

THE FAITHFUL

"Music is a higher revelation than all wisdom and philosophy" Ludwig Von Beethoven

St. Andrew Music Ministry Newsletter

FROM THE MUSIC STAND



The Hymn for Thanksgiving—"For the Beauty of the Earth" expresses all the wonderful blessings to God, the creator. The text was written by Folliott S. Pierpoint (1835—1917). The scripture reference is Hebrews 13:15—"Let us, then, always offer praise to God as our sacrifice through Jesus, which is the offering presented by lips that confess Him as Lord."

Pierpoint reminds us of all our blessings—the physical beauties surrounding us and the joys of home and friends. Finally, he gives thanks for the ministry of the church, God's house of believers who do the divine tasks and purposes on earth.

Pierpoint was born in Bath, England and was a lay member of the Anglican Church. Following his graduation from Queen's College, Cambridge, he taught the classics for a time at Somerset College, later becoming a freelance writer. Pierpoint published 7 volumes of poems and hymn texts, many of them showing his love for nature.

He was about 29 years old when he wrote the text. It was in the late spring while enjoying the surrounding area of his native city of Bath in England that he was awed by the beautiful countryside with its winding cool and peaceful river, Avon, in the distance. Overwhelmed with emotion, he expressed his feelings of gratitude by writing this sacred song. The hymn first appeared in a collection of poems published in 1864. It was entitled

"The Sacrifice of Praise".

John Rutter was born in London in 1945 and studied music at Clare College, Cambridge. His compositions embrace choral, orchestral, and instrumental music, and he has co-edited various choral anthologies including four *Carols for Choirs* volumes with Sir David Wilcocks and the Oxford Choral Classics series. From 1975-9 he was Director of Music at Clare College, and in 1981 formed his own choir, the Cambridge Singers, a professional

Volume 1, Issue 4

November/December 2011

Upcoming Music

11/6 Raise Your Hands

No Turning Back

Encouragement of Faith

11/13 Walk Like Jesus

11/20 Come Ye Thankful People
Come

11/27 Advent Prayer

12/4 Come To The Water

Upcoming Events Nov. and Dec.

Homecoming/All Saints	11/6
Confirmation Sunday	11/13
Thanksgiving	11/20
Hanging of the Green	11/27
Communion/Vehorns	12/4
Christmas Cantata	12/11
Christmas Drop-In	12/14
Praise Band	12/18
Christmas Eve Candlelight Svc.	12/24
Christmas Day	12/25

Page 2

Christmas Cantata - "Down From His Glory"

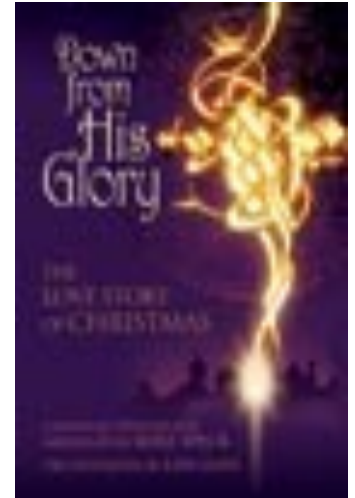
The Christmas Cantata practices will continue on Wednesday nights in the sanctuary from 7:00pm—8:30pm. There will be a 2 hour practice on Sunday, November 6, 2011 from 5:00pm—7:00pm.

Final rehearsal will be Saturday, December 9, 2011 from 9:30am —11:00am.

Listen to your Christmas CD's. This is an added tool to assist you with learning the music and hearing the message in such a short period of time.

"Down From His Glory" will be presented at 10:30am and 6:00pm on Sunday, December 11, 2011. Please invite all of your family and friends to experience this wonderful Christmas message.

We are only 41 days from the concert! My how time passes when you're having fun. ♦



Homecoming and All Saints Day

The Adult/Youth Choir and the Praise Band, SunLit Moon will be presenting music selections for the Homecoming and All Saints Day celebration on Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 10:30am. We will sing "No Turning Back" with the Praise Band and Raise Your Hands as the opening of the service and Encouragement of Faith with the All Saints Day presentation.

THANKSGIVING AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

Come Ye Thankful People Come by St. Andrew Chancel Choir, Congregation, Organ, Piano and Bells of St. Andrew.

HANGING OF THE GREENS

November 27, 2011 at 10:30am "The Advent Prayer"



You are cordially invited

Drop-In

In honor of the
St. Andrew Choir and
Praise Band

For their continued dedication and
contribution to our worship experiences.

Wednesday

December 14, 2011

6:00—8:00pm.

Worship is the essential and central act of the Christian. We do many other things in preparation for and as a result of worship: sing, write, witness, heal, teach, paint, serve, help, build, clean, smile. But the centering act is worship. Worship is the act of giving committed attention to the being and action of God. The Christian life is positioned on the faith that God is in action. When we worship, it doesn't look like we are doing much—and we aren't. We are looking at what God is doing and orienting our action to the compass points of creation and covenant, judgment and salvation.

I cannot thank you enough for your dedication and continued commitment to serving God through your gift of music. The contribution that you make to the worship experience at St. Andrew is immeasurable. God is doing great things through your gift of service.

Thanks for all the wonderful music in 2011. I look forward to working with each of you through 2012 as we continue to praise God through our gift of voice.

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas.

Robin

Survival Tips for Choral Singers



Think Posture: A “collapsed” posture limits breathing capacity and puts stress on laryngeal muscles. Most choral singers rehearse sitting down, with music in hand a position that often becomes inefficient, through “slumping” back in the chair, crossing the legs, etc. “Sitting up” may seem to require effort, but in fact, an erect, well balanced sitting posture is less tiring in the long run. A good concept is to imagine the head “floating” directly above the pelvis, and the rib cage expanded. The music should be raised to eye level, however the shoulders must remain relaxed. Both feet should be “flat on the floor”. When standing during a performance, be careful not to “lock” the legs. Always wear comfortable shoes, no high heels. A rigid stance, combined with nervous tension and inadequate ventilation can cause choir members to feel faint, and occasionally lose consciousness!

Breath: This may seem obvious, but many choral singers simply do not allow themselves an adequate breath, and instead, “gasp” for air in order to stay with the conductor’s beat. Admittedly, breath management can be challenging in group singing. It is a good idea to mark your music in an endeavor to indicate breathing at the right time to maintain efficient breath support.

Sing the Right Part: Singers may be incorrectly classified in order to accommodate the needs of the group. Tenors are often scarce. If you find yourself in an uncomfortable singing range, and suspect that you are “misplaced”, request director to work with you and establish the correct part for your particular vocal range.

Don’t over-sing: Singing loudly in order to hear oneself over the other singers usually stresses the voice. “Showing off” one’s voice is inappropriate in group singing—it doesn’t contribute well to a choral “blend,” and it is usually resented by fellow singers¹. If you need to check the accuracy of your pitch, simply put a finger in one ear. Even when fortissimo singing is required, it is wise not to push the voice—always sing on the “interest,” not the “principal”!

Articulate Wisely: Discomfort in singing is often caused by tension in the articulation of consonants and vowels. Choral singers are generally encouraged to enunciate clearly, but care should be taken that the jaw, tongue and lips remain as relaxed as possible. Furthermore, it is necessary to modify pronunciation for efficiency and ease of vocal production; for example, sopranos need to “open” vowels on high notes.

Survival Tips continued



Prepare Your Music: Whenever possible, try to learn your part well enough that you are secure about pitch. If not, you will not be able to sing as confidently and as well. Hesitation impedes good vocal technique.

Marking your music during practices is the greatest tool in learning your music well.

Avoid talking: Not only is chatting disruptive to others (especially the director!), but it tires the voice.

Take care of yourself: Being a choir member is the same as being a member of an athletic team, and you have a responsibility to safeguard your health and wellbeing. Get plenty of sleep prior to singing. “Hydrate”, drink plenty of fluids in order to reduce irritating phlegm.

Take care of others: Be careful of perfumes, colognes, etc. when rehearsing and singing on Sunday. The choir loft is our second home. Please do your part in keeping it clean. Remember to “put your music up” after worship.





If you're spiritually alive, you're going to love this!

If you're spiritually dead, you won't want to read it.

If you're spiritually curious, there is hope!

A church goer wrote a letter to the editor of a newspaper and complained that it made no sense to go to church every Sunday. 'I've gone for 30 years now,' he wrote, 'and in that time I have heard something like 3,000 sermons and 3,000 choir anthems, with special cantatas at Christmas, Easter and other times. But for the life of me, I can't remember a single one of them. So, I think I'm wasting my time and the ministers and choirs time by all of these sermons and music specials.'

This started a real controversy in the 'Letters to the Editor' column. Much to the delight of the editor, it went on for weeks until someone wrote this clincher:

'I've been married for 30 years now. In that time my wife has cooked some 32,000 meals. But, for the life of me, I cannot recall the entire menu for a single one of those meals. But I do know this.....

They all nourished me and gave me the strength I needed to do my work. If my wife had not given me these meals, I would be physically dead today. Likewise, if I had not gone to church for nourishment, I would be spiritually dead today!'

When you are DOWN to nothing....God is UP to something!

Faith sees the invisible, believes the incredible and receives the impossible!

Thank God for our physical AND our spiritual nourishment.

www.standrewumc.wpupload.com

ID: standrewmusic; PW: music

The music ministry of St. Andrew United Methodist Church strives to glorify God through music in all gatherings and presentations. The mission of the music ministry supports the mission of St. Andrew.

Robin C. Owens,
Music Director
864-505-3166
email:
standrewmusic@bellsouth.net
or rayrobowens@gmail.com

Chris Pitts, Praise and Worship Music Leader
864-430-4929
Email: chrispitts21@yahoo.com