



Worship and Music Ministries
FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
1621 E. Garrison Boulevard
Gastonia, North Carolina 28054
704.864.2651

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Gastonia, NC

To the dedicated parents of...

Encourage your child to become a worship leader!



*“The woods would be silent
if no birds sang but the best!”*

– Henry Van Dyke

2010-2011
CHILDREN’S CHOIR HANDBOOK
*Ordinary Time, Advent, Christmastide, Epiphany,
Lent and Eastertide*

Parents are asked to sign the Registration Form indicating their receipt of the **Children's Choir Handbook**.

Performance Dress

Sunday Morning Worship and |Special Service

Vestments are provided for all choristers assisting with the leadership of music in worship. Parental volunteers are also asked to wear vestments as they become a visible and vital part of the service leadership.

Boys

- Dress Pants and shirt
- Coordinating Socks and Shoes

Girls

- Dresses or skirts with coordinating blouses or tops
- Coordinating Socks and Shoes

|Lessons and Carols is a special service. Choristers will not wear **vestments** for the Children's Tableau at the Christmas Eve Service, December 24. Simple **costumes** will be provided for each chorister.

As leaders of music in worship, Choristers must navigate unfamiliar spaces without the ability to see their feet. For this reason, **choristers are not permitted to wear flip flops or similar shoes** for worship leadership. Performance shoes must be equipped with buckles or laces.

2010-2011 Worship Leadership Schedule Carol, Cherub and Pipe Choirs

- October 3 World Communion Sunday
 10:00 A.M. Warm-Up
- 31 Reformation/All Saints Sunday
 10:00 A.M. Warm-Up
- November 21 Christ the King Sunday
 10:00 A.M. Warm-Up
- December 2 +Lessons and Carols (Wednesday)
 6:30 P.M./Chapel
- 5 Second Sunday of Advent
 10:00 A.M. Warm-Up
- 24 Children's Christmas Eve Service (5:00 P.M.)
 4:00 P.M. Warm-Up (Chapel)
- February 6 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
 10:00 A.M. Warm-Up
- March 13 First Sunday in Lent
 10:00 A.M. Warm-Up
- April 17 Palm/Passion Sunday
 10:00 A.M. Warm-Up

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Philosophy

*“It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praises to God’s name.”*

– Psalm 92:1

The Worship and Music Ministry of First Presbyterian Church believes that music is a gift from God, the hand-maiden of the Word. For this reason, every child should be encouraged and provided the opportunity to share God’s universal gift.

Our mission is to train children to be worship leaders ministering to God’s Church, bringing others into the worshiping community of First Presbyterian Church. As worship leaders, we strive to enrich our lives through worship, prayer and service.

Our Worship and Music Ministry seeks to develop young musicians who answer God’s call to be one of His vehicles of the Gospel, guiding them in the limitless beauty experienced through His gift of music.

2010-2011 Rehearsal Schedule

Wednesday Rehearsals/Liturgical Arts 5:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.

Wednesday Program (December 1) 6:30 P.M. - 7:15 P.M.

+Dinner provided in the PWS Wing at a cost of \$3 per chorister.

September 8 **Kick-Off**

15

22

29

October 6

13

20

27

November 3

10

17

24 **No Rehearsal**

December 1 +Lessons and Carols Chapel/6:30 P.M.

January 5 **Epiphany Party**

12

19

26

February 2

9

16

23

March 2

9

16 **St. Pat's Party**

23

30

April 6

13

20 **No Rehearsal**

Summer Music Camp

Rising Grades 1 thru 5

July 11-15 — 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M. — \$20 Registration

Parent Expectations

Being in the Children's Choir Program is like being on a sports team. Every member of the team is equally important and has a role to play. When one member is absent, the whole team's performance is impacted. Therefore, it is imperative that parents make the Children's Choir Program a priority just as they do other opportunities. Please make every effort for your child to attend every rehearsal so he or she does not miss any "coaching" and team building. Likewise, teammates need to be present at our "games." **A child's service to Christ and His Church will be in proportion to that of his or her parents.**

Some opportunities for parental help...

- Fall Festival: All Saints/Reformation Sunday, October 31
- Assisting at rehearsals as needed
- Robing, sitting with choristers during a Worship Service when they are assigned to lead music in worship
- Summer Music Camp
- Please ask your child's director often how you can become more involved in the Children's Choir Program.

As parents, you are a tremendous influence on your child(ren), especially on their decisions and what they view as valuable and important. What we support, they usually pursue, and what we encourage and make a priority, they embrace. Show an interest in your child's choir activities and encourage him or her to sing the music they are learning to you. You'll be surprised how quickly they learn to read and articulate music. Please support and encourage your child in his or her commitment to choir. The rewards for you, the chorister and the worship life of First Presbyterian Church are immeasurable.

Children's Choirs and Children's Choirs Leadership

Timothy J. Belk Director of Music Ministries and Organist
tbelk@fpcgastonia.org/704.864.2651 (Extension 108)/704.309.0822 (Mobile)
Cynthia Brown-Stallings Music Associate for Children
cbrownstallings@fpcgastonia.org/704.864.2651 (Extension108)
Donna S. Atkins Children's Choir Volunteer
704.396.6658 (Home)

Cherub Choir

- Ages 4 and 5 (as of August 31, 2010)
- PWS Music Room
 - Rehearsal 5:00P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
 - Liturgical Arts 5:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
- Donna S. Atkins

Carol Choir

- Grades 1 and 2 (as of August 31, 2010)
- Music Suite
 - Liturgical Arts 5:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
 - Rehearsal 5:30P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
- Timothy Belk
Cynthia Brown-Stallings

Piper Choir

- Grades 3 - 5 (as of August 31, 2010)
- Chapel
 - Rehearsal 5:00P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
 - Liturgical Arts 5:30 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.
- Timothy Belk
Cynthia Brown-Stallings

Choir Policies

- Children should be dropped off at the Fellowship Hall Building Portico where they will be greeted each Wednesday from 4:45 P.M. - 5:00 P.M. by a representative of the worship and music ministry.
- Children will be walked to the Atrium each Wednesday evening at 6:00 P.M. where they should be greeted by a parent. We cannot release young children to older siblings or friends.
- For the health of others, please care for a sick child at home.
- Our Children's Choir Program has an "open door policy." Parents are always welcomed and encouraged to silently attend any rehearsal.
- A Registration Form is required of all choristers including emergency contact information.
- Our Children's Choir Program is graded. Children are grouped in choirs by age or grade level as of August 31, 2010. Each child is placed in the appropriate choir based on their grade placement as of this date.
- The Children's Choir Program Year follows the school year; children are not "promoted" to the next choir on their birthdays. Children remain in the same choir throughout the year.
- Children may join the applicable Children's Choir at any time. However, we encourage children to join at the beginning of each season (i.e. Fall/Advent and Winter/Easter). This enables them to feel confident in both their worship and music leadership.

Choristers Expectations and Responsibilities

The Worship and Music Ministry encourages every child to become a worship leader. In order to teach and equip our best, every chorister must be taught responsibility.

Please encourage your parent to enable your attendance at all scheduled rehearsals and worship leadership opportunities. Your participation is only possible with the support of an adult.

- If you are sick or there is an emergency in your family, please notify your director before the rehearsal if at all possible.
- Take home any occasional written communication to your parent(s).
- The Children's Choir Program is an opportunity for you. Please do not allow other activities to interfere with your ability to become a worship leader.
- Be on time (5:00 P.M.).
- Be attentive and cooperative during rehearsals. Your fellow choristers and director are depending on your support.
- Strive to learn your music, both words and notes, so you will be well prepared to lead music in worship.
- Always watch the director while singing. Never peer into the congregation drawing attention to yourself.
- The Church is God's house. Please be quiet and reverent.
- Talk to your parent(s) about the things you learn in the Children's Choir Program. Invite them to silently attend a rehearsal.
- Take care of any music, instrument or equipment provided as they are necessary for other children to have the same opportunity in the future.
- Invite your friends to join the Children's Choir Program.