

MUSIC PROGRAM 2018 - Karen A. Hindenlang, Director of Music

St. John's is blessed with many devoted volunteer musicians, and together we are thankful for the encouragement of the congregation, assistance of the staff, and support of the Rector, Wardens and Vestry in creating our shared music ministry to the glory of God.

We'd love more help in expanding our efforts! Participation in the music program offers a meaningful connection to parish life, and welcoming personal contact is our best recruitment tool. When you meet someone new to our services, please introduce them to me if they indicate *any* interest in music.

The entire parish owes an enormous debt of gratitude to Fr. Richard Strauss, who maintained the church pipe organ (for free!) over the last 51 years. He retired from providing this service in November. We achieved a smooth transition to a maintenance agreement with Parsons Organ Company of Canandaigua, a regional family firm (5 generations!) with a fine national reputation.

In 2018, the Chancel Choir sang 41 services, including — after only 3 rehearsals! — the September installation of our new Rector, the Rev. Megan Castellan. In addition to supporting congregational song, the group offered 57 anthems this year. We continued to expand our repertoire: more than one third of these anthems represented composers, styles, and literature new to the group. Our selections maintained a 4-way balance among historic periods (Baroque-Renaissance, Classic-Romantic, 20th-21st centuries) plus folk tune and spiritual arrangements.

The Balcony Bells played 3 services: Good Friday, Advent II and Christmas Eve. The December services included new ringers Kelsey McIsaac and Nicole Rivera, who joined Gwen Freeman, Charlotte Hoekenga, Margaret Johnson, Amber Massa-Crowley, Caitlin O'Meehan, Matthew Stedinger, Skye Steuteville and Sara VanLooy, led by conducting ringer Mike Roman. Other instruments also enhanced our worship during 2018: Banjo (Mike Griggs), 'Cello (Matti Oakes), Double Bass (Robin Steuteville), Oboe (Nancy Siemon), Piano (George Damp) and Violin (Peter Nowak).

The Chancel Choir welcomed new members (Jen Dodwell, Rachel Clarkson, Jerome Fung, and Max Smith), enjoyed singing with guests and visiting past members (Victoria Brooks, Virginia Greene, Roy Loomis, and Sarah Welch) and embraced new choral scholars (Virginia Douglas and Andrew Sprague). Parishioners Robin Steuteville and Will Hoekenga left for college, but re-joined choir on vacations. Ongoing members this year included Sally Clayton, McKinny Danger-James, Dan Graybeal, Mike Griggs, Kevin Harris, Karen Hindenlang, Charlotte Hoekenga, Jon Meigs, Nicole Rivera, Mike Roman, Rachel Silverstein, Skye Steuteville, Crawford Thoburn, Nicole Wills, John Wootton, and Deb York.

I played 48 services, and in 30 of those we sang from our new *Lift Every Voice and Sing* congregational hymnals, dedicated in October 2017. I maintained a website for the ensembles, and expanded our program's YouTube channel with thanks to videographers Jamie Parris, Aiden Tatusko, and Sara VanLooy. We are fortunate that parishioner Dr. George E. Damp serves as guest organist, and that my husband, Crawford R. Thoburn, donates his professional expertise as assisting conductor.

Thanks to generous parish sponsors, our successful three year old Choral Scholars program helps sustain our musical heritage and support our worship. This fall, we successfully met a \$1,000 matching gift challenge! Fundraising continues, and all gifts to St. John's marked "Choral Scholars" are placed in a special non-budgetary continuing fund. Please see me if you'd like more information.