
OCT. 7, 2020



SoundFourth!

Weekly Newsletter for the Choir of First Baptist Church



CHOIR NEWS THIS WEEK:

A Word from the Director

Prayer Requests & Praises

Practice Resumes!

A Word from the Director

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."

~II Timothy 4:7~

"The term "finishing line" has always seemed a misnomer to me. If you *don't* make it to the finishing line you are finished. If you *do* make it to the finishing line, first or last, you find it to be an opening to new opportunities.

Perhaps collapsing into your chair in choir rehearsal tonight was like making it across a finishing line with your last ounce of energy. Now the choir director wants you to attack the music with enthusiasm and energy. Where has he or she been all day?

So many times today you've had the chance to throw in the towel, and out of sheer determination, responsibility, or habit, you did what it took to get the job done. Why? Because deep down inside you know it is ultimately worthy it. You'd just like a little recognition or a little help along the way.

At least choir rehearsal is a chance to sit down and be still for awhile. You're not in charge so you can relax a bit. But there's something about this place, these people, and the music. There's something right and refreshing about choir and choir rehearsal. It was a hassle to get here and you almost didn't come, but now that you're here, there's just something right about it all.

It may be that choir rehearsal is a 'right' place to be once a week because it is a reminder that you are not alone. There are other people pushing their way through the week. Their busy schedules also include this place and time. It is a reminder that you have some eternal work to do in the midst of your daily responsibilities. It is a time to look up and out over the horizon, instead of just looking out to make sure you don't get run over. It is a time to use your voice for something other than answering questions or giving instructions. It is a time to harmonize instead of shouting to be heard. It is touching home base before running back out into the race. At the end of rehearsal there is the feeling that you have made progress.

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That feeling doesn't come as often as we would like during the week. Most of all, choir rehearsal is a time to remember that God is with you. That helps you keep the pace and keep the faith."

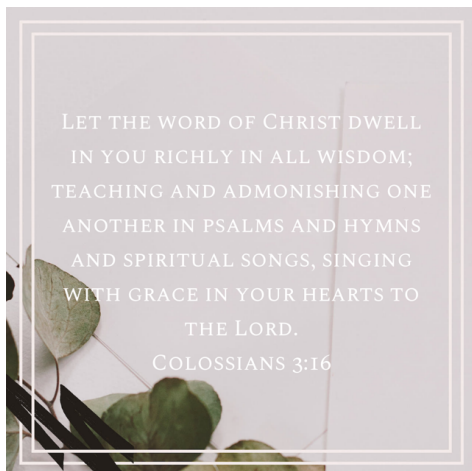
~From "Rehearsing the Soul" by Terry York~

As we re-enter the doors of this place and we begin again the work of worship that God has put before us, we need to remember this wonderful truth we have read above. The world right now has *no rest in it*. Everything demands our energy, our time, or our concentration. News companies and politicians and family and friends all tell us that something is needed of us - some action or allegiance. At the end of everything that goes on around us, we find ourselves so drained by the world that we find we seemingly have no energy left for God.

But God gave us a promise - "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." In Him, we find our rest and peace. I think that a great blessing of this year has been a moment to take a step back and see our churches for what they are. So many people before this year looked at their church as another checkmark on a list, not a place to rest from their list. Now, some have begun to see exactly what their church was for them.

As we enter these doors again, we do not enter with a "spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment." Jesus still offers us rest in Him, in His Word, and in the doors of this place. As the hymn says, "*I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free, the life of Jesus to recall, in love laid down for me.*" We come now with joy!

In His Service, Braxton



Practice Resumes!

We are going to begin gathering again for rehearsals on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the Sanctuary, taking socially distancing and mask-wearing as a necessary part of our rehearsal and week to week process! If you are still uncomfortable with attending in person, I totally understand. If you are comfortable, however, I will see you then!

Prayer Requests and Praises

- Pray for **Pope Hardee**, who was in the hospital with high blood pressure and low sodium levels. Pray for a diagnosis and a swift recovery as she is still in the hospital.
- Pray for **Mallory Kubasko**, who went to the hospital Wednesday morning with some swelling from an unknown reaction. Pray for a quick and easy recovery at home for her.
- Pray for **Amanda Howell**, the daughter of **Jimmy & Jackie Jones**, who has been diagnosed with COVID-19. Pray for recovery and healing!
- Continue to pray for **Jimmy Jones**, who had surgery on Monday and is home recovering. Pray for a speedy recovery and comfort!
- Pray for our church in this time of transition - that we would, as a group and as individuals, shed aside anything that would inhibit us from seeking the will of God as to who He would have as our next pastor. And pray for our new pastor, that even now God would be working in his heart to prepare him for his ministry here in Smithfield!
- Pray for our nation - that we would seek unity and the face of Christ as we go into a volatile time around our elections. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."