

Our Mission: To unleash the musical gifts of our congregation and facilitate the offering of these gifts in worship in order to communicate the faith through music.

Chancel Choir Mission Trip June 2009

On June 13th at 10:00 am 35 of us boarded a tour bus bound for Grand Rapids. After a quick stop at our hotel, we set off for some sight-seeing. Our tour guide, John Witte, a native of Grand Rapids, provided fascinating historic commentary as we drove through the various neighborhoods of Grand Rapids en route to the downtown area. There we spent a few hours visiting the museums by the Grand River. Then we drove to Grand Haven, on Lake Michigan, where we dined and had evening devotions on the beach. What an awesome place to connect with our Creator.

Sunday morning, we headed out early to prepare for the Sunday service at Trinity United Methodist Church. We were greeted by their pastor, Frank Lyman. Some of you may remember him as he served our congregation as associate pastor from 1978 – 1981. The church is a grand old historic building with a huge balcony and Casavant pipe or-



Music@First Fine Arts Academy Update

The academy is starts on its second season this fall. In addition to private lessons in voice, piano, guitar, percussion, flute, clarinet and saxophone, we're excited to be able to offer violin, viola and beginning cello lessons. Our new string teacher will be Victoria Haltom, who comes to us with a lot of wonderful teaching experience, conducts the Metropolitan Youth Symphony and is principal second violinist for the Michigan Opera Theater.



gan. We led the congregation in worship and then enjoyed a wonderful lunch prepared by the women of the church. Following lunch we spent a few hours at Meijer Gardens where we had the opportunity to explore the beautiful indoor and outdoor gardens and sculptures. FYI- Meijer Gardens is the second most visited attraction in Michigan, second only to Mackinaw Island.

We arrived at LaGrave Christian Reformed Church around 4:00 where we rehearsed with their 50-voice choir in preparation to lead their 6:00 Sunday evening service. This church also has a PFUMC connection as our former Director of Music, Dr. Larry Visser is Director of Music at LaGrave. Larry remembered many of us and we had fun reminiscing. Both choirs enjoyed time together during dinner in fellowship hall. The service was beautiful and full of wonderful music presented by the combined 80-voice choir.

Thank you for your continued support of this important outreach ministry of our church. We so appreciate you and your faithfulness to the Music Ministry.

— Barb Levensgood

Our Fall semester begins September 28th; registration is now open and will remain open until September 21st. Fine Arts Academy brochures are available outside the church office and on-line: http://www.pfumc.org/Music/music_music%20academy.htm. Contact our Academy Coordinator, Jon Hord, for more information and to schedule a lesson time: phone 734-453-5280, ext. 12 or e-mail fineartsacademy@pfumc.org.

Invitation

When we gather in the sanctuary on Sunday mornings, we're intentionally making time to connect with other believers and focus our energy and attention on connecting with God. The music of the prelude and postlude is there to facilitate the transition from daily life to the intensity of corporate worship in the sanctuary. In the same way our music ensembles warm-up and tune their instruments to prepare for worship, the prelude is a time for us to tune our minds and hearts in to active listening and openness to God's presence and guidance in our lives. Conversely, the postlude helps us transition back into being Christ's witnesses in the world. I invite you to shift gears, and immerse yourself fully as you worship on Sundays, that the overflow may splash into your daily life.—MVO

On Saturday, August 1st, I lounged at the table in my kitchen dawdling over lunch, dressed in musician's black. I had just returned from a week in South Haven, and I had a serious case of vacation brain (mush) and vacation attitude (do I really have to go to work today?). A wedding at 4:00 pm loomed on my schedule, and I had planned to arrive at church plenty early to allow myself extra time to prepare for Sunday worship as well as for the wedding. Weddings have a lot of similarity to one another, more often than not involving the umpteenth playing of the Pachelbel canon while bridesmaids troop down the aisle. Variety is provided mostly by unique details such as the bride having a butterfly tattoo on her shoulder, or whether or not the pre-school ring-bearer will run, walk at a snail's pace, or fail to navigate the aisle at all.

I dutifully drove to church, arriving to find the other musicians involved in the wedding rehearsing in the sanctuary already at 1:30 pm. I was a little miffed because I hadn't expected them to rehearse at that time, and of course, I couldn't use the organ while they rehearsed, which they did at length. I finally got on the organ bench about 3:00 pm and hurried through my preparations.

From the beginning, this wedding felt different. The guest pastor's first words were, "This service is about God." The rite and ritual for Christian marriage was duly performed, and after the rings were exchanged, my fellow musicians - a guitarist, a pianist, and a couple of vocalists - stepped forward. First came "Amazing Grace," sung by one of the bridesmaids as if every word came straight from her heart. Then the group launched into "Great Is Thy Faithfulness," "In Christ Alone," and "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty," — not standard wedding fare, but hefty songs of faith. The bride and groom, who were facing me in order to read the lyrics projected on the wall, were holding hands, beaming, and singing for all they were worth. The eighteen attendants all raised their voices, and the large congregation swelled the song. The place was bursting with worship. Only the video technician, slouched against the wall to my right, stood aloof. I wanted to walk over and ask him, "How can you not be affected by this?" Maybe he was. I sure was, to the core of my being. The symptoms of my vacation disease were long gone. With the embrace of the body of Christ in genuine worship, God was speaking to me, calling me back into engagement with the work I love. The wedding service lasted a full hour, making me late for my dinner plans, but I smiled all the way home.

— Marcia Van Oyen, Minister of Music, Worship and Fine Arts

Musings from the Bench

Our music ensembles are open to all. Come join us!

Wednesdays

Cherub Choir, 3yrs—K, 5:45—6:15 pm, room 307/309

Carol Choir, 1st—3rd grade, 5:45—6:45 pm, room 107

Wesleyan Choir, 4th—7th grades, 5:45—6:45 pm, choir room

Gathering, all ages, music and sharing, 6:45—7:00 pm, the Core

Chancel Choir, 7:30—9:00 pm, choir room

Thursdays

Festival Bells, youth—adults, 7:30—9:00 pm, choir room

Sundays

Congregational Choir—all ages, Sunday mornings, come make a joyful noise!

PFUMC Orchestra, youth—adults, alt. weeks, 11:30 am—12:30 pm, choir rm

Worship Bands—youth and adults, schedule tba

Not ready to sing, ring bells or blow your horn? You can still support the music ministry:

Usher for a NOTEworthy concert

Bake cookies for a Fine Arts academy recital reception or choir bake sale

Be on the music committee, supporting the music staff and assisting with special projects

Design a poster or flyer for a music event

Sponsor a NOTEworthy concert or scholarship for a Fine Arts Academy student