



DR. DOUGLAS LEIGHTENHEIMER

Our new Director of Music and Organist, Douglas Blair Leightenheimer, obtained his Doctor of Musical Arts degree from the University of Arizona's Fred Fox School of Music on May 12, 2016. On January 15th, 2016, he presented his doctoral lecture recital, "From Couperin to Vierne: Liturgical and Stylistic Connections between the French Baroque and French Romantic Organ Mass,"

at the University of Arizona.

Douglas Leightenheimer is a native of Portsmouth, Ohio, and a 1982 graduate of the University of Kentucky in Lexington. He earned his Master of Music degree in church music from Westminster Choir College in 1984. Doug served as director of music ministries for Venice Presbyterian Church in Venice, FL for more than 12 years. Then, for the fifteen years prior to his arriving in Arizona, he was director of music (organist/director) for First Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, NC. At First Presbyterian, he had extensive experience playing First Presbyterian's historic 1928 E. M. Skinner pipe organ (Op. 713), an earlier version of St. Michael's glorious 1959 Æolian-Skinner organ. For the last three years of his tenure at First Presbyterian, he also served as music director for the Schola Cantorum of the Episcopal Diocese of East Carolina.

In mid-2012, Doug left Wilmington to pursue his doctorate at the University of Arizona. Upon the retirement of the church's previous choir director, Jane Haman, in the fall of 2012, two parishioners recommended the doctoral student as an excellent candidate to fill the position. Doug served as a guest choir director at St. Michael's, along with several other applicants. St. Michael's was delighted to welcome Douglas Leightenheimer as its new music director, choir director and organist in late 2012.

A board member of the Southern Arizona chapter of the American Guild of Organists, Douglas Leightenheimer has also served on the executive boards of the Sarasota-Manatee (Florida) and Wilmington (North Carolina) chapters of the same organization, including two terms as dean for each group. He is also a published composer and recitalist. In 2008 he was featured with the Wilmington Symphony Orchestra performing *Symphony No. 3* by Camille Saint-Saëns and *Symphonie Concertante* by Joseph Jongen. In both April 2013 and April 2014, he performed the Mildred Flood Mahoney Memorial Organ Series Concert at the University of Arizona. Recent solo performances include the evensong series at St. Phillip's Episcopal Church, and the 2015 summer series at Catalina United Methodist Church in Tucson. During UA's 2016 spring semester, he served as an assistant conductor with the University Community Chorus.