

GINA SIMPSON TREASURER

Gina has served as the Omaha AGO Chapter's Treasurer for almost 20 years. Her day job in Lincoln as Director – Wealth Management for an investment subsidiary of the Ameritas Insurance organization keeps her busy. She has been with Ameritas for over 17 years. In fact, her first paid organist and handbell director position, at the now closed Miller Park Presbyterian Church, started on a Sunday and her first day at Ameritas began the next day.

Music has been a constant in her life. From her first piano lesson at the age of 4 from her nursery school teacher because she wanted to learn how to play "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer," to attending Rocky Ridge Music Camp just south of Estes Park, CO for two summers during her teens to study piano, to being "first chair" in the percussion section of her Waverly, NE High School band. She remembers the bruises on her arms from twirling the cymbals during her freshman year of marching band to later "carrying" the base drum and marching at the Nebraska State Fair. Music also led her to meet her future husband, Tom (now deceased) while playing percussion in the Lincoln Community Concert Band under the direction of Jack Snider.

Simpson's organ studies began in 1997 with Dr. Wayne Kallstrom and continues to this day. In the early 2000's, she earned the Church Music Certificate offered by Drake University and led by Dr. Carl Staplin. (Linda Stanley, Omaha AGO, was also a classmate.) Besides Miller Park, Simpson has also held positions at Luther Memorial Lutheran Church, and Westminster Presbyterian Church. She is currently a Co-organist at First Christian Church along with Omaha AGO member, Ann Spangler.