Building Your Choir Intergenerationally  
Randall Bradley  
Many church choirs are aging and lacking the ability to attract younger members. Based on a working model, this session will explore strategies that, in a local church context, are proving to be effective.

Hearts, Hands and Voices – Working with the Whole Person  
Michael Burkhardt  
A hands-on session and experience focusing on whole person and learning style awareness in working with children’s choir singers.

Working with the Child Voice  
Michael Burkhardt  
A session focusing on understanding the child voice and developmental experiences for singers of all shapes and sizes (speech-like singer, dependent singer, limited-range singer, untuned singer).

Repertoire Selection:  
Michael Burkhardt  
Where we’re at, where we’ve been, where we’re going  
A session focusing on choosing meaningful and appropriate literature for children of all ages and backgrounds.

Children in Worship – Preparing, Praising, Proclaiming and Praying  
Michael Burkhardt  
A hands-on session and experience focusing on engaging children in worship and children leading worship.

Three “Rs” – Really Rehearsing Repertoire  
Michael Burkhardt  
A hands-on session and experience focusing on score study, rehearsal planning and rehearsal strategies.

Stepping Stones to Part Singing  
Michael Burkhardt  
A hands-on session and experience focusing on sequential planning for and development of part singing skills.
Nuts and Bolts – Before, During, and After the Rehearsal
Michael Burkhardt
A session focusing on the non-musical aspects of a children’s choir program.

The Care and Feeding of Children’s Choirs
Michael Burkhardt
A hands-on session and experience focusing on both the spiritual and musical nourishment of young singers.

The Care and Feeding of the Children’s Choir Director
Michael Burkhardt
A session focusing on the physical, emotional and spiritual well-being of children’s choir leaders.

PIE TALK: My Most Important Ministry Lesson
Burkley/Johnson/King
Ministry leadership is often confusing and challenging, but lessons are learned along the way that offer hope amidst the difficulty. Join these church leaders as they each share their most important ministry lessons, followed by an invitation to discuss.

First Things First: Covering the Basics in Preschool Music
Susan Eernisse
We will look at key music concept categories and engaging activities to plug into weekly preschool music sessions...singing, listening, moving, and more. We will use the new Growing in Grace Preschool Fall Unit “Fruit of the Spirit” as a guide.

I CAN Read Music!
Susan Eernisse
Help preschoolers develop pre-reading music skills to put them on the path to a lifetime of music making. We’ll explore colorful, active, hands-on activities that will leave the PreK bunch (& their teachers) wanting more.

Puppets and Furry Friends – Fun With No End!
Susan Eernisse
Add puppets to music for a winning combination! Story songs, singing skills and musical concepts are great fun with these furry friends; AND you don’t have to be a ventriloquist to be successful!

Sing in a Circle
Susan Eernisse
Singing songs, playing games and exploring instruments...so much better when we do it together. Help preschoolers develop musically and socially through shared learning experiences.

PIE TALK: Engaging Children Through Music - Why It Matters
Gackle/ Monteiro/Taylor
We all agree that musical engagement should begin at an early age, but why does it matter so much? Join these children's music leaders, advocates, and innovators as they each share their philosophy on children's music ministry, discussing how and why music is used to form the children in our churches.

Putting Score Study into Action in the Choral Rehearsal
Joshua Habermann
95% of our time is spent not in performance, but in rehearsal. How can we make our rehearsal process both more efficient and more enjoyable? Explore best practices of score preparation and rehearsal techniques designed to engage singers of all levels.
Latin American Choral Performance
Joshua Habermann
More and more of our singers are from Spanish language backgrounds, yet they rarely get the chance to sing the great literature of Latin America. In this session explore the traditions of choral music from Argentina to Mexico, with a focus on performance practices of the various folk traditions, differences in national styles, incorporating improvisation into choral performance, and tips on how and when to use percussion.

Music literacy in the choral rehearsal
Joshua Habermann
When was the last time you heard a choir director complain about too much rehearsal time? All of us, at every level, wish that we could spend less time teaching parts are more time shaping the music. Our choirs' ability to read and internalize music quickly usually varies widely person to person, yet we are tasked with bringing them all together across the finish line. How can we infuse that corporate learning process with literacy-building in such a way that our singers' individual skills grow?

Sacred Music from Scandinavia and the Baltics
Joshua Habermann
Explore great sacred music from the land of the Northern Lights. Pieces appropriate for a variety of levels.

Around the World in 60 Minutes
Joshua Habermann
This session will focus on the most common difficulties for American choirs singing in Spanish, French, Italian and German, and how to correct them. This will not be a review of diction rules, but rather a primer for working directly with singers with careful listening and humor to help them perfect their pronunciation of the most commonly used languages. The cheapest way to see Madrid, Paris, Rome and Berlin in just one hour!

The Composer's Journey
Benjamin Harlan
Congregational Song - Resources and Ideas
Benjamin Harlan

God is Actually in the Room: Worship as Encounter
Zac Hicks
When we gather for worship, do we really believe that God will be present in a unique way? In this session, we will examine a biblical and theological case for the presence of God in worship's various elements, and explore practically how we can recover the wonder of the God who is there.

Planning Worship Like a Dietician
Zac Hicks
Worship planning is all too often enslaved to the tyranny of the urgent. In this session, we will look at planning through the helpful metaphor of a "theological dietician," exploring the breadth of themes in the Scriptures and how we can successfully plan a healthy "diet" of those themes into the short-term and long-term rhythms of weekly worship.

The Lord Will Fight for Us: Worship as War
Zac Hicks
When we enter into gathered worship, we step into a battlefield where a spiritual war is taking place. How does Scripture tell us to arm ourselves? What are our chief weapons? How are we made ready? How do we cultivate a sense of urgency in others? We will explore these questions and more.
A Touchy Subject: Emotions and Worship  Zac Hicks
What do our emotions have to do with worship? Is healthy emotionalism even imaginable in our contexts, and if so, how do we help the people of God engage in "faithful feelings" when we gather to sing, pray, preach, and come to the table? We will explore biblical themes and the history that has shaped our thinking, and we will look at some practical ways to move toward a more Christian understanding of emotions in worship.

Architecting Gospel-Shaped Worship Services in Any Tradition  Zac Hicks
The gospel is the center of our Christian faith, and its story has anchored worship for centuries across many different traditions. How do we structure worship services which are "in step with the truth of the gospel" (Gal 2:14), simultaneously faithful to the historic traditions and practices of the church and engaged with the needs and expressions of our local community's time and place? We will explore this and more.

Introduction to Notation Software  Ben Johansen
This session is designed to equip musicians with the fundamentals of using notation software effectively and efficiently. Whether you have never used notation software or if you use it daily, this session is for you. You will get experience using Finale, Dorico, and some free alternatives as you sit at your own lab computer equipped with Finale and Dorico software, a MIDI keyboard, and headphones. Sessions will take place on the 3rd floor of the Moody Library in the Crouch Library's Music Lab.

PIE TALK: My Most Important Ministry Lesson  Burkley/Johnson/King
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Foundations in Technique and Notation  Sueda Luttrell
Teaching strategies addressing basic ringing and the interpretation of handbell notation and the related techniques.

Resources and Composing for Processionals, Bell Trees, and Descants  Sueda Luttrell
Learn to create your own simple yet effective embellishments and textures to worship services and concerts.

Managing Multiple Bells  Sueda Luttrell
Strategies for successfully managing multiple bells, including weaving, displacement, shelley, and four in hand.

Paths to Musicality  Sueda Luttrell
Explore a variety of ways to infuse musicality into ringing from the first rehearsal. This will be a joint class with the Advanced Handbell track.

Beginning Handbell Reading Session  Sueda Luttrell
Read and ring great recent releases for Levels 1 - 2+, plus a few older gems.
Techniques for Handbell Ringers and Conductors
Ron Mallory
Good technique provides a foundation for good musicianship. We'll explore advanced techniques for both handbell ringers and conductors, and along the way will help each to better understand the other's role in making great music.

Composing and Arranging for Handbells
Ron Mallory
Learn methods of creating your own arrangements and original compositions for advanced handbell choirs, from hymn settings to processional and beyond.

Handbells in Contemporary Worship
Ron Mallory
More and more churches are switching to contemporary worship styles, and there's no reason handbell musicians can't participate. Come explore some creative ways to use a handbell choir, ensemble, or soloist in a contemporary worship setting.

Paths to Musicality
Ron Mallory
Explore a variety of ways to infuse musicality into ringing from the first rehearsal. This will be a joint class with the Beginning Handbell track.

Advanced Handbell Reading Session
Ron Mallory
Discover some of the great music released by various publishers in the past several years. This reading session will primarily cover music in HMA Levels 3 through 5.

Creative Hymn Playing
Jack Mitchener
A discussion and demonstration of ideas about all aspects of playing hymns on the organ including introductions, interludes, modulations, registration and general approaches to hymn playing.

Beginning Organ Improvisation
Jack Mitchener
An introduction to the art of improvisation on the organ. The primary focus will be on improvisations based on hymn tunes, but there also will be a general discussion of how to improvise short interludes and various non hymn-based pieces.

Organ Master Class, Part I
Jack Mitchener
Participants will have the opportunity to play any piece they wish and to receive comments from Dr. Mitchener. If possible, please email mitchener_je@mercer.edu with the title of the piece you would like to play.

Organ Master Class, Part II
Jack Mitchener
Participants will have another opportunity to play any piece they wish and to receive comments from Dr. Mitchener. This class will be for anyone who did not play in the first master class. If possible, please email mitchener_je@mercer.edu with the title of the piece you would like to play.

Organ Repertoire - Old & New
Jack Mitchener
A demonstration of organ repertoire through the centuries. The emphasis will be on literature that is appropriate for church services.
Bach Chorale Preludes for the Organ

J. S. Bach was one of the greatest church musicians in history. This session will be a discussion and demonstration of Bach's art of "preluding" on a chorale tune. The approach will include a chronological journey through Bach's chorale-based works.

Healthy Playing Techniques for the Organist

Have you ever felt tired or even exhausted after practicing the organ or playing a church service? Come and hear some ideas of ways to alleviate tension in playing. Renew your love for playing the organ!

Performance Practice from Alpha to Omega

We live in a time when it is understood that we should play Bach and Buxtehude differently from Brahms and Bolcom. This will be a discussion and demonstration of the stylistic differences in organ literature and the performance practices of various styles.

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The Beginning Church Choir Director

This session is designed for musicians with little background or training in choral directing who find themselves leading a church choir. Questions to be discussed will include "What do you listen for"? and "What does the choir need from you"? as well as others.

Amp It Up @ Music Camp

A guide for producing a fun, musical, spiritual week of summer camp for children using Orff-Schulwerk as the guiding principal.

Plan the Work - Work the Plan

Beautiful singing isn't easy, but with the right tools, your rehearsals can become the conduit through which praising God through song becomes an act of artistic creation, and your choirs will stay engaged, and sound great!

Plan the Music - Work the Plan - Reading Session

A continuation of "Plan the Work - Work the Plan" in which we'll look at specific anthems and discover the keys to the beautiful singing that is locked inside each one.

Musicians - Conductors - Herders of Cats

When we step in front of a group of children, we become Herders of Cats. How to keep the Musician & Conductor inside us happy as we work with wee ones. Tips and Tricks!

Special Needs - Special Worship

Almost three years ago, at Highland Park UMC in Dallas, we created an All-Inclusive Choir and a service with the Special Needs Community. what we do, how we do it, and the Holy Spirit at work!
Culture and Choir: Friends or Foes?  
Jonathan Rodgers

Are these two entities really in conflict with one another? Some say yes. Some say no. In this more interactive, discussion-based session, we will exchange ideas and personal experiences that will help us understand how culture is influencing choral music and how choral music can influence culture. Come ready to share your experiences and insights.

The Missing Link: Fostering Non-Musical Connections in Rehearsal  
Jonathan Rodgers

In the pursuit of making excellent music, one can often overlook intangible elements of the music-making process. These elements often include shared experiences, goals, student/conductor interaction, and purposeful activities associated with the choral music experience. This session will discuss ways to create a communal environment through shared experiences within the choral ensemble that, when combined with well-rehearsed music, help yield a dynamic musical product.

Demolition Derby: Building, Renovating, Reimagining Student Choirs  
Jonathan Rodgers

Many churches have given up on student choir and realized the error of their ways. They are seeking to go back and start their student choir ministry over from scratch. Some are stepping into new ministry positions and need to make some drastic changes to make way for future success. Whatever the situation, we will discuss ways to get a student choir program going in the right direction after it has not existed or after it has stalled.

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Gackle/Monteiro/Taylor

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