

2009 Worship Team Congregational Report Submitted by Marsha Bones

The Worship Team Chair/Council Liaison: Marsha Bones. The Team members are: Jeanette Eliason, Bruce Eliason, Georgia Kurz, Diane Barnes, Denise Cyr, Amanda Wilson, Zane Wilson

Worship Teams Mission Statement:

- ❖ Offer support to the pastoral team
- ❖ Offer support to the music team
- ❖ Offer organizational support for worship
- ❖ Be a visible presence to the congregation
- ❖ Gather information from the congregation

We started the year 2009 with our traditional service at 9:00 and Waters Edge service at 11:00. After Pastor David left the Worship Team and Pastoral staff worked hard to meet the challenges of continuing both services until June when we went to our usual summer schedule of one service.

For Lent this year our theme was "A Season of Listening"; which *seemed* to be a good theme for what was currently happening in the church. During Lent we had our traditional soup supper and vespers every Wednesday evening. On March 29, 2009 there was only one service so everyone could say farewell to Pastor David Rapp and his family. The music was beautiful and Pastor Amanda led a touching sermon where members could express their appreciation for Pastor David's service to Ascension.

This year we did a little something different for Palm Sunday. Everyone was encouraged to wear green this Sunday and the service began with a procession of the Choir and Sunday School children waving palm branches. There was only one service since we welcomed our interim Pastor, Zane Wilson. For Sunday School the children had fun in the Sanctuary with their palm fronds, a special visit from Tyger Bunny, and many other fun activities.

Besides our traditional Holy Week services, this year we again had the Stations of the Cross. For the Stations of the Cross there was participation from past participants and new ones too. The Sunday School had some beautiful water color paintings they did in a water color class with Jim Hutchins. The bulletin covers for Holy Week and Easter Sunday were very special. The covers were drawings of the Easter season created by several of our young artists in our Sunday School.

Our Confirmation Sunday was wonderful. However, several commented that they missed having the Confirmands doing more of the service. They especially missed having one of the Confirmands speak during the sermon time. Amanda shared that was because there had been much uncertainty with this group since March which made planning difficult.

During the summer the Worship Team and Pastoral staff worked hard to make sure elements from both services were incorporated into the one service. We began having communion every Sunday using the intinction style of communion. The team also encouraged a variety of sermon types including discussion/interaction style sermons.

For Fall Worship we continued with one service at 9:30 and Sunday School at 10:45. In October on the first Sunday of the month we brought back communion around the rail using the intinction method. This fall we have had several special Sundays; like September 20th

when Bishop David was here on St. Matthew Sunday and November 29 when we honored St. Andrew with special bagpipe music.

For Advent this year our theme is "Hope" and we will have our traditional Advent Vespers Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm. There will be hot spice punch, hot chocolate, and other hot beverages will be available at 5:30 and after the vesper service. The Advent wreath will be different this year. We have a new Advent stand that will be covered with greens and will have blue candles. Each Sunday the Advent wreath will be lit at the beginning of the service while a soloist sings a verse of "Come O Come Emmanuel". This year we have a decoration committee for decorating the church for Advent and Christmas.

Additional work also includes:

- The Worship Team worked hard to get feedback from the congregation before changes were made to the worship service. This year there were several informal surveys in addition an extensive Worship survey in July where 117 surveys were filled out and returned. The Team also led several Church Hall discussions this summer. The information gathered from the discussions and the data collected from the surveys were used to make fall worship decisions and will also be used as we begin the Call process.
- The Worship Team has advocated that the Pastors take the time for teachable moments to educate the congregation on why changes and traditions are being changed.
- A suggestion box was set up on the information table. Each week the suggestions are read, shared with the Pastors, and taken into consideration.
- The Worship Team has given feedback to the Constitution Committee after studying and making revisions to the By Laws and the Continuing Resolutions. This work has given us a better framework for the team and description of our responsibilities in addition to defining our role in the congregation.
- The Worship's Search subcommittee, with collaboration with the Education Committee and the Personnel chair Linda Sindt have developed job descriptions, interview questions, and advertised for a new Choir Director and a permanent Church Musician. Charles Frieson has been hired as our new Choir Director. He has met with both of the pastors and briefly with the choir. He will officially begin on December 2. As for the Church Musician we had no qualified candidates apply for the position. So the Search Subcommittee is looking at options for filling the organist/pianist position on a semi-permanent base and is in the process of making a recommendation to the Church Council.
- We are in the process of purchasing new communion ware from an artist in Coquille for \$250. The new communion ware is to replace the symbolic chalice which belongs to Pastor Amanda, replace the chipped blue chalice, and reduce the amount of juice and wine wasted each week. It will take him at least 6 weeks to make the pieces. We hope to get Council's approval for this purchase.
- Clipboards for Worship Volunteers are no longer passed around during the service. Procuring, training, and reminding volunteers for each service is still a work in progress, although it is getting easier and the numbers of volunteers are increasing. There are more children, youth, and family units are sharing their gifts with us each week in a variety of worship positions.
- Sneeze kits have been made and placed in each pew to help decrease the spread of germs especially the H1N1 virus.