

## Saint Mary's Episcopal Music

The purpose of this document is to document my vision for the music of Saint Mary's Episcopal Church in Bonners Ferry, Idaho.

### Music Ministers

Today in the Church Calendar of the Book of Common Prayer we celebrate three ministers of Church music: Johann Sebastian Bach, George Frederick Handel and Henry Purcell. The first sentence in the preface (to the original Book of Common Prayer saved for us in the current book's historical documents) says the book's purpose is for everyone to read or hear the whole Bible each year. Because music helps us retain what we hear, from the beginning that reading or hearing was enhanced with music. These three ministers and others developed music designed to support this Common Prayer purpose.

### My Vision – Young Music Ministers

My vision for Saint Mary's is to do the same by taking advantage of our great little facility with its powerful organ. We have most everything we need to get started. We already have the musicians and willing singers. We could use some young music ministers to come in and show us how to incorporate the music of these three ministers into our corporate prayer. With their help we will be able to learn the music that will help us worship together and retain the Word.

### Bringing Meaning to this strange language

To understand what we want to learn from young music ministers, please read the last part of the article in the calendar for J.S. Bach concerning music for worship. It mentions: cantatas; elaborate choir settings; stanzas, plain four-part settings; harmony reinforcing meaning; chanting; the Liturgy (the Order for the Celebration of the Lord's Supper); the Ordinary (the parts of the Liturgy that are the same every time); the Propers (the parts that vary from day to day); the choral parts of the Ordinary, including the Kyrie, the Gloria, the Credo, the Sanctus-benedictus, and the Agnus Dei choral parts of the Ordinary; the ancient language of the Liturgy; traditional penchant melody; Lutheran chorale melody; and interwoven harmonizing melodies. My vision is young music ministers bringing Saint Mary's meaning to this strange language.