

*Ministry Corner:*

*Music Ministry, led by Music Director David Bird.*

The celebration of our Catholic faith would not be complete without singing hymns and worshipping the Lord through music.

The Music Ministry at Church of the Assumption is led by Director David Bird, who oversees the Traditional Adult Choir, the Youth Choir and the Contemporary Band. Bird began his fulltime role with Assumption in 2008.

“Music is a gift that engages our entire brain; everything lights up. Everything is engaged and processing the music. It’s all there. To me, that’s a communication form that is God-given, engaging us totally,” Bird said.

Members of the Traditional Adult Choir begin formal practices after Labor Day, meeting each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the church, continuing through June with the Feast of Corpus Christi. Members learn the hymns that will be sung at weekend mass, as chosen by members of the Liturgy Committee. The Traditional Adult Choir performs at the 9:30 a.m. Sunday mass (including Christmas Day), Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve, and Holy Week services/masses. Members also perform in an annual Christmas Concert at the church. New members are always welcome and greatly needed, Bird said. Knowing how to read music is not necessary to be a member.

The Children’s Choir, which Bird is working to expand and grow this upcoming school year. Membership in the Children’s Choir is open to just about any age Assumption student interested in singing and eager to learn what it’s like to be a member of a church choir, Bird said. The main function of the Academy Children’s Choir is to serve as singers at weekly school masses. This school year, Bird is working on a new initiative to form a PSR Children’s Choir to perform at all PSR masses. Both Choirs will perform together at the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass, 11:30 a.m. Easter Sunday Mass, and other planned events.

Bird also oversees the Contemporary Band, which performs at the 6 p.m. Sunday mass. The contemporary church service features upbeat praise songs with accompaniment from a variety of musical instruments. Band practice is held before the service, at 5 p.m. The Contemporary Band is in need of cantors as well as musicians, including a drummer, Bird said. Any musical talents are welcome.

Bird, whose musical resume is vast, with time performing in bands, writing jingles, scoring film, making shows for Sea World, and working for various church music programs, grew up singing in his church choir beginning at age 5 and learned to play several instruments. He studied music at Kent State University. Music, he says, has been with him since childhood.

“I was in the Cherub’s Choir when I was little, my mother was the director, and my dad worked at two different churches, my uncle was a choir director, so I grew up in a musical family and

music was all I cared to do. I knew that from a very young age,” he said. “I think that experience of having music in your life should be available to everyone.”

To learn more about membership in the various Assumption choirs/band, interested parishioners can call Music Director David Bird at (216) 798-7105 or speak to him directly at church.