



Glimpses of Calvary

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Pastor

Rev. Tim England,
Heritage Christian School Administrator

Dr. Gene Trantham,
Music Director

For more news and information, please visit our website at www.cbcbfindlay.org

Audio sermon files are now available online



Looking Through Windows into the Ministry of Music

by Gene S. Trantham

Calvary Baptist Church exists to come together around Christ's Great Commission by making and maturing disciples who enter into public membership and the work of the ministry for the purpose of honoring God.

Our church mission statement includes many "actions" for us to take. Some of these include coming together, maturing disciples, entering the work of the ministry, and honoring God. The Lord has blessed us with many opportunities for us to put these "actions" into practice when we worship the Lord together and prepare music for our worship services. For instance, we can come together as one especially as we offer a sacrifice of praise and give thanks to His Name (Hebrews 13:15). We can also grow as disciples to be more Christlike, train the next generation of church members (2 Timothy 2:2, Psalm 145:4), and honor God with contrite hearts as we present music that reflects the character of God (Philippians 4:8).



This issue of *Glimpses of Calvary* provides various views into our ministry of music as we look through the eyes ("windows") of several people who are involved in musical activities. The following is a list of some of these perspectives:

- 1) an accompanist
- 2) the choir librarian
- 3) a member of an ensemble
- 4) a Sunday School teacher
- 5) a Frontline teacher
- 6) a visitor of our senior saints
- 7) a member of the chamber orchestra
- 8) a leader of an instrumental ensemble
- 9) a choir member

As you read these articles, I hope that you will see how the Word of God influences our attitudes and actions in serving Him. For example, Colossians 3:16 reminds us that we must be Word-filled people who sing with grace in our hearts as we teach and admonish one another. The Psalmist expresses a Christ-honoring humble mindset that we should have through the words "*Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory.*" (Psalm 115:1). It is all about Him (John 3:31)--Who He is and what He has done (Psalm 107:8). You will notice that this is the focal point of the articles in this publication. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to serve the Lord with gladness. I hope that

you would pray that we would all please the Lord by letting our lights shine in a way that points others to Christ and His glory (Matthew 5:16 and 1 Corinthians 10:31). May we encourage each other to be Christ-like, diligent, trustworthy, obedient, Word-filled mature servants giving a good testimony in all that we do. Even in our rehearsals, may we sound as one (II Chronicles 5:13-14) through careful musical preparations of dynamics, phrasing, breathing, articulation, and word emphasis so that our praise unto the Lord is clear and unified (Romans 15:5-6). It is a joy to be able to co-labor with faithful humble servants who are willing to sacrifice time to sound as one as we “give unto the Lord the Glory due unto His Name” (Psalm 96:8).



The Servant-Leader Accompanist

by Harriet Dickson

The purpose for our church music program is to glorify God, not ourselves, and to reflect who He is and what He has done. Psalm 13:6 “*I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me.*” The servant leader accompanist brings glory to God by leading to serve and serving to lead.

The role of the serving accompanist is to lead by serving. The person who accompanies must see himself or herself as an assistant. The attitude should be the attitude of the psalmist in Psalm 62:5: “*My soul, wait thou only upon God, for my expectation is from Him.*” By doing this, the accompanist can yield to others' direction and concerns in order to communicate “one sound.” For instance, in 2 Chronicles 5:13, when the musicians sang and played “as one,” the glory of the Lord “*filled the house of God.*” As an assistant, the accompanist must anticipate the concerns of those whom he accompanies. Whether in rehearsal or in performance, this involves listening constantly. Then, he needs to play in such a way that he doesn't get in the way of the message. The sounds must be supportive and complementary. The congre-

gation, soloist, ensemble or choir director must sense that “the team” is communicating the same message. “*With the voice together shall they sing . . . break forth into joy, sing together*” (Isaiah 52:8-9)

The well-prepared accompanist will serve by leading. The first step is to be willing to be ready. John the Baptist is a great example of a willing vessel. “*For this is he, of whom it is written, Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare the way before thee.*” Matthew 11:10. Preparation requires hard work and self sacrifice. Psalm 9:1 admonishes us to praise the Lord with the “*whole heart*” so that we can “*show forth all thy marvelous works.*” For instance, it is essential to know the musical score. This means that time must be spent, outside of group practice, to prepare the music and study the text. Knowing the story behind the musical piece helps to correctly interpret and communicate the composer's intentions. The accompanist also needs to study the Scripture passage from which the text is derived. It also really helps the accompanist to note where the soloist or choir would take a breath in order to reflect this when playing the accompaniment. These methods would serve as a model for others who desire to use their musical skills and talents in the ministry. It is so important that the attitude of John 3:30 be reflected in every aspect of our playing: “He must increase, but I must decrease.”



In Philippians 2: 9 and 10, Paul exhorts us to “*approve things that are excellent and to be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.*” When “*approving things that are excellent,*” the church pianist or accompanist can play to the glory of God and lead by serving and serve by leading.





Serving the Lord as Choir Librarian, Teacher, and Ensemble Member

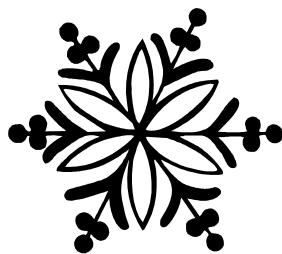
by Karen Frost

It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD; So that the priests could not stand to minister by reason of the cloud: for the glory of the LORD had filled the house of God. II Chronicles 5:13

Scripture is filled with examples of how vital music is in the ministry of the church. God ministered to my soul through the music of Calvary Baptist Church. It was my love for the music that brought me to Calvary. Because God's message was very clear in the music, and His Word was always proclaimed at each service I attended, I soon saw my need of salvation and trusted the Lord as my personal Savior.

I serve the Lord as the choir librarian seeking to fulfill the Scripture that requires us to do all things decently and in order. Periodically music needs to either be added to or removed from the choir folders. New music must be properly processed before it is placed into our music files. Music and robes are assigned to new choir members. These are some of the responsibilities of the choir librarian.

As a member of the ladies ensemble, it is my desire that we may *with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*. Ministering in a small group has been a great blessing.



Serving as a Sunday School and Frontline teacher, has given me opportunities to reinforce a lesson through a song. Teaching the students to trust in the Lord, leads us to sing a song such as *Trust and Obey*. A lesson on obedience would have us sing the

Obedience song. We recently had a lesson on praying instead of worrying or being anxious about something. I sang the song *Why Worry When You Can Pray* to reinforce the lesson and hopefully give them something that their minds would remember the next time they are tempted to worry.

What a joy it is to be able to serve the Lord in the ministry He used so wonderfully in my life!

Christmas Caroling and Hymn Caroling

by Cathy Gons

Ephesians 5:19 says, *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord*. Here is an excellent opportunity to follow this command from the Lord, not just speaking to yourself and singing in your heart to the Lord, but also using your voice and sharing these songs with others, praising the Lord together in song.

Twice a year, the CBC choir has the wonderful privilege of participating in caroling in July and in December. This ministry is not limited to choir members only, but it is open to anyone in the church, including children. It is an activity that the whole family can enjoy together. We meet at the church in July on a Friday evening and in December during a Wednesday evening service. Dr. Trantham and Angie, our church secretary, do a wonderful job calling ahead and scheduling our visits. We usually divide up into two or three groups, depending on how many have signed up, then we all pile into the church vans and head out for an evening of fun, fellowship, and ministry. We visit those who are in nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and also those who still live at home but are unable to drive to attend services. We also visit those who are at home following a surgery during their recovery time. It is such a blessing to be able to visit with these dear elderly saints. Most of them enjoy singing along with us. We usually ask them if they have any favorites and try to include as many songs as we can. They especially delight in



hearing and watching the little children sing. What a privilege it is to be able to join our hearts together with these shut-ins as we share God's words in song together. Colossians 3:16 says, *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*

I have been especially touched over the years when we have sung to the special ones who have experienced dementia and Alzheimer's. Even though they have often reached the point where it has become difficult to remember or communicate, they have been able to remember the old hymns and Christmas carols that have been so special to them, and they have sung along with us, some even remembering the harmony part that they used to sing. What a blessing that the Lord had allowed that special part of their brain to remember His words in song!

If you have ever looked at the shut-in list in our Wednesday night prayer sheet and wondered who these people are, I'd like to encourage you and invite you to join us when we go out caroling. This is a great opportunity to meet these wonderful people who were the former leaders and active members of our church. You will learn so much as they share their faith in the Lord, and you will delight in their wisdom and in their sense of humor and wit. You may even decide that you would like to visit them more often than just twice a year during caroling. I can guarantee that you will be a blessing to these dear folks, and that your heart will also be blessed by them. Even more important is the fact that we are lifting up the name of our glorious Lord and praising Him together.

The Lord delights in music that honors Him. How He must have loved hearing David play on his harp and sing his prayers of adoration and supplication to the Lord. Please come and join us as we serve others and magnify the name of our Lord and Savior together in song.



Praising Him in the Church Orchestra!

by Brad Yoder

Praise Him with the sound of the trumpet: praise Him with the psaltery and harp. Praise Him with the timbrel and dance: praise Him with stringed instruments and organs. Praise Him upon the loud cymbals: praise Him upon the high sounding cymbals. Let every thing that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord.

The church orchestra, which accompanies the hymns during the Sunday evening service and occasionally plays the offertory special, has given me the unique opportunity to be able to use my talents and abilities to honor and glorify the Lord. I have been blessed with a unique perspective on the music programs of both Calvary Baptist Church and Heritage Christian School as one who has both "grown up" in the church and school music programs and also served in the church's music programs as a "young adult." I started playing the trombone in 5th grade as a student at Heritage, and through the training I have received, I am able to now use that instrument to worship the Lord in our church.



Our orchestra recently formed two different ensembles (woodwinds/strings and brass), and I have had the opportunity to work with the young men in the brass ensemble in preparation for our recent offertory. The Apostle Paul told Timothy *and the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also* (2 Timothy 2:2). The brass ensemble has given me the opportunity to employ this verse within the music program at Calvary by helping the "next generation of musicians" as we prepared for the offertory special this past month.

It is the prayer of my heart that the church orchestra will not only enable us instrumentalists to worship the Lord through playing our instruments, but also enable those in the congregation to better glorify the Lord

in their singing of congregational hymns as we minister to the Lord with our instruments. Under the leadership of Mr. Jeff Davis and Dr. Gene Trantham we, together with the congregation, are able to *with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ* (Romans 15:6).

Singing in the Choir

by Tim Hoag

Music is such a natural part of the human experience that many people seem unable to function without some source of stimulation to their auditory system. Every store you enter, every restaurant you choose, even in the doctor's office we hear music. There is music at sporting events and at picnics. We as believers have been given a "new song" (Psalm 40:3). We have a command in Scripture to speak to ourselves in Psalms, hymns, and Spiritual songs. (Eph.5:19)

Here at Calvary we are constantly exposed to high quality, God honoring music. We often have college music groups that minister to us. We are blessed to have special music presented by our own members during nearly every Sunday service. Our bookstore carries many wonderful recordings that help us in the private world of our thoughts to worship and honor our great Savior. But listening to music does not fulfill the command. Listening and singing are very different. God has given us a "new song to sing" (Psalm 96:1). What a wonderful opportunity we have to unite our hearts, praising God with one voice, during the congregational singing at Calvary. This unity is one of the reasons that we need to come together regularly. But even this does not seem enough for the ministry of declaring His glory. Should we not also invest time and work into making His praise glorious (Psalm 66:2)? This is the joy we as choir members realize week after week.

I Chronicles 16: 8-12

*"Give thanks unto the Lord, call upon his name, make known his deeds among the people.
Sing unto him, sing psalms unto him, talk ye of all his wondrous works.*



Glory ye in his holy name: let the heart of them rejoice that seek the Lord.

Seek the Lord and his strength, seek his face continually.

Remember his marvelous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;"

This Psalm of David points to many facets of choral music here at Calvary: giving of thanks, supplication, proclamation, adoration, meditation, communication. Please read the passage again. Pause on each phrase and consider how it can be accomplished through choral work. Verses 8 and 9 indicate that this is to be a public exercise. Singing in the shower or the car does not satisfy the imperative. Quiet, intimate time with God is vital for the believer but we must not neglect the corporate, public praise that is so often promoted by the Old Testament writers.

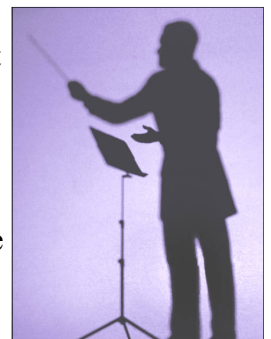
Singing in the choir is not simply another thing to do; it is an effective exercise of a thankful heart to praise, honor and proclaim the glories of the One True God.

Musing with One Mind and One Mouth

by Laura Lindwall

Although music can be *amusing*, shouldn't hymns cause Christians to *muse*? How often am I as a Christian guilty of not pondering as I praise the Lord in song? I know that sometimes "I Surrender All" without even thinking, "Am I really fully surrendered?" Or I don't actually consider "What a Friend [I] Have in Jesus." Many hymns and carols that we sing are full of Scripture and powerful messages that could encourage us if we thought about them.

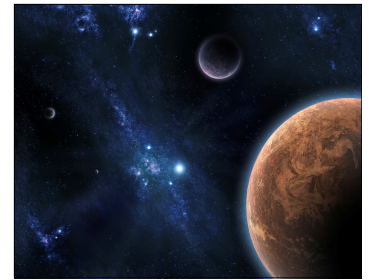
In choir and ensemble, Dr. Trantham kindly encourages us to clearly convey the message in song. Romans 15:6 states that "*with one mind and one mouth [we can] glorify God.*" First, if we sing with "one mind," we will be meaning what we are singing and will convey that in



our facial expressions. Second, if we sing with “one mouth,” then we will sound as one. We do this by following Dr. Trantham’s direction in cutting off together and enunciating our words. When we are like-minded and like-mouthed, then the congregation can more easily muse on the meaning.

I will admit that since we practice songs repeatedly, I have sometimes sung choir songs without even thinking of the words, but I do often try to contemplate the message in the song. Recently, we sang the “Creation Hymn.” I thought about the line describing

the universe as a “vast expanse”; but it’s a “vast expanse too small to hold His name.” I don’t know how many times I have sung that choir song, but this time it struck me: if this universe is too small to even hold His name, then I have a big God! We encourage you to muse with us as we sing.



Born to Save

Calvary Baptist Christmas Cantata Sunday, December 20 at 7:00 p.m.



The CBC Christmas program is a wonderful opportunity to invite friends and relatives to attend our services. We will focus on the birth of Christ, but also emphasize His life on earth and His imminent return. You will hear a large range of music styles as well. Two pieces from the early Americana pioneer period provide a unique sound as well as an opportunity to “paint the setting” of the primitive surroundings of Christ’s birth. One of these pieces features a “shape note” arrangement. Shape notes are a music notation designed to facilitate congregational singing. Shape notes of various kinds have been used for over two centuries in a variety of sacred music traditions practiced primarily in the Southern region of the U.S.

Two pieces from the Baroque oratorio Handel’s *Messiah* capture the splendor of the heavens proclaiming Christ’s birth to the shepherds. Other pieces from the late 19th century bring together some more traditional Christmas carols like *The First Noel*, *Good Christian Men*, *Rejoice*, and *God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen*. The program will close with a modern work that focuses on Christ’s return to earth. Taken largely from Revelation 22, the message of the music reflects the Scripture to say “Rejoice” in this troubled world for “Christ is coming soon.” – Jeff Davis



Upcoming Events

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|-----------|------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| • Dec. 14 | HCS Christmas Program, 7:00 p.m. | • Jan. 1 | Happy New Year! Offices closed |
| • Dec. 16 | Teen Christmas Caroling, 7:00 p.m. | • Jan. 2 | Men’s Breakfast, 7:30 am |
| • Dec. 19 | CBC choir rehearsal | • Jan. 2 | Church Work Day |
| • Dec. 20 | CBC Christmas Program, 6:00 p.m. | • Jan. 5 | Young @ Heart Luncheon, noon |
| • Dec. 24 | Christmas Eve Service, 6:00 p.m. | • Jan. 14-16 | Teen Winter Camp CoBeAc |
| • Dec. 25 | Merry Christmas! Offices closed | | |
| • Dec. 27 | Carry-in Dinner | | |