



Meet Our Staff

AMA Director	Michael Bentley	Piano Instructors	Cindy Watson
AMA Coordinator	Janet Myers		Wanda Byerly
Choral & Voice Instructor	Cindy Watson		Lisa Qualls
Guitar/Ukulele	Dan Tanner		

Michael Bentley - AMA Director

Mr. Bentley earned a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Mars Hill University in Mars Hill, NC with a major in Trombone. In 1988, he graduated from the University of Louisville with a Master of Music degree in Trombone Performance and Orchestral Conducting. While at Mars Hill, Michael was selected as Student Teacher of the Year. After teaching High School Band and Chorus for 3 years, Michael answered the call to full time Music Ministry. He has served in churches across NC for the past 25 years. Most recently, he became the Associate Pastor of Music and Worship at FBC, Asheboro. Mr. Bentley is married and has 2 grown daughters.

Janet Myers – AMA Coordinator

Mrs. Myers is a graduate of Central Virginia Community College in Lynchburg, Virginia where she received an Associate degree in Business Administration. She is a veteran oboist, handbell ringer, vocalist, and pianist. As an accompanist, she has supported Musicals, Hymn Festivals, Choral Ensembles, Sr. Adult, Adult, Student and Children's Choirs, choral and instrumental soloist, and is currently serving First Baptist Church, Asheboro as church pianist, bringing 30+ years of playing experience to the keyboard. Janet is married and has 2 grown children.

Cindy Watson – AMA Ensemble Singers, Voice & Piano Instructor

Cindy Watson earned a Bachelor of Music degree from Mars Hill College in Mars Hill, NC with a major in Voice, K-12 Music Education certification, and a minor in French. In 1989 she was awarded a Master of Music degree from UNG-G. From 1990-2005, she was Director of the Prep Choir for the Southern Piedmont Children's Choirs. In 2000, she was selected Teacher of the Year for Asheboro city School. Cindy retired from Asheboro city Schools July 1, 2013 after teaching K-5 music for thirty years. She is currently a national board Certified Teacher in Early to Middle Childhood Music. As Choral Director of AMA, she teaches piano, voice, recorder and directs the Preparatory and Concert Choirs. Mrs. Watson is married and has 2 grown children.

Dan Tanner – Guitar Instructor

Dan Tanner is a graduate of Williamsburg Technical College in South, Carolina with an associate degree in Industrial Technology. He also holds an accounting degree from Randolph Community College in Asheboro, NC. Mr. Tanner has been playing guitar for over 49 years. In addition to the rewards of playing for personal enjoyment, his experience includes seven years as a guitarist for a southern gospel band and over ten years as guitarist for the First Baptist Church Praise Band. His love for finger style guitar playing lead him to begin teaching guitar with a desire to train the next generation of church guitarist. Mr. Tanner is married and has 2 grown children.

Wanda Byerly – Piano Instructor

Wanda Byerly is a graduate of Greensboro College with a Business Degree. Mrs. Byerly has extensive experience in piano, organ, and keyboard. As a homeschool teacher for 17 years, she has had multiple opportunities to practice and implement music education to children grades K-12. Mrs. Byerly is the current organist at Sunset Avenue Church of God and plays in the Worship Band as well. She is married (Boyd Byerly, Pastor of Sunset Avenue Church of God_ and has 2 grown children.

Lisa Qualls – Piano Instructor

Lisa Qualls received her Bachelor of Music and Master of Music Degrees with concentrations in Voice and Choral Conducting from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. In 2003, she earned National Board Certification in Adolescent and Young Adult Vocal Music. Lisa retired from Asheboro City Schools in 2011 with 30 years of service having taught Choral Music at the High School and Middle School levels. While at South Asheboro Middle School, she taught General Music and Piano Keyboards. Also while at SAMS she received an Innovative teaching grant from Donors Choose entitled, *“Piano, Key to At Risk Students.”* Ms. Qualls is a frequent Choral Festival adjudicator and clinician. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Music Educator’ Association. As an active member of First Baptist Church, Asheboro, she sings in the Sanctuary Choir, teaches Sunday School, teaches in Summer Music and Arts Camp, and shares the gospel on mission both in her community and abroad. Ms. Qualls enjoys spending time with family, photography, and cats.

Instructors are selected on the basis of their Christian testimony and professional expertise. All instructors hold a minimum of a bachelor’s degree in their instrument or field, or have equivalent performance/teaching experience in their instruction area. New instructors, as well as fields of study, will be added from time to time. All Academy instructors are given a full background check and meet the highest standards of teaching and professionalism.

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