Bartlett's THE OLD FASHIONED SINGING to the contemporary musical MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST.

One of the areas of music ministry I most enjoy and find most fulfilling is handbell directing. My groups have consistently been and continue to be outstanding examples of excellent ringing.

I consider my strongest spiritual gifts to be teaching and administration, both of which are vital to ongoing music ministry. *I am not a vocalist or keyboard person*; I am a motivating choral conductor. One of my college professors said that "if a brick wall could match a pitch, I could teach it to sing... and enjoy it!"

Beyond the music, I have also ventured into other areas of local church ministry, most recently in the discipleship/education arena. I have preached, taught Bible studies, done weddings and funerals, etc. I currently teach a mixed-age adult Sunday School class.

FAMILY:

I was reared in a Christian family in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, growing up in First Baptist Church there where my father was a deacon and my mother was a Sunday School teacher. Both my parents are now deceased. As an only child, I now only have aunts, uncles and cousins there in east Tennessee.

I was single until August 1, 1992, when at the age of 42 I married Carlita. She is a long-time friend and was a member of the church in Waxahachie, Texas, where I served for seven and a half years; for most of that time she had been one of the secretaries at the church. After my move to Denver, she was divorced from her former husband after several years of alcohol-related physical and emotional abuse. Four years after the divorce, we began dating, and were married a year and half later.

Carlita is a legal assistant, currently in the legal department of Baylor Hospital system in Dallas.

Our son Dustin lives in Mansfield, TX and works for Chaparral Steel. Clint is a graduate of Tarleton State University (TX) and is a vice-president at Citizen's National Bank in Midlothian, TX. He and his wife Sherry have two sons, Kyle (11) and Carson (8).

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS:

Baptist Church Music Conference (Served on Leadership Council 9 years)
Hymn Society of America
American Choral Directors Association
American Guild of English Handbell Ringers
Chorister's Guild

CAREER INFORMATION:

Major Works Conducted:

Vivaldi GLORIA*
Handel MESSIAH* - twice
Mendelssohn ELIJAH* (staged) - twice
Thompson TESTAMENT OF FREEDOM
Hayes TE DEUM*
Dubois SEVEN LAST WORDS
Mark Hayes TE DEUM*
* - with orchestra

Dramatic Music Works Conducted:

I'LL BE HOME FOR CHRISTMAS (with orchestra)
BRIGHT NEW WINGS
JOY COMES IN THE MORNING (with orchestra)
GODSPELL
CELEBRATE LIFE
MY UTMOST FOR HIS HIGHEST
YOU THOUGHT OF US
Christmas Pageants/ Easter Pageants (with orchestra)
Various Youth Musicals

Favorite Contemporary Composers:

Mark Hayes, Cindy Berry, Joseph Martin, Craig Courtney, Pepper Choplin,
David Schwoebel, Anna Laura Page, Mark Patterson, Donna Butler,
Larry Schultz, Vicki Hancock Wright, Robert Sterling

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Adjunct professor of church music at William Jewell College (2000-2002)
Guest lecturer in worship at
Southwestern Seminary, Midwestern Seminary, Golden Gate Seminary - Denver Campus,
Carson Newman College, William Jewell College, East Texas Baptist College,
Colorado Christian University
Conducting Tutor – Southwestern Seminary
Clinician for Fall Kick-Off at William Jewell College
Clinician for public school music

HONORS AND ACTIVITIES:

Conference Choir Conductor/Conference Leader – Ridgecrest and Glorieta
Clinician, State Children’s Choir Camp – Baptist General Convention of Texas
Served three times on planning of CHURCH MUSICIAN Magazine
Winner of Hymn-writing Competition of Southern Baptist Church Music Conference (1988)
Worship Seminar Leader for local churches, state conventions, and national conferences
Handbell and Choral Clinician for several churches
Conference Leader for Chorister’s Guild
Conductor for Arkansas State Baptist Youth Choir (2001)
Commissioned hymn for Baptist Church Music Conference (1996)
Commissioned anthem text for Baptist Church Music Conference (1999)
Commissioned hymn for Southwestern Seminary MacGorman Building Dedication
Commissioned hymn for NC Baptist Convention – 50th Anniversary of Church Music Dept.
Commissioned hymn for NC Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
Commissioned hymn for Truett McConnell College – Dedication of Hildegard Stanley Music Bldg.
Several hymn/anthem commissions for local churches

PUBLICATIONS:

Published Hymn Texts:

“Fill the Earth with Music” – Hymn 614 in THE BAPTIST HYMNAL 1991
[Also included in CELEBRATING GRACE HYMNAL 2010]
“I Take the Cross of Jesus Christ” – CELEBRATING GRACE HYMNAL 2010
“Be to Us” – WORSHIP – Spring 2002
“Come in Power” – WORSHIP – Fall 2001 (Ordination hymn)
“Come People of Our Lord” – WORSHIP – Winter 1997 (Commissioned by BCMC)
“There Is Joy This Easter Morning” – WORSHIP – Spring 2000
“Why Seek the Living with the Dead?” – WORSHIP – Spring 2000
“God, Give Comfort Once Again” – Webpage Fall 2001 – WORSHIP – Spring 2002
“Gracious Lord, Accept These Offerings” – WORSHIP – Summer 2003

Published Anthem Texts:

“Make Music” (Chorister’s Guild)
“The Church God Meant Us to Be” (Genevox)
“Fill the Earth with Music” (LifeWay)
“Fill the Earth with Music” (Shawnee)
“See My Savior Die” (Genevox)
“The Strong Name” (Hinshaw)
“Reason to Sing” (Hinshaw)
“We Will Stand” (Chorister’s Guild- commissioned for September 11, 2001 tragedy)
“Easter Morning” (Chorister’s Guild)
“The World’s True Light” (Augsburg)
“Let All the Children Sing” (Alfred)

Articles Published in CHURCH MUSICIAN/ CHURCH MUSICIAN TODAY: (LifeWay)

- “Developing Youth Choirs from Children’s Choirs” – July 1996
- “Digging into Drama” – August 1990
- “Drawing from the Well of Hymns” – April 1995
- Featured Hymn of the Month – July 1994
- “Getting in the Mood for Christmas” – July 1995
- “Hunting for the Happy Medium Ground” – July 1990
- “Ministers: All of Us” (in Two Parts) – January and February 1987
- “Office Hours: A Question of Integrity” – February 1990
- “Preparing 21st Century Church Musicians in Youth Choir Today” – April 1996
- “Singing around the Table” – February 1984
- “Thanksgiving Service” – October 1996
- “The Best Advice” – September 1997
- “Tis the Season for Fun” – January 1984
- “When Times Are Tough” – December 1989
- “Your Time Is in Our Hands” – October 1994

Articles Published in Other LifeWay Periodicals:

- “Getting into a Red, White and Blue Mood” – GLORY SONGS – July 1994
- “Hymnal Crossword Challenge” – OPUS 1 & 2 – January 1990
- “Is Fellowship a Factor in Church Growth?” GROWING CHURCHES - Summer 1997
- “Making Better Use of Our Bells” – HANDBELLS – April 1993
- “Marriage Ceremony” – PEDALPOINT - April 1995
- “Nine Lessons and Carols by Candlelight” – WORSHIP - Winter 1997
- “Psalm 107” (Responsive Reading) – WORSHIP – Fall 2000
- “Resurrection Celebration” – WORSHIP – January 1991
- “R. G. Huff Talks to Himself” – GLORY SONGS – July 1996
- “Take a Stand for Jesus” (Hymn drama) – OPUS 1 & 2 – July 1990
- “Using the Children’s Sermon to Explain the Organ” – PEDALPOINT – July 1990
- “Who Are You Talking To?” – GLORY SONGS – October 1989

Music Published in LifeWay Periodicals:

- “Amazing Grace” – *NEW BRITAIN* – choral descant – WORSHIP – January 1997
- “Be Ye Doers of the Word” – CHILDREN’S CHOIR – April 1995
- “Come, Ye Thankful People, Come” *ST. GEORGE’S WINDSOR* - choral descant – WORSHIP – October 1996
- “Fill the Earth with Music” *WYE VALLEY* - choral intro/coda – WORSHIP - Spring 1997
- “Heavenly Hosts in Ceaseless Worship” *HARWELL* – introduction – PEDALPOINT – April 1995
- “I Sing the Mighty Power of God” *FOREST GREEN*– interlude/modulation – PEDALPOINT – October 1993
- “I Worship You” (text only)– CHILDREN’S CHOIR – Winter 1997
- “Lead On, O King Eternal” *LANCASHIRE*– choral descant – WORSHIP - Fall 2001
- “Let the Children Come to Me” – WORSHIP – April 1996
- “Salvation Comes” (text only) – WORSHIP – July 1993
- “Spirit, Now Live in Me” *LOIS* - hymn treatment – WORSHIP – Summer 1998
- “Thank You, God for Your Word” (text only) – YOUNG MUSICIANS – Winter 1997
- “Walking Along” – YOUNG MUSICIANS – Jan. 1991

Two Appendices in CHRISTIAN WORSHIP (Segler/Bradley) – Broadman/Holman Publishers

- “The Christian Wedding” and “The Christian Funeral”

REFERENCES:

Randall Bradley – Baylor University/Truett Seminary [405-878-2309]

A. L. (Pete) and JoAnn Butler - Midwestern Seminary (retired) [816/741-9273]

David and Joann Bunch – Retired Executive Director of Colorado Baptist Convention (David)
Professional Flautist (Joann) – Now living in Atlanta [770/433-9497]

David Lane - Seminary Roommate/ friend [704/717-9482]

Elizabeth McKinney - Seminary Professor (retired) [817/292-0278]

Eileen Mitchell Wright - Former church member / choir member
State Family Ministries Office – Alabama Baptist Convention [334/213-0376]