

## In Memoriam: Barbara Herron, Gloria Dei Music Teacher

Barbara Herron, a member of Gloria Dei-Davie, FL, died on May 12 after a battle with cancer.

Ms. Herron taught music at Gloria Dei Lutheran Academy for 12 years, leaving in February of this year when illness forced her from the classroom. Her students sent meals, cookies and cards — and she sent messages back to them.



She left a final assignment in a letter she asked the school to send to her students after her death.

"Take these lessons of caring and compassion that you have learned this year and use them in your life whenever you can," she wrote.

A tribute to Ms. Herron in the 2006 Gloria Dei Academy "Celebration of the Arts" program booklet credits her with launching the school's fine arts department. She began as both art and music teacher.

Under her guidance, the music program grew to include two bands, two bell choirs and numerous choral

groups. For years, in addition to teaching art and music, she also taught Spanish.

For 11 years, Ms. Herron's students went to the Lutheran Schools State Competition and



brought home excellent and superior ribbons.

A native of Torrington, CT, Ms. Herron received her bachelor's degree in education from Florida State University and obtained her Lutheran teacher certificate through colloquy. Before her tenure at Gloria Dei, she taught classes at various private schools through her own music instruction business.

Before her 12 years at Gloria Dei, Ms. Herron suffered through alcoholism in her early 20s, according to her pastor, Rev. Darrell Stuehrenberg. Once she became sober in her 40s, she used her experience to help

others and was thankful for her recovery.

"She felt God had given her a second chance," said Stuehrenberg. "She truly saw her contact time with her students as a gift from God."

When her husband, Paul, died five years ago, Ms. Herron took over his lay ministry caregiving role and visited sick and dying parishioners.

She also began raising her 15-year-old grandson — whom she called a "gift."

Ms. Herron is survived by her daughter Leslie Schlottman; son Scott Spencer; and two grandsons. □

## In Memoriam: Dora Behnken, Former Florida-Georgia First Lady

Dora Behnken, wife of the late Rev. Dr. Lloyd Behnken, passed away on July 4.

Mrs. Behnken was born in St. Louis on December 21, 1921, to Henrietta and William Armstrong. She was raised in St. Louis and married Rev. L. Lloyd Behnken on May 12, 1946. They were blessed with a daughter, Maureen Elaine, and a son, Lester Lloyd Behnken, Jr.

The Behnkens served congregations in Springfield and Steepleville, IL, and Omaha, NE,

before moving into the Florida-Georgia District to serve St. Mark's-Hollywood, FL. They moved to Orlando in 1974 when Dr. Behnken was elected president of the Florida-Georgia District. He served in that capacity until his death in 1987.

Mrs. Behnken, who remained in Orlando until moving to Ocala to live with her daughter in 2002, enjoyed traveling and spending time with her three granddaughters, three grandsons and one great-granddaughter. She

was a member of the Veterans of the Cross leadership team — the group responsible for planning the annual "Behnken Retreat" formed by the late District President in 1979.

A memorial service for Mrs. Behnken was held at St. John-Ocala, FL, on July 7.

She is survived by her daughter, Maureen (David) Labagh of Ocala; son Lester (Jan) Behnken, Jr. of Detroit; six grandchildren; one great-grandchild; and a brother, William (Jean) Armstrong of St. Louis. □

## CAPSULES

by Rev. Gerhard Michael Jr.  
President, Florida-Georgia District

### Calling Congregations

#### Pastor

Augusta GA..... Our Redeemer  
Cape Coral FL..... Trinity  
Cartersville GA..... Savior of All  
Clewiston FL..... Faith  
Cumming GA..... Living Faith  
Fort Lauderdale..... Trinity  
Gainesville FL..... Abiding Savior  
Hialeah FL..... St. Andrew's  
LaBelle FL..... Christ the King  
North Miami FL..... Holy Cross  
North Palm Beach FL..... Faith  
Savannah GA..... Trinity  
Stockbridge GA..... Lord of Life  
Tallahassee FL..... Epiphany

#### Senior Pastor

Atlanta GA..... Rivercliff  
St. Petersburg FL..... Our Savior

#### Associate Pastor

Brandon FL..... Immanuel  
Mission Developer  
North Dade County  
(Miami Shores FL)..... Redeemer

#### Principal/Administrator

Brandon FL..... Immanuel  
Orlando FL..... Prince of Peace  
Orlando FL..... Trinity  
St. Petersburg FL..... Grace

#### DCE/DCO

St. Petersburg, FL..... Grace  
Winter Haven, FL..... Grace

#### Calls Extended

St. Andrews-Hialeah FL, extended a call to Rev. Matthew G. Prince, Board for Mission Services, Puerto Rico, as pastor.  
Grace-Winter Haven FL, extended a call to Rev. Charles T. Reich, Abiding Savior-Gainesville FL, as associate pastor.  
Immanuel-Brandon FL, extended a call to Rev. Daniel G. Brammeier, Chapel Hill NC, as Family Life and Youth Pastor.  
Immanuel-Brandon FL, extended a call to Mr. David Geidel, Loveland CO, as principal.  
Trinity-Delray Beach FL, extended a call to Mrs. Brenda Spieler, Peachtree City GA.  
Trinity-Delray Beach FL, extended a call to Miss Alicia Wilkie, Immanuel-Hamilton OH.  
Living Hope-Kennesaw GA, extended a call to Mr. Edward Mora, Crossbridge Community Church-Austin TX, as Director of Student Ministry.  
Epiphany-Lake Worth FL, extended a call to Deaconess Carol Olday to serve as Director of Parish Nursing/Deaconess.

### Calls Received

Rev. Scott Heitshusen, Trinity-Athens GA, received a call from St. Mark's-Houston TX, as pastor.  
Ms. Wendy Pritchard, Faith-Merritt Island FL, received a call from Glenview IL  
Mr. James Marriott, Bethlehem-Jacksonville Beach FL, received a call from St. Matthew-Walled Lake MI, as Minister of Music.

### Calls Accepted

Rev. Kevin Loughran, Sheboygan WI, accepted the call from Grace-St. Petersburg FL.  
Rev. Charles T. Reich, Abiding Savior-Gainesville FL, accepted the call from Grace-Winter Haven FL.  
Rev. Scott Heitshusen, Trinity-Athens GA, accepted the call from St. Mark's-Houston TX.  
Mr. John D. Goetz, Rochester Lutheran School-Rochester MN, accepted the call from Redeemer-Stuart FL.  
Ms. Wendy Pritchard, Faith-Merritt Island FL, accepted the call from Glenview IL.  
Miss Alicia Wilkie, Immanuel-Hamilton OH, accepted the call from Trinity-Delray Beach FL.

### Calls Declined

Rev. Paul vonWerder, Hope-Orlando FL, declined the call from Lord of Glory-Grays Lake IL.  
Rev. Dean Pfeffer, Hope-Plant City FL, declined the call from Our Savior-St. Petersburg FL.  
Rev. Charles T. Reich, Abiding Savior-Gainesville FL, declined the call from St. Paul-Westlake OH.  
Rev. Matthew G. Prince, Board for Mission Services, Puerto Rico, declined the call from St. Andrews-Hialeah FL.  
Mrs. Brenda Spieler, Peachtree City GA, declined the call from Trinity-Delray Beach FL.  
Mr. Jonathan Guelzow, Hickory NC, declined the call from Gloria Dei-Davie FL.

### Transferred from Other Districts

Mr. Cory Smith from Missouri  
Mrs. Rebecca Smith from Missouri

### Transferred to Other Districts

Rev. Larry W. Tieman to Northern Illinois  
Rev. Duane A. Brunette to Texas  
Rev. James R. Wiebel to North Wisconsin

### Church Triumphant

Ms. Barbara Herron, May 22, 2006

### Emeritus

Rev. Wayman L. Still, Sarasota FL.

## Proper Lays Baton Aside

Lake Oconee Lutheran Church-Eatonton, GA, Director of Music Kristin Proper recently conducted her last concert and performed her last worship service.

She is retiring after 46 years of serving as a church musician so she and her husband, Bob (who is retiring from the church choir), can spend more time traveling and focusing on family and friends.

Mrs. Proper began her ministry at Calvary Episcopal-Homer, NY. In referring to ending her service at Lake Oconee,

she often said God saved the best for last.

Mrs. Proper's final service as music director was on June

4. During his sermon, Pastor Ron Schornhorst spoke of how the music ministry — under her direction — helped lay the foundation of Lake Oconee Lutheran.

He noted how much "Kris has given of her time and talent and how she brought remarkable energy to her role. She founded the church choir, which performed concerts for local charitable causes throughout her tenure. She has nurtured fledgling talent and brought in established performers to blend harmoniously into a wonderful group."

Recently the choir recorded their first CD.

Schornhorst noted, "Lake Oconee Lutheran Church has truly been blessed to have Kris serve in this capacity for the past six years. She has established a 'heavenly' standard for those who will follow and she has proven to be a wonderful role model. We are all proud of her accomplishments. We wish Kris and Bob the best as they begin this new phase in their life."

After that worship service, Mrs. Proper was honored at a potluck luncheon where gifts were given and tributes were paid. □



Retiring Lake Oconee Lutheran Director of Music Kristin Proper with husband Bob (left) and Pastor Ron Schornhorst.



GRACE-WINTER HAVEN, FL, welcomed the 14 new members pictured above by adult confirmation and transfer during the 10:30 a.m. worship service on June 11. They were honored at a reception following the service. □