

ANNUAL REPORT: MUSIC 2016

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Participation continues to build in the musical undertakings of Grace. New Creation, our praise team, has seen the addition of two members in 2016, as well as the continuation of drums, bass guitar, and guitar when possible, and guest soloists offering preludes from time to time. Congregational songs also continue to expand. In December, a number of those involved in the 9:30 service visited the Tyson House at UT to speak with John Tirro, that institution's Lutheran pastor, and to see them worship. His ideas of incorporating more liturgy into our contemporary service give us much impetus to move forward with trying new musical settings which will help to further reinforce the worshipful atmosphere of an already beautiful service.

Ringspiration, our handbell choir, remains passionately dedicated to its high musical standards which always bring a festive atmosphere to any services in which they are involved. We were thrilled to have two new ringers in 2016, and while participation has generally stayed at a steady 11 during its seasons of rehearsal, our hope is to grow in 2017. We have already been blessed with one new ringer in the new year.

Chancel Choir remains diligent in its service, and the past year has welcomed the arrival of two new members. With the arrival of the new year, we are hopeful for three additional members, who express interest in attending rehearsals, and are optimistic for more.

The end of 2016 and its Christmas preparations brought an interest in reviving a children's choir. Noel Puchel, a member with much prior experience working with children in Florida, is feeling led to help guide this group, and we anticipate a meeting to assess interest in this program in early 2017. It will be quite a blessing to see this unfold.