

In Her Own Words:

Vickie Wagner Brings Heart, Soul and Original Music to Saturday Evening Worship



Saturday evening worship has a new feel, a new location, and an inspiring new voice in singer/songwriter Vickie Wagner.

"Music is the best way I know to hold God's word and truth in our hearts and minds," said Vickie, who leads the music portion of Grace's "in the round" Saturday evening service in the Grace Activity Center. "I think the music that I offer will be uniquely different than that of our other wonderful worship services and may appeal to people in a different way." Vickie's hope is that worshipers will sense the presence of the Holy Spirit and be drawn to God through the openness and intimacy of the Saturday evening worship style.

"I was swept away," confessed Harriet McCabe, a self-professed "high church" traditionalist, of a recent Saturday evening worship service she hesitantly attended with a visiting friend. "We came for the communion offering, but there was such dignity in this ser-

vice, and immediate community was built." Won over, Harriet now plans to regularly attend both the Saturday evening service and the 9:30 Sunday service.

An experienced singer, director and music teacher whose talents have taken her all over the world, Vickie Wagner added "recording artist" to her list of accomplishments after attending a concert at her church in Minnesota some years ago. "The thought came to me that I should be writing my own music. I was surprised when the songs sort of flowed out of me," said Vickie, who has an original CD entitled *Look to the Light* and her own web site, www.vickiesong.com.

Vickie's music, which she describes as a mix of contemporary Christian and acoustic/folk, is inspired by Scripture, the natural world, and life experiences. A song on her CD called "Lost In a World of Our Own" was born when she and her husband, Grace Minister of Music Dan Wagner, noticed that their two children had "zoned out" in the back seat of their car. "I said to Dan, 'They're lost in their own little world,' and out of that came a

song about how people go through life oblivious to God and what He's done for us through Christ."

Since meeting Dan in 1983 while she was Director of Music and Worship at a Phoenix area church, Vickie has teamed up with her husband in several music ministry capacities over the years. At Grace, where the couple came in 2006 after serving at Christ Church in Oak Brook, Vickie is a member of the Chancel Choir and the summer Praise Team. Along with Dan, she is co-director of the Youth Chorale as well as the group's accompanist. She was also keyboardist for this year's Vacation Bible School. At the behest of Pastor Bob Atkins, who felt that Vickie's stirring music would be an appropriate fit for the new Saturday evening format, Vickie began leading Saturday evening worship music on August 18.

"I invite people to try visiting this service. I hope to get to know more of the Grace church family as we grow together in our faith and love for the Lord," said Vickie. Let us accept the invitation.