

Music Report - 2010

2010 has been a very eventful year for the Music Ministry at St. Mike's. Below are a few of the highlights the Music Ministry has been blessed to deliver at St. Mike's over the past year.

In early January, shortly after Christmas and right at the beginning of the New Year, the Choir decided to dedicate a Saturday afternoon to singing hymns, carols and anthems from Christmas to a group of seniors living at the Sunrise Residence off of St. Jean Blvd. The idea was proposed as a small outreach project to try and bring a little post-Christmas cheer to a select few senior residents. Very often, seniors residences see many people come and go during the month or so leading up to Christmas, but after Christmas, often not as many visitors are seen due to families visiting relatives prior to Christmas. The Choir was welcomed to Sunrise with open arms, and the singing was greatly appreciated by all who came to see and hear.

Shortly after this, the Choir quickly began to work on new pieces for the Easter Season – and worked very hard over the next few months to prepare four anthems; a setting of “Agnus Dei” for Tenebrae, a solemn setting of “O Saviour of the World” for Good Friday, “Gospel Hosanna” for Palm Sunday and a setting of “Jesus Christ is Risen Today” for Easter. After Easter, the Choir worked hard again to prepare a setting of “Like The Murmur of the Dove's Song”, a more recent hymn making its way to many newly published hymnals, including the Anglican Church of Canada's newest hymnal, Common Praise, published in 1998. This was the Choir's last large venture for the remainder of the 2009-2010 season.

In September 2010, the Music Ministry hit the ground running to provide lots of music to the glory of God and for the musical life of St. Mike's. During September, the Choir provided Taize Prayer music for a Healing Prayer service at the church. There have been two of these over the course of 2010. After singing a setting of “All Good Gifts” for Thanksgiving Sunday, the Choir set out to prepare a number of choir pieces for Christmas.

In November, I held an organ concert at the church with a variety of selections from many classical organ works that was well attended by many from both St. Mike's, and St. Barnabas' Anglican. In early December, the organist at St. Barnabas' Anglican, Chris Pelonzi, also held a concert at St. Barnabas that was well attended by both churches. Shortly after this, both choirs combined at St. Barnabas in mid-December to provide a large evening of choral music in celebration of Christmas. The Choir sang full with close to 30 members in total, accompanied by organ, piano, and the St. Barnabas Handbell choir. This concert was also well attended by many, and freewill offering proceeds from both this concert and the organ concerts went towards respective churches to be used in the Music Ministry.

Melanie Hill continues to lead as head of the Praise Team, and works tirelessly preparing and selecting Praise Music for Sundays. All of the Praise Team musicians (of which there are many), including all instrumentalists and vocalists, continue to practice weekly every Thursday night in preparation for Sunday worship. Peter Kantel joined the team this year on drums (which were generously offered by Rev. Michelle and re-skinned this year) and continues to liven up our music with his exceptionally progressive drumming. The Praise Team also lost three members

with the departure of the Irwin family to Waterloo in Ontario during the course of the summer (Caitlyn and Liz who played guitar, and Adam who played drums).

I hope into 2011 that everyone who leads through the Music Ministry will continue to ensure that Music is a fulfilling, spiritual experience that will continue to enrich Worship each passing week. I hope that you will always consider becoming a part of this Ministry in any way you feel God encourages you to.

As always, I am thankful for the new faces who come out to support the Music Ministry through either Choir or Praise Team, and it is my wish to see even more people out at Choir and on the Praise Team. As we venture into the New Year, I ask for your continued support and prayers over the Music Ministry and the work that we do.

Respectfully submitted,
Sean