

September 6, 2020

Greetings! I trust you are well. Thank you to those who helped last Sunday morning and evening.

At our church, we believe strongly in the participation of the congregation in congregational music. Not everyone can lead in public prayer, sing a solo, or preach. Everyone can give and everyone can sing. We believe everyone should participate and not spectate.

The Bible instructs every believer to sing to the Lord, not as an option but as a command. Believe it or not, our building was designed and built with congregational participation in mind.

There are two extremes in church building acoustics: (1) the very reverberant building where the sound bounces around, and (2) the very non-reverberant building (referred to as “dead” or “dry”) that has no audio decay in the room. The first type is what you may find in a cathedral where the natural delay (reverb) may last up to six seconds. There is a lot of sound bouncing around in that type of room. The walls and floors are usually hard, reflective surfaces. A cappella choirs sound great in a very reverberant building.

In the second type of building, you would most likely notice acoustic panels, carpet, draperies, and padded seating. These materials absorb the sound, and depending on how much of the material is used, can “kill” the room of any natural reverberation.

If you notice the interior of our building, it is a combination of both hard and soft materials—by design—so that there is some bounce, but not too much. Our building is designed to have a lively sound for participatory singing and clarity for understand the spoken word. All this worked great until we spread people out in the room and significantly reduced the number of people singing in microphones leading our congregation. The sound is different and can give the person in the congregation a feeling of singing alone, which can lead to not singing.

Further, as I have said on previous occasions, the Choir is a barometer for the church. A barometer doesn’t measure the temperature, rainfall, or wind speed; a barometer measures the direction the weather is headed. So the Choir: it doesn’t report attendance, baptisms, or offerings; the Choir is a measure of the health and general attitude of the church.

I have not fussed at anyone about not being in the Loft. Even though we are not singing “Choir specials” at this time, your help with congregational singing is most important. Every congregational song we sing is special! You all make a very positive contribution to our services—visually and musically. Thank you so much for your help and cooperation.

By all means, if you don’t feel well, please stay home!

As of our Staff Meeting today, we are making a time change to our Sunday morning schedule beginning September 13, (one week from Sunday) in conjunction with adding Sunday school for children, parents of children, & RU. The anticipated new schedule is:

9:00 AM - SOUND CHECK

9:30 AM - 1st Service & Sunday school for children, youth, college, adults with children

10:50 AM - 2nd Service & Children’s Church, RU Sunday School

In the coming week, several of our people celebrate birthdays. Send them a card, email, text, or give them a call and sing “Happy Birthday.”

Carole Williams (sop1) – Mon, Sept 7
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Ande Hucks (lights) – Fri, Sep 11
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The Bible is God's letter to us. I never cease being amazed at the richness, depth, and timeliness of verses as I read. Recently, I was reading from Psalms in the high 30's and low 40's.

"Overwhelmed" is inadequate to describe how I felt God's Word speak to me as I read.

God thinks about you and me—not just all humanity, not just people in the United States, not just people in South Carolina, not just members of Florence Baptist Temple—God thinks about me and God thinks about you!

David wrote in Psalm 40:5, Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward:

Again, at the end of Psalm 40, in verse 17 ...yet the Lord thinketh upon me...

God knows me! God thinks about me! We sing the familiar, "When He was on the cross, I was on His mind," and yes, that's true. Yet I am more than overwhelmed by the fact that He thinks about me in Florence, South Carolina, in the midst of the 2020 pandemic! And yes, He thinks about you, too!

Additionally, David wrote in Psalm 40:5 ...if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.

Incredible!

Wonderful!

Glorious!

Unfathomable!

I look forward to seeing you this Lord's Day. It is a great joy serving as your minister of music. blessings!