

## Where Are They Now? SJUMC Choral Scholar graduates: 2012



**Cera Finney** has performed with the opera company in Durham, NC. She has recently earned her Master's degree in Music from the University of South Carolina.



**Eric Loftin** is a voice instructor at Clover High School in Clover, SC. He is also a marketing assistant with Mattamy-Homes, the Charlotte division of a Canadian-owned home building company. Eric is a chorus member of the Charlotte's Opera Carolina production of Beethoven's *Fidelio*. Past activities include Myers Park UMC choral and handbells director and being a prior music assistant and handbell director with us at SJUMC. *I miss you all so much. Whenever I am in*

*town, I will sing with the choir and see my favorite people in the whole world, Jeff, Michele, Andrew, and Emily Ward! THAT is what church should feel like. I haven't felt that since I left there 3 years ago. It just felt RIGHT.*



**Erin O'Leary** is currently living in Hutto, Texas. Her recreation includes karate and marathon running.



**Steven Thomason** is an interim music minister at First Baptist Church in Wilmington, NC, and is a student of Campbell University Divinity School for a Master of Arts in Christian Ministry (church music concentration). *I miss St James very much and think of you all often, since you helped me realize my calling to be a music minister. The choir and congregation were always very supportive and encouraging, and Frances and Dr. Ward were instrumental in giving me the confidence that the path that I eventually found was the right one for me. Hope y'all are doing well!*



**Scott Willis** is living in the Nashville, TN, area where he is on music faculty at Tennessee State University. There he teaches applied voice lessons and music appreciation courses. Besides teaching, he is still doing quite a bit of performing as well. Scott has been singing with the Nashville Opera Ensemble for the past two seasons since being back in TN after finishing up at East Carolina. He also sings with two professional choral ensembles -- The Choral Pickup, based out of Atlanta, GA., as well as The Tennessee Chamber Chorus based out of Cleveland, TN. He serves as the Executive Director for the Tennessee Chamber Chorus. Scott also sang with an Educational Outreach tour program in March/April of this year called NOISE (Northwest Opera in Schools, Etc.) based out of Seattle, WA. He toured Donizetti's "The Daughter of the

Regiment" to over 50 schools in the Seattle area, performing for thousands of children and giving them their first experience in opera. It was quite the experience for him! In addition, he is also serving as the bass section leader at First Presbyterian in Nashville, Tennessee under the direction of Raphael Bundage. *I send my warmest regards to the people at St James and thank them for their support.*



**Jordan Winslow** just completed her master's degree in Vocal Performance at UNC-Greensboro and spent her summer singing in South America. This fall, she will begin the audition process for Young Artist Programs. Jordan is currently living in Greensboro serving as a music intern with Mt. Pisgah United Methodist Church, where she sings in the choir and serves as assistant director for the children and adult choirs. *Thanks for keeping in touch! I send my very best to St. James and the choir!*