

Music Committee Minutes

February 11, 2008

Attending: Rob Aughtry, Camille Haberland, Pat Hilbrink, Alan Payne, Heather Cooper, Ian Lane, David Leahey, Leslie Lord, Laura Zotian, Linda Brock

Absent: Stan Schelhorn, Carolyn Peterson, Laura Mitchell, and Chris Crowl

The meeting opened with a prayer by Linda Brock. The only business on the night's agenda was the 2008 May Music Festival. The events that will remain are: The Children's Musical on Sunday, April 20th, the bell concert (date t.b.d.) and the Youth Choir's exchange concert on 5/3-4. The committee was in complete agreement that the youth presentations are absolutely NOT to be cancelled.

Dave (absent at the last meeting due to illness) explained the dramatic effect of the budget cuts. This year's budget will be fully consumed (and then some) by music department bills (bell maintenance, instrument tuning and Passiontide/Easter concert musicians). Concerns were expressed and acknowledged that our congregation could be seriously disappointed by less grand offerings than what they have come to expect. Sadly, all were in agreement that we need to find a way to make it known that there is a cost attached to producing these concerts that previously has been underwritten by generous donations and NOT by the yearly budget. Discussion centered on how to do this in the most positive manner possible.

Further discussion surrounded the cancellation of the Chancel Choir Concert, Dessert with Diversions and the possible cancellation of the already under-written concert of The Fairfax String Quintet (Bill Hilbrink's group) and Dave Leahey. No one wanted to cancel the festival because the full committee did not

want to take a 'step backward' but all agreed that we want to continue to provide excellence. The above concerts have been cancelled, not only due to the lacking of funds and the inability to fully advertise them but even more because of Dave's **serious concern** for the low attendance of the special groups' concerts during last year's festival. He felt and the committee concurred that any invited groups and the Chancel Choir spend many hours rehearsing and preparing for their presentations and that the low attendance for groups that are invited to participate is insulting to the groups and embarrassing for Fairfax. Without adequate advertising, the word doesn't get spread!

It was decided to concentrate our efforts on planning for the Music Festival 2009...possibly considering a Music Festival every OTHER year. It was suggested that we might want to apply for a grant to subsidize the performances. These ideas will be raised at future music committee meetings. The committee agreed that uniting several groups of the church (Scouts, youth, worship, etc) in our efforts would combine different audiences and missions...a definite outreach mission.

The next music committee meeting will be held the week of March 10th. The meeting was adjourned with a prayer.

In His Service,
Linda Brock
Music Committee Chairman