

Music Ministry Report

Picture it: Palm Sunday, 2003. A *much* younger Brent walked through Emmanuel's red doors as a visitor, as each of us has done at some point in our lives. I was not a cradle Episcopalian, and I was not sure what to expect out of a service. Needless to say, the music had me hooked from the start! After a quick audition, I agreed to substitute the month of May 2003, and I have been truly blessed in more ways than I could have imagined. I have seen many comings and goings over the years, and I have seen many a baby baptized turn into a graduating senior.

Many areas of ministry and fellowship at Emmanuel Church have been in a process of rebuilding, and the Choir is no exception to this. The challenges presented by an ever-increasing sense of busyness, in addition to ongoing health concerns, have brought their own unique challenges as we get used to a changed world. I am so thankful for the ongoing commitment of Deborah, Carlin, Carol, Elizabeth, Olivia, Stephen, and Linden who are at church several times a week in spite of it all. I am ever impressed by their passion for wanting Emmanuel's music to be authentic and meaningful for all. Please be sure to thank them as well!

We continue to be blessed that all the time and effort that has gone into organ upkeep has paid dividends. Many of us remember a time when the mechanical state of the old console/keyboards severely limited our ability to use the organ.

The beautiful Steinway piano in the South Transept celebrated 100 years this past year, and it still has a rich and warm sound. I continue to give thanks for the legacy that brought the piano to Emmanuel. With continued maintenance, I hope that the next 100 years will be a blessing to all who hear it. (At some point in the future it will need some restoration or at least the cleaning of pine needles dating back to Reagan administration.)

This summer, we will again be bringing back the popular Hymnaoke where you are able to request a certain favorite hymn. We will also invite others who want to sing or play an instrument to join in for a Sunday or two without necessarily needing to commit to the entire year. If you have questions about the music program at Emmanuel and want to be a part of it, please say hello at any time.