August Choir Notes

August already, whew!! Where did the summer go?! How are back-to-school supplies and teacher lists out, school clothing sales going on and school parking lots full already? Time really does fly by as I get older. I am NOT at all happy about admitting that. I tell Sarah and Emily all the time not to blink because a year of their lives will be gone and I am really not wrong. This summer has been so full of joy and has been a blur of activity for my family and me! An engagement, a baby announcement and a promotion (Sarah got a big one at her office) will do that…What a blessed summer it has been!

Choir has been “keeping the melody” going during the summer months! If you have not had a chance to join us this summer and are thinking back-to-school time would be a good time to start, come on!! The joy of worshipping our God with song on Sunday is uplifting and moving for me. I love my worship time on Sunday but starting it with song really puts my heart at the right spot with God.

Our director Sarah fulfilled a “bucket-list” item, as I think it would be for most, by performing at Carnegie Hall. Congratulations!! What a wonderful honor and accomplishment! Miss Sarah said it was a whirlwind. I am so proud to know her. We worked together at Apollo for many years and are now together again.

I was listening to my mix of music this morning…I like all kinds. I will hear Carrie Underwood’s Amazing Grace, Kenny Rogers’ The Gambler, Led Zeppelin’s Photograph, Chris and Morgan Stapleton’s You Are My Sunshine, and Billy Joel’s Uptown Girl all in the span of putting on my makeup and brushing my teeth. Country, Bluegrass, Christian/Gospel, Old Rock, even some new stuff is on my mixed music list. One song that came on that caught my attention was John Mayer’s Waiting on the World to Change. The song starts out with the words below:

Me and all my friends  
We're all misunderstood  
They say we stand for nothing and  
There's no way we ever could

Then after the rest of the verse it goes in to the chorus…

So we keep waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change  
We keep on waiting (waiting)  
Waiting on the world to change

I really like this song. You know it has a great beat, easy to dance to and gets stuck in your head, ha-ha! (That’s for those of us who used to watch American Bandstand with Dick Clark on Saturday mornings.) BUT…with our sermon series about JOY and thinking about this song’s words I started thinking, should WE be waiting on the World to do ANYTHING?

Isn’t it really up to us to create change? Maybe in the world is a big ask, to start, but in ourselves is a good beginning. Change requires a decision or choice on our part. Am I going to be more like God? Am I going to attend church regularly? Am I going to spend less time on social media? Am I going to pray for others daily? Am I going to be joyful in my daily activities and interactions with others?

I know in my life, many times, I have been waiting for God to change me. As I read my Bible and devotions and listen to Pastor Mickey and others, I realize God is WAITING ON ME TO CHANGE based on what I am reading and praying!! He wants the words I am reading and the prayers I am praying to fill my body and mind so completely, that I am whole and new in HIM. That’s what I said when I was baptized. (Not every Methodist gets this opportunity and it is a long story for another time.)

*“Throw off your old sinful nature and your former way of life”* (Ephesians 4:22 NLT).

My old habits, my old sins, my old hurts…I have to let those go. Sometimes, honestly many times, this is so difficult. I am my own worst enemy when it comes to forgiving myself about mistakes I have made. I play the “what if” game a lot about some things in my past. I know better because God has forgiven me and he has taken those hurts and wiped my tears many times. I have to remember that through it all God has been working in me:

*“to will and to act in order to fulfill his good purpose”* (Philippians 2:13 NIV).

I hope you are not like the stranded boater too afraid let go of the piece of sinking boat and grab with both hands onto the lifebuoy. You have to let go of the old and embrace the new to move forward and see what God has in store for you. Great things are ahead! Let’s not sit around “Waiting on the World to Change”! Let’s be the ones doing the CHANGING! God really wants it that way!

Blessings

Sondra