

Spotlight on: Fayetteville Presbyterian

Fayetteville Presbyterian was delighted to host a ceremony and reception for Dr. Roy Hamelin Johnson on May 12, 2016. On that day, Johnson and his wife, Jan, who are both active in the congregation, introduced fellow parishioners to more of his musical accomplishments.

Although most people knew Johnson had grown up in Fayetteville, attended the church, was an accomplished pianist and had retired as a Professor of Piano from the University of Maryland, they had no idea he was and is revered in music as "America's foremost living composer of carillon music." However, others in the community did.

So, on May 12, Fayetteville Presbyterian hosted Johnson's induction into the Fayette County Wall of Honor. Wall of Honor recipients must be Fayette County natives and are chosen because they have been nationally and/or internationally recognized for contributions to their chosen field. Guests not only got to celebrate Johnson's accomplishments but also got to meet the many friends, both young and old, he and Jan have made in the community since retiring there.

Included below is Johnson's biography from the University of Michigan's "The University Record Online" from Nov. 18, 2002, which was shared prior to his receiving an honorary doctorate at the school's 2002 winter commencement.

Johnson, America's foremost living composer of carillon music, has been a pioneer in deriving music exclusively for the unique nature of the carillon bells. His best-known and widely-performed work, "A Carillon Book for the Liturgical Year," is a two-and-a-half-hour collection of Hymn-Preludes inspired by the Chorale Preludes of J.S. Bach. His debut piece, "Summer Fanfares" (1956), was played at the dedication of the University's Ann and Robert H. Lurie Tower Carillon in 1996. A native of Fayetteville, W.Va., Johnson earned an artist's diploma in piano and a doctorate in musical arts at the Eastman School of Music, and has studied in Paris as a Fulbright Scholar. After serving as the official pianist for the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and teaching piano for 11 years at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, Johnson now is a professor emeritus of piano at the University of Maryland, College Park.

See a performance of Johnson's composition "Victimae Paschali" [here](#).