

MEET OUR DIRECTOR...

Donna R. Hampton-Maki has been the beloved Music Director at Arlington Hills Presbyterian Church since January 14, 2002 — though prior to that time she filled in from time to time for previous directors. She has been a member of AHP since 1981. When the position vacated at the end of 2001, her musical abilities and background made her a natural fit—plus, when she was growing up, her father was the choral director at her hometown church in Indiana, and Donna was delighted to follow in his footsteps.

Donna was encouraged from an early age to develop and use her musical talents. Born in a small Indiana town and raised in a Wesleyan church, she began piano lessons at age 5. She played for her cousin's wedding at age 13, and from that day to now, she has played piano (and organ) for weddings, funerals, civic clubs, high school and college choirs, vocal and instrumental soloists, and much more.

From 1961-1963, while attending Marion College (now Indiana Wesleyan University), she accompanied and traveled with the college choir. After marriage and leaving college, she continued to work as secretary to the head of the music department, which allowed her to remain as the accompanist for the college choir, which included joint college-community presentations of Handel's *Messiah*.

Beginning in 1970—and continuing for several years—she was invited to accompany the “Halo Dollies,” a local group that sprang up from Transfiguration Church in Oakdale, Minn. From 1997-2009, Donna accompanied the Woodbury Chorus & Orchestra, a group of 85 musicians performing classical, gospel, and pop music at venues throughout Minnesota, as well as a 10-day international tour every two years. Since 2008, Donna has added her alto voice to a ministry choir, “Glad Tidings,” a St. Paul semi-professional group of 30 singers.

While enjoying all kinds of music, Donna most enjoys sacred music. In 2008, Donna and her sister Noritta Carter produced “A Legacy of Faith,” a flute and piano instrumental CD of sacred music for distribution to family and friends.

