

October Newsletter 2011

Welcome to Mina Choi our new Director of Music and Organist
Mina Choi has joined the church staff as Director of Music and Organist as of September 1, 2011. She recently moved to New York to start Doctoral studies in performance practice at Cornell University. However, because she was in Asia at the time she contacted us about the position, we had to wait until late August to actually meet and interview Mina. We are very glad we waited.

Mina's family immigrated to USA from South Korea about 20 years ago, and she grew up in Dallas/Arlington, Texas area but migrated northward to start her formal music education at the Eastman School of Music. During that time she served as organist at the Rochester United Methodist Church. Mina then moved to London to complete her bachelor's degree at the Royal College of Music where she served as assistant music director at St. John the Baptist Anglican Church, Pinner and organ scholar at Chelsea Old Church. After the study in UK, she returned to the US and earned a Master's degree in music at Yale and served as music director and organist at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Milford, CT and chapel organist at Yale Divinity School Chapel. Mina then moved back to Texas to teach at middle school and community college as well as serving as organist at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church, Bedford, Texas.

Europe drew her back for a second Master's degree in organ and early music at the Conservatorium of Amsterdam with a period as an exchange student to Stuttgart, Germany to study the organ music of Max Reger. In Amsterdam, she also served as organist in Pelgrimskerk, Amstelveen, and she was involved actively in playing in organ and choral concerts together with professional musicians and choirs.

Along with her musical careers, Mina did mission works in Asia and Europe before preparing to start at Cornell. She has passion to reach out to those who are lost and broken. This summary is not complete and has omitted many of Mina's other activities as well as all of her awards, scholarships and concerts.

If you think that Mina is intimidating, fear not. She is delightful and friendly. More importantly, Mina has a strong commitment to bring meaningful music to the church service and the glorification of God. Most Sundays Mina will disappear quickly after the service because she has volunteered to play at the Cornell Korean Christian Gathering in Ithaca.

It is hard to keep up with Mina but we feel truly blessed to have her as part of our church community while she is at Cornell.

Jannette Monterville and Bob Seem , Search Committee Co-chairs

During the summer from May 9—Sept 4, we had several piano and organ people who were kind enough to help us as we continued to search: Sue Stobie, piano; Ralph Meluney and Marg DePalma, organ. I sent all of them Thank-You notes and a note to me from Marg De Palma expressed her enjoyment in playing at our church. " I found you and the members of the congregation to be very friendly and I felt welcome. You are very fortunate to have such an outstanding minister. I will keep you all in my prayers."

Our sincere thanks goes to the committee: Karen Beals, Kathy Gee, Jack LaValley, Nancy Shuster and Barbara Van Kirk for a job well done.

- Jannette Monterville

The choir rehearses at 6pm on Wednesday evenings.

We hope you will be able to join in the music!