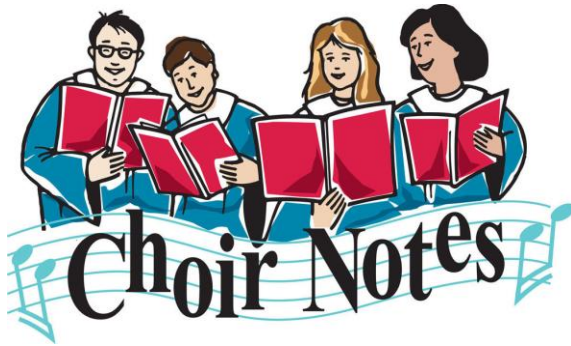




Capital News

Capital Campaign Committee
July 10, 2023

Caring for God's House - Together



The word proclaimed through music programs

In our ongoing look at how the church is used, we now turn to our choir -- starting with comments from Cyndie Tidwell and Bill Shanklin. (*Note, Bill has multiple roles*

as he is also on the Capital Project Management Committee.)

Cyndie -- **Choir, music, friends and faith**

Cyndie gives us her history through adult life and a handful of churches across the country. The common thread has been the value of the choir for Cyndie's experience as a Christian.

I've sung in choirs since I was a teenager. Perhaps due to playing the accordion from age 6, I learned to "sight sign" fairly well. However, I was not blessed with a beautiful voice. I made up for it by paying attention to the text and notes, and with gusto.

My first church membership as a married adult, in 1965, I joined the small choir of the New Brighton United Church of Christ. We sang "new" music and folk songs, mostly appreciated by the congregation, but not always. For me it was a way into the fellowship of the church. I'm basically introverted and shy to join in. But the choir offered a chance to make friends and to feel part of a church family.

In 1971 we moved to Florida, where once again I hunted for a familiar church. Choir was the ticket to get punched for me. I was in the UCC church, and then we switched to the Presbyterian mission Church of the Reconciler. The church was about 60% Black and brown, and the choir was integrated also. We were an interracial family and felt we really needed to be in a diverse congregation. The congregation exemplified love and care, and we in the choir sang our hearts out every Sunday. We were the only integrated congregation in Central Florida at that time, which was revolutionary in the Jim Crow South.

By 1978 we were back in Minneapolis looking for a diverse church. The church we found started as a United Brethren church which transitioned into a United Methodist church, in a naturally integrated neighborhood. The choir reflected the congregation, again nearly half Black and brown. Our children played violin and cello many times in church, much to the delight of the congregation. My high soprano voice blended with the other voices, praising God and reflecting love and caring.

In the 1980s, when my mother developed dementia, I moved her to live nearby at a wonderful continuum of care facility. She loved to come to church with us, and especially to see me singing. In 1989 when she passed away I arranged her memorial service and internment of her ashes in the historic cemetery in Wales, Wisconsin. Jerusalem Presbyterian Church provided a beautiful lunch, and choir members provided musical blessings. An elder in Wales sang two hymns in Welsh at the gravesite, tears streaming down his face, and many of us also crying, thinking of all those buried there with Welsh hymns sung to put them to rest.

In 1990 we searched for a church home near our Corrales home. I attended a New Mexico Conference of Churches event as a presenter or panelist (I can't remember) in Albuquerque. The Rev. Dr. Kay Huggins was the plenary speaker. I decided on the spot, that wherever she was the pastor, I would be a member. In 1992 we found Rio Rancho Presbyterian Church. Once again, an opportunity to join the choir allowed shy-me to participate. I have been in the choir now for some 30 years.

Choir folks are the friendliest, most caring people I know. Singing anthems on Sunday mornings is akin to a sermon in addition to the sermon. A double whammy blessing. And singing during Advent and Lent, and for Easter and Christmas offers choir members a chance to work hard to perform extra special music.

I was drawn to singing in choirs for reasons unknown to me. I respond to music with my heart as well as my mind. Choir has been my niche for many decades now, and it feels good, like a pair of favorite slippers.

Cyndie

And Bill --

First of all, I believe that every Church member needs some sort of a job contributing to the Church, whether continuously or intermittently. Nearly all folks find that they receive as much, or likely more, from their contributions to Church than they give!

I do have more than one job in the Church, but to me music is the primary one. As for music, in addition to trying to sing, I help with other musical tasks such as tidying up after rehearsals, helping the director communicate with the several musical groups. Plus I coordinate the activities of our "Old Time Religion" musical group.

Nearly all musicians receive joy from making quality music, which is a personal payback for their efforts. But moreover, the musical ministry is an essential part of corporate worship; it is inspirational for nearly all congregants, even if they cannot sing or play a musical instrument.

I also enjoy the social atmosphere of being around other music-minded individuals; we are, for the most part, like-minded individuals.

So, in summary, I do receive personal benefits from participating in music, which is in addition to helping our Church to meet its goals.

Cheers, Bill

***Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain." Psalm 127:1
Thank you for your support!***

The Capital Campaign Committee -- Liz, Betty, Elaine, Leah, Pat, Denise, Sue, and Bob

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