

## Where Are They Now? SJUMC Choral Scholar graduates: 2008



**Josh Dearing** is currently living in Whitehall, PA, where he had been directing the Chestnut Street Singers, an acapella chamber group. He also spent five years teaching high school chorus, during which time he met his wife. They have a 10-month-old and another due in February. Since teaching, he has entered a pre-medical program at the University of Pennsylvania, and he now works at the hospital there in oncology research. His next step is medical school, and he's asking for prayers and crossed fingers. *I'm actually hoping to visit Greenville this fall one of these weekends and will try to stop by. Tell the choir I said hello!*



**Deborah Nansteel** is singing with the Washington National Opera (DC.) and has appeared in *Carmen*, *Cinderella*, and a variety of their other programs. Her leading performer debut was in the world premiere of *Cold Mountain* with the Santa Fe Opera during the summer of 2015. Previously, she was cast as the lead mezzo roles (Ino and Juno) for Handel's *Semele* in the Seattle Opera during Feb. and March 2015. In mid-October this year, the headline of [broadwayworld.com](http://broadwayworld.com) was about mezzo-soprano Deborah Nansteel, in her New York Philharmonic debut, stepping into the role for the program *In Their Footsteps: Great African American Singers and Their Legacy*. ("This program includes works linked to groundbreaking vocalists

William Warfield, Betty Allen, George Shirley, and Marian Anderson, focusing on the history these artists had with the Philharmonic and their influence on the generations of African American vocalists that followed. The event took place... at the David Rubenstein Atrium at Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts.") Deborah's lyric opera debut will be this winter in *Romeo and Juliet* in the Lyric Opera of Chicago. *My family still lives in Havelock; so hopefully, I can stop by on a Wed. night or Sunday morning to say hello. Tell everyone that I say "hi" and that things are going well and that I miss everyone too!*



**Claire (Stevens) Olinik** is living in Traverse City, MI, with her husband Mick. They have been married for seven years and have an 11-month-old son, Avett. Claire and Mick own a web-based marketing and business-development company called *Green Media Design*, and they both work in the business from home. Additionally, Claire is the assistant choir director and soprano section leader at Central UMC, plus she sings with the top choir at the local college. *I think about St. James often - the choir, Jeff and Michele, and Frances, specifically. St. James was my first real church home, and it took three moves and two states before I found a place that could even begin to compare with St. James. My sister now lives in Greenville, so next time we're*

*down visiting; I'll do my best to stop by!*