

Worship and Music Ministry
Annice Edmundson, Elder

We believe that worship must be done with dignity and joy, and that expressions of our praise, thankfulness and awe before the presence of God in our lives are not confined to one genre of music, art, or the spoken word. We are many different people, but as long as our seekings and respondings to Jesus Christ follow Scripture we will bear with one another.

Pat Axtell, John Ehrenreich, Bob Harder, Bondell Phillips, Joanne Poe, Jan Steiner and Christi Vallandigham have served as congregational representatives to the Worship and Music Ministry for almost three years. Forrest Claassen, our Pastor, and Beth Legg, Director of Music meet with the ministry by virtue of their staff positions. Annice Edmundson is the member of the ministry who is on Session and reports to that body. We have felt fortunate that our monthly meetings are nearly always attended by all members who are in the area. The ongoing responsibilities of the ministry are assumed by individual members: Jan Steiner, Communion; Christi Vallandigham, preparation and execution of power point presentations each Sunday; John Ehrenreich, ushers; Bondell Phillips, banners and paraments; Bob Harder, lay leaders; Joanne Poe, flowers and special decorations; Pat Axtell, is the person on call for whoever needs support at a given time. Forrest leads us in consideration of the theology and history of worship in the Presbyterian Church as well as the practical planning for services. Beth keeps us informed about music for specific services and listens to our comments on the congregation's responses to what is happening in worship.

Special services were planned for Palm (Passion) Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter, Pentecost, Advent and Christmas. In discussions around Passion Sunday for the Sunday before Easter, one of the questions raised was "How do we help people believe that Sunday morning worship is to reset our souls in the proper relationship with our creator?" The Passion Sunday service called Bill Legg, Sarah Mattson, Mary Kincaid and Forrest Claassen to recite "Funeral Blues" a poem by W. H. Auden, a Christian poet from Great Britain, as part of the spoken word. Easter brought a brief dramatic presentation by Don and Elizabeth Greggain in addition to special music by the choir. Drama and any form of metaphor used to make the Word bridge time for us requires the participation of many people in the congregation. This kind of cooperation within our church makes participation in the internal movement bring any person closer to God, who "creates, sustains, and redeems us every minute of every day."

The Session and the congregation elevated Beth Legg to the newly created position of Director of Music in 2009, which made it easier for her to coordinate choir, praise team, accompanists, organists and the soundboard. Choir members are: Steve Clovis, Jerry Gilbert, Don Greggain, Elizabeth Greggain, Bob Harder, Rachel Harder, Judy Hepton, Bob Hopkins, Val Hopkins, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Pam Klug, Bill Legg, Barb Myklebust, Brenda McDaniel, Bondell Phillips, DeWayne Steiner, Jan Steiner, Bob Vallandigham, Lloyd Wallis, Les Werner and Sarah Werner. Praise Team members are: Steve Clovis, Jerry Gilbert, Don Greggain, Elizabeth Greggain, Bob Hopkins, Val Hopkins, Jeanne Kirkpatrick, Pam Klug, Bill Legg, Barb Myklebust, Molly Myklebust, John Molohon. Beth Legg is Choir Director, Sharon Warner and Sue Dole are Accompanists. Sue Dole and Mark Newman are our Organists.

Another addition this year was the Worship Planning Team of Bill Mannschreck, Sarah Mattson, Val Hopkins, Beth Legg and Annice Edmundson. The Worship and Music Ministry formulates policy. The Worship Planning Team meets with Forrest from time to time to discuss themes and development of the Scriptures he has chosen for his preaching in a given period, and how they might be better communicated through worship.

Joel Greggain is assisting us in our efforts to replace the present dying soundboard, but until recently limited funds have delayed our finding another one. Because of Joel's assistance we anticipate this will be remedied soon.

Don Greggain filled the pulpit notably on Fathers Day, as Forrest was on vacation. Luanne Howard was also a guest preacher this year. In May the First Presbyterian Church of Clarkston hosted the Presbytery meeting which was the last such meeting for Rick Melin who was retiring. It was a pleasure to have Rick back for the day in the church where he was senior pastor from 1987 until 1996. In July, we began plans for a pizza dinner in August to rally singers for a return to choir and praise team in September. The twenty-two people who showed up have been loyally leading our singing all year.

Possibilities for 2010:

- Youth choir
- Congregational testimonies
- Monthly evening prayer
- Summer gatherings in the park
- Creative seasonal music and worship
- Taize Service