

THE MUSIC MINISTRIES

First United Methodist Church is recognized as having the premier traditional church music program in the area. The program includes a Chancel Choir, consisting of dedicated members who lead the congregation in the Traditional worship service on Sunday Mornings, and who present seasonal programs for the Christmas, Holy Week and Easter seasons.

Chancel Choir Practice is held Wednesday evenings at 7:00 PM and is open to all who are willing to contribute their time and talent. Practice is generally limited to one hour per session. In addition there are sometimes special rehearsals for seasonal presentations.

The Chancel Choir is under the leadership of **Laura Mixon**,

Laura Aaron Mixon is a 2001 graduate of Baldwin County High School located in Bay Minette, Alabama. Laura accepted the Milton Jackson Memorial Scholarship to Faulkner State Community College in Bay Minette where she studied piano and voice with the Faulkner music faculty, tutored fellow students in music theory, and participated in the Faulkner Singers, Faulkner Jazz Band, and the Faulkner Sun Chief Sound Show Choir. She played the part of Christ's mother, *Mary*, in the first annual FSCC *Christmas on the Coast* production in 2002.

Laura transferred to Troy University in 2003 and majored in K-12 Vocal/Choral Music Education. While in school, Laura continued her studies in piano and voice. She was an active participant in Collegiate Singers, Chamber Choir, Opera Ensemble and the Sound of the South Marching Band. Laura also served as piano accompanist in Troy's theatre productions of *Snoopy the Musical* and *Pippin*'. One of Laura's highest honors was being selected to participate in a conducting workshop with Dr. Andre Thomas from FSU at the Alabama Music Educator's Convention in 2005. Laura graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Music Education in 2006. She then moved back to her hometown where she was the choral director at Baldwin County High School for two years and co-director of the *Jubilee Children's Community Chorus* from 2006-2007.

In 2008, Laura accepted a Graduate Assistantship for the J. M. Long School of Music at Troy University to pursue a master's degree in Music Education. Some of her responsibilities included selecting, rehearsing, and conducting the non-auditioned choral ensemble, Collegiate Singers. Laura continued her studies in piano and voice. She also conducted research on topic of the adolescent male changing voice and the challenges choral directors may encounter when teaching this population. While completing her degree, Laura taught Choral Music at Charles Henderson Middle School to 7th and 8th grade students, provided private lessons in the areas of voice and piano, and served as minister of music at a local church. Laura graduated Summa Cum Laude in 2010.

Laura is a Music Lecturer with the J.M. Long School of Music at Troy University.

In May 2010, Laura married William Mixon and the two currently reside in Troy, Al.

John Jinright is Chancel Organist.

John holds a Doctor's Degree and is a member of the music faculty at Troy University. He has previously held similar positions at other churches.

Instrumentalists and soloists are invited to make their talents available by contacting the director. Choir members, soloists, and instrumentalists need not be members of First United Methodist Church.

Also included in the music program are Childrens' choirs and handbells.