

## SENIOR CHOIR

The New Year began in fine form with our Senior Choir Christmas Party, this year hosted by Ruth and Graham Wakeham at their home in Portugal Cove.

On Sunday January 6<sup>th</sup> we sang for the Holy Communion and Covenant Service. The Senior Choir led the music at all Sunday morning services throughout the year, except during July and August, and the few occasions when we had a visiting choir. Each Sunday we would sing an introit, anthem and “sending forth” selection suitable for that day. Choir practices were held most Thursday evenings with a “warm-up” rehearsal before each service. Individual choir members sang at some summer services, funerals and also shared their gift of singing on other occasions during the year.

On the first Sunday of each month, and on some other occasions too, Holy Communion is celebrated at Cochrane Street Church. The Congregation has been using the service music by David Young from Voices United, or the setting based on the tune “Kingsfold” in More Voices. The Choir has also sung appropriate anthems during the serving of the elements.

Our Choir library has a large selection of music, some of which was acquired as far back as a century ago! There are hundreds of single copy anthems as well as volumes of collections. We still enjoy singing special favorites which we believe the Congregation members find meaningful and relevant to the theme of the day’s worship. The Choir has also acquired new music and enjoys the challenge of learning this for performance in Church. Sometimes we join with the Junior Choir for an introit or an anthem, which is a great learning experience for us all. We have learned several anthems from the new “Church Anthem Book”, and have sung many of the selections from “More Voices”, the 225 songs in the 2007 supplement to “Voices United”.

The three hour Good Friday service for the St. John’s area United Churches was held at Cochrane Street this year. Five morning services were recorded for evening broadcast from VOWR radio.

After the summer break we resumed practices at the beginning of September as we needed to prepare for a VOWR broadcast on September 14<sup>th</sup>. We had a gourmet evening with a pot-luck supper at Scotch Farm on September 18<sup>th</sup> and discussed plans for the autumn schedule.

The Remembrance Day Sunday service included special violin music and pipe selections performed by guest musician Heather Wright.

The Advent season in Cochrane Street Church began, as it has for over a decade, with the Choir singing from below the beautiful “Light of the World” stained glass window at the top of the eastern gallery. The words: “I look from afar, and lo, I see the power of God coming, and a cloud covering the whole earth” begins very quietly, and gradually the unaccompanied voices crescendo to proclaim “Go ye out to meet him ...” the music from the Magnificat by Palestrina. Then the Minister and the Junior and Senior Choirs process up the Church, joined by the Congregation singing “O come, O come, Emmanuel”.

December 14<sup>th</sup> was “White Gift” Sunday. The Senior Choir sang the “Huron Carol” during the children’s dramatization of the event. Carolyn Sturge Sparkes played the piano to accompany the Choir.

December 21<sup>st</sup> was the Service of Lessons and Carols. The Senior Choir sang five carols, some having solos, the Junior Choir joined in another carol and sang two carols on their own. There were six congregational hymns as well as six lessons, one being read by His Honour, John Crosbie, the Lieutenant Governor.

On the last Sunday in December we were joined by several former choir members. It is always very special when friends are able to come and sing with us again. This happens occasionally during the year, and most especially at Christmas time for the holiday, although some regular members may be away at that time.

We have been fortunate, through a gift from the Frank Moores family, to have acquired a new sound system for the Church. Through this equipment we have been able to make digital recordings of about 60 hours of choir anthems, introits, hymns and organ music being performed during services.

The Choir does not only gather to rehearse and sing sacred music. Sometimes we prepare and serve refreshments to visiting choirs, such as the evening of May 4<sup>th</sup> when we provided supper for the Bethany Bible College Chorale from New Brunswick, who had presented an evening concert in the sanctuary. On November 16<sup>th</sup> we served lunch for the Brigus-Cupids-Georgetown Male Choir and their friends. This choir had sung special music during the service that morning.

About once a month we enjoy a cup-of-tea and birthday cake after Thursday evening rehearsal, and our kind committee sends cards, flowers or fruit to those who are sick.

We had great fun rehearsing secular music to sing at a "Musical Treats and Just Desserts" concert on Thursday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had some hilarious solos and duets as well as choral songs. The Master of Ceremonies, Jim Carscadden, was a splendid guide for the program. Delicious desserts were served by the Choir members with lots of help from the Choir's "better (non-singing) halves". We raised \$968, which more than covered the cost of tuning the Casavant organ in the sanctuary.

On a personal note, December 28<sup>th</sup> was my last Sunday before beginning my retirement. It was wonderful to see and hear so many marvelous singers. I thank the Choir members for their loyalty, splendid musicianship and especially for the love, support and caring they have shown to Peter and to our family over these past sixteen years. It has been a privilege and joy to have made music with you.

As J. S. Bach often wrote on his compositions: S. D. G. (*Soli Deo Gloria*)

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Young  
Minister of Music