

## **Bill Dake**

### *Organist and Music Director*

Bill Dake was born in Washington, D.C. His dad was instrumental in encouraging his love of the arts. Bill and his family lived in Washington, D.C. where plays, operas and concerts and other cultural events were readily available to him. Later in his early years he moved with his family to Ft. Pierce, Florida where he completed his K-12 schooling.

Bill's love for the organ and sacred choral music was awakened when his dad, who was Episcopalian, often took him to the National Cathedral in Washington for services and sacred concerts. His mother was a United Methodist. Bill attended both services and developed a rich passion for the various types of worship styles.

His college education led to Bachelor and master's degrees in Sacred Music, Humanities, English and Music Education from Florida Southern College, Lakeland, Fl., University of South Florida, Tampa and St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota. He felt a calling to teach young people while continuing his church music passion. After college Bill accepted high school choral teaching positions in Bartow and Tampa, Florida. Bill returned home to accept the choral position at Westwood High School in Ft. Pierce and later at Southport Middle School, Southern Oaks Middle School and Treasure Coast High School in Port St. Lucie. He has served as music director at First Baptist Church and the Christian Science Church in Ft. Pierce. After successfully serving as choir director and organist, he moved on to a position at St. Andrew Lutheran Church where he has served as music director and organist for 38 years. He retired from teaching after 40 years and now devotes his time to church music and radio broadcasting (host *of the Sunday Smooth Jazz Brunch, WOSN,97.1* )

Bill is a member of the local chapter of the American Guild of Organists, National Music Education, Phi Mu Alpha music fraternity and the Florida Vocal Association. Over the years Bill has been blessed to play the organs at the Crystal Cathedral (*Christ Cathedral*) in California, Central Lutheran in Minneapolis, Riverside Church in New York City, First Presbyterian Church in Tampa, and studied with Diane Bish who was the first organist at Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church in Ft. Lauderdale.

Bill attributes his longevity to many things including his church family, fellow musicians, outstanding staff, and the joy of spreading God's ministry. Bill knows that music is ultimately from God, and when we sing or play our music for His glory, we are extending our gifts and talents as a dedication and offering to Him. Music is more than a study. It is the stewardship of a God-given skill and a means of giving back to He who has blessed us in many ways.