***IN THE BEGINNING: STARTING A YOUTH CHOIR***

*LESSONS LEARNED AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH, SMITHFIELD, NC*

Presented by Kerrie Clayton Jordan

Oasis Conference, July 15, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.

* Why do youth choir?
* Worship
* Belonging and Community
* Life-giving
* A rare jewel

“The power of the church youth choir lies in the reality that through it we can offer a truly holistic experience for teenagers. In fact, we can offer an experience that they cannot get anywhere else—a musical, social, and spiritual experience that can impact their lives forever." (Acker, p. 14)

* How? LEADING
* Passion
* Vision and purpose
* Other adults
* Other youth
* Other ministers
* Accompanist
* How? RECRUITING
* Build relationships
* Partner with other choirs
* Growing and Maintaining
* Continue partnerships
* Connect with a spiritual purpose
* Promote excellence and expectations
* Leadership team
* Relationships, relationships, relationships
* Promote spiritual formation and reflection. Be more than music.
* Practical tips
  + Keep rehearsals moving
  + Challenge
  + Decide on age groups
  + Rehearsal time
  + High but reasonable expectations
  + Trips, retreats, tours
  + Be missional
  + Develop meaningful rituals and traditions
  + Be encouraging
  + Choose a theme
  + Include adults in the discipleship process
  + Every rehearsal is worship
  + Start with your children’s choir
  + Feed them
  + Celebrate
  + Remember that youth choir is a tool for ministry

Resources:

*Revealing Riches and Building Lives* by Randy Edwards

*Lessons Learned* by Randy Edwards

*The Passion Driven Youth Choir* by Mark Acker