

## MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

I have only been here at Epiphany for the last three months of 2008, but a lot seems to have happened since I arrived in October! I am delighted to be here at Epiphany, and greatly appreciate the warm welcome that I and my family have received.

My first task was to get the adult choir up and running and prepared for weekly liturgies as well as Advent and Christmas. This talented and congenial group cheerfully set to work, and I am most proud of the beautiful music they have provided for the past three months. My first Sunday was October 5 which involved, not only the principal morning liturgy, but the annual blessing of the animals that afternoon! This was the first time that Epiphany has held this service in the church, and the church echoed not only with the choir's beautiful anthem, but with a lively chorus of singing dogs as well!

I spent a good deal of time in October immersing myself in the intricacies of learning Microsoft Publisher in order to provide leaflets for our worship, having never had this responsibility previously. I have gained a new skill, which is always a good thing! I am grateful, too, that in December the church began to provide some extra staff support for this endeavor with the hiring of Susan Beares, which allows me to focus more on the music ministry here.

In November I began rehearsing the Treble Choir, which sang for both Advent and Christmas services. I am extremely pleased with how well they are doing. Look for them to sing regularly at our Family Services the last Sunday of most months.

Bruce Anderson has kindly offered to direct the Handbell Choir, which is hard at work rehearsing for their relaunch at the end of February!

December saw us offer a Taize worship service on December 14, followed closely by our Christmas Eve, Christmas lessons and carols and Epiphany services. All of these went beautifully. Our choirs worked hard to provide wonderful music for these liturgies, rehearsing extra hours during that very busy time of year.

We are always happy to welcome new members into the choirs here at Epiphany. If you have a love of singing and can carry a part, please speak to me about joining the adult choir. We meet on Thursday evenings from 7:30-9:00 p.m. Likewise, the treble choir is a great way for children to learn about singing, music theory and the basics of our wonderful Anglican liturgy. If you have a child between the ages of 8-14 who would be interested in joining, please speak to me, or call me here at the church 410-252-4465, or email me at [music@qis.net](mailto:music@qis.net). The treble choir rehearses every Wednesday afternoon from 4:30-5:15 p.m. in the church. Bruce Anderson would also be delighted to welcome new ringers into the handbell choir. You can email him at [banderson@jordankitts.com](mailto:banderson@jordankitts.com).

Finally, I would like to ask that if anyone is moved to contribute to our music program here at Epiphany that they consider making a donation to the Everest Nolan Cline Memorial Fund. This fund enables us to hire extra musicians and instrumentalists for special services, and I am also hoping that it might provide some funding for buying more music for the choirs.

I have discovered that our music library needs building up, both for the adult and treble choirs. Our choirs sing between 60-72 different anthems per year, and these days an average figure to purchase 20 copies of one anthem alone could be around \$50, sometimes much more, depending upon the publisher. Because we sing anthems that are suited to the scripture texts of the 3 year lectionary we have a need for a great deal of music. There are many anthems I would like to purchase for our choirs that we simply do not have here in our library. If you would like to make a contribution to this effort, I would be most grateful!

Again, thank you all so much for your warm welcome as I begin my ministry here at Epiphany. I look forward to getting to know you all better, and to welcoming more of you into participating in one of our choirs!

Yours in Christ,  
*Mary Hamlin-Spencer*  
Director of Music