

## JUNIOR CHOIR

How blest we are in Cochrane Street Church to have a Junior Choir! The numbers of young singers in attendance, depending on the other many activities in which they are involved, has varied from six to twelve during the year. Amazingly, the voices of this group of young people aged from grade 2 to grade 6, blend in tone most beautifully.

During the year the Junior Choir had 20 rehearsals, sang at 14 services, and at 3 other special occasions. This Choir has sung at many regular Sunday services as well as the Easter Day, Mother's Day, Thanksgiving, Remembrance, Advent and at Christmas.

On Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>, the Junior Choir traveled overseas! We were scheduled to travel from Portugal Cove on the 2:00 p.m. ferry, and everyone was advised to be at the terminal at least half an hour in advance. Indeed, most people were there in plenty of time. But, who could have guessed that the day would be a glorious 20 degree plus, sunshine and no wind, and consequently dozens more cars were waiting in the line up for the trip to Bell Island? Well, our Junior Choir, plus many parents, grandparents and supporters did eventually get to Bell Island on the next ferry.

We hastened to Jackson Memorial United Church on Bell Island, where the Minister, Rev. Karen Thorne, led the 3:30 p.m. service. Our Junior Choir read some of the liturgy sang some anthems and led the hymn singing – all done very well. Jackson United has a rather small congregation and no choir, so with our group from “the Mainland” the number attending the service was considerably larger than usual.

After the service we were treated to snacks from members of the congregation there. Then we drove to Dick's Restaurant, near the ferry terminal where we had a scrumptious meal of chicken or fish and chips with soft drinks, using the money which the Cochrane Street Church U. C. W. had generously given the Junior Choir for such a treat. The gift covered the bill for the choristers while the adults treated themselves to a similar meal in another room, and we all had a great time.

We learnt that Mrs. Audrey Smith had become a resident of Chancellor Park. Her birthday is October 11<sup>th</sup>, so after a rehearsal in church that day, the Junior Choir and some parents drove to Chancellor Park. We had made arrangements with the staff there and both Mrs. Smith and her sister-in-law Mrs. Laura (Smith) Collier came to the recreation room where the Choir sang a few songs and “Happy Birthday”. This was Mrs. Smith's 93<sup>rd</sup> birthday. She had been the Secretary for Cochrane Street Church for many years, of course long before any of the Junior Choir was born! Mrs. Collier is 96 and she told the choristers that she was baptized in Cochrane Street, not in the present building but in the previous wooden church that burned down in 1914.

The White Gift service took place on December 14<sup>th</sup>. The Junior Choir and some others from the Sunday School presented the play “The Gift of Gitchi-Manitou”, which is based on the Huron Carol, written by Jean de Brébeuf in the seventeenth century. The young people dressed in appropriate costume, bringing to the crèche symbolic gifts as described in the carol. The Senior Choir sang the Huron Carol as the action of the story unfolded.

Like the Senior Choir, the Junior Choir also sings secular music sometimes. They performed at the “Musical Treats and Just Desserts” concert on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. They had fun rehearsing “The Hobo Band Serenade”, finding, and in some cases, making instruments on which to perform, and helping to serve refreshments to the audience.

It has been such a joy to work with the Junior Choir. I thank them for all their love and enthusiasm, and also thank the parents and grandparents who have seen the choristers get to practices and services. I hope these young people will continue to sing to the glory of God, and enjoy making music in the church all their lives.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Young  
Minister of Music