

Leola Wilkerson + Nichelle Rollins, Children's + Gospel Choirs Ministers

As a teenager, Leola Wilkerson started playing piano at the church she attended from childhood, which is located in Chicago. She played for the Sunday School and also for the junior choir.

When she moved to Connecticut, Lee became a member of Miracle Temple Church in New London. She started a children's choir there, which continues. "Although I am not an official member of Niantic Community Church," Lee says, "I feel as if I belong to the family." She started her music ministry at Niantic Community Church about eighteen years ago. NCC asked her to restart a children's choir. Eventually the mothers from the children's choir asked to start a gospel choir, which continues to this day.

Lee notes that she has seen the music ministries steadily grow. She particularly appreciates that the church has presented combined choir performances, which represent an opportunity for everyone involved to perform various types of music. Nichelle (aka "Nikki") has been singing since the age of 3. She was surrounded by music all her life, and grew up listening to a variety of music from the 50's to the 80's. Her first experience singing with a church choir was one summer at her mother's home church, St. James AME in Chicago, Illinois — and her first solo was at the age of 10. In her teens, now located in New London, CT, she began directing gospel choirs at Miracle Temple Church. She has been a member of The Miracle Voices off and on since age 13, as well as being a member of the praise team, Women's Chorale, and the Community Choir at Miracle Temple Church, where she is a member.

Nikki has been at NCC for about 18 years along with her mother, Leola Wilkerson, who is in charge of both the children's and women's gospel choirs. Both choirs continue to thrive, blessing listeners and singers with their songs of praise!

