



New Music Director/Organist Appointed at Fort Street Church

Gifted Musician to Lead the Fort Street
Chorale and the Worship Choir as Well
as Serve as Church Organist

Marilyn Perkins Biery (pronounced “Beery”) has been appointed by the Session of Fort Street Presbyterian Church to the position of Music Director/Organist. As Music Director, she will succeed [Edward Kingins](#), who has held that position for 54 years; she will conduct the Fort Street Chorale and the Worship Choir and will lead the entire music program of the church. Her work begins on August 15; her first Sunday will be August 21. Edward Kingins is staying on through December 31 to advise Dr. Biery and will prepare the Chorale, as he always has, for the traditional Messiah concerts the first weekend in December.



Dr. Marilyn Biery

Marilyn Biery’s educational and experiential background is phenomenal and includes extensive work as an organist, conductor, composer, adjudicator, and educator. She holds the Bachelor of Music (B.M.) and Master of Music (M.M.) degrees in organ and church music from Northwestern University, two years toward a Doctor of Musical Arts (D.M.A.) degree in choral conducting from the University of Connecticut (UConn) as well as the D.M.A. in organ performance from the University of Minnesota. She was the conducting assistant to [Dr. Peter Bagley](#), nationally acclaimed choral conductor, who was the Director of Choral Activities at UConn.

Dr. Biery was a finalist in the National Open Competition in Organ Playing, sponsored by the American Guild of Organists (AGO) in Washington, DC; guest soloist with Orchestra New England at the Region One AGO Convention, New Haven, CT; Organist/Accompanist for the National Lutheran Choir; GIA Publications Showcase Organist; Fulbright Screening Committee Member, Organ/Harpsichord. In Connecticut, she was Director of Music Ministries at the First Church of Christ in Hartford. In Minnesota, she was the Founder and Conductor of the Cathedral of Saint Paul Concert Choir; Principal Conductor for Diocesan Hymn Festivals; Conductor for the Hymn Festival at the Cathedral of Saint Paul for the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada’s Annual Convention. She is the composer of numerous published organ and choral works.

Marilyn and her husband James – Minister of Music at Grosse Pointe Memorial (Presbyterian) Church in Grosse Pointe Farms, MI – have performed as organists and conductors throughout the United States. More information about them is available on their [website](#).

We look forward to welcoming Marilyn to Fort Street. Beside her outstanding musical talents, she is a very friendly and outgoing person who will create a joyful renaissance of excitement in the tradition of music excellence in our church and for the Greater Detroit community.
