

## First Presbyterian-Children's Choir

300 N Cherry St. Winston-Salem, NC

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Dear choristers and families,

Welcome back to another season of singing together! We hope you have enjoyed the summer and are ready to get back together! Please invite your friends to join us! "The more, the merrier!" Don't forget:

### "Everybody's Got a Place in the Choir"

It's an exciting thing to prepare for the Children's Choir season. This year there are several challenges for our choir in addition to our routine worship service participation.

First – **"Hymns for a Lifetime"** ...a voluntary individual challenge for choristers to memorize hymns. This challenge is part of a music ministry emphasis in our church this year. Look for opportunities to rekindle the knowledge and love of old and new hymns in congregational "hymnsings" and worship services.

Second – **Children's Choir Festival in Richmond, Va.** This overnight event is for older choristers. There are 5 pieces of music to learn by November to prepare for the festival. It's quite an experience to join with other children's choirs to present the anthems in worship!

Third – The Children's Choir has been asked to participate on the **third Sunday of Advent** for special Christmas services. This requires singing in two services in one day! Whew! We're also singing on Christmas Eve!

*Please refer to the handbook for more information.*

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### Upcoming Events

#### August 28

First rehearsal!

5:50 in the choir room

#### September 15

Traditional Worship

9:30am (meet in the sanctuary at 8:40)

#### October 20

Traditional Worship

9:30am (meet in the sanctuary at 8:40)

#### November 15-16

**Children's Choir Festival  
Richmond, Va.**

#### November 17

Traditional Worship

9:30am (meet in the sanctuary at 8:40)

## “Hymns For a Lifetime”

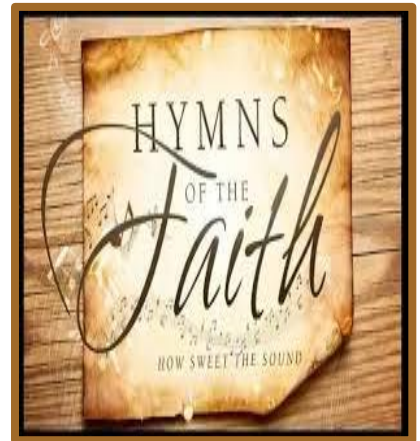
You have been challenged to memorize 2 verses of 20 hymns this year. (1 verse for grades K-2) You will have a set group of hymns in a prescribed order. You will receive a packet of hymns to take home to keep if you would like to participate. You can also use your own hymnal if you have one.

You can pass off hymns one Wednesday a month from 5:30-6:30 beginning in October. We will let you know the specific dates. Anyone wishing to pass off hymns will do so in a separate room with an adult accompanist. There will be a sign-up sheet with the attendance chart near the choir room. You can sing the hymns alone or with a friend.

After “passing off” 10 hymns you will receive a silver “Hymns for a Lifetime” ribbon.

After “passing off” 20 hymns you will receive a gold “Hymns for a Lifetime” ribbon.

We will be singing the hymns in choir rehearsals, and we will provide music for you to use at home. Please remember that this is a completely voluntary activity. No one is required to participate.



### What We Do!

#### Encounter

Encounter God each week in the choir room!

#### Equip

Learn the many ways to praise God with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs!

#### Engage

Help the congregation encounter God in musical worship!

#### Encourage

Help uplift this body of Christ's Church with the sound of children's voices!



## Faith Formation: What are hymns and why are they important?

Many folks tend to think of a certain style of music when they think of hymnody. But by their nature, hymns can be sung and played in many styles of accompanying music. They are just as at home with modern bands as with a pipe organ. Furthermore, the word “hymn” only refers to the poem-text, not the tune. In fact, most tunes have a different name than the underlying text. For example, *Amazing Grace* is the name of the classic text. The famous tune we all know is entitled *New Britain*. In other words, there is no such thing as an instrumental version of *Amazing Grace*!

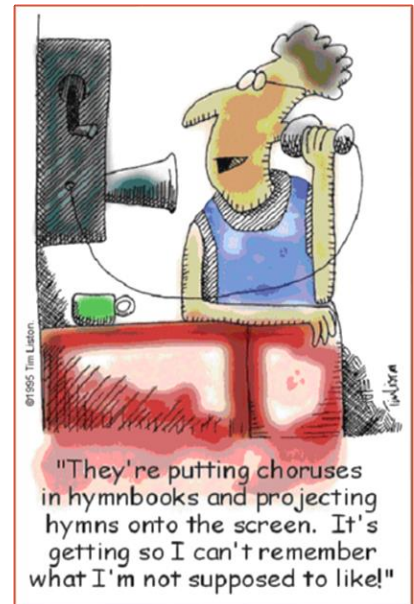
Since a hymn is the text and not the music, throwing out all hymns because of musical taste is just plain silly.

1. Hymns are used to adore and worship God.
2. Hymns are sung as prayers in that they address God directly.
3. Hymns declare Truth.

## Attendance Chart

Each week you will need to check in with Ms. Mary or Ms. Katie and put a sticker beside your name on the chart. Everyone gets a sticker for coming to practice. If you arrive in the choir room at or before 5:50 you will put a “different” sticker beside your name. We all work hard to be on time for practice and, as a group, we will work toward getting 75 of the “different” stickers. When we accomplish that goal, we will have a special treat at choir rehearsal!

There is a rehearsal plan on the board for each practice. As we finish each task on the plan, we check it off. If we finish the entire plan in our rehearsal time the choir receives 5 bonus stickers toward the goal of 75. This, of course, means we must limit talking.



## Welcome Ginny Nagy

Thanks for joining the  
Children's Choir  
ministry and  
playing the  
piano for us.



## Learn the Lyrics!



Now thank we all our God

For all the simple things, I sing a simple song of thanks. For all the joy they bring,  
I sing a simple song of thanks.

The sun up in the sky, the sweet green grass that grows, the morning birds that  
fly, the ev'ning star that glows.

For all these simple things, and all the joy they bring, I sing a simple song of  
thanks.

Now, thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices. With heart and hands and voices.

For God's great gift of grace, I sing a simple song of thanks. The melody of praise, I sing a simple  
song of thanks.

For summer days of blue, and snowy winter nights, for autumn's changing hue, and spring time  
colors bright.

For all these simple things and all the joy they bring, I sing a simple song of thanks.

With heart and hands and voices.

## Second – Fifth Graders

**Save the date! November 15-16, 2024**

Children's Choir Festival in Richmond, Va.



## PS

Somewhere in our hard copy of this newsletter is a small error! Be the first one to find it and text, email, call or tell a choir leader to win a prize! We will use time stamps to help determine a winner! Punctuation in song lyrics does not count...it's presented as it is in the music.

### Contact information:

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