



## Information about the Choristers Program at Holy Trinity Church

**The Angel Choir** is for children ages four years old through second grade and meets This group serves as a training choir, designed specifically to prepare them for entrance into the Holy Trinity Choristers.

*REHEARSAL: SUNDAYS FROM NOON-12:30 P.M. IN CHILDREN'S CHAPEL.*

**The Holy Trinity Choristers** begin their training between eight and nine years of age, and conclude at eighth grade, or (in the case of the boys) once the voice has changed. 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 he or she 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. Choristers entering in September usually earn their surplices (the white portion of the vestment) by Christmas. Children completing the Novice training then work to earn ribbons from the other levels in the choir program: Junior Chorister (light blue ribbon with RSCM medal), Senior chorister (dark blue ribbon with RSCM medal), and Advanced Chorister (red ribbon with RSCM medal). 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: WEDNESDAYS FROM 4:45-5:30 P.M. IN THE CHOIR ROOM.*

**Both choirs will sing** in worship several times a year, 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 not necessarily indicative of a child's potential for success in the Choir!

### **Who trains the choristers and directs the choir?**

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 has begun Chorister programs in Indianapolis, and in Ocala, Florida. If you have additional questions, contact Dr. Lowe at the Parish Office (352.372.4721), or email [Lowe@holytrinitygmv.org](mailto:Lowe@holytrinitygmv.org).

Dr. Elizabeth Adams (Director of The Angel Choir) holds a PhD in Music Education from The University of Florida, and has 30 years public school teaching experience, mostly in music. She sang in church choirs from the age of eight, and in the Cathedral Choral Society (Washington, DC) for 8 years.