

Passionate musician and worship leader with vast experience leading cross-generational blended worship with a commitment to choirs. Refined communication skills and ability to connect with singers and musicians in unique ways, fostering an atmosphere of collaboration and excellence, conducive to learning and resulting in exceptional presentations. History of orchestrating and enhancing musical excellence in organizations, inspiring expectancy toward the future. Vibrant choir director / conductor incorporating and embracing use of the creative arts and technology in corporate worship gatherings.

MUSIC & WORSHIP MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

TRUTH TABERNACLE OF PRAISE, ATLANTA (STONE MOUNTAIN), GEORGIA

Worship Pastor / Administrator, 2005 to 2017

- One of the two founding elders/pastors for this ethnically diverse new church start in an inner-city environment in Metro-Atlanta.
- Led worship from the piano in weekly Sunday morning worship gatherings.
- Responsible for the direction of the Adult Choir in weekly services and rehearsals.
- Served as the church Administrator, including oversight of planning, budgeting, coordination, operation, communications, media, volunteer personnel, and evaluation of the entire ministry, and community ministries, including weekly food distribution program.
- Updated website weekly including sermon editing and posting as well as live webcast.
- Served as a facilitator for small groups, as well as responsible for selection of group resources.
- Led the church successfully through a 16 month search for a new Senior Pastor and organized the *Successor Strategic Planning and Prayer Advisory Team* to assist in the search.
- Directly responsible for securing meeting facilities during the founding of the church and responsible for transitioning all church material goods to our current permanent facility.

REHOBOTH BAPTIST CHURCH, ATLANTA (TUCKER), GEORGIA

Associate Pastor - Worship, 2002 to 2004

- Responsible for the planning, budgeting, coordination, operation, and evaluation of the entire worship ministry.
- Specifically responsible for the direction of the Adult Choir in weekly services and rehearsals.
- Supervised full-time Orchestra Director, full-time Administrative Assistant, part-time Worship Arts Coordinator, three paid accompanists, part-time orchestra librarian, and volunteer handbell director.
- Achieved the Pastor's goal to transform the Adult Choir from a performance based group to a vibrant worship leading choir of demonstrative lead worshipers.
- Transitioned the Adult Choir into being more stylistically adept in the "contemporary choir" genre – for example: Brooklyn Tabernacle and Christ Church choirs.
- Modified the children's graded choir program from a music education model to an energetic children's worship experience identified as "Raize Praize".

MABEL WHITE MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH, MACON, GEORGIA

Associate Pastor, Minister of Music and Worship, 1997 to 2002

- Directly responsible for the planning, coordination, operation, and evaluation of the entire worship ministry.
- Led Adult Celebration Choir and Orchestra in weekly services and rehearsals.
- Directly responsible for the annual proposal and administration of the worship budget.
- Supervised full-time Music Associate, full-time Technical Director, part-time Instrumental Director, three paid accompanists, and part-time music librarian.

MUSIC & WORSHIP MINISTRY EXPERIENCE (CONTINUED)

- Instituted and gave oversight to the School of the Arts.
- Gave oversight to fully Graded Choir ministry (3 years – 12th grade), as well as Sr. Adult Choir.
- Produced “Highest Praise” choir CD (October 1998), including overdubs and re-mixing in a professional recording studio.
- Created new Praise Team & Band to provide worship leadership for new 9:15 a.m. contemporary worship service (March 1999) and served as lead keyboardist/band director in weekly rehearsals and services.
- Transitioned existing style of accompanying from traditional piano/organ approach to a rhythm section oriented mindset.
- Coordinated hiring and conduction of full orchestras for seasonal productions.
- Staff liaison for all Media Ministries (audio, lighting, projection, and weekly live TV broadcast).
- Continued the pastor and church’s commitment to blended praise and worship, as well as transitioned choir, orchestra and rhythm section into more “contemporary choir” styles.
- Instrumental in facilitating successful relocation of the church in 1999.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, CALLAHAN, FLORIDA

Music and Worship Pastor, 1985 to 1997

- Directly responsible for the planning, coordination, operation, and evaluation of the entire music and worship ministry.
- Directed the Adult Praise Choir and Orchestra in weekly services and rehearsals.
- Responsible for the annual proposal and administration of the music budget.
- Directly supervised one full-time music assistant and two accompanists, as well as oversaw a comprehensive music library.
- For several years, directly responsible for youth/teen choir, including planning and leading of summer choir tours.
- Offered supervision to the Graded Children’s Choir program.
- Created, planned, coordinated and directed numerous Pageant/Drama productions during the Easter or Christmas seasons.
- Produced several “Live” multi-track recordings.
- Smoothly transitioned the music of the church from an historically traditional style to blended worship.
- Integral part of the design & planning of the church’s new Worship Center & Music Suite.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

Orchestra Member, Fall 1984 thru Summer 1985

- Played Alto Saxophone in the Gospel Orchestra, under the direction of Camp Kirkland.
- Occasional work as a music copyist for Camp Kirkland during my time there.
- Volunteer work in the orchestra library.

EDUCATION

WILLIAM CAREY UNIVERSITY, HATTIESBURG, MS

Bachelor of General Studies, Music

4.0 average and *President’s List* every trimester.

THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH FLORIDA

Attended in pursuit of Bachelor of Arts, Music Education (119 hrs. completed before relocation)

Principal Alto Saxophonist in Concert Band.
Significant study and concentration in Conducting.

THE FLORIDA COMMUNITY COLLEGE OF JACKSONVILLE

Associate of Arts

Awarded a Full Talent Scholarship for both academic years, 1984-86.
Awarded Outstanding Musicianship/Director’s Award in 1985.
Served as Student Conductor, 1987-1988.

OTHER MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

- Worship Leader for the National Creative Arts Festival, Ridgecrest, NC, *November 2006*
- Worship Leader for SBC Missionaries Men's Conference, Southern Africa region, Johannesburg, South Africa, *September 2004*
- Guest Worship Leader, Fresh Oil New Wine Conference, Central Baptist Church, Hixon, TN, *March 2004*
- Worship Leader for Annual Missionary Training Meeting, Zambia Cluster, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe, *July 2003*
- Faculty member for Church Music Georgia, *2003 & 2004*
- Metro 2 Music Minister's Conference, *2001-2015*
- Georgia Baptist Convention Creative Arts Festival, Worship Coordinator and Instructor, *1998-2007; Host church in 1999, 2001, 2002 & 2003*
- 1 of 3 invited to sit on a panel discussion for Southern Baptist State Convention Music Specialists (SE Region), *December 2003*
- Provided choir for special music at the Georgia Baptist Convention, *2001*
- Lead congregation praise for the Georgia Baptist Convention, *2000*
- Music Director, providing all music for the GBC Preaching Conference, *November 1999*
- Macon Baptist Association Music Director, *2002*
- Northeast Florida Association Music Director, *1995 - 1997*

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Substitute Teacher, Gwinnett County Public Schools, Fine Arts Specialist, *2017-present*
- Woodwind Instructor, Grayson High School Band, *2016-present*
- Middleton Homeowners Association Board Member, *2007-present, current Secretary, having served in every capacity (President, VP & Treasurer) during tenure*
- Provided custom *a cappella* arrangement of the national anthem for an Atlanta Braves baseball game, conducting the combined choirs of Eastside Baptist Church (Marietta) and Truth Tabernacle of Praise, *June 2005*
- Conducted the premiere of "Evidence of Grace" musical for Word Music, Music Atlanta (sponsored by Pine Lake Music), FBC Atlanta, *January 2003*
- Planned and coordinated the opening worship service of The International Cherry Blossom Festival, *annually from 1998-2002*
- Adjudicated for the 2002 GISA Regional Literary Competition - Piano
- Coordinated worship and interracial, interdenominational mass choir for Macon One Heart 2000 Community Worship Service; E.V. Hill, guest speaker, *2000*
- Provided music for annual Macon Sav-a-Life Banquet, *1998-2000*
- Coordinated Community Mass Choir for Adopt-a-Role-Model Fundraiser, Babbie Mason & Buddy Greene, guest artists, *1998*
- Provided music for Macon's Christian Counseling Center Banquet, *1998*
- Directed the *Christmas Chorale* at The Independent Life Insurance Company, Jacksonville, FL, *1988*

ADDITIONAL SKILLS, EXPERIENCE, AWARDS & HONORS

- Gifted at leading worship from the piano or keyboards.
- Proficient orchestrator & choral arranger, utilizing Finale notation software.
- Musical Instruments played – Piano and Keyboards/Synthesizers, Alto & Soprano Saxophones, and Flute. Very experienced with MIDI keyboards and related equipment.
- Computer Skills: Extensive knowledge of PC-based environment, especially media related software. Have served as network administrator. Expert at the creation, design and maintenance of websites.
- Offered Full Music Scholarship at The University of North Florida for the academic year 1984-85.
- Interim Music Director for the West Nassau High School Band during the 1984-85 school year during which time the band performed at Florida Bandmasters Association District Concert Contest receiving a Superior rating.
- Served as accompanist for Fletcher Jr. High School, Jacksonville, FL, woodwind section at District Solo & Ensemble Contest, 1988-1990.
- Private music instructor from 1985 to 1997; extensive teaching experience with Piano and Saxophone students.
- Very well versed in researching and securing copyright clearance within the music publishing industry.

PERSONAL

Born: February 7, 1966 in Jacksonville, Florida

Born Again: December 13, 1976 at First Baptist Church of Callahan, Florida, Baptized there January 2, 1977, and Ordained there November 12, 1995

Married: April 22, 1989 to Yvette Suzanne Card of Callahan, Florida

Children: Crystal Suzanne (Thomas) Drake (33), Melody Nicole Thomas (25), and Chandler David Thomas (16)

Hometown: Callahan, Florida

Residence: Own home in Grayson, Georgia; willing to relocate as God directs.

REFERENCES

Available upon request