

**GINA WARD** has sung in her church and school choirs since childhood. From age 15 to 32 she led the music at her small church and sang a solo every week. While at Dunwoody High, she sang for the lighting of the Rich's tree. She studied privately in college and sang in the GSU chorus directed by Dr. John Haberlan. Gina sang with the Hamilton Mill UMC choir under the direction of Celia Stockton until she moved to Colbert last summer. She and her husband, Derek, have three young children.

"I began singing when I started talking and I haven't stopped since – much to my family's despair!"

You could say my musical career began when I was in pre-school. My Mother was always telling me "get up and sing for us", and by the time I was 6, I was a seasoned choir member and singing solos at church. I can count on one hand the number of years that I have not been in a choir/chorus/ensemble. Being in choirs has given me countless opportunities to sing in prestigious forums and with amazing musicians. Thanks to all the years of choral membership, I have found my face in the paper and on television, which only fueled the fires to sing more! My Mom is the greatest influence in my life and my growth musically. She never had any professional music training, but somehow she sounded like all my voice teachers, coaches and directors. Mom was my biggest fan and my worst critic –

In 1991, I quit my music studies at GSU to marry the man of my dreams. 18 years later, we have 3 children (all musically inclined) and many pets (one musically inclined – my dog Pippi is a soprano-whippet mix and is currently working on expanding her range). My interests are not strictly musical – I enjoy creating "tramp art", painting, playing with power tools, gardening, telling really bad jokes, annoying the general public, talking to strangers, and staying away from the kitchen!