

Rev. Steve Harding

Minister of Media and Arts

Extension 213

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I spent most of my younger childhood in Charlotte. A Baptist church was built only a block from my home and our family began attending soon after it started having services and became active in the life of Shamrock Drive Baptist Church. I was a Royal Ambassador, singer in prechool, children, and youth choirs, a preschool choir director (while I was still in Junior High) and a member of the puppet team.

During high school my family moved to Rich Square in rural eastern North Carolina. There I became the pianist-organist for Lasker Baptist Church and worked closely with the youth program.

I began East Carolina University in 1983 as a Communication major with a minor in English. However, I often said I majored in BSU (Baptist Student Union). The BSU became my college family where I attended Bible studies, fellowships, and served on the Council. During the summers I worked a variety of mission jobs in Miami Beach, Florida; as part of the Apostoloi Team through the Wilimington Baptist Association; and with Resort Area Missions in Boone; and as a Photojournalis for the North Carolina Baptist State Convention.

For two-and-a-half years during my undergraduate years, I served as Youth Minister at Piney Grove Baptist Church in the Farm Life Community near Williamston. Piney Grove is the home of *The Message of Easter*, an annual outdoor drama portraying the final days of Christ's life. I also had the chance to perform in several productions at ECU and in the Greenville area. My freshman year I was a soldier in *Jesus Christ Superstar* and two years later I starred as the "Bear" to Sandara Bullock's "Tiger Lilly" in *Peter Pan*. In the past couple of years I have become very active with area community theatre, performing, and directing in Greenville, Farmville, and Ayden.

After graduating in 1987, and a brief stint working in retail at Rose's department store, I returned to Greenville and ECU to earn a Master's of Arts in Technical Communication and created the first computerized writing classroom at ECU. In 1988 I began attending Oakmont. I soon became active in the music program as a Chancel Choir member, Children's Choir leader, and volunteer pianist and organist. I was also a leader with the youth ministry, working with Bible studies and mission trips. In later years I become heavily involved with the



Revelation Players, acting in the first Dinner Theater, and sharing the directing, writing, and acting responsibilities with a talented group of folks.

My current position is my fourth paid position at Oakmont. One summer I was Church Secretary filling in for the secretary who was on maternity leave. I was also the Interim Minister of Music (before Michael McKnight arrived). I also shared the Organist position for several months, along with Karen Meetze.

In 1997, while working as a Lecturer in the English Department at ECU, I felt God calling me into another facet of ministry. I began attending Campbell University Divinity School in 1998 as a member of the third class of that new school. After graduating in 2002, Oakmont had a need for an additional minister with skills in areas I was gifted.

At Oakmont I work with the Technical Ministries team behind the scenes to provide the lighting, sound, multi-media, and television aspects of our church's ministry. I also work with the various drama groups (Revelation Players, the youth's Genesis Players, and children's musicals) in producing dramas for our worship services and special events. In addition, I work with various groups for the visual aspects of our worship spaces.