

Elizabeth Erickson Carter received her Master of Church Music degree from The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky; a Bachelor of Music degree in Pipe Organ Performance from Grand Rapids Baptist College in Michigan and a Level I Orff-Schulwerk Certificate from Memphis State University. While pursuing her seminary degree, Ms. Carter served at Farmdale Baptist Church in Louisville. Upon graduation, she began her ministry at First Baptist Church, Decatur, Alabama. She has been the Organist/Children's Choir Coordinator at FBC Decatur since January of 1984. She enjoys sewing, smocking and bike riding.



Anissa Sanborn joined Growing in Grace as Design Editor for Younger Children in June 2019. With a background in music publishing and education, she has dedicated herself over the past decade to producing quality music, books, teaching materials, and other resources for the educational and sacred markets.

A native of Charles City, Iowa, Anissa received her Bachelor of Music Education from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa. She taught Pre-K through eighth grade music in a Christian school, directed several choirs, and has been a private piano, violin, and vocal instructor. In addition to playing piano for churches, musical theater companies, and a dinner train, Anissa sang lead vocals and played keyboard and fiddle for a popular Iowa band.



After moving to Nashville, Tennessee, Anissa worked for Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt University as well as several music publishers including Shawnee Press, Music Sales, Warner Music Group, and Word Music & Church Resources.

Anissa worships at Lakeshore Christian Church where she has been involved with the children's musical program. When she's not at work, Anissa enjoys spending time with teenage daughter Kate, husband Doug, and their 70-pound, fluff-ball goldendoodle, Charlie.

Susan Eernisse is Editor of *The Chorister*, the journal for church musicians published by Choristers Guild. She serves on the staff of First Baptist Church, Carrollton, GA as Director of Christian Education and Children's Music. Susan earned degrees from Anderson University (SC) — Associate of Fine Arts (Music) — and Berry College (Rome, GA) — Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Education. She completed Orff Level I at Shorter University and Levels II and III at the University of Kentucky. Susan has taught using the Orff process in classrooms, children's choirs, music camps, college classrooms, and workshops for children's music leadership for many years. She has had Orff lessons and arrangements published by LifeWay, Growing in Grace, Music K-8, and Choristers Guild. She regularly creates custom Orff lessons for her own students. She is a respected children's choir clinician and has served on the faculties of children's music camps and festivals for many years. Susan is married to Dr. Glenn Eernisse, Associate Pastor of Music and Worship at First Baptist.



Melanee' Horton's calling to children's choir ministry began as a junior in high school when asked to help in Preschool choir at FBC, Baton Rouge, LA.

After starting as a vocal performance major, she transferred to education and graduated with a BS degree in Early Childhood education from LSU. After teaching a couple of years in both the private and public sectors, she completed graduate work at the University of Tennessee with a MS degree in Child and Family Studies.

All along the way, she continued as a choral musician by singing in church choirs and teaching in children's choirs.

Melanee currently serves as children's choir coordinator at Forest Hills Baptist, Nashville TN where she has been for 20 years.

She lives in Franklin, TN with her husband, Bob. They have been blessed to have 2 children, Lauren and Logan; now young adults with families of their own. So they are busy as Mimi and Papa to three grandchildren, Micah, Noah, and Judah.

Allison Blumenthal was thrilled to join the Growing in Grace team in July of 2019 as the Design Editor for Older Children. A native of Rochester, New York, Allison is an elementary general music educator, collaborative pianist, vocal coach, musical theater director, choir director, and now curriculum editor. She holds a Bachelor of Music in Piano Performance from the State University of New York at Fredonia, and both a Master of Music in Collaborative Piano and K-12 Music Teaching Certification from Louisiana State University.

Prior to joining Growing in Grace, Allison taught public school elementary general music in Tennessee and Louisiana, served as a church music director in Georgia and as a church pianist in all three states. In addition to her work at Growing in Grace, she holds an adjunct accompanist position at Middle Tennessee State University playing for student recitals and choirs and is on the faculty at Murfreesboro Academy of Music teaching piano and elementary-age voice lessons.

Allison serves at St. Paul's Episcopal church in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, as the pianist for elementary and youth choirs and is a member of the adult choir. She lives in Murfreesboro with her wonderful husband and their house full of rescue animals.



Keith Watson is the Associate Minister of Music at First Baptist Church of Columbia, South Carolina, where he works with music groups of all ages from preschool through senior adult. Keith has served as a writer and clinician for Growing in Grace and LifeWay, and as a choir consultant for the South Carolina Baptist Convention. Originally from Montgomery, Alabama, Keith holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Montevallo and a Masters of Music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Leigh, have two sons, Will and Forbes.

Keith Pate came to be Minister of Music at EASTERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH in Montgomery, Alabama in January of 2003. Formerly he was Minister of Music at Anastasia Baptist Church, St. Augustine, Florida for 12 years.

Keith holds a Bachelor of Music Degree from Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama (1984) and a Masters of Church Music Degree from Southern Baptist Theological Seminary (1989).



Keith has a great love for working with children. He has directed younger and older children's choirs for over thirty years. He has been a curriculum writer for Lifeway Christian Resources and Growing in Grace as well as a workshop leader throughout the southeast. He has led conferences at Ridgecrest & Glorieta Music Weeks and state training events in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, Tennessee, Texas, North Carolina, South Carolina and Oklahoma.



Hailey Pepper is the music teacher at Shades Cahaba Elementary in Homewood, Alabama, where she has taught ages kindergarten through 5th grade for the last 14 years. She also serves as the Children's Music Coordinator in the Music & Worship Ministry at Dawson Memorial Baptist Church. Hailey has over 17 years of experience teaching children from kindergarten to twelfth grade. Hailey is married to Michael and has two daughters, Ava and Molly, and a moody maltipoo named Max.