

Hicks assumes choir director duties at First Christian

State Journal staff report

Dr. Lori Hicks has been called as the Chancel Choir director at First Christian Church.

Hicks replaces Dr. Carl Smith, who served as the church's choir director for over 45 years. She assumed her duties as choir director on Sept. 1.

Hicks serves as interim chair of Humanities and Performing Arts at Kentucky State University. She has also been an associate professor of voice and opera at Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina.

During COVID-19, when the choir isn't singing in worship, Hicks will be responsible for coordinating soloists and the church's quartet as well as performing solos.

When the church returns to its normal schedule, she will direct the Chancel Choir as well as soloists. Whitney Sherman will continue to serve as assistant choir director with the church's pastor, Dr. John Opsata, filling in as needed.

Hicks earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Kentucky State University, a master of music from Bowling Green State University and doctorate of musical arts from the University of Michigan.



BACKWARD GLANCE

A GIFT FOR MOM: The Crittenden brothers had their portrait taken as a gift for their mother, Alice Crittenden, in 1952. Pictured from left, front row, Virgil and Roger; back row, Lawrence, Dennis and Roy.

PHOTO BY GEORGE A. HILL SR. COURTESY OF RODGERS STUDIO

AWARD: ROSM coordinates the charity work of many local churches, agencies

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The award in two previous years was presented at the interfaith council's annual summer picnic at Cove Spring Park. But the council voted to cancel this year's community picnic because of coronavirus restrictions and precautions.

So in late August, council Chairman Rich Green presented the plaque to ROSM Executive Director Cindy Owen at her office, and both wore masks at the ceremony. Then council member Nathan Rome created a premiere video of the award presentation — shown virtually Aug. 31 on the interfaith council's Facebook page. The video remains available on the council's Facebook page and website.

At the virtual gathering on Facebook, Green said Ruby Layson and other founders of the interfaith council "adopted The International Charter for Compassion as the operating guide for our council. The Charter for Compassion is based on the Golden Rule — 'Do for others what you would have them do for you' — a belief wholeheartedly professed by all world religions."

The interfaith council has members from the Christian, Islamic, Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Baha'i and Unitarian Universalist religions.

ROSM coordinates the charity work of many local churches, organizations and agencies.

"ROSM and their supporters are where the rubber hits the road every day in taking care of our brothers and sisters in need," Green said. "Their boots-on-the-ground contributions showcase the compassion enshrined in the Charter for Compassion."

Owen said ROSM is a non-profit agency that partners with local area individuals, churches, agencies, businesses, and city and county governments to meet the needs of

individuals and families in Frankfort and Franklin County.

"ROSM's mission is to help people in emergency situations maintain stable living conditions," she said. "When unforeseen circumstances create an emergency that presents individuals and families from being able to maintain stability on their own, ROSM assists by paying bills and/or providing referrals for other available assistance that will help them in their efforts to sustain themselves."

"ROSM can only assist individuals and families because of all the generous supporters who contribute to ROSM. Since January 2019, ROSM has received funding from three grants, 18 organizations, agencies and businesses, 24 churches, and 108 individuals."

Owen said ROSM is fortunate to have generous volunteers.

"Kathy Carter, a former ROSM board member, has assisted with several needed matters, various individuals have donated office supplies, and (Cindy's husband) Ken Owen has donated his time and talents for information technology issues. We are very humbled by the generosity of so many."

In the early 1980s, churches began to realize people in need were contacting several different churches for assistance, and one church would not know that another church had already provided help. The Frankfort/Franklin County Ministerial Association discussed the matter, and in 1982 established ROSM to act as a clearinghouse to receive, review, and assist Frankfort and Franklin County residents in emergencies regarding essential needs; and to pay the service provider directly instead of giving money to individuals.

The churches provided funding

and began submitting applications to ROSM, and ROSM staff would communicate decisions to churches.

Today, ROSM works with 26 churches and agencies that submit applications for client assistance. ROSM has become a partner with the churches and agencies to offer assistance to local residents, "and has expanded service to include referrals for services not provided by ROSM," Owen said. "ROSM also works with the Franklin County Emergency Food Pantry."

"On a daily basis, the ROSM staff processes food orders, reviews and completes assistance requests, makes referrals, and answers questions."

ROSM also creates and maintains budgets, pays bills, balances accounts, writes reports and prepares for board meetings.

ROSM is governed by an 18-member board chaired by Dr. John Opsata, minister of First Christian Church. In addition to Owen, the financial administrator is Jane Orr, and operations administrator is Sara Barker. They're all part-time employees, and they conduct all the business of ROSM.

The first director, the late Alene Ransdell, served more than 30 years. The late Danny Garland followed Ransdell, and Owen has been director two-and-a-half years.

For more information on ROSM, go to rosmfrankfort.org.

"It's an honor for us to recognize ROSM with the Ruby Layson Award," said Jim Jackson, one of the founders of the interfaith council. "Cindy, you and your staff, your board and ministerial association all work as a team. You provide tremendous services in our community. This is our opportunity to recognize you for that, so thank you."

New Harvest to hold benevolence event Sept. 20

State Journal staff report

New Harvest Assembly of God will host a benevolence event from 3-5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 20.

The church will distribute free bags of non-perishable groceries as long as supplies last via drive-thru.

An ID is required.

The event will take place at the Iglesia Familiar Mana, 613 Teton Trail.

For more information call 502-607-0306.

Josephine Sculpture Park hosting Art in Nature Camp for ages 11-16

State Journal staff report

Create art, connect with nature and have fun in a hands-on, outdoor learning community at Josephine Sculpture Park.

The Art in Nature Camp for ages 11-16 will be every Saturday for six weeks Sept. 26-Oct. 31. The cost is \$90 per student. Registration is required by Sept. 23. There is a max of seven participants.

During Session I, participants will explore sculpture, nature printing, nature journaling and conservation ecology. All activities will incorporate mindfulness, nature connection and art in an outdoor setting.

ENTANGLEMENT: Video games became addiction Moore had to break

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Finally, I was out of money, but I had fun. That night I thought one thing: I had to do it again tomorrow.

I told my mom about the video game. She just told me to make sure I was careful when I had to cross the street. My friends and I would race to Grugin's everyday until it happened. I was hit by a car!

I spent several days in the hospital. I remember my mother in the ambulance with me. She looked at me and said, "You know *who* we believe in." I knew she was talking about the Lord. I only had a broken

wrist. All would eventually be OK.

This prompted my grandmother to give me an early Christmas present. It was a Nintendo. It was a new video gaming system. I could play all day from my couch. This was so awesome. It became one of my favorite hobbies. As new gaming systems came out my parents would buy them and games for me. It was just something that I really enjoyed.

Now, fast forward to 2004. I still loved video games. At the same time I started coming into the things of God. I devel-

oped a longing for God and His Word. My mother and pastor were teaching about having a prayer and Word life.

They were teaching me about having a relationship with God. I loved my new walk with God. I was growing by leaps and bounds. My mom would tell me that when I opened my eyes, I should pray and read the Bible before I do anything.

I was working third shift at a factory, so I would usually wake up around 2 p.m. I started praying and reading like mama said. That would last about 20-30 minutes. Then I would play video games for 4-5 hours a day.

I remember this one weekend night, God woke me up at about 3 a.m. As soon as I opened my eyes I heard the Lord say Acts 17. I immediately grabbed my Bible and started reading that chapter and then I came to verse 23: *For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found and altar with this inscription, TO THE UNKNOWN GOD, Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him I declare I unto you (Acts*

17:23).

I was *stunned!* I was worshipping a video game. It had become my God. God wasn't mad at me. He was showing me that I needed to rearrange my priorities. I needed to take a step back and evaluate how I was using my time. God isn't against video games. However, too much of anything other than God could potentially be toxic.

We don't wanna admit it, but when we give anything too much energy and time we become subject to that thing. That thing could be a career, relationship or an aspiration. I had become entangled in video games.

It was an addiction that took me a while to conquer. You would think I would listen to God and walk away. It wasn't that easy. Stay tuned because I'm not done with this story.

The Rev. Ron Moore Jr. is the associate minister at First Corinthian Baptist Church in Frankfort. Contact him at Revronmoore@gmail.com.

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