

CUMC Music Ministry
Report to the Church Council
January 16, 2012

The Music Ministry at Cranford UMC has been very active the last two months of 2011.

Rev. Laurie Zelman and I worked with elementary age children to present a Christmas musical worship experience with the congregation December 4th. We first reached out to the Cranford UMC children. I sent 55 postcards and made as many one-on-one invitations as my Sunday morning obligations would allow. Rev. Laurie also invited the Sunday School children to come join us. We had 8 of our own join in. Rev. Laurie reached out to the Christian Connection and invited the CC kids to come join us. We were thrilled when 12 Christian Connection children wanted to take part! Working with the staff of Christian Connection was a joy. The directors and teachers helped us with communication and logistics. We send a special thank you to Sherry Hollier who helped us during Wednesday afternoon rehearsals and the Sunday morning worship. This was an exciting ministry of drama, music, and evangelism, as we welcomed the families of our Christian Connection crew.

Rev. Laurie and I are looking toward Palm Sunday for a possible multi-generational music/drama experience, hoping to reach out to other groups who currently are in the church building throughout the week, and invite them to join us.

The Bells are working as an autonomous group with all members working with consensus. They have played twice during worship at 10 am since September and are preparing their next musical offering. I am very proud of them.

The Sanctuary Choir is still singing strong and beautiful four-part harmony! We are saddened to have lost Carol Baldwin due to her moving away. We wish her well. We are also saddened to be losing Barbara Robinson. Barbara and Ed have moved south, but still have ties here and we are thrilled to have them both in worship as their schedule permits.

We didn't sing a cantata this Christmas season, but we beefed up the musical offerings for the three Sundays of Advent that the choir sang. We sang two anthems each of those Sundays and were blessed to have additional instrumental music each Sunday with Phillip Schroeder on trumpet, Beth Grant on flute, and our own Handbell Choir.

Christmas Eve was a busy day around here! All three services had time changes this year. The afternoon service was at 4:30. Rev. Laurie wrote narration for all the children who wanted to participate by being readers. She also reached back out to the Christian Connection kids and some of them came to that service with their families and helped us reprise one of the songs from our December 4 line-up! David Weichert and Phillip Schroeder began that service with prelude music. Gillian Readie sang a beautiful offertory of "Do You Hear What I Hear?".

The 7:00 service was held in Randolph Hall. Thanks to Sandy Tobias, Brooke Ford, and David Weichert for helping lead music for that service. And kudos to Amanda Berry for a VERY

COOL star she hung over the worship center. That must have taken a lot of time and was so beautiful and added much to that space.

The 10:00 service was held in the sanctuary with the choir in the loft. A special thanks to all 10 of the individuals and ensembles who participated in providing the prelude music which began at 9:30.

Our choir participated in a massed choral group for the Martin Luther King, Jr., Memorial Service held last Thursday night at St. Michael's RC. We added six voices to the 32 voice choir. It was great to sing with that many people!

The 9:00 am Randolph Hall Worship service is going well. I'm still getting to know all the voices in the Praise Teams and how things have worked in the past. Trying to introduce new music is challenging with only the 45 minute rehearsals we have on Sunday mornings and the rotation of singers each week. But, we're trying a new approach with the new year, so I'm hopeful that we'll be able to meet this goal.

I'm thankful to be employed at Cranford UMC in the Music Ministry and to serve God here with you.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace Pugh Hubbard