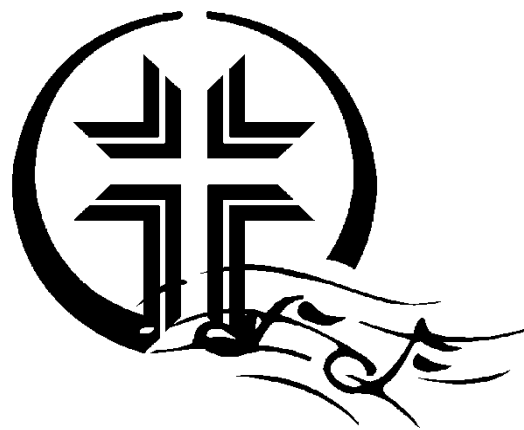


Graded Choirs

2011-2012



Parents' Handbook

Important Information

Tallowood Baptist Church

Susie Low ~ Graded Choir Coordinator
Graded Choir e-mail: slow@tallowood.org

Parents' Handbook

Ministry of Music for Children

Coordinator's Letter

Directors

2011-2012 Theme Praising God with Songs~Hymns Spiritual Songs~Scriptures

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Fall Calendar – 2011 – separate document on line

Spring Calendar – 2012 – separate document on line

Welcome to Tallowood's Graded Choirs

Thank you for entrusting your singers to our care and teaching. Our directors are prepared in every way. They have planned and prayed over their plans and are ready to meet your singer each week.

We will continue to use the instruments which we learned about last year. We will learn to celebrate God's goodness and the love He gave us in His son, Jesus.

This year's theme, *Praising God through songs, hymns, spiritual songs & scriptures*, will direct us to present wonderful praise to God on a daily basis - at home, at school, at play, and at church. The choirs will sing in church, learning wonderful new and old songs of faith as we discover our own walk with God.

You have chosen for your children to be part of an outstanding, Bible-based, Christ-honoring group of children and teachers who seek to learn to worship God with their mind, soul and body through music.

Choir is FUN, but it's much more than that!

Your singer will

be involved in activities that are designed to enhance musical ability, knowledge and appreciation of a **wide variety of choral music.

**learn the importance of showing respect to one another and of working together as a team to create a wonderful offering to God.

**be directed to the Savior through the spiritual concepts presented each week.

Please include your child's choir and his part in choir in the **prayers** of your family. The learning that takes place in each choir is a week by week adventure, building upon what was learned the week before. If you would like to help, WE NEED YOU!

God bless you and welcome to choir 2011-2012!

Susie Low, Coordinator

2011-2012 LEADERSHIP



Coordinator of Graded Choirs

Mrs. Susie Low is mother to Chip & Tami and Susan & Joe and grandmother to Sophie, Benjamin, Samuel and Asher. Mrs. Low holds the Bachelor of Music Degree and Master of Music Degree from the University of North Texas with studies at the University of Denver under Dr. John Finley Williamson, founder of Westminster Choir College, and Kodaly certification from the University of Houston. Mrs. Low has served as church organist in Texas churches, as well as choir clinician, workshop leader in many states. Currently, Mrs. Low is choir director at Cinco Ranch Junior High in Katy and serves as Tallowood's Graded Choir Coordinator.

Coordinating Staff

Miss Nancy Lawrence holds a Bachelor of Science Degree with a triple major in voice, music education and church music from Houston Baptist University. She is currently a music specialist at Nottingham Country Elementary in Katy ISD. She enjoys going to movies, going to dinner with friends, going to craft shows, doing cross stitch, and sewing. Miss Lawrence is involved in Tallowood's Singles Ministry.

Mrs. Virginia Ridenhour holds a Masters Degree in Organ from University of Tulsa. Her hobbies are painting, crafts, and banner making, and she is involved in every area of Tallowood's many ministries. Mrs. Ridenhour served on Tallowood's music staff as Music Secretary and Graded Choir Coordinator many years. She is currently the Director of the Koinonia Sunday School Department.

Music Time for 3's

Mrs. Amy Lawson is married to Curtis Lawson and mother to Caroline, Catherine and Charlotte. She has a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering, a Bachelor of Arts in Chemistry, and a Minor in Flute Performance from North Carolina State University. She plays flute, piccolo, and tenor saxophone for various groups at Tallowood, and has also played in the Jubilation Handbell Choir. Mrs. Lawson currently spends most of her time at home with her children and occasionally does consulting work for an environmental company in Houston. She enjoys time with family, music, gardening, sewing, and making handmade cards and other crafts.

Mrs. Kathryn Grigsby is married to Gary Grigsby and mother to Anna Leigh. She also has two bonus children - Gary's kids, Carter, and Meagan. Kathryn has both a Bachelor and Master of Science degree in Nutrition from Texas A&M University and a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance and Voice from West Texas A&M. She plays piano and several other instruments, sings in the Tallowood Adult Choir and has played in the Jubilation Handbell Choir. As a Registered Dietitian, Mrs. Grigsby has worked in health care for many years. She is currently a stay-at-home mom but does consulting in nutrition for DairyMax and works as a part-time Research Dietitian for Baylor College of Medicine. She enjoys music, reading, and being a mom!

Pre-Kindergarten Choir

Mrs. Paula Blackmon and her husband, Charles, have 3 daughters, Laura and Bashan Blake, Cara and Gee Song, and Susanna Blackmon; 3 grandchildren - Plum and Jonah Song, Tennyson Blake, and another granddaughter due on Mrs. Blackmon's December birthday. Mrs. Blackmon is a Mezzo-Soprano from Houston, Texas. She studied at Westminster Choir College, Houston Baptist University and earned a Master of Music from Rice University. Mrs. Blackmon has performed as vocal soloist, pianist, organist, and choral conductor in numerous churches, schools, and organizations. She is presently an elementary music teacher in Spring Branch ISD, and assistant conductor of the Houston Masterworks Chorus.

Mrs. Alicia Music is married to John Music, and they have a sweet little girl named Hannah. Mrs. Music holds a Bachelor of Music degree from Howard Payne University, has completed Level I of Orff Schulwerk Training, and is an elementary music specialist at Jeanette Hayes Elementary in Katy ISD. Mrs. Music has directed children's choirs for 5 years in two churches. She is a soloist as well as singing in the Adult Choir and she helps her husband minister to our church's young married adults.

Kindergarten Choir

Mrs. Misty Ellis, married to Don Ellis is mother to Kathryn and William. She holds a BS in Business Administration and a MBA in Marketing Management. Currently, a full time mom, wife and volunteer, Mrs. Ellis has volunteered her time with the Frostwood PTA, Junior League of Houston and Texas Children's Hospital. Mrs. Ellis enjoys spending time with her family, going out to dinner with friends, and gardening. A former member of the Tallowood Handbell Choir, Mrs. Ellis has assisted in the first grade children's choir for several years and worked with older students in Bible Memorization. Mrs. Ellis is active in the Grace Sunday School class.

1st Grade Choir

Mrs. Cheryl Mills is married to Stuart, who grew up in Tallowood. They are parents of Chris and his wife Jamie of Richmond, Russell who works in Houston, and Scott and his wife Katie who is in the Navy in San Diego. They each enjoyed Tallowood choirs as children. Cheryl has a Bachelor of Music Education from Texas Tech University and has taught piano for 36 years, having also directed First Grade choirs in Oklahoma and at Kingsland Baptist in 1992. She is involved in the ConocoPhillips Family Network and likes to do scrapbooking and crafts.



2nd Grade Choir

Mrs. Lynn Pyle, married to Frank Pyle, has degrees in music education from Baylor University and English literature from Abilene Christian University. She retired after teaching music 32 years in Katy, Alief, and at The Village School. She now spends her time visiting her seven children and eleven grandchildren.

3^d Grade Choir

Mrs. Nora Hahn is married to Richard Hahn and is the mother of Ellyn and Alexei. She plays flute and piccolo with the Tallowood Orchestra and is a former member of the Tallowood Adult Choir. As a professional flutist, Mrs. Hahn has performed for Houston's A. D. Players, Stages Repertory Theater and Ovation. Her flute quartet, *Flutations*, has performed for Tallowood's "Festival of Carols" in the past. Mrs. Hahn is also a past member of the Houston Symphony Chorus and the Texas Baptist All-State Youth Choir. She loves acting in community theater productions and has appeared in musicals and plays at Country Playhouse, Playhouse 1960 and Houston Family Arts Center.

Mrs. Janet Nichols, married to Earl Nichols, is mother to Meredith and Kara. Mrs. Nichols holds the Bachelor of Music Degree from Baylor University. She sings in Tallowood's Adult Choir and plays in the Tallowood Handbell Choir, the Tallowood Orchestra and the Tallowood Jazz Band.

4th/5th Grade Choir

Mrs. Lori Jones is married to Keith Jones and is the mother of Alyse and Alan. Mrs. Jones holds a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas A&M University and is currently a School Improvement Specialist in Spring Branch. Mrs. Jones enjoys singing (of course!), reading and is an avid Astros fan. Mrs. Jones has been directing children's choirs for over 12 years and has also directed for the Houston Children's Chorus. Mrs. Jones is a member of Tallowood's Adult Choir and Houston Masterworks Chorus.

Mrs. Martha Jorgensen, married to Bill, is the mother of Kaylen, Leah, and Will. She holds the Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Texas and the Master of Arts Degree from Sam Houston State University. Mrs. Jorgensen is a much sought after accompanist, having played at Tallowood for the Delegates, Sonlight, Preteen Choir, Nursing Home Ministry, Mission Recognition Service, many Sunday Schools and many soloists.

Mrs. Susie Low - see above

Feel free to contact the directors if you need information or if you need to give them information.



This year's theme is

Praising God through

psalms, hymns & spiritual songs

Singing the Bible
Some of Our Thanksgiving Program
Scriptures



Psalm 100

Shout to the Lord, Make a joyful noise, Serve the Lord, Come into the city with songs of thanksgiving, Come let us sing for joy to the Lord, The Lord is a great God!

Selected Psalms

Praise the Lord; Up above—all His angels—all His heavenly hosts; sun and moon, shining stars; earth, sea creatures; light'ning-hail-snow-clouds-stormy winds-wild animals-cattle-creeping things-flying birds-cats-gnats-bats-cabbage-broccoli-beets-Thank you, Lord.

Selected Passages & Psalm 92, 95 & I Chronicles

It is good to give thanks to the Lord, To sing praises to God Most High, Praise the Lord, O come, let us bow down in worship, Let us kneel before the Lord our Maker, You have made us happy by what you have done, We will sing for joy.

Selected Passages & Psalm 86:12

Holy is He and great is His glory! To God be the glory! I will give thanks to You, O Lord, my god, With all my heart, And will glorify Your name forever.

Selected Passages & Psalm 50:14, Psalm 63:5; I Peter 2:5

Let us bring the sacrifice of praise! A Sacrifice of Thanksgiving, Offer praise with joyful lips, Make yourself a spiritual house, I will meditate and rejoice and offer sacrifice.

In 2011-2012 children's choirs will: -sing; -play instruments; -sing at our worship services; -honor God; -have a great time with our friends.

Important Information About Graded Choirs



*Graded Choirs are part of
Tallowood's Music Ministry,
as well as part of a
teaching team for children, Music~Missions*

COMMUNICATION!

We will communicate with you through e-mails. It is very important that we have your e-mail address.

PLEASE BE SURE YOUR E-MAIL ADDRESS IS ON FILE –
YOU CAN CHECK AT YOUR CHILD'S
CHOIR ROOM TO BE SURE!!!!!!



****Attendance - RUN, don't walk on Wednesday nights!***



*Your teacher is waiting for you

*Your teacher has planned a wonderful time together
and doesn't want you to miss anything!

Parents, we look forward to being with your children every week. We plan every rehearsal with all of the children in mind.

****100%'ers***

*. . . will be recognized at the end of the year -- those who have come every time for every rehearsal and every presentation from August through May.

Children love the activities that are planned for them each week. Please work hard to choose to be at the Wednesday Night Place for Kids – choir and missions.



***Singing in Church**

Singing in the worship services at Tallwood is a privilege. By looking at the calendar in this booklet, you will already reserved on the church calendar.

The choirs work an extended period sing in church. If the church's will let you know in advance.



of time preparing to schedule changes, we

When we sing in the worship services, the children are much happier if they are actively involved in the preparation.

***Coming Every Week**



- . . . is a way to show commitment
- . . . is a way to honor and glorify the Lord
- . . . *helps the singer be a part of the team*
- . . . allows the director to know exactly how to plan

We believe that ***'only our best is good enough for God'*** and we will strive to teach that each week.

***Security**

The security of your singer has always been of utmost importance to the choir leadership.

***3's** will meet in, and return to, their childcare rooms

***Kinder & Pre-Kinder** Mission Friends leaders will take over in the Choir rooms.

***And at 6:55 p.m., 1st-5th Grade** RA's and GA's leaders will take over in the choir rooms (or close-by rooms)

Parents of 3's, 4's, & 5's, please don't forget that you will need a security card to pick up your child at the end of choir or missions.



****If Your Singer Must Be Absent***

If your singer must be absent from Wednesday's rehearsal, **PLEASE CONTACT THE DIRECTOR OF THEIR CHOIR on Tuesday evening or as soon as possible.**

Many of our directors work and come to the church straight from work.
We are interested in your child and do appreciate your calls.

**Please let us know if your child is hospitalized,
seriously ill, or having a difficult time.*

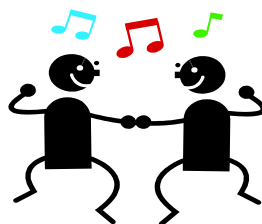
We will pray for them and offer help and encouragement.



****Hymn Memory Program***

Tallowood Choirs are in a comprehensive hymn memory program. The children work each month to memorize one hymn – first stanza only.

4's through 3rd grade choirs receive cassettes for 100% hymn memory; 4th graders receive a medal for 100% hymn memory; and 5th graders receive a trophy for 100% hymn memory.



***Hymnals**

Singers who attend a Tallowood choir throughout the year and are still active members in April and May will receive a red *Hymnal* (like the hymnal in the Worship Center) with their name engraved in gold on the front cover and a certificate inside the cover.

Each year thereafter, they will receive a seal to put on the certificate to indicate their participation in choir that year.



Tallowood encourages hymn singing in the home and this is our way to help you have this opportunity as a family.

AND the singers will enjoy having the hymnals as they get older and have their own families.

*** Parties**

We have parties several times during the year. It would be a big help if you would volunteer to organize the parties or provide refreshments or paper goods. You can just speak to your child's director.



This is another reason why listing allergies is so important – thanks for providing that information on the enrollment form.

*** Workers**

The graded choir program has existed at Tallowood for its entire history. Over those years many members have volunteered to work with the children in this area. Many workers have kept teaching children even after their own children moved to the youth division of the church. Please consider working in a choir.

We will

- *respect your time and abilities
- *give clear expectations
- *offer preparation & direction
- *happily share the year's plans in advance!

The Bible says
Train up a child
in the way he
should go; and
when he is old,
he will not depart
from it.



We love your children!
Thank you for bringing them each week!