

# CHANCEL CHOIR HERALD

## Choir Notes

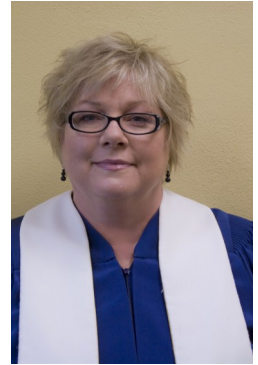
October 26, 2011

1. The JR Happy Hour has begun and it is great fun to hear and share life stories over coffee or tea. It is a fine way to get to know each other better. Ryan and Jose Daneil are meeting with small choir groups without an agenda for 50 minutes at the official Puertorican coffee time, 3:30PM. We'll meet at Panera's . As usual, we invite but each one pays their own way... :) Please sign up to reserve your space and join in the fun!
2. Please mark your calendars for the annual Treasure Coast Chapter of the AGO's *Phantasies and Phuges Concert* at Christ by the

Sea United Methodist Church. Friday, October 28, at 7:00PM. Admission is free, a free-will offering will be received to support the TCCAGO Scholarship fund. Jason, Ryan, Jose Daniel, his brother Marcos, and son Carlos will surprise you with great humor!!

3. Our pictures are almost completed so if you haven't met with Connie Miller to have yours taken please do so as soon as possible.

GET TO KNOW YOUR CHOIR NEIGHBOR



Karen Ritchie—Alto

One of our newest choir members; Karen, who is a nurse and the VP of VNA Hospice came to Vero from Long Island 2 years ago. She is the mother of 2 boys both serving in the military and the grandmother of one little girl. Karen enjoys volunteering with the Humane Society, Hibiscus Children's Center and the VNA Hospice Camp Chrysalis. Welcome Karen!

## Rehearsal Order

Please have your music in the correct rehearsal order.

ALL IN THE SANCTUARY		
Ness Beck	It is well with my soul	Next Sunday
J D Flores	Alleluia	Next Sunday
McCullough	Hodie	Christmas Fest 12/11
David Danner	Arise, Your light has come	Christmas Fest 12/11
Rutter	Nativity Carol	Christmas Fest 12/11
Ellingboe	Prepare the Royal Highway	11/27
Thomas	Keep your lamps	11/06
Bach	Jesu Joy of Man's Desiring	11/13



This week's anthem—See the other side of the page.



### In our Prayers

Jim Haeger  
Vern Baker  
Barbara McCarthy



### October Birthday's

Pagie Sturgis 10/18  
Patty Maes 10/25



## This week's anthem

"This beloved hymn was written by a Presbyterian layman from Chicago named Horatio G. Spafford who born in North Troy, New York, on October 20, 1828. As a young man Spafford had established a successful legal practice in Chicago. Along with his financial success, he always maintained a keen interest in Christian activities. He enjoyed a close and active relationship with D. L. Moody and other evangelical leaders of that era. He was described by George Stebbins, a noted gospel musician, as a "man of unusual intelligence and refinement, deeply spiritual, and a devoted student of the Scriptures:."

Some months prior to the Chicago Fire of 1871, Spafford had invested heavily in real estate on the shore of Lake Michigan, and his holdings were wiped out by this disaster. Desiring a rest for his wife and four daughters as well as wishing to assist Moody and Sankey in one of their campaigns in Great Britain, Spafford planned a European trip for his family November of 1873. Due to unexpected last minute business developments, he had to remain in Chicago, but he sent his wife and four daughters on ahead as scheduled on the *S.S. Ville du Havre*. He expected to follow in a few days. On November 22 the ship was struck by the *Lochearn*, an English vessel, and sank in twelve minutes. Several days later the survivors were finally landed at Cardiff, Wales, and Mrs. Spafford cabled her husband, "Saved alone". Shortly afterward Spafford left by ship to join his bereaved wife. It is thought that on the sea near the area where his four daughters had drowned, Spafford penned this text whose words so significantly describe his own personal grief--"When sorrows like sea billows roll..." It is noteworthy, however, that Spafford's hymn does not dwell on the theme of life's sorrows and trials but focuses attention in the third stanza on the redemptive work of Christ and in the fourth stanza anticipates His glorious Second Coming. Humanly speaking, it is amazing that one could experience such personal tragedies and sorrows as Horatio Spafford did and still be able to say with such convincing clarity, "It is well with my soul".

In 1881 the Spafford's fulfilled a life-long interest in the Holy Land. They left Chicago with their two young daughters and a group of friends and settled in Jerusalem. There they established the American Colony which cared for the sick and destitute. Although Horatio died just eight years later at the age of sixty, this significant ministry continued. The story of this special family and their ministry is told in the book, *Our Jerusalem*, written by the Spafford's daughter Bertha Spafford Vesper.

Philip P. Bliss was so impressed with the experience and expression of Spafford's text that he shortly wrote the music for it, first published in one of Sankey-Bliss *Hymnals Gospel Hymns No. Two*, in 1876. Bliss was a prolific writer of gospel songs throughout his brief lifetime. In most cases he wrote both the words and the music for his hymns. His songs, like most early gospel hymnody, are strong in emotional appeal with tunes that are easily learned and sung."

\*101 Hymn Stories by Kenneth W. Osbeck