

Music Ministry Vestry Report: March 2023

Jesse Ratcliffe, Director of Music & Organist

Adult Choir

The adult choir have been actively preparing music for 10AM Sunday worship as well as choral evensong and sung compline. They will be singing a wide variety of pieces for Holy Week and Easter. Three new members have joined the choir since 2/9 and the "Join the Choir" Sunday held on 3/12 created much interest in the recruitment process. Plans for a post-Easter celebration on 4/20 are underway as well as creating other recruitment activities for Eastertide and summer

Handbell Choir

Members of the All Saints Ringers are very happy with a regular and rather full ringing schedule. The goal is to ring at least once a month. The bells are enjoying a new ringing position in the front of the church which is much more visually pleasing and has better lighting. Due to the new position, several of the aisle pews have been reinstalled as the bells will be practicing in a new location – the Faithful Followers room. The Ringers have also welcomed a new ringer and are actively searching for another.

Children's Music

Met with Jill Browning and Angie Richards to discuss the 2023 VBS which will include music formation. These "musical moments" will be used as a means of cultivating interest in children's music. Discussion also included a Music Camp to be held on Saturday Aug 26 (tentatively) – students would learn music, play musical games and other activities then offer their music the next day in worship

Administrative

- Music library Rhonda Scott and I have worked on uploading all the music libraries to Google Sheets for ease of access for both director and librarian.
- Actively assessing the condition of all parish musical instruments (pianos, organs, handbells) and developing plans for repair, refurbishment, or potential replacement if needed
- Rehearsal spaces: assessing and evaluating creative ways to utilize the current rehearsal spaces to create more effective environments for rehearsal (i.e. moving the bell tables in the nave; new furniture for choir room)
- Budget: working actively with Amy Richter to discern best practices for contracts and job descriptions for Section Leaders (previously known as "Paid Choristers" or "Paid Singers") well as developing a clearer vision of what the music program needs for funding

Outreach

- Met with Carrol Howe and Daniel Catalano to learn of recent music history at ASEC and to plan future collaborations. I am scheduled to meet with Brian Bartoldus, FPC, and Nae Pearson, Saint John's RC.
- Participated in the Frederick Chapter of the American Guild of Organists (AGO) meeting on 2/12 at Trinity UMC
- Performed a carillon recital on 3/19/23 at Baker Park, several ASEC members were in attendance