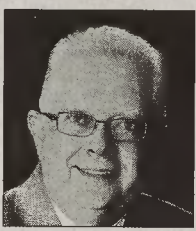


FOCUS

Participation brings greatest church experience

MUSICALLY SPEAKING



JOSEF WALKER
Guest Columnist

Congregational hymn singing provides a wonderful opportunity for participation in the worship experience.

The Protestant Worship Service is comprised of two major components "Praise" and "Prayer." These two different, yet related, parts of the worship service are led by the ministry of word and sacrament and the ministry of music and the arts.

In the more liturgical services of worship, a congregation can participate in responsive readings, the "Gloria," "Sanctus," and "Kyrie," as well as hymns. In the less liturgical service, just about the only opportunity that you have to participate is in hymn singing, except for that part when you begrudgingly reach your wallet for the offertory. Have we lost sight of the fact that we are all in church for corporate worship and that we all contribute to the worship experience? Have some of us become just spectators?

Is the congregational singing at your church sometimes less than inspiring; perhaps even lackluster? There was a time when I thought that parishioners just might not know the hymns we were singing. A dear friend and former choir member shared with a possible reason for this less-than-enthusiastic dening. Virtually every denomination has its own prescribed hymnal. Unfortunately, some people bring another hymnal with them. Theirs is called "Hymns of the Lukewarm Church".

Herewith is a listing of some of these hymns: 1. "A comfy Mattress Is Our God" 2. "Joyful, Joyful, We Kinda Like Thee" 3. "Above Average is thy Faithfulness" 4. "Lord, Keep Us Loosely

Connected to Your Word" 5. "All Hail the Influence of Jesus' Name" 6. "My Hope is Built on Nothing Grace" 7. "Amazing Grace, How Interesting the Sound" 8. "My Faith Looks Around for Thee" 9. "Be Thou My Hobby" 10. "O God, Our Enabler in Ages Past" 11. "Blest Be the Tie That Doesn't Cramp My Style" 12. "O for a Couple of Tongues to Sing" 13. "He's Quite a Bit to Me" 14. "Oh, How I Like Jesus" 15. "I Lay My Inappropriate Behavior on Jesus" 16. "Pillow of Ages, Fluffed for Me" 17. "I Surrender Some" 18. "Praise God from Whom All Affirmations Flow" 19. "I'm Fairly Certain That My Redeemer Lives" 20. "Self-Esteem to the World! The Lord is Come" 21. "Sit Up, Sit Up, for Jesus" 22. "Special, Special, Special" 23. "Spirit of the Living God, Fall Somewhere Near Me" 24. "Stick Nearby, It's Getting Dark Outside" 25. "Take My Life and Let Me Be" 26. "There is Scattered Cloudiness in My Soul Today" 27. "There Shall be Sprinkles of Blessings" 28. "What an Acquaintance We Have in Jesus" 29. "When Peace, Like a Trickle ..." 30. "When the Saints Go Sneaking In" 31. "Where He Leads Me, I Will Consider Following" 32. "God of Taste, and God of Stories"

Its little wonder that some people leave church thinking they haven't gotten much out of the service. Everyone knows the more you invest in anything the more you can expect to get out of it. There are so few opportunities for the congregation to do anything more than just to be a spectator. When you have the opportunity to participate through hymn singing (using the appropriate hymnal) and you attempt to sing the hymns of faith, you'll be surprised how affirming the experience can be for you. It can truly put a song in your heart.

Guest Columnist Josef Walker is Chormaster/Organist of Heidelberg United Church of Christ and serves on the Executive Board of the American Guild of Organists.



HOME SWEET HOME

Habitat for Humanity of Thomasville Sunday held a dedication ceremony for its latest completed home at 1023 Georgia Ave. Pictured is new homeowner Barbara Peake at her new home.

COURTESY PHOTO



Block Party

Residents of Emily Court off of Washboard Road in Thomasville held a 'Block Party' Sunday afternoon to enjoy in a cook-out, live music and some neighborly fellowship.

TIMES PHOTO/ZACH KERLEY

ONLY 1200 TICKETS AVAILABLE Lexington Memorial Hospital Foundation along with Honorary Chairmen **RICHARD CHILDRESS and BOB TIMBERLAKE** Present **SPORTSMEN'S SATURDAY** **TICKET PRICE: \$100**

Saturday, October 30, 2010

Lexington Historic Southern Railway Freight Depot

1:00 p.m. Arctic Cat ATV 4 Wheeler	1:40 p.m. Beretta AL391 12 Ga. Shotgun
1:05 p.m. \$1000 Cash	1:45 p.m. \$1000 Bass Pro Shop Gift Certificate
1:10 p.m. TC Bone Collector Muzzleloader Rifle	1:55 p.m. Sun Tracker 20' Pontoon Party Barge with 40 hp Motor & Trailer
1:15 p.m. \$1000 Bass Pro Shop Gift Certificate	2:00 p.m. Savage .17 HMR Rifle + BSA Scope
1:20 p.m. Wilmington Stainless Steel Grill Cape Fear Series	2:05 p.m. \$1000 Cash
1:25 p.m. Remington 700 VTR .308 Rifle	2:15 p.m. Browning Citori 20 Ga. over & under shotgun
1:30 p.m. \$1000 Cash	2:20 p.m. \$1000 Cash
1:35 p.m. Tracker 12' Boat + 5 hp Motor & Trailer	2:25 p.m. 2010 Chevrolet Silverado Truck 4 x 4

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