

# THE GEORGETOWN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Congregation in Georgetown supports an active music ministry. Worship music is provided throughout the church year by the Sanctuary Choir, which rehearses on Sunday mornings. Church members who have developed skills in instrumental music are encouraged to share their gifts through preludes, postludes, and other appropriate musical offerings.

The Georgetown Presbyterian Church has enjoyed a long and important role in the history of church music in Washington, DC. When the present building was renovated in the early 1950's, particular attention was paid to ensuring a favorable acoustic environment for worship in the new sanctuary. In this favorable environment, a new organ was installed. This instrument of 31 ranks, was built by the renowned American organ builder Aeolian-Skinner, and stands as an important addition to the organs in the Washington area. Its voice has led the congregation's song virtually every Sunday since installed.

When the Congregation returned to the renovated sanctuary in 1956, they hired William Watkins, a former student of Virgil Fox and Washington's most important organist, as Director of Music. Under his able leadership, the church became one of the important venues for sacred music in the city.

In 1997, after more than 40 years of distinguished service, Mr. Watkins retired, becoming Director of Music, Emeritus. He was succeeded by John Lintner, who studied with Ladd Thomas at the University of Southern California as well as with Mr. Watkins, and who served as Assistant Director of Music at GPC since 1980.



OUR CHOIR, UNDATED PHOTO

The 35-voice choir has a core of professional singers complemented by church members who contribute their musical talents to the glory of God. Their repertoire is inclusive of the best in church music, from Palestrina and early composers, through commissioned works by contemporary musicians working in the service of the church.



OUR ORGAN, BUILT IN 1957

"As this organ now stands, it is abreast of our times in every respect. It is capable of performing music of all periods. Color, shading and excitement are abundant. It can justifiably be termed an important organ; it is amazing because of its beauty and its capability in relation to its size. Nor is the future being overlooked: provisions have been made for certain additions as tastes change, as new needs develop."

*William Watkins - 1997*