

Christ Our King Music Ministries Time Line

1970 - 1979

1980 - 1989

1990 - 1999

2000 - 2009

2010-

1971 *May 20: Fr. Robert Kelly, rector of Bishop England High School and co-pastor of Stella Maris Church on Sullivan's Island, was directed by Bishop Unterkoefer to move to Mt. Pleasant with view of establishing a new parish. The building now used as the Youth Center served as the first rectory. Sunday Mass was celebrated in the Stella Maris School hall*

1973 *May: Christ Our King was officially designated as a parish of the Diocese of Charleston, with Fr. Robert Kelly as pastor (he also remained as rector of Bishop England). The school was renamed Christ Our King-Stella Maris School. Sunday and daily Masses were celebrated in the school hall.*

**mid--late
1970s** *Liturgies were celebrated in school hall. Informal choir sang English and Latin hymns and Christmas carols, using missalettes and small organ and piano in school hall. The organizer of the earliest choir was Willie Reichelmeyer. Sister Roberta, principal of COK-SM School, was an organist. Other keyboardists included Virginia Bolton, Shirley Lanford, Celia Manski, and Kate Fox. Early cantors were Ruford Bolchoz and Vic Del Bene.*

1977 *June 15: Fr. Bert Conner, S.J. appointed pastor.*

1979 *First Christ Our King parish directory published, with photograph of choir. Pictured were twelve women and four men, including Willie Reichelmeyer and organist Kate Fox. Also included were four original choir members still with the choir: Ruford Bolchoz, Vic Del Bene, Mimi Santos, and Peggy Youmans.*

- 1980** *January 27: Dedication of Christ Our King Church. Robert Blanchard coordinated music program for dedication and composed the responsorial psalm for the liturgy. Christ Our King Choir was augmented with singers from Charleston area churches. The featured anthem was Gift of Finest Wheat (Kreutz); the first four-part setting performed by Christ Our King Choir. Kate Fox was organist; organ was loaned anonymously.*
- 1980** *August: Bill Becknell came to Christ Our King as cantor at 12 noon liturgy. Music sources: "We Celebrate" missalette and hymnal.*
- 1982** *Music sources added: Song Prayers (words only).*
- 1983** *Bill Becknell appointed full-time Director of Music Ministries.*
- 1983** *Music sources added: Songs of Praise.*
- 1984** *Music sources added: Glory and Praise and New People's Mass Book.*
- 1984** *March 10: Christ Our King hosts first of a series of workshops for parish musicians of all Catholic churches in the greater Charleston area. Sam Sheffer, vocal clinician; Bill Peterson, guitar clinician.*
- 1985** *February 22 & 23: Second workshop for all Charleston area Catholic church musicians. Tom Kendzia, clinician.*
- 1985** *December 12: first formal choir performance outside regularly scheduled liturgies. Messiah (Handel)--Christmas section, with string ensemble.*
- 1986** *March 8: Workshop for all Charleston area Catholic church musicians. Bob Dufford, S.J., clinician.*
- 1986** *December 18: An Evening of Lessons & Carols. Gloria (Vivaldi), with orchestra. Youth choir and contemporary ensemble were also featured.*
- 1987** *April 5: Requiem (Rutter), with Grace Episcopal Church Choir and strings from Charleston Symphony Orchestra. Emily Remington, director; Bill Becknell, organist. At Grace Episcopal Church, Charleston.*
- 1987** *October 11: Some choir members participated in Mt. Pleasant Sesquicentennial celebration. At Alhambra Hall.*
- 1987** *December 6: Three Cantatas (Bach) with First United Methodist Choir. With small orchestra from Charleston Symphony Orchestra. Ambrose Holford and Bill Becknell, directors.*

- 1988** *February: Workshop for all Charleston area Catholic church musicians. Marty Haugen and David Haas, clinicians.*
- 1988** *November 6: Requiem (Fauré) with First United Methodist Choir, directed by Ambrose Holford. At Christ Our King.*
- 1989** *March 12: Requiem (Fauré). Island Celebration: Benefit for Armenian earthquake relief. At Stella Maris Church, Sullivan's Island.*
- 1989** *May 28: First choir appearance at Piccolo Spoleto Festival of Churches. Requiem (Fauré), with First United Methodist Choir. Ambrose Holford, director; Bill Becknell, organist. At St. Andrew's Lutheran Church, Charleston.*
- 1989** *Music sources added: introduction of weekly Order of Worship. Licensing agreements made possible the introduction of music from a wide range of publishers and aided the congregation in singing new hymns, psalm responses, and the ordinary of the Mass*
- 1989** *June 15: Msgr. James Carter appointed pastor*
- 1989** *September: Hurricane Hugo struck Charleston. Among the positive results at Christ Our King: creation of East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO), creation of the Way of the Cross garden, and improvement in acoustics in the church when the carpet was removed.*
- 1990** *Music sources added: Worship, 3rd edition and Gather were purchased for choir use. Continued use of the weekly Order of Worship made additional music accessible.*
- 1990** *May 13: Choir's first Mother's Day program (Sunday afternoon). Ave Maria Concert. Magnificat (Bach). With strings from Charleston Symphony Orchestra; Lorna Tedesco, harpsichordist.*
- 1990** *December 6: Christmas Oratorio (Saint-Saëns).*
- 1991** *May 5: liturgy celebrating Msgr. Carter's twenty-fifth anniversary of his ordination. Featured service music: St. Augustine's Gloria (Walker). With College of Charleston string quartet.*
- 1991** *December 11: Choir's first Christmas Tree Lighting program. Lo He Comes with Clouds Descending and other selections, with brass ensemble. Small ensemble, children's choir, youth choir and senior youth choir were also featured.*

- 1992** *May 17: First special Sunday liturgies in honor of East Cooper Community Outreach (ECCO). Foundling Hospital Anthem (Handel).*
- 1993** *April 19: Four Choirs Festival, Charleston Chapter of American Guild of Organists. Featured choirs: Bethany United Methodist, Summerville; Christ Our King Roman Catholic, Mt. Pleasant; First Scots Presbyterian, Charleston; and Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal, Charleston. Christ Our King Choir performed Regina Coeli (Mozart) and Restless Is the Heart (Farrell). At First Scots Presbyterian, Charleston.*
- 1993** *May 8 & 9: First combined East Cooper Community Outreach-Mother's Day program. All-Mozart concert: Laudate Dominum, Regina Coeli, Sancta Maria, Ave Verum Corpus.*
- 1993** *June 5: Choir's second Piccolo Spoleto Festival of Churches appearance: Oratorio Echoes, with Islanders Chorale directed by Ambrose Holford. Regina Coeli and Laudate Dominum (Mozart), L' Enfance du Christ (Berlioz). At Trinity Methodist Church, Charleston*
- 1993** *November 20: East Cooper Community Concert Series with Christ Episcopal Church Choir. Choral Fantasy (Beethoven), Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré). Bill Becknell, director; Lorna Tedesco, piano. Kris and Kay Irmiter, guest soloists.*
- 1993-1994** *Fall-Winter: Two new ministries inaugurated: funeral choir and musicians for nursing home / retirement home liturgies.*
- 1994** *February 26: Fifth Annual Choral Festival, National Association of Pastoral Musicians. Kyrie from Requiem (Rutter), Restless Is the Heart (Farrell), Let All the World in Every Corner Sing Vaughan Williams). John Romeri, guest conductor.*
- 1994** *April 24, 25, 26. Choir participated in liturgies for first plenary session of Synod of Charleston. At Omni Hotel, Charleston.*
- 1994** *June 4: Choir's third Piccolo Spoleto Festival of Churches appearance, with Christ Episcopal Church, with guest soloists and instrumentalists. Bill Becknell, director; Lorna Tedesco, accompanist. Piccolomini Mass (Mozart), Cantique de Jean Racine (Fauré). Also featured was Terzetto in C, op. 74 (Dvorak) with a string trio. At St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Charleston.*

- 1995** *February 19: Christ Our King Handbell Choir Dedication and Concert, with St. Joseph's Handbell Choir, Columbia. Celebration of Light (Wood) and selections from all liturgical seasons.*
- 1995** *December 20: Choir recorded a Christmas selection which was later released on the compact disc **The Holy City**.*
- 1996** *May 4: East Cooper Concert Series. Music from the Prague-Vienna-Salzburg Concerts, with St. Joseph's Choir of Columbia, directed by Teresa Sturcken Riley. Zadok the Priest (Handel), Missa Brevis (Mozart) Alleluia (Thompson), Amazing Grace (Bertalot) and other works. Choir's first digital recording was made at this concert.*
- 1996** *June 2: Repeat of Music from the Prague-Vienna-Salzburg Concerts program. At St. Joseph's, Columbia.*
- 1996** *June: Choir's first overseas concert tour: Prague, Vienna and Salzburg, with St. Joseph's Choir of Columbia. The choir performed the Prague-Vienna-Salzburg program.*
- 1997** *September 25: Daughters of Charity National Health System (East Region) Leadership Conference. Choir and King's Ringers (Christ Our King Handbell Choir) participated in opening liturgy. At Charleston Place.*
October 3: Holtkamp Organ Dedication. Abbot Francis Kline, guest organist. Premier of Exultations, Aria and Alleluias (Isele), commissioned by Christ Our King Church for the organ dedication.
November 2: All Souls Memorial Concert, with chamber orchestra. Requiem (Rutter).
- 1998** *January 10-11: Annual choir and cantor workshop. Prof. Frances Brockington, clinician.*
February 21: Organ recital. Timothy J. Tikker, guest organist. At Christ Our King.
October 3: Organ recital. William D. Gudger, guest organist. Choir performed Amazing Grace (Bertalot), Beautiful Saviour (Christiansen).

1999

January 9-10: Annual Choir and Cantor Workshop. Dr. Valerie Bullock, clinician.

Music sources added: Gather, 2nd edition introduced for choir, making still more music accessible to choir and congregation through the use of the Order of Worship

February 24: Choir sponsored first Oyster Roast as fundraiser for choir travel as musical ambassadors (subsequently became an annual event). At Gold Bug Island.

June 12: Choir's fourth Piccolo Spoleto Festival of Churches performance, with the King's Ringers. An American Sampler. Featured were Alleluias from Exultations, Aria and Alleluias (Isele), Joy in the Morning (Sleeth), Pietá (Kendzia), and other works. A digital recording was made at this performance. At Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Charleston.

June: Choir's second overseas concert tour: Ireland. With The King's Ringers. Danny Boy and other Irish selections were added to the American Sampler program.

October 2: Organ recital. Deborah Dyko, guest organist; Charles Ruffner, bassoonist. Choir sang Canticque de Jean Racine (Fauré).

1999

December 12: Jubilee 2000 Celebration, with choir, King's Ringers, and members from the choirs in the parish cluster. Gloria (Vivaldi), Celebration of Light (Wood).

2000

January 9: Annual Choir and Cantor workshop. David O'Steen, clinician.

March 19: Mepkin Lenten Concert. All-Bach program. Abbot Francis Kline, organist, with guest instrumentalists and soloist from Charleston Symphony Orchestra. Choir sang eight chorales from St. John Passion. At Mepkin Abbey.

May 13: American Sampler Encore concert. Repeat of 1999 Piccolo Spoleto program, plus music from Ireland tour and Ave Maria (Hellstrom) With the King's Ringers.

October 7: Jubilee 2000 Music and Prayer Celebration with Christ Our King Choir and Chamber Singers from Bishop England High School. Jubilate Deo (Mozart), selections from Elijah (Mendelssohn).

2001

January 20: Liturgical music workshop for Christ Our King cantors and choir and other local church musicians; Elaine Rendler, clinician.

April 8-9: St. John Passion (Bach). Members of Christ Our King Choir. With Vocal Arts Ensemble directed by Samuel Sheffer and Orchestra of St. Clare led by Wayne Foster. At Mepkin Abbey and First (Scots) Presbyterian Church.

Summer: Music source added: Spirit & Song.

November 4: All Souls Memorial Concert. Requiem (Fauré); Lisa Hellstrom, conductor; Debbie Bagwell, guest organist; Rev. Gregory Wilson, baritone soloist.

2002

Jan 12: Annual Choir and Cantor workshop, Dr. Michael McMahon, president of NPM, Clinician, also did All Ministries the same weekend for parish.

May 5: Blessing & Dedication of Pietà sculpture. Pietà (Kendzia), Holy Is His Name (Talbot). In Way of the Cross Park at Christ Our King.

May 11: Mother's Day concert. Seasons of Praise. Lamb of God (Paris), Ave Maria (Atwood), other music for the liturgical year. With King's Ringers.

August: Choir and cantors begin rehearsing in Music Room of new Catholic Community Life Center.

November 17: All Souls Memorial Concert. Requiem (Duruflé). Wayne Foster, guest organist.

2003

Jan 11: Annual Choir and Cantor Workshop, Dr. Jeffrey Price, UNC Charlotte, clinician.

June 1: Choir's fifth appearance in Piccolo Spoleto Festival of Churches. An American Sampler: Seasons of Praise. Repeat of 2003 Mother's Day concert plus Down in the River to Pray /I'll Fly Away (arr. Hellstrom). With King's Ringers. At Cathedral of St. John the Baptist.

June 14-23: Third choir tour. Choir and King's Ringers tour and perform in Seattle and British Columbia. Canadian selections were added to program from An American Sampler: Seasons of Praise.

November 2: All Souls Memorial Service. Requiem (Rutter). With small chamber orchestra comprised of members of Charleston Symphony Orchestra; Betty Groh, keyboardist.

2004

Jan 10: Annual Choir and Cantor Workshop. Dr. Lillian Quackenbush from Columbia College, clinician

May 8: Mother's Day concert. Come, Christians, Join to Sing. Regina Coeli (Mozart), Ave Maria (Parsons). Betty Groh, keyboardist.

2005

Jan 8: Annual Choir and Cantor Workshop. Scott & Suzanne Atwood, clinicians

May 7: Mother's Day concert (previewed at Franke Home at Seaside Farms on April 29). Praise Him (Schwalm, arr. for bells by L. Hellstrom), Ave Maria (Kantor), Praise the Lord Who Reigns Above (Lindh) for Youth Choir and Bells, The Lord Is My Sheppard (Pote) for Youth Choir, When in Our Music God Is Glorified (Stanford, arr. Schwalm) Choir, Bells, Audience; Sweet Hour of Prayer (Bradbury, choral arr. Hellstrom) for Women's Ensemble, Brethren, We Have Met To Worship (arr. Parker), Order My Steps (Burleigh, arr. Schrader), The Palms (Faure), Beati Quorum Via (Stanford), My Soul's Been Anchored (Hogan), Now the Green Blade Rises (Nouvelet, arr. McChesney) for Bells.

2006

Jan: Annual Choir and Cantor Workshop. Dr. Scott Terrell, Resident Conductor, Charleston Symphony Orchestra.

May 13: Mother's Day Concert Ave Maria (Bach/Gounod), True Light (Hampton), Tantum Ergo (Faure), Deep River (arr. Morris) for handbells, flute, cello, Since Jesus Came into my Heart (arr. Edwards) for handbells, Just As I Am (arr. Eithun) for handbells and flute, Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor (Berlin), Lamb of God (arr. Christiansen), Blessed Be the Name of the Lord (Grotenhuis), Abide With Me (Monk arr. Hogan, Swingin' with the Saints (arr. Hayes), The Peace of God (Rutter).

November 19: All Souls Memorial Service. Sing Me to Heaven (Gawthrop), Requiem Sampler (Durufle, Faure, Rutter, Webber), Saints Bound for Heaven (arr. Parker/Shaw).

2007

Jan : Annual Choir and Cantor Workshop, Ricard Bordas, Choirmaster at First (Scots) Presbyterian Church in Charleston, SC, artist-in-residence at Charleston Southern University, clinician.

November 4: All Souls Memorial Service. Close Now Thine Eyes (Gawthrop), Let Nothing Ever Grieve Thee (Brahms), Ride The Chariot (Thomas), It is Well with My Soul (arr. Fettke), The Promised Land (arr. Staheli), Kyrie, from Memorial (Clausen), In Paradisum (Faure), Sign Me Up (arr. Schlitt).

May 9 & 16: Spring Concert at Christ Our King and Remington Concert Series at Franke at Seaside. Ave Maria (Mäntyjärvi), Sing to the Lord (Pachelbel), Exsultate Justi in Domino (Viadana), Fairest Lord Jesus (arr. Forsberg), Cantate Domino (Schutz), Alleluia (Thompson), O Nata Lux & Veni Sancte Spiritus (Lauridsen), Simple Gifts (arr. Mokebust) for handbells & chimes, God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens (arr. Mokebust) for handbells, Will The Circle Be Unbroken (arr. Page) for handbells, I'm Gonna Sing 'Till the Spirit Moves In My Heart (Hogan), The Morning Trumpet (arr. Wilberg) for men's ensemble, Psalm 23 (Basler), Down in the River/I'll Fly Away (Brumley, arr. Hellstrom).

2008

Jan: Annual Choir and Cantor Workshop. Dr. Bingham Vick, Furman University, clinician.

November 2: All Souls Memorial Service. Stay With Us (Hovland), In Memoria Aeterna (Vivaldi), Requiem (Gilkyson), Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling, (arr. Clausen), Abide With Me (arr. Hogan)

2009

*Jan: Annual Choir and Cantor Workshop, Glenn R. Nixon
Charleston Symphony Orchestra Gospel Choir, clinician.*

*March 20 & June 14: Spring Concerts at Christ Our King
and Pre Canada Tour at Franke Home at Seaside.*

*Wondrous Love: An American Sampler. Music By
American Composers and Arrangers. Warm-Up: A Round
for Mixed Chorus (Bernstein), Brethren We Have Met to
Worship (arr. Parker), The Promised Land (arr. Staheli),
Wondrous Love (Schwalm), The Shepherd's Carol
(Billings), Alleluia (Thompson) for tenor and Bass
Ensemble, Gaudeamus (Sherman) for Bells, Swing Low
(arr. Morris) for bells, When We all Get to Heaven (arr.
Waldrop) for bells, Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy (Lojeski) for
Soprano and Alto ensemble, Amazing Grace (arr.
McCutchen), Softly and Tenderly (arr. Clausen), I'm Gonna
Sing 'Til The Spirit Moves In My Heart (Hogan),*

*May 30: Choir's sixth appearance in Piccolo Spoleto
Festival of Churches. Wondrous Love: An American
Sampler. Repeat of March 20 Spring Concert program.*

*June 20-June 30: Fourth choir tour. Choir and King's
Ringers tour and perform in Canadian Maritime Provinces.
Canadian selections were added to program from
Wondrous Love: An American Sampler.*

*July: Summer Cantor Workshop. Margaret Kelly Cook,
Soprano and Voice Teacher, auditioned Cantors and
helped each individually. Also made practice/voice warm-
up CD's specifically for each Cantor.*

*November 8: All Souls Memorial Service. In
Remembrance, from "Requiem" (Daley), Requiem, Op. 9
(Durufle), Beautiful River (arr. Hawley).*

2010

*Jan: Annual Choir and Cantor Workshop, Dr. David
Cherwien, Conductor of the National Lutheran Chorale,
Minneapolis, Minn., clinician.*

*March 19: Spring Concert: Sing To The Lord A New Song.
Sing to the Lord A New Song (Lau), Jubilate Deo (Di
Lasso), Three Settings of Kyrie (Rheinberger, Durufle &
Clausen), Exsultate Deo (Palestrina), If You But Trust In
God To Guide You (arr. Behnke) for Handbells, The Prayer
(Sager, arr. Eithun) for Handbells, Wade In the Water (arr.
Eithun) for handbells, Tomorrow Shall Be My Dancing Day
(Gardner), Alma Redemptoris Mater (Rheinberger), All
That Hath Life and Breath Praise Ye The Lord (Clausen),
My Soul's Been Anchored In the Lord (Hogan)*

*July 22-23: Visitation, Liturgy of Christian Burial, and
Graveside Interment, commemorating the life of our
blessed Minister of Music Ministries,*

William Ray Becknell

October 14, 1947 - July 15, 2010

*Irish Blessing, Kyrie (Durufle), Ave Maria (Bach/Gounod),
Jesus Remember Me (Taizé Community), Shall We Gather
At the River (arr. McIver), Down In the River/ I'll Fly Away
(arr. Hellstrom).*

May He Rest in Peace

*September 1: Mr. Lee Kohlenberg, retired Organist and
Music Director of St. Michael's Episcopal Church,
Charleston, appointed interim Director of Music Ministries.*

Compiled by: Bill Becknell, Ruford Bolchoz, Mary Beth
Brock, Joanne Comar, Vic Del Bene, Lisa Hellstrom, Helena
McKay, Mimi Santos, Donna Teague, Jo Wenger and Peggy
Youmans. Edited by Susan Welsch.

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