

The Grapevine

March 2009

Volume 1, No. 7

The monthly newsletter of the Greenwood Forest Baptist Church Music Ministry

These are difficult times: our economy seems to be crumbling, our housing values are falling, our retirement accounts are vanishing, our church just voted to cut salaries, and some of our friends (or us) are losing our jobs. Where is God in such difficult times? How could He do this to us? God is here, right now, working through Greenwood Forest, working through this music ministry. God did not cause our economic crisis, but God is with us and will lead us through it.

It is so easy to be a Christian when the stock market is up and the party is going full bore. But if our faith wavers in the difficult times then our faith is reduced to nothing more than a fond desire. Faith is defined in these times.

On March 22nd the Youth Ensemble will sing a text which was found by an anonymous writer on a basement wall in Cologne, written by someone hiding from the Gestapo. He or she wrote,

I believe in the sun even when it is not shining.

I believe in love, even when I am lonely.

I believe in God, even when He is silent.

As Christians, our responsibility is to worship God and respond to His yearnings. As church musicians, our responsibility is to sing our worship and our faith. This is, after all, why we sing.

David Mellnik

Adult Choir

Thank you for your leadership on Ash Wednesday. Our focus for March will center on the Prayer Service for Healing on March 22nd in the 11:00 worship service. I always look forward to the times when you join together with the Youth Choir; and I believe that your worship leadership on this particular Sunday will be profound.

Senior Adult Choir

We will travel to Phoenix Assisted Care on High Street in Cary to sing for/with their residents on Thursday, March 5th. We will leave the church at 3:00 PM, sing from 3:30 - 4:30, and return to the church. Bring your friends and neighbors!

Our next presentation in worship will be on Friday of Holy Week. We will sing, *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, arr. John Ferguson.

Youth Choir

There are two primary activities this month:

First, you will combine with the Adult Choir for two anthems for our Prayer Service for Healing on March 22nd at 11:00. We will sing *There Is a Balm in Gilead*, and *Come Dwell in Solomon's Walls*. In addition, the seniors in the choir along with the adult Youth Choir workers will sing *I Believe in the Sun*, a powerful statement of faith set to intricate harmonies, and *Listen, Lord*, a song from the Iona Community.

Finally, the time is here to return to the Festival by the Sea at Myrtle Beach. I am very excited about this trip. The director, Lynne Gackle, is an active clinician, conductor, and adjudicator for various choral clinics, honor choirs, workshops, and festivals throughout the United States. The best part of this trip, however, is the rich worship experience on Sunday morning. For those of you who have not been – you are in for a treat!

Children's Choirs

This month the Primary Choir will be leading in worship on Sunday March 29 at 11:00a.m. The Hymn of the Month for March, *What Wondrous Love Is This*, will also be sung that Sunday.

Mark your calendars now for the Children's Choir Music Celebration on Wednesday May 6 at 6:30pm. All children's choirs will sing in this end of the choir year celebration.

Karen Upchurch, Children's Choir Coordinator

Adult Handbell Choir

I thought that the Festival by the Sea (in Spartanburg!) was very successful. Thanks go to Charles and Debra Lord for their hard work in organizing the bells, tables and music and transporting them each way, and thank you to Leanne Glasgow for all of the advance arrangements that she made.

Mark Hopper, the clinician at the Festival by the Sea, will be here in our worship on March 8th. I'm sure you can see why I am so excited about our youth being able to work with him.

Our next piece, *What Wondrous Love Is This*, arranged by Douglas Wagner will be presented without me. Thank you to Helen Bishop for directing you on March 15th. You all behave, now.

Youth Handbells

Our Senior High Handbell Ringers are involved in a mini-festival the first weekend of March involving the Youth Handbell Chamber Choir from The First Baptist Church of Henderson. We will have a joint presentation of the song *The River* by Anna Laura Page.

Our Senior High Handbell Ringers are also working toward the goal of presenting *Magnificent Assurance* a version of *Blessed Assurance* based on a 16/8 time signature for Youth Sunday in April.

Middle School Handbells is just starting work on *Sebastian's Praise* which combines a rendition of *God is So Good* with *Jesus Loves Me*. We plan to present this at Youth Sunday in April.

Berry "Ring-Leader" Credle, Youth Handbell Director

Instrumental Ensemble

Great job on *Take My Life and Let It Be Consecrated*.

We have this on our calendar:

March 1st, 11:00 AM

- *Air* from **Suite III**, arr. Anne McGinty
- April 5th, Palm Sunday, 11:00 AM**
- *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*, arr. Keith Christopher

Music in Worship

March 1, 2009, First Sunday in Lent

- *Bourée* from **Music for the Royal Fireworks**, G.F. Händel, (Flute Ensemble)
- *Andante*, Heinrich Soussmann, (Flute duet)
- *Air from Suite III*, J.S. Bach, arr. Anne McGinty, (Instrumental Ensemble)
- *The Promised Land*, Ronald Staheli (Adult Choir)

March 8, 2009, Second Sunday in Lent

- *Processional 2009*, Phillip Young, (The First Baptist Church Henderson Chamber Ringers)
- *All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name*, arr. Linker and McFadden, (Chamber Ringers)
- *Siciliana*, J.S. Bach, (Chamber Ringers)
- *How Can I Keep from Singing*, arr. Arnold Sherman (Chamber Ringers)
- *The River*, Anna Laura Page (Combined Youth Handbell Festival Choirs)

March 15, 2009, Third Sunday in Lent

- *What Wondrous Love Is This*, arr. Douglas Wagner, (Adult Handbell Choir)
- *When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*, arr. Martin (Adult Choir)

March 22, 2009, Fourth Sunday in Lent, Prayer for Healing Service

- *Listen, Lord*, John Bell (Youth Ensemble)
- *I Believe in the Sun*, Jonathan Adams, (Youth Ensemble)
- *There Is a Balm in Gilead*, (Combined Youth and Adult Choirs)
- *Come Dwell in Solomon's Walls*, Z. Randall Stroope, (Combined Youth and Adult Choirs)

March 29, 2009, Fifth Sunday in Lent

- Susan Meador, soprano
- *Thy Will Be Done*, arr. Craig Courtney (Adult Choir)
- *The Promised Land*, Ronald Staheli (Adult Choir)

April 5, 2009, Passion/Palm Sunday

- *Lord, for Thy Tender Mercies' Sake*, Richard Farrent, (Adult Choir)
- Preschool Choir
- *Rejoice, the Lord Is King*, arr. Keith Christopher, (Instrumental Ensemble)

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing psalms, hymns and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

-- Colossians 3:16 (New International Version)