



Covenant Presbyterian Church Children's Choirs

Parent Handbook 2018-2019

We walk in the light of the Lord

Rob Dicks, Director, Angelus Choir
Heather Potter, Director, Chorister Choir

From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise. Psalm 8:2

www.covenantpresby.org

Vision

Through choir participation, the children of the Covenant Presbyterian Church community will be equipped to praise God with joy all their lives and discover meaningful ways to participate in worship *as children*.



Mission

To train the children of the Covenant Presbyterian Church community to sing healthfully and to lead joyfully in God's worship.

Rationale for children's choirs

Singing in children's choir gives children words for their prayers, praises, thanksgivings, and confessions.

In children's choir, young people learn the shared songs of faith.

Children's choir singers have opportunities to lead corporate worship in meaningful and authentic ways.

Children's choir provides opportunities for children to discover and develop the musical gifts God has given to them.

Singing in children's choir presents children with experiences that develop music-reading skills to encourage lifelong music learning.

Participating in children's choir provides opportunities for children to develop responsibility, dependability, confidence, and kindness.

Opportunities available to children who participate in Angelus Choir and Chorister Choir

Singers in Angelus Choir and Chorister Choir will lead the congregation in worship 5-7 times during the year. We will alternate leadership in the 9:30 and 11:00 services.

Children in Angelus Choir and Chorister Choir will participate in a Children's Choir Sharing Service in the spring to showcase what they have learned during the choir year.

Chorister Choir singers are invited to a Cookie Party in early December at Miss Heather's house.

Angelus Choir singers are invited to a Christmas Party in early December in the Covenant Presbyterian Fellowship Hall.

Angelus and Chorister Choir singers learn multiple anthems, songs, and hymns that store spiritual truths in their memories for years.

Fifth graders who participate in Chorister Choir for at least one year receive a hymnal to acknowledge their service.

Choir Directors and Assistants

Angelus Choir

Rob Dicks, Director
Xu Ren, Accompanist
Emily Reinicker, Assistant

rob.dicks@covenantpresby.org

(704) 804-7582

Chorister Choir

Heather Potter, Director
Anne Fehring, Accompanist
Anne McQuiston, Assistant
Sherry Ward, Assistant
Judy White, Assistant

heather.potter@covenantpresby.org

(704) 804-7581

Attendance

Choral singing is a commitment that requires regular attendance and participation. Please make every effort to attend rehearsals regularly. Children are more comfortable leading worship when they feel confident in their knowledge of the music. Likewise, it is important for children to participate in worship when they have worked hard to learn their music in rehearsal.

If you must be absent, please email or text your child’s director prior to rehearsal or as soon after as possible, in the event of an emergency.

Angelus Choir: Rob Dicks rob.dicks@covenantpresby.org
Choristers Choir: Heather Potter heather.potter@covenantpresby.org

Choir Registration and Eligibility

Please complete and submit a registration form for each child participating in choir. Angelus Choir is open to all children in kindergarten, first, and second grades. Chorister Choir is open to all children in third, fourth, and fifth grades.

Parent Communication

Children’s choir directors will communicate regularly with parents through email and the text message service *Remind*. You will receive a *Remind* prompt to join the text message list. You may opt out at any time, but please inform your child’s director if you choose to not receive texts.

Chorister Choir Hymnal Program



Each singer will receive a new hymnal when they enter Chorister Choir. This hymnal will be labeled with their name and used each week. Throughout the year, the children will mark the hymns they learn. When they graduate from Chorister Choir, they will receive their hymnals with a permanent book plate acknowledging their service to God in music and worship leadership.

Singers who memorize the first verse of each of the Hymns-of-the-Month will receive a star to place on the inside cover where the book plate will be inserted. The first verses of the year's Hymns-of-the-Month will be distributed with the choir calendar.

Singer Expectations

Singers are expected to show reverence for God by respecting adult teachers and helpers, fellow singers, and themselves throughout the rehearsal and worship experiences.

Rehearsal Procedures: Drop off and Pick Up

Angelus and Chorister Choir rehearsals are on Wednesday nights, 5:45-6:30 PM.

Directors and Assistants will be ready to greet children 10 minutes prior to rehearsal. Please drop off children in their choir rooms.

Angelus Choir: EW 201

Choristers Choir: EW315

When rehearsal ends, Choir Assistants will accompany the children to the Rec. Wing kitchen just



behind the Rec. Wing front desk. Parents may meet us here at 6:30 for pick-up or children will be transferred to the appropriate education classes: Music and Movement/Childcare (Kindergartners) or Young Scholars (1st-5th). The singers will have supervised gym time at 6:35 before moving to their respective classrooms. You may pick up your children at 7:30 from Music and Movement/Childcare in EW102 or Young Scholars in EW218.

Singing Sundays Procedures

On the mornings the choirs are leading in 11:00 worship, the directors and/or assistants will meet the children in their Sunday School rooms and walk them to the Chapel to robe. If your child is not in Sunday School but is present to sing, please meet us in the Chapel at 10:25.

Please prepare to remain for the entire service as sometimes the choirs will sing at the end of the worship hour.

Following the 11:00 services, regardless of the location (Fellowship Hall or Sanctuary), we will return to the Chapel for pick-up. An assistant will check out your child to you. Unless it is raining, please come to the outside Chapel door so that we do not block foot traffic leaving the sanctuary.

On mornings when we lead in the 9:30 service, please bring your child at 9:00 to the Peek Music Room (Adult Choir rehearsal room underneath the sanctuary choir loft and across the hall from the church office. This room is easily accessible from the Dilworth Road entrance to the church office.) Following their offering in the 9:30 service, we will escort the children to Sunday School. You may pick up your child in their Sunday School rooms at 10:30.

Singing Sundays Attire

We will wear robes on the Sundays we sing in the 11:00 sanctuary service but we will not robe for the 9:30 service or the 11:00 service in the Fellowship Hall. Please select your child's wardrobe considering their position as a worship leader. Please avoid tennis shoes on Singing Sundays.



Special Services

Service of Lessons and Carols

Each year, the Angelus and Chorister Choirs join with the Youth Choir, Covenant Choir, and Bell Choir to lead the congregation in a Service of Lessons and Carols. This is a celebratory service of advent preparation, and it is exciting to participate with the older singers and ringers. Please prioritize this service and its corresponding rehearsal. We only have one chance together to smooth out the logistics of a complicated service. Refer to your calendar for the dates and times.

Children's Choir Sharing Service

To conclude our year of learning and leading, Angelus and Chorister Choirs will lead the congregation in a sharing service. During this time together, the children will share the music they have studied, and the directors will highlight the learning process. Fifth graders will receive their hymnals during this service. Refer to your calendar for the date and time of this service.



Christmas Eve Children's Service

Angelus and Chorister Choir singers will be invited to form the core of the ensemble for the special Christmas Eve Children's Service. Having these trained singers in place allows us to invite other children to participate who might not otherwise attend the service or sing regularly in choir.

Easter Saturday Children's Service

Angelus and Chorister Choir singers will be invited to form the core of the ensemble for the special Easter Saturday Children's Service. Having these trained singers in place allows us to invite other children to participate who might not otherwise attend the service or sing regularly in choir.

Service Opportunities

Periodically, opportunities may arise for the choirs to serve as Love Ambassadors to the community. Parents will be informed of these opportunities as they arise and participation will be encouraged but optional.

Christmas Parties

Angelus Choir Christmas Party

After the Angelus singers finish their part in the Lessons and Carols rehearsal, they will exit to enjoy a Christmas party. Refer to your calendar for the location, date, and time of this celebration.

Chorister Choir Cookie Party

Chorister Choir singers and their families are invited to Miss Heather's house for a cookie swap. Refer to your calendar for save-the-date information. Singers will receive invitations in the mail.

Volunteer Opportunities

Parent support is crucial for the success of any children's choir program. Your partnership ensures that singers attend rehearsals and services and that all necessary duties are covered. Peruse the list of volunteer opportunities below. If you would like to help, please email Heather at heather.potter@covenantpresby.org or Rob at rob.dicks@covenantpresby.org



- **Robe Assistants:** attend a few rehearsals in early fall to assist with robe fitting and labeling. Join us in the Chapel prior to a Singing Service to assist with robing. Return to the Chapel after the service to collect and rehang robes.
- **Angelus Choir Party People:** set-up, clean up, plan and manage the 30-minute party for Angelus singers. Plan a craft or game and organize a few refreshments. Party People will need child protection clearance in place.
- **Substitute Assistants:** occasionally a regular rehearsal assistant will need a substitute for a planned or emergency absence. Subs will need child protection clearance in place.
- **Handbell Coach:** If you play handbells and could teach a simple part to a small group of children, this is the job for you! Coaching would take place during regular rehearsal in the hallway or a separate room. Handbell Coaches will need child protection clearance in place.
- **Substitute Accompanist OR Instrumentalist:** If you play an instrument, let us know! Some of our songs call for instruments to accompany. It is much cooler to engage someone's mom or dad than to bring in an "outsider". Substitute Accompanists will need child protection clearance in place.
- **Choir Shepherds:** sit with us during singing services to gently remind about worship behavior and manage emergencies. Choir Shepherds will need child protection clearance in place.

- **Service Opportunity Coordinator:** assist the directors in scheduling, organizing, and communicating with parents an opportunity for the children to use their music as a tool for outreach and encouragement. This could be a performance at Sharon Towers, caroling in a nursing home or assisted living center, visiting a children's home, or singing for visitors staying on campus through Room in the Inn. If your heart is for community engagement, this is the job for you!