

## **Dr. Joyce Jones**

Dr. Jones has dedicated her extraordinary professional life to making friends for the organ and sharing her Christian faith through her music.

A musical prodigy, Dr. Jones enrolled in the University of Texas in Austin at age 16 to major in piano, but “accidentally” learned organ pedal technique while recuperating from a hand injury. By age 19, she had mastered the pedals; received a bachelor’s degree; won a national organ competition, and was teaching music. Awarded Texas University’s first master’s degree in organ studies at age 20, she became a music instructor Texas Wesleyan University.

Dr. Jones holds a doctorate degree in Musical Arts from the University of Texas, and a master’s degree in Sacred Music Composition from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. She retired in 2012, after serving for 43 years as the Joyce Oliver Bowden Professor of Music; as Professor of Organ, and as Organist-in-Residence at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

A fellow of the American Guild of Organists, Dr. Jones’ performance credits include the San Francisco Symphony Orchestra; Notre Dame and Chartres Cathedrals; Manhattan’s Riverside Church, and the Mormon Tabernacle in Salt Lake City. With her performance at Brattleboro’s First Baptist in July, she will have achieved the longtime goal of performing in each of the 50 states of the U.S.

Dr. Jones’ long association with the Estey organ dates back to her childhood in rural George West, Texas. In 1939, her mother’s Sunday school class put on bake sales and plays to raise \$450 to buy a one-manual Estey reed organ – the first organ in the town. Later, as a student at the University of Texas in Austin, Dr. Jones practiced on the Estey organ at the Presbyterian Church in Taylor, Texas, where her aunt was the organist. Having read and heard about the Estey Opus 300 at First Baptist, Dr. Jones is delighted to have the opportunity to perform on this highly-regarded instrument.

When not performing, Dr. Jones, who has recorded on Word, Rosenhaus and Motette, devotes her time to composing music, traveling with her husband and gardening.