

Dear Chancel Choir,

Isn't it amazing how the summer seems to get away from all of us so very quickly! I was finally able to get to visit my brother and his family for the first time in two years this past month, and it was wonderful!

The new year is upon us, and we will begin our choir year on Thursday evening, September 6, at 7:30 sharp!

This coming year promises to be a very different year, as we work together in the idea and notion of Sabbatical, both for Jed and for our congregation as a whole. Jed has asked the staff to think along the lines of "what makes your heart sing?", and I think that works beautifully with the Stewardship Committee's yearly theme of "Blessed Lives, and Hungry Hearts". Our music theme this year, based on the Lilly Foundation's sabbatical them suggestion, shall be "What Makes Your Heart Sing?".

In order to continue to fulfill our part of the budget belt tightening, we will need to come up with an idea for the All Church Fund-raising Event in November. I have a wonderful concert version of "The True Story of Cinderella" by Warren Martin which would make a wonderful dinner-theater event. We shall discuss this more when we are all together.

Plans for Christmas this year include the "Ceremony of Carols" by Benjamin Britten, since we are blessed to have Katie Lyon-Pingree in our midst! (This work is for choir accompanied by harp. Though originally written for a women's chorus in SSA, Britten himself approved of the 4 part SATB version that we shall use.) In keeping with doing our part to help our current budget, we have been able to borrow most of the scores we shall use from the Chestnut Street United Methodist Church in Lumberton, NC where I was previously Minister of Music before coming to South Church.

If you haven't yet given your part to the purchase of our brand new choir robes, please do so as soon as you can. Remember, if doing so will present a hardship for you, please communicate your situation to me confidentially.

Finally, our new Music website, an auxiliary website to our church's web presence is up in its first "incarnation". I will be using this website as a means of greater communication for all involved or interested in music at South Congregational Church. Do make note of the individual web address: www.musicatsouthcongo.org as it will become an important communication tool in the life of our Music Ministry.

I look forward to seeing you all on September 6!

In Christ,

Mark W. Frazier
Minister of Music