

## CHOIR APPRECIATION SUNDAY IS JANUARY 8, 2012

This Sunday, January 8 churches across America will celebrate their choir for the first ever National Choir Appreciation Sunday. At Sierra Vista Presbyterian Church some words of appreciation will be spoken for these singers who dedicate their talents, time, hearts and voices to worship. It is a blessing to be able to show our appreciation to those who are “always there” to add to the worship experience.

I have had the great privilege of being involved with these special singers since 1987, as choir director, organist, and pianist. So I am well qualified to “sing their praises” as consistent friends of worship music. Choir members love God and love to sing – there is a joy about participating in worship. Choir members are faithful – they are committed to promoting the singing of hymns, songs and spiritual songs. Choir members are committed to learning the music well and work during rehearsals towards excellence. Choir members are committed to prayer, for each other as a small group within our church, and for the larger community of church and family. Choir members are always aware that their contribution is not a performance; it is words and music to enhance worship.

Music, with its unique notation and vocabulary, is the language choir members must learn in order to make a beautiful sound based on the words of scripture, the Psalms, or poetry of ancient and contemporary writers. We learn pitch, rhythm, notation, vocal technique and diction. But understanding and applying basic musical concepts isn't enough for the church choir. We function within a spiritual framework, so spiritual concepts are also essential for growth. The church choir uses the language of music to lead the congregation in the worship of God. Music within the church is not art for art's sake, but art for God's sake, and the choir is entrusted with sharing this art for the glory of God.

Our hope is that our choir has been and will continue to be a blessing to you.

Catherine Walker  
Organist/Director