



Southern Hills Baptist Church

5590 South Lewis

Tulsa, OK 74105

Phone: 918-743-8897

Fax: 918-743-8422

Website: shbc-tulsa.org

**Jesse Graver,
Associate Pastor of Worship
and Creative Arts
jesse@shbc-tulsa.org**

**Angela Seefeldt, Administrative Assistant
angela@shbc-tulsa.org**

**THE WORSHIP AND CREATIVE
ARTS MINISTRIES
of
SOUTHERN HILLS BAPTIST CHURCH
Tulsa, Oklahoma**



Southern Hills
baptist church

**Let everything that
has breath praise the Lord.
Praise the Lord!
Psalm 150:6**

Date: January , 2008

SOUTHERN HILLS WORSHIP CHOIR

Who Are We?

We are a group of called individuals who have felt the Lord's leadership in serving as worship leaders, and it is our prayer that you, too, will sense this call, and catch a vision of how God can use us as willing vessels.

What Do We Do?

Throughout the Bible, the Lord has used singers in many ways. Our church is a Twentieth Century—First Century Church and one of the things the Lord is doing is calling us back to a biblical foundation for why we sing.



*“Sing forth the honor of His name; Make His praise glorious!”
Psalm 66:2*

We exist for the fame of His Name!

WHERE ARE WE ULTIMATELY GOING?

God is seeking worshipers.—**John 4:23** *But an hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for such people the Father seeks to be His worshipers. God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.*

“The answer to where God wants people to be is in a spiritual condition and in a lifestyle that displays His glory and honors His name.” - John Piper [The Marks of a Spiritual Leader](#)

“God wants the world to overhear Him. We are not to simply communicate the Gospel to them. We are to celebrate the Gospel before them.” - Tim Keller, Redeemer Presbyterian Church, New York, New York

My prayer is that God would begin to develop people of passion for Him through the Worship and Creative Arts Ministry.

11. Thou shalt not whine. Complaining and murmuring by the children of Israel in the wilderness stirred up the wrath of God against them. Every choir member should strive to maintain a positive attitude. Refraining from “whining” and expressing your negative comments will not only please God, it will please the choir leaders and your choir neighbors. **Remember, we are flexible!**

Proverbs 15:4 *The tongue that brings healing is a tree of life, but a deceitful tongue crushes the spirit.*

Philippians 2:14 *Do everything without complaining or arguing.*

12. Remember the Southern Hills Future Picture and keep it close at heart. Apply this motto to your everyday life, not just at choir.

Southern Hills Baptist Church will be a compassionate, committed, courageously authentic, compelling force for God in the city of Tulsa. We will be a church of healing grace that provides irresistible environments where lives of people of all ages are being transformed daily in Christ. We will strive to see that every person is.....

- ◆ **GROUND**ED in a personal relationship with Christ and His church
- ◆ **GROW**ING toward becoming more like Christ in all aspects of life and our life together, and
- ◆ **GIV**ING one’s life in service to the Body of Christ and on mission to those in need of Him.

WE ARE. . .

To Rehearse the Righteous Acts of God!

Judges 5:11 “The voice of the **singers** at the watering places were to . . . (KJV) . . . rehearse the righteous acts of the Lord. (NIV) . . . recite the righteous acts of the Lord.

Appointed to Sing Joyful Songs!

1 Chronicles 15:16 (NIV) “David told the leaders of the Levites to appoint their brothers as singers to sing **joyful** songs, accompanied by musical instruments, lyres, harps, and cymbals.” (KJV) “. . . by lifting up the voice with joy. . .”

To Sing in Unison of Heart and Voice, Having our House in Order!

2 Chronicles 5:13 (NIV) “The trumpeters and **singers** joined in unison . . . as with one voice, to give praise to the Lord. Accompanied by trumpets, cymbals, and other instruments, they raised their voices in praise to the Lord and sang: ‘He is good; His love endures forever.’ Then the temple of the Lord was filled with a cloud, and the priests could not perform their service because of the cloud, for the glory of the Lord filled the temple of God.”

To Lead the Praise!

2 Chronicles 23:13 (NIV) “She looked, and there was the king, standing by his pillar at the entrance. The officers and the trumpeters were beside the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and the blowing trumpets, and **singers** with musical instruments were leading the praises”

Appointed!

Nehemiah 7:1 (NIV) “After the wall had been rebuilt and I had set the floors in place, the gatekeepers and the **singers** and the Levites were appointed.”

To Offer Up Sacrifices of Praise, Not Neglecting the House of God! Regularly attending the services of SHBC. Consistently giving at least a tithe through the ministry of SHBC.

WE ARE. . .

the Levites when they receive the tithes, and the Levites are to bring a tenth of the tithes up to the house of our God to the storerooms of the treasury. The people of Israel, including the Levites, are to bring their contributions of grain, new wine, and oil to the storerooms where the articles for the sanctuary are kept and where the ministering priests, the gatekeepers and the **singers** stay. ‘We will not neglect the house of our God.’”

Under Orders of the King! To be committed to the inerrancy and authority of the Bible, and in harmony with the SHBC Statement of Faith and Vision Statement.

Nehemiah 11:22-23 (NIV) “The chief officer for the Levites in Jerusalem was Uzzi son of Bani, the son of Hashabiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Mica. Uzzi was one of Asaph’s descendants, who were the **singers** responsible for the service of the house of God. The singers were under the king’s orders, which regulated their daily activity.”

To Join Together with Singers from other Regions!

Nehemiah 12:28-29 (NIV) “The **singers** also were brought together from the region around Jerusalem—from the villages of the Netophathites, from Beth Gilgal, and from the area of Geba and Azmaveth, for the **singers** had built villages for themselves around Jerusalem.”

Set Apart for Purification! To be careful in both your public and private behavior (in what you read, what you view, what you listen to, where you go) to bring honor to the Name of Christ.

Nehemiah 12:45-47 (NIV) “They performed the service of their God and the service of purification as did also the singers and the gatekeepers, according to the commands of David and his son, Solomon. For long ago, in the days of David and Asaph, there had been directors for the singers and for the songs of praise and thanksgiving to God. So in the days of Zerubbabel and of Nehemiah, and all Israel contributed the daily portions for the **singers** and gatekeepers. They also set aside the portion for the other Levites, and the Levites set aside the portion for the descendants of Aaron.”

Proverbs 8:17 I love those who love me, and those who seek me find me.

- 9. Thou shalt dwell in the choir loft until dismissed.** Just as arriving late for service is distracting, leaving the choir loft during services is also disruptive. Choir members are asked to remain in the choir loft until dismissed by the director or designated time within the order of service. While in the choir loft, choir members are to remember that every movement made is observed by the congregation. Talking, chewing gum, itching your nose and looking around are not appropriate activities during services. The passion displayed as a choir will set the mood for the entire worship service.

Leviticus 20:7 Consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am the Lord your God.

Psalms 5:7 But I, by your great mercy, will come into your house; in reverence will I bow down toward your holy temple.

- 10. Thou shalt present thy body wholly and appropriately dressed before the Lord.** Proper hygiene and cleanliness are of the utmost importance. Please make every effort to guard against any embarrassing and offensive situations. Please be considerate of fellow choir members when applying perfumes and colognes. Some people may be allergic to certain scents and we are in “close quarters.”

Romans 12:1 Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship.

Psalms 5:7 The lazy man does not roast his game, but the diligent man prizes his possessions.

6. Thou shalt not commit murder nor bear false witness against thy choir neighbor.

Character assassinations (a.k.a. gossiping) and lying about fellow choir members are not characteristic of a mature Christian. A church leader should lead by example as well as through the spoken word.

Proverbs 11:12 *A man who lacks judgment derides his neighbor, but a man of understanding holds his tongue.*

Romans 14:19 *Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification.*

7. Thou shalt depart from iniquity. Choir members should live a lifestyle consistent with the teachings of Christ. The reputation and integrity of Southern Hills Baptist Church and the Worship Choir can be destroyed by your actions.

Proverbs 16:17 *The highway of the upright avoids evil, he who guards his way guards his life.*

Romans 14:13 *Therefore let us stop passing judgment on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way.*

8. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it early. The service at Southern Hills is an occasion to worship the one true God. Punctuality is vital to preserving the worshipful attitude of our service. Choir members are expected to be in the choir room at 10:45 for the Sunday morning service. Arriving late for service is very distracting and capable of destroying the worship atmosphere.

1 Chronicles 16:29 *Ascribe to the Lord the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him; worship the Lord in the splendor of his holiness.*

WE ARE. . .

In front, focused on the praising the Lord and totally Dependant on the Power of God!

Psalm 68:25-28 “In front are the **singers**, after them the musicians; with them are the maidens playing tambourines. Praise God in the great congregation; praise the Lord in the assembly of Israel. There is the little tribe of Benjamin, leading them, there are the great throng of Judah's princes, and there are the princes of Jebulun and Nephtali. Summon your power, O God; show us your strength, O God, as you have done before.”

- A dedicated group of people who have joyfully accepted opportunities for advancing the kingdom of God.
- A leadership group in singing and worship, functioning always as a part of the worshipping congregation.
- A group of people who consider that regular attendance is a vital part of their service to God.
- A crusading force.
- A unifying force in the whole life of the church.

1 Kings 1:40 (NIV) **“And all the people went up after him, playing flutes and rejoicing greatly, so that the ground shook with the sound.”**

WEDNESDAY PREPARATION TIME:

1. Make it a priority to be on time.
2. Secure copies of the songs to be sung. (They will be on the table to pick up)
3. If music is to be memorized, begin memorizing it at the initial reading.
4. We don't go to church to worship, we bring our worship to church. This applies to our preparation time. Throughout history, great movements of God and outpourings of the Holy Spirit came as people gave themselves to wholehearted worship. Our preparation time on Wednesday is a time for us to give ourselves to learning the music we will offer up, and as we learn, it will begin to permeate our whole being. We will begin to live the music throughout the week and we will come to Sunday, full and over-flowing.

PLEASE NOTE!

The SHBC Worship Choir rehearses from 6:30 to 8:00 pm every Wednesday unless otherwise notified.

Missing one rehearsal does not prevent you from singing the following Sunday. However, since the music is rehearsed weeks in advance, should you miss three or more rehearsals in a row, please sit out until you can return to rehearsal to learn the latest music. For the same reason, you should attend rehearsal even though you know you will not be singing the following Sunday.

established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted; and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.

Proverbs 19:20 *Listen to advice and accept instruction, and in the end you will be wise.*

4. Thou shalt be faithful to thy commitment.

In making your commitment to the choir by signing the commitment letter, you are stating that you will give your best efforts in attending regular and special rehearsals, services and other performances. If you anticipate an absence at any event, please contact Jesse or Angela. We understand that some peoples' jobs require working on Sunday. In that case, inform Jesse.

Proverbs 15:3 *The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.*

James 5:12 *Above all, my brothers, do not swear—not by heaven or by earth or by anything else. Let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, or you will be condemned.*

5. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's solo, seat, or microphone. As choir members and leaders in the church, respect for your fellow worship ministers should reflect the growth and maturity of your Christian walk. Solos and seating arrangements are made by choir leadership to enhance the overall ministry of the Southern Hills Worship Choir, not for the individual recognition of its members.

Philippians 2:3 *Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.*

Proverbs 13:10 *Pride only breeds quarrels, but wisdom is found in those who take advice.*

THE TEN (OR SO) CHOIR COMMANDMENTS “DUTY-RONOMY”

- 1. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, with all thy mind, and with all thy strength.**

Proverbs 1:7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and discipline.

Proverbs 14:27-27 He who fears the Lord has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the Lord is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.

- 2. Thou shalt love thy choir neighbor as thyself.** Do unto others as you would have them do unto you. Whatever you put into the lives of others comes back into your own.

Proverbs 11:17 A kind man benefits himself, but cruel man brings trouble on himself.

Proverbs 14:21 He who despises his neighbor sins, but blessed is he who is kind to the needy.

- 3. Thou shalt honor thy choir leaders that thou mayest live long in the ministry the Lord thy God give thee. This is the first commandment with a promise.** In the SHBC Worship Choir, there is room for only one director, Jesse Graver. All others are to follow his direction and show proper respect for his authority and those whom Jesse and the church chooses to place in leadership positions.

Proverbs 13:1-2 Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been

SUNDAY MORNING:

Begin the day praying for the worship services at Southern Hills Baptist Church. Pray for Pastor Hess that God would anoint him.

Pray for Jesse as he leads worship this morning. Begin to recite the righteous acts of God. Pray for the choir as we lift up the praises and lead out in worship. Pray for the song. Pray for flexibility that our passion will not be what we sing, but why we sing. That we will follow the Lord.

We will meet in the choir room at 10:10 to pray and go through what we will sing. Pick up your folder and worship bulletin.

OUR PURPOSE:

- To help bring a sense of celebration to the worship of God.
- To prompt the congregation in singing praise to God.
- To continually lead the church in a deeper understanding and appreciation of music and worship.
- To be a valuable arm for the church in outreach to the community.

WHAT IS REQUIRED TO BECOME A MEMBER?

1. A sense of God's call—joining us as a worship leading team member is something God has for your life, not necessarily what you have for God. (Isaiah 6:8 “Here am I, send me O God.”)
2. A willing heart to follow the leadership of the Holy Spirit.
3. An open heart to learn how to continually express our praise and worship through the medium of music.
4. An obedient heart to follow the leadership God has placed at SHBC.
5. An understanding of the importance of teamwork and continuity.

If at any time in the future your response to these statements pertaining to the choir changes, please talk to Jesse Graver individually before you discuss it with anyone else.

You may be wondering if I care whether you can sing or not. You must have some interest and willingness, or else you wouldn't be reading this! My answer is the following quote,

**“Use the talents you possess,
for the woods would be very silent if no
birds sang except the best.”**

WHAT WILL WE EXPECT OF YOU?

We will expect you to be present at every rehearsal and worship service as a worship leader, except for the following reasons:

1. Illness (personal for family)
2. Work
3. Vacation
4. Your own death, rapture, or transfer to Heaven!
(We require at least two weeks notice!)

You are expected to contact Jesse in the event of a necessary absence before the absence occurs. You can leave word at the church, 918-743-8897, or e-mail at jesse@shbc-tulsa.org. If you know ahead of time, write your name on the “I’m Out” calendar located in the choir room..

We will expect you to prepare individually for worship services by:

1. Expecting an encounter with the Lord and his love in every service. He will not disappoint you! “I will not give unto the Lord that which costs me nothing.” 2 Samuel 24:24
2. Making each song a personal prayer, petition, or praise to God.
3. Thinking through and understanding the text of the song so that you can communicate that message with your full personality and expression.
4. Giving positive and appropriate expression of the songs in each service.
5. Being personally responsible for the Sunday morning preparation period; having your bulletin and folder with you, ready to sing.
6. Being committed to learn, understand, and experience unfamiliar styles and forms of worship.