

TIME & TALENT for Music and Liturgy
August 2009
Address to the Parish
Patricia Schrock, Director of Music

I'm here this weekend to talk about Time & Talent for Liturgy and Music.

In my opinion, music is a gift from God. In the context of liturgy, music can bridge generations, transform hearts and move us closer to God, for we are called to be imitators of God and to live in love.

We are a busy society. People are always calling us, inviting us, asking us, requesting something of us. How do we answer?

God is always calling us, whispering to us, nudging us forward to live in love with one another. How do we answer God's call in our daily lives? One way we can do this as a community of believers is to get involved with music and liturgy at Epiphany. Liturgy has always implied involvement and I invite all gathered here today to consider joining a ministry at Epiphany.

As the Director of Music, my greatest wish is that all people who attend Epiphany feel invited to serve in music and liturgy. If God is calling you, when God is calling you to serve in this capacity, the leadership of this parish, my colleagues, our pastor and I are here to assist you. It is important that we nurture the talents and affirm the gifts of every generation.

Specific Needs:

We do have areas that have specific needs. We are always looking for people to proclaim the word of God. Eucharistic Ministers are needed for all liturgies. You can sign-up to serve at the mass you regularly attend. Hospitality needs more help at each of the liturgies. The Youth can serve as Lectors and Hospitality Ministers. They can also serve as Eucharistic Ministers after they are confirmed.

Are the ferns real? That is like asking me, "Are the organ pipes real." The answer is yes. Do you look forward to the Christmas and Easter flowers? Yes, the ferns are real and yes we use living plants at Christmas and Easter. A small group of people are needed a few times of the year to ensure a beautiful environment.

Both bell choirs have openings this year. The Epiphany Ringers rehearse on Tuesday mornings and the Jubilate Ringers rehearse on Thursday evenings.

Epiphany Youth Choir- this is a choir for grades 6-12. They sing seasonally for Advent and Lent. The need here is great. The schedule is not overwhelming so to allow this age of young people to participate.

Genesis Choir- this is a choir for grades 2-5. Justin Williams is their director. (He is our guest violinist this morning.) He has a wonderful approach to music and to young people. He gave a presentation to Vacation Bible School this week. We want to grow and expand this choir. We need a lot of young people to make a joyful noise.

Chancel Choir- is the adult singing choir. This is a very dedicated group of people. I welcome all voice parts although we currently need more male voices. We have an exciting year ahead of us. We will be learning new music from a requiem for All Saints; we will continue the tradition of Advent Lessons & Carols and new music for Easter. Every generation of adults need to be reflected in this group. If you are a 20 something "you are being called..." If you are a 30 something "you are being called"...

Two Projects to celebrate:

The Chancel Choir area has a new look and it will be completed this month. The new configuration utilizes the space; it will help the various choirs to be able to see me conduct, and it will allow the sound to travel out into the room better. And last but not least it will look as lovely as the other parts of the sanctuary. The labor for this project is the work of six volunteers. Their names are about to be revealed in the parish bulletin. Great job, thank you.

The second project is in coordination with the 30th anniversary of our parish. Mary Beth Bennett, a local composer, pianist and organists who is at the University of Richmond, is composing a new communion hymn for the Church of the Epiphany. The new hymn will be taught to the parish in the fall during ordinary time. We will use this new communion hymn in our celebration of Holy Week.

The last item I'd like to talk about is the pipe organ. The organ suffered some minor water damage due to a broken pipe. We have signed a proposal to have the damage repaired. We have also at this time received two proposals/opinions from separate organ companies about the state and condition of this instrument. The organ is not fully functional or reliable in its current condition. This is unrelated to the damage from the water. Obviously a lot more time and discussion need to follow so we can be good stewards and prepare for the future.

I thank all current members who continue to hear God's call to serve in music and liturgy. We also thank Justin for being with us this morning.

There will be people to greet you and answer questions in the Commons after mass. At this time please take a few minutes to fill out the registration form. Thank you.