

## CUUC Choir Annual Report 2017-2018

It has been a wonderful year! The choir has continued to grow in their overall musicality and singing abilities. I am happy to report that the choir continues to take on the challenges that I present to them with enthusiasm and an open mind. At the beginning of each month, we continue to hold our socials. This gives us a time to spend time with each other outside of the choir rehearsal.

The choir continues to perform at least two Sundays per month. I have been working to motivate the choir members to sing more challenging repertoire, which we begin a few weeks in advance of the worship service at which it will be performed. One of my goals with the choir has been to continue to work on and build their vocal technique, individual musicianship and blend. The choir continues to perform music of varying styles, time periods, languages and cultures, and the songs are chosen based on the worship “theme” of the month.

I am delighted to share that we have had some new additions to the choir this year. The current choir members have been proactive about reaching out to members of the congregation, as well as visitors and inviting them to our Wednesday night rehearsals with the hope of having them join the choir. We have had a few new members join the choir this year. We feel very fortunate for these new members and the talents that they share with our church.

Attendance at weekly rehearsals has been consistent, but there have been times where members had to miss for various reasons. Most often, these reasons were communicated in advance and we were able to plan accordingly and make adjustments as necessary. Throughout the year, we have had many of the choir members sing solos in the some of the choir anthems, which was well received by the congregation – this was a wonderful way to showcase the talented musicians that we have in our choir.

Sandy Farlow and Deb Bliss are serving as the current Music Librarians. They have spent many hours organizing the library, making copies, filing music and passing out/collecting music at each of the choral rehearsals. I have been trying to be more proactive about choosing repertoire in advance so that they can make copies or pull music in time for our weekly rehearsals. Jeannette Baillie holds the title of Choir Secretary. She has been instrumental in sending out reminder e-mails to the choir via the Church Database regarding rehearsal information, performance attire, performance music and schedules. This year Jeannette has been sending out e-mails about what actually took place at rehearsal, including music that was handed out, turned in, and rehearsed, in order to keep everyone informed about what actually took place - this has been especially helpful for those members who were not present at rehearsal and want to be in-the-know.

I have made an effort to attend many of the Worship Team meetings that are held once a month on Saturday mornings. These have been very informative and have afforded me the opportunity to help plan the services and to provide valuable feedback when putting together the worship services.

Unfortunately, this year the choir will not be presenting the annual Pops Concert due to a number of extenuating circumstances. The choir will be an integral part, however, in performing many songs at the Music Sunday service, which will be taking place on Sunday, May 20. This service will also showcase many of our talented musicians at the church, which will include a few soloists and performances by HoUUse Jam. All of those involved are looking forward to presenting this very special service of eclectic music, up-lifting performances and congregation participation.

In addition to Music Sunday, the Choir was featured at the traditional Christmas Eve Candlelight service by singing many beautiful pieces to enhance the worship experience. The choir has also performed at the major holidays throughout the year, offering a wide-variety of music to support the worship service.

On Sundays that I am not at worship services, Nelah McComsey, Elena Westbrook, Amy Dessert and Duane Mortenson are the very talented volunteer pianists who accompany the services. Some of them have played for vocal soloists during the service as special music. We are working on recruiting more pianists to play on the Sundays when the choir is not present. I want to give special recognition to Nelah McComsey for dedicating her time and talent to the church over the years. We will certainly miss you at CUUC, but wish you the best of luck on your relocation to Florida.

As always, I continue to enjoy my time working at Community Unitarian Universalist Church and am thankful for the opportunity to work with such a dedicated and talented group of singers and people. I always leave choir rehearsals and Sunday morning services feelings rejuvenated and refreshed and I know that many of the choir members have expressed a mutual feeling.

Christopher T. Wolff, Jr.