



Information about the

Choristers Program at Holy Trinity Church

The Angel Choir is open to boys and girls ages three through second grade. This group serves as a training choir, designed specifically to prepare them for entrance into the Holy Trinity Choristers, while they learn about the life and ministry of Jesus in our celebrations throughout the church year.

REHEARSAL: SUNDAY (SEPTEMBER-MAY) FROM 9:15-9:30 IN THE CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

The Holy Trinity Choristers begin their training between eight and nine years of age, and boys conclude at eighth grade (or once the voice has changed), and girls conclude at twelfth grade. Often, we do accept choristers that are younger, based particularly on whether the child is reading. The program is affiliated with *The Royal School of Church Music*, an achievement-based system. Choristers in each level are presented with a test book, a list of skills which s/he is expected to acquire from rehearsals and sung services. When children first enter the choirs, they are Novices—that is, in training. Novices wear only the red cassock part of the choir vestment. Novices entering in September usually earn their surplices (the white portion of their vestment) by Christmas. Novices begin on the White Level, and continue to work their way through Light Blue, Dark Blue, Red, and Yellow levels, usually completing one level a year. Ribbons are awarded on Music Sunday each May to choristers who have successfully completed the next level. This system of setting and attaining achievable goals is intended to encourage a child to develop his or her musical ability to the highest level. Parents will find that this system also encourages self-discipline.

REHEARSAL: TBD (SEPTEMBER-MAY)

Both choirs will sing in worship throughout the choir season (September-May), dates to be announced.

Attendance at all rehearsals and services is extremely important. A choir is an ensemble that functions just like a sports team. Every member of the team is important. If a chorister misses rehearsals, s/he is not learning important skills and the music that the choir is scheduled to sing. Of course, there will be times a chorister needs to be absent for illness, a school function, a family event, and so on.

Membership at Holy Trinity is not a prerequisite for joining the choirs. Choristers and their families are invited to participate in the many and varied activities at Holy Trinity.

No musical experience is necessary! We assume that children entering the choir will not have sung before. In this way, we provide "on-the-job training."

"I have (know of) a child, but s/he can't sing." It is alarming to think of the number of children who have been labeled "tone deaf" over the years. The sad part is that often this is communicated to children very early, thereby excluding them from musical opportunities throughout life. Many times children have difficulty singing in the beginning simply because they haven't done it at all, either at home or school. It is not necessarily indicative of a child's potential for success in the choir!

Who trains the choristers and directs the choirs?

Dr. John T. Lowe, Jr. (Director of Music and Organist, and Director of the Holy Trinity Choristers) holds degrees in Organ Performance, Church Music, and Choral Conducting, with a minor in Music Education, from The University of Alabama and Indiana University. Dr. Lowe was appointed Director of Music and Organist at Holy Trinity in August, 2007, and previously began Chorister programs in Indianapolis, Indiana, and in Ocala, Florida. If you have additional questions, contact Dr. Lowe at the Parish Office (352.372.4721 x. 120), or email Lowe@holytrinitygnv.org.