

Music Box

JANUARY 20, 2013

Ellen Collord, soprano
Erica Horn, clarinet
Melinda Coffey Armstead, piano & organ

- Center of My Life (Psalm 16)..... Paul Inwood
- Give Me AwayAnnette LeSiegé
- The Gift of Love
(Corinthians I:13)..... American folk tune, arr. by Hal Hopson
- Amazing GraceJohn Newton/John Ness Beck
- On to Higher GroundCharles Tindley/Charles Gabriel
arr. by Mark Hayes
- Simple Gifts American folk hymn, arr. Russell Schulz-Widmar

Bob insists on including this story, which is marginally relevant to the music today. I've heard him tell it about a thousand times, so the chances you haven't heard it from him already are infinitesimal. Against my better judgement, here it is:

Bagpipe player is hired for a funeral. Remote burial plot, winding roads, he's an hour late. The hearse is gone, the minister is gone, the people are gone. Only three grave diggers present, filling in the grave. It's about half filled, and he decides to go ahead and play, since he's already been paid. Playing soulful hymns, he notices the workmen standing respectfully at the side, hats off. He ends with "Amazing Grace," sees tears streaming down the workmen's faces, and he feels a lump in his own throat. Later, as he's getting into his car, he hears one workman say to the other two, "Never seen nothin' like that, and I been doin' septic tanks for twenty years."

Melinda Coffey Armstead



Painless and Economical

If you use the internet, why don't you have the weekly newsletter sent to you via email? It is fast, easy and saves the church money—here's what to do: Send an email to the office at citf@mbay.net and ask Sherry to put you in the list. You will receive it early every week!

Church in the Forest
at Erdman Chapel, Stevenson School
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Monday morning, January 14, 2013

Dear Members and Friends,

This coming Sunday, our text from the beginning of John's gospel takes us to the first miracle that Jesus performed. I'm not sure that was the best way to explain miracles, but there have been times when I've wanted to explain things that way. I could talk about miracles in general and how over the past century of enlightenment we've tried to explain miracles in a rational manner.

For example, rather than believing that Jesus actually fed 5,000 with two small barley loaves and five small fish, we explain it away by explaining that everyone gathered that day was so moved by that little boy's generosity, that they all shared everything they had brought with them. Basically, that says, Jesus blessed what the boy brought and everyone shared in a huge potluck luncheon. But who knows...? I'm not sure which would be the greater miracle, multiplying the bread and fish or getting 5000 people to share their lunch.

There's an old story about a skeptic who continually harassed the local pastor. His one delight in life seemed to be making the pastor appear inadequate intellectually. The pastor bore those challenges to his theology and faith with great restraint.

One day the skeptic was heckling the pastor about his views on miracles. "Give me one concrete example of a miracle," the skeptic taunted. "One concrete example!" This pastor hauled off and kicked the skeptic in the shin as hard as he could.

The skeptic couldn't believe it! "What did you do that for?"

The pastor asked, "Did you feel that?"

"Yes," the man said as he nursed his sore leg.

"Well, if you hadn't," said the pastor, "it would have been a miracle!"

Let's keep our minds and hearts open to the real possibility of miracles, and you know something, we might then experience some.

See you in church,



William B. Rolland

Calendar

Sunday, January 20, 2013

8:30 AM Bible Study with the Rev. Charles Anker. 2 Peter 3: 1-18
The final Chapter of 2 Peter.

9:15 AM Music Prelude

9:30 AM Morning Prayer

Passages Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Psalm 36:5-10; John 2:1-11

Lector Dennis Riley

Crucifer Judy Fletcher

Flowers Dennis & Marie Riley

Cookies Ruth Gleisner

Altar Care Martha Jordan

Ushers Jan & Joe Stine

Sermon The Rev. Dr. William B. Rolland

Title "Timing is Everything"

Sunday, January 27, 2013 after the service. Meeting of the Congregation to approve the budget.