

# Take



St. Paul's UMC Music Newsletter

Vol. 11, No. 3

March 2011

St. Paul's United Methodist Church  
1340 - 3rd Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403



## Matt German Joins St. Paul's Staff

We welcome Matt German as contemporary worship leader at St. Paul's UMC. A full-time student at the University of Dubuque Theological Seminary, Matt is pursuing a Masters in Divinity and hopes to be an ordained elder in the United Methodist Church and to serve as a full time pastor in the Iowa Annual Conference. He has been in ministry as a worship leader, youth worker, and spiritual director in a number of capacities over the last seven years, including the Community of Joy UMC in Bettendorf, Pictured Rocks UMC Camp and Retreat Center, Summer Games University, Annual Conference, and the First United Methodist Church of Marion.

"I am overjoyed to be partnering with you in ministry! I am learning that St. Paul's has a rich musical tradition, and I am humbled to be part of that going into the future. God is going to lead us into amazing times of praise and worship together. I look forward to growing with you as we walk hand in hand with Jesus leading the way. As Psalm 100 says, "Let us make a joyful noise unto the Lord all the earth." God bless you!"

## Ash Wednesday Schedule

The Wednesday schedule on March 9 will be altered on this first day of Lent. Star Choir will meet as usual with a dismissal time of 6:45 p.m. to allow families to pick up children and attend the 7 p.m. worship. Cherub and Chapel Choirs will not have rehearsal; however, these children still have activities from 6:00—6:45 p.m. Wesley Bells will not have rehearsal; Tower Bells will have a brief rehearsal from 6:30—6:40 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir will meet at 6:30 p.m. in preparation of the 7:00 p.m. worship. After worship, choir will rehearse for an hour.

## G. F. Handel's *Messiah*—The Passion and Death of Jesus Christ

April 21, 7 p.m.: St. Paul's UMC

April 22, 7 p.m.: 1st Lutheran Church



## If the Boot Fits, Wear It



When I was visiting my mother a few months ago, I grabbed a magazine from her reading stash and found this life story by Canadian Trish Sinclair. When I had my mother read it, we laughed and laughed. We enjoyed it so much, that I couldn't wait to share it in *Take Note*.

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It was the first snow of winter - an exciting day for every child but not for most teachers. Up until now, I had been able to dress myself for recess, but today I would need some help. Miss Finlayson, my kindergarten teacher at Princess Elizabeth School, near Hamilton, Ontario, had been through first snow days many times in her long career, but I think she may still remember this one.

I managed to get into my itchy wool snow pants, but I struggled with my jacket because it didn't fit well. It was a hand-me-down from my brother, and it made me wonder why I had to wear his ugly clothes. At least the hat and matching scarf were mine, and they were quite pretty. Finally it was time to have Miss Finlayson help me with my boots. In her calm, motherly voice she said, "By the end of winter, you will all be able to put on your own boots." I didn't realize at the time that this was more a statement of hope than a statement of confidence.

I handed her my boots and stuck out my foot. Like most children, I expected the adult to do all the work. After much wiggling and pushing, she managed to get the first one into place and then, with an audible sigh, worked the second one on too.

I announced, "They're on the wrong feet!" With the grace that only experience can bring, she struggled to get the boots off and went through the joyless task of putting them on again. Then I said, "These aren't my boots, you know." As she pulled the offending boots from my feet, she still managed to look both helpful and interested. Once they were off, I said, "They're my brother's boots. My mother makes me wear them, and I hate them!" Somehow, from long years of practice, she managed to act as though I wasn't an annoying little girl. She pushed and shoved, less gently this time, and the boots were returned to their proper place on my feet. With a great sigh of relief, seeing the end of her struggle with me, she asked, "Now, where are your mittens?" I looked into her eyes and said, "I didn't want to lose them, so I stuff them into the toes of my boots."

In Christian harmony,  
Brenda Prediger

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# Happy Birthday!



March 11  
March 18  
March 25

Harlan Gillespie  
Sarah Lodge  
Mary Hurlbut  
Maury Anderson

Sanctuary Choir  
Youth Choir, Wesley Bells  
Sanctuary Choir, Praise Team  
Sanctuary Choir, Men's Ensemble

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*(Nick McGraw cont. from p.3)*

I had never felt more connected and 'in-tune' with a choir or piece of music in my life. It was a very special moment. Music is my life. End of story. There is nothing I love more than music. The most amazing experiences of my life have all been centered around music. Nothing has more of an impact on me than music. I couldn't imagine trying to live in this world without music, and I thank God for blessing this world with music. Just like the rest of my life, my most amazing worship experiences have happened through music. Music has a power that words alone do not. I never feel as spiritually connected to God as I do when I am making music."



## ***Praise God with Music***

### **Nick McGraw, Sanctuary Choir Member**

Nick was born in Sioux City, Iowa. He spent most of his elementary school days in Storm Lake until his family moved back to Sioux City the summer before his fifth grade school year.

Nick graduated from Sioux City East High School in 2006, and just graduated from Morningside College in December 2010. At Morningside, he was a music education major. He student taught at Jefferson High School and Prairie Heights Elementary this past fall. While in college, he was the director of the prep all-women's show choir for two years at Sioux City East High School. Nick is currently substitute teaching and is a server at *Granite City Food & Brewery*. He is currently seeking a full-time high school choir or elementary general music position for this upcoming fall.

Nick's parents are Joni and Kevin, who are divorced. He has a miniature Schnauzer named Heidi, and his brother, Nate, is older by three years.

More than anything, Nick loves spending time with his friends and family. He says he has some of the best friends in the entire world and just loves spending time with them, whether it's something really fun or just as simple as lounging around watching TV.

January through March is one of his favorite times of the year because it's show choir season. Most Saturdays during this three-month period, he can usually be found watching show choirs at one of the numerous competitions across the country. He is also a fan of Harry Potter, reality television and Diet Coke!

Nick has been singing for as long as he can remember. As a young kid, he was always singing. He says it's hard to believe the number of home videos his mom has of him singing and dancing. He wasn't in a choir until middle school, and it wasn't until high school that he became very involved and really started to pursue music.

Nick has been singing at St. Paul's since mid-January. He says he has really been enjoying himself. Since leaving college, the one thing that he has missed more than anything is singing, especially in a choir setting.

Nick wishes that he could say he plays the piano, but he doesn't know if his "skills" constitute actual playing [another Tralau]. If he could go back and do his life over or just change something about it, he would have never stopped taking piano lessons and would play a stringed instrument, probably the violin.

He loves all types of music - from *Lady Gaga* to *Mozart*. His iPod has quite an eclectic mix of music. He also has a huge passion for musical theater and opera.

As a young child, Nick remembers having a *Fischer Price* cassette player with a microphone. That player was basically attached to his hand - he would play his favorite tapes and sing and dance to them until they no longer worked.

One of the best moments of Nick's life happened when he was a senior in high school and his show choir was at FAME Chicago, a national show choir competition. "We were just hoping to make finals (top 6), especially after what we felt was a dismal daytime performance. We ended up being third in the day round (making finals) and we were quite ecstatic, to say the least. During our warm-up for finals we were standing in a circle, holding hands and singing our ballad. When we hit the key change we all just lost it and started bawling. We stopped singing and just hugged, cried, and laughed for the rest of our warm-up time. It was the most magical moment of my life to date. We ended up performing our hearts out that night, and moved up to second place behind the best show choir in the nation, Clinton high school's *Attaché*, that had not lost in 12 years."

Another good memory for Nick was performing *Christmas at Morningside* at Morningside and at several other venues. The choir was at their last venue and singing *Biebl's Ave Maria* when their director started tearing-up in the middle of the piece and stopped conducting. "He put his hands down by his sides and just let us go. It was an incredibly moving experience.

*(cont. on p. 2)*



## Handbell Happenings

**Kevin Lodge**

Director of Handbells Ministries

**Kathy Colton**

Director of Youth Handbells

### March Schedule

|                 |               |           |                                   |
|-----------------|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>March 13</b> | Tower Bells   | 9:00 a.m. | <i>Rock of Ages</i>               |
| <b>March 20</b> | Carillonneurs | 9:00 a.m. | <i>Beneath the Cross of Jesus</i> |

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Youth Choir  
Wesley Bells  
Chancel Bells

Carol A. Tralau, Director  
Kathy Colton, Director  
Kathy Colton, Director



| ENSEMBLE                  | REHEARSAL | TIME           | LOCATION   |
|---------------------------|-----------|----------------|------------|
| Youth Ensemble (6th-12th) | Sunday    | 4:30-5:15 p.m. | Choir Room |
| Wesley Bells (7th-8th)    | Wednesday | 7:30-8:15 p.m. | Room 325   |
| Chancel Bells (9th-12th)  | Sunday    | 5:15-6:00 p.m. | Room 325   |

### March Schedule

|                 |               |                                            |                               |
|-----------------|---------------|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>March 6</b>  | Youth Choir   | 9:00 a.m. service                          | <i>This Is My Beloved Son</i> |
| <b>March 9</b>  | Wesley Bells  | NO REHEARSAL (Ash Wednesday)               |                               |
| <b>March 13</b> | Youth Choir   | NO REHEARSAL (c.t. at national convention) |                               |
| <b>March 20</b> | Youth Choir   | NO REHEARSAL (spring break)                |                               |
|                 | Chancel Bells | NO REHEARSAL (spring break)                |                               |
| <b>March 23</b> | Wesley Bells  | NO REHEARSAL (spring break)                |                               |



## Children's Activities

Star Choir

Janet Schroeder, Director

Deb Gillespie, accompanist

Cherub Choir

Wendy Morton, Director

Colt Ballou, accompanist

Chapel Choir

Kelly Truax, Director and accompanist

| ENSEMBLE                | REHEARSAL | TIME           | LOCATION |
|-------------------------|-----------|----------------|----------|
| Star Choir (Pre-school) | Wednesday | 6:00-7:00 p.m. | 307      |
| Cherub Choir (K-2nd)    | Wednesday | 6:45-7:15 p.m. | Room 101 |
| Chapel Choir (3rd-4th)  | Wednesday | 6:45-7:15 p.m. | Room 117 |

### March Schedule

|                 |                             |                               |                              |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>March 6</b>  | Cherub Choir                | 9:00 a.m. service             | <i>Amen, So Be It</i>        |
| <b>March 9</b>  | Cherub and Choir Choirs     | NO REHEARSALS (Ash Wednesday) |                              |
| <b>March 13</b> | Chapel Choir                | 9:00 a.m. service             | <i>A Prayer for Tomorrow</i> |
| <b>March 23</b> | Star, Cherub, Chapel Choirs | NO REHEARSALS (spring break)  |                              |



# Proposed Schedule for March 2011



March 5 5:30 p.m. Rachel Elson-Canfield  
 March 6 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir *O Breath of Life*  
 Cherub Choir *Amen, So Be It*  
 Youth Choir *This Is My Beloved Son*  
 10:30 a.m. Mark Baumann (chapel); Jo Hunerdosse and John Nollsch  
 Matt German, Kelly Truax, Dennis McPartland,  
 John Gee, Jean Pearson, Mary Hurlbut  
 11:30 a.m. Matt German, Kelly Truax, Dennis McPartland,  
 John Gee, Jean Pearson

March 9 7:00 p.m. Sanctuary Choir *Create In Me a Clean Heart*

March 12 5:30 p.m. Rachel Elson-Canfield  
 March 13 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir *Fill-a-Me Up!*  
 Chapel Choir *A Prayer for Tomorrow*  
 Tower Bells *Rock of Ages*  
 10:30 a.m. Mark Baumann (chapel)  
 Matt German, David Griffin, Ryan Hoagland,  
 John Gee, Jean Pearson  
 11:30 a.m. Matt German, David Griffin, Ryan Hoagland,  
 John Gee, Jean Pearson

March 19 5:30 p.m. Craig Dove and Matt German  
 March 20 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir *Ev'ry Time I Feel the Spirit*  
 Carillonners *Beneath the Cross of Jesus*  
 Men's Ensemble *Prayer of St. Francis of Assisi*  
 10:30 a.m. Mark Baumann (chapel)  
 Matt German, Ryan Hoagland,  
 John Gee, Jean Pearson, Mary Hurlbut  
 11:30 a.m. Matt German, Ryan Hoagland,  
 John Gee, Jean Pearson

March 26 5:30 p.m. Rachel Elson-Canfield  
 March 27 9:00 a.m. Sanctuary Choir *Amazing Grace*  
 10:30 a.m. Mark Baumann (chapel)  
 Matt German, David Griffin, Dennis McPartland,  
 John Gee, Jean Pearson, Mary Hurlbut  
 11:30 a.m. Matt German, David Griffin, Dennis McPartland,  
 John Gee, Jean Pearson

## Sanctuary Choir Officers 2010-2013

|            |                | Home #   | Email Address           |
|------------|----------------|----------|-------------------------|
| President: | Brian Azelborn | 366.4879 | b.azelborn@mchsi.com    |
| Vice Pres: | David Carlson  | 366.4509 | david.carlson@mchsi.com |
| Secretary: | Kevin Lodge    | 398.9773 | kevinbells@msn.com      |
| Treasurer: | Tom Sears      | 365.7913 | matasears@mchsi.com     |

