**2019 Worship & Music Committee Report**

The Worship and Music Committee is responsible for planning and providing a variety of worship and liturgical settings, musical offerings, altar care, decorations and worship leaders. 2019 was a year of change and growth for our Abiding Hope family. In March, we sadly lost Edwina Gesler, our long-time organist and Music Coordinator, who faithfully served this church for 30 years. She will forever be missed and remembered by the many lives she touched.

We were fortunate to have several musicians willing to serve in the interim until a new Music Coordinator could be found. Howard Lyon, Jo Critchfield, Lisa Galla and Sheryl Williams provided service music and/or led the choir until Sheryl was officially hired on May 1st.

Following the congregational survey in the spring, it was decided that the 8:15 a.m. service will remain a Traditional service, and the 10:15 a.m. service will be a blended service with the addition of more contemporary liturgy and music. This service featured guitar and vocals by Brian Gresh, Janet Getson and Jack Wonner.

Saturday evening worship was offered weekly at 5:30 p.m., with the Praise Band usually playing twice a month on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays.

Wednesday evening worship was suspended in October and will resume during the Lenten season.

Holy Week services were offered on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday, with Good Friday joint services hosted by New Hope Presbyterian and St. Paul’s Lutheran Churches. Abiding Hope hosted a Saturday Easter Vigil culminating with two services on Easter Sunday morning.

A Family Christmas Eve service was offered at 4:00 p.m. featuring a Children’s story and song, with a Traditional Candlelight Service at 10:00 p.m. featuring a guest harpist, vocal soloist and our Adult Choir.

The Adult Choir ranged from 11 to 18 members, rehearsed Wednesday evenings, and provided weekly anthems from September through December, and April through June 16th, Holy Trinity Sunday. The Choir also sang for three funerals in October.

The Adult Choir usually sings at the 10:30 a.m. service, but this fall, we began singing once a month at the 8:15 a.m. service. The choir also participated in combined choirs for the Good Friday ecumenical services, and Abiding Hope’s ecumenical Thanksgiving service with New Hope Presbyterian and St. George RC Churches, followed by a coffee hour in our church’s Fellowship Hall. Our Lady of Peace’s “Voice of Peace” choir invited our choir to join in presenting a Christmas Cantata entitled “Let There Be Christmas” in December, which was an exciting performance with 40 voices strong!

While the choir was on hiatus during the summer months, a variety of special music was offered by Howard Lyon, Scott Meier, Janet Getson, Sharon Liu, and Miriam Murnock. Additionally, Howard provided special music monthly throughout the year, which is always appreciated. Abiding Hope is blessed to have so many talented musicians!

The Adult Choir is always looking for new members and would love to grow with your help! Please consider joining us in 2020. Our first rehearsal of the year will be on Wed., January 8th at 6:00 p.m. Hope to see you there!

Respectfully submitted,

*Sheryl Williams*

Coordinator of Music