

Grace Welcomes New Organist

Jacob Benda



We are pleased to announce Mr. Jacob Benda has accepted the position of Organist. Jacob hails from St. Cloud, Minnesota and has been living in the "South" for six years.

Jacob received his Bachelors of Music in Piano Performance from Louisiana State University in 2007 and is currently working on a Masters of Music in piano performance at LSU. He has also been studying the organ since the spring of 2007 with Dr. Herndon Spillman of LSU which he thoroughly enjoys. He plans to continue his study of the organ when he begins his doctoral program in the future.

Prior to attending LSU, he completed high school in Mississippi and attended Hinds Community College for two years as a Piano Performance major and soccer player for the college team. His achievements included winning the Mississippi Valley State University competition, the MMTA piano concerto competition, the MTNA and NFMC state competitions, and most notably, he won second prize in the National Federation of Music Clubs "Young Artist" National Competition. Jacob also studied voice, sang in the ensemble choir, chamber choir and his church choir while at Hinds Community College.

During his time at LSU, Jacob accompanied and sang with the LSU Men's Chorus. He also studied instrumental conducting with Dr. Linda Morehouse at LSU and was chosen to conduct the LSU Symphonic Band during a rehearsal.

For the past three years, Jacob has been the pianist for the Sunday evening student services at St. Alban's Chapel at LSU. He is also currently the accompanist for the 6-12 grade choirs at the LSU University Lab School as part of his graduate assistantship.

Jacob is a newlywed and resides in Baton Rouge with his lovely wife Ali. Please join the Vestry and Choir in welcoming the Benda's to our Grace Church family.

