

From the Director

First Things

School has started, College is in term, Labor Day is upon us, most of us have finished our summer vacations. It's Fall in the Wheaton, and at College Church musicians are returning to weekly rehearsals, or joining up, with a measure of eagerness for the year ahead. Welcome back!

Thank you, College Church Musicians, for faithful service, year-round, week-to-week, "in season and out of season," when it's not convenient (like a cold dark evenings) and when you wouldn't miss it for anything (say, a Christmas program).

Thank you, College Church Musicians, for joyful service. Everyone who is doing what God has equipped and called them to do, finds pleasure in the doing. Sometimes it may seem that music ministry is special that way. Karen and I often think about a woman who served in the nursery when our children were that young. She was perfectly suited, gifted, and equipped for the work. And she loved it. But she would occasionally say that there was probably something else she should be doing, because really, she "just loved the nursery; that's why I'm here." Funny. That seems like an ideal match, from where I sit. (And yes, I do admit that some are called to serve where it is difficult and maybe not as natural. Still, the telling factor is *joy*.)

Still, in the music ministry we do generally enjoy the pleasures of preparation (rehearsals), service, and sometimes the expressed appreciation of those who are served by the music. At many levels our "duty" *is* our "delight." And this is added cause for thanksgiving, and for humility. What a gift God has given us to serve – together—in this way.

So, that is a first thing: we serve in joy, in community, with thanksgiving and an unapologetic pleasure.

And we also note some of the "first things" that

shape our music ministry:

- The ministry of music is a ministry of the Word. We are all bound up in the proclamation of the Gospel, from the beginning to the end of the service. What we sing is scripture, or derived from scripture. What we play is selected to either prepare for, or reflect on, the spoken and sung Word of God. We have no other text, and no other material to draw on.
- Music does not equal Worship. Our services are not neatly divisible between "worship" and "sermon." I will go so far as to say that our life in Christ is not neatly divisible between "worship" and "not worship." When the New testament speaks of worship it is practically never in reference to the weekly gathering of God's people. What we do when we are together *is* worship, but no more so than what we are doing whenever we are loving and obeying God and walking in the Spirit clothed in Christ. If anything, what we are when we are together is a distilled microcosm of what we are called to do and be when we are apart.
- Music ministry is Relational ministry. People make music, and almost all church music is made by people together. (And even "solo" music ministry must connect with listeners, and so is necessarily relational.) Our work together requires that we roll up our sleeves and *work* together, but it also gives us delightful opportunities to pray together, play together, serve each other, and learn together. If not among us, where else would there be "encouraging one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs"?

It is as people in this work together that I welcome you back to another season.

Together, let us

Sing on!



Calendar Corner:

September 13—Sunday morning services: Chancel Choir

September 13—God's Children Sing and Children's Choirs begin, 6pm

Chancel Choir Fall Retreat: Friday evening, Saturday morning and afternoon—September 25 and 26, at College Church

THE PRAYER COLUMN
Praying our Anchor memory verses

Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. (2 Corinthians 9: 7-8)

As we pray our Anchor memory verses, they work into our hearts, and they may unsettle us. I must remember not to let this passage about giving just get into my head and long-term memory, but into my heart, my will, and probably even into my wallet! God's Word on this subject will not do its work in me until I wrestle with God in prayer about it: what kind of giver am I? What am I missing of God's abounding grace, and is it because of the way I give (or don't give; or give begrudgingly)?

To include your new prayer requests, contact Chuck King (668-0878 x122; cdking@college-church.org)

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Chancel Choir Rehearsal Music:

Welcome Back, Chancel Choir!

Voice building

Fall repertoire:

Sing for Joy
Lauda anima
* The Steadfast Love of the Lord *
Peace I Leave with You
The Majesty and Glory of Your Name
Joyful Songs
Come, let us sing a song of joy

Jubilation Bells Rehearsal

Wednesday 6:45 PM in the Choir Room

Welcome Back, Jubilation Bells!

Brass Ensemble Rehearsal

In services on October 4

**Concert Series
College Church Sanctuary**

Sundays at 3:00 pm

The 2009-2010 Concert Series is in place! We hope you will enjoy the following performances—and bring others along with you:

Dr. Ed Zimmerman, organ	September 27
Guitar Concerto Concert	October 18
Melius Trio (St. Olaf College)	November 8
Camerata Chicago	November 22
Pressenda Trio (C.S.O. musicians)	
Michelle Areyzaga and Denise Gamez	
AGO Hymn festival	
Haydn "Seven Last Words from the Cross"	
Chicago Brass Band	

Brochure online:

**[http://www.college-church.org/
music/concertseries.htm](http://www.college-church.org/music/concertseries.htm)**