

SONGS FROM THE "EAST END ONION"

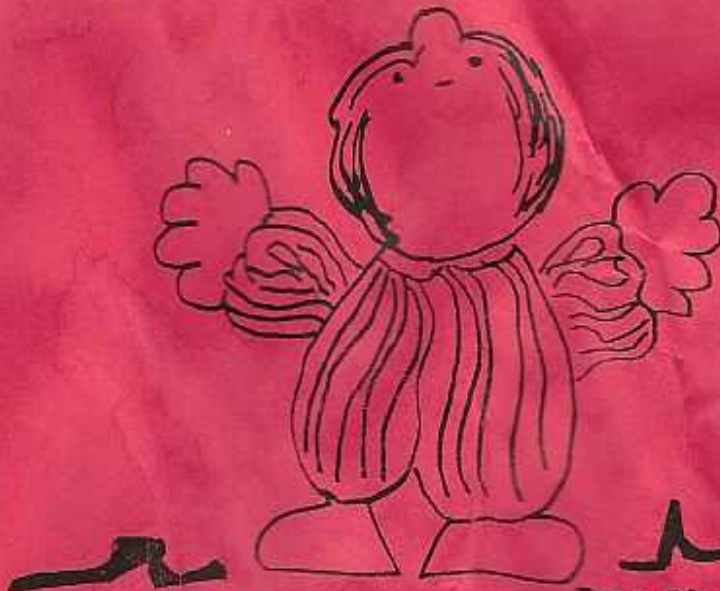
Worship More WITH LESS

The East End Onion - *Teresa Moore*

By Teresa Moore
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Oh please...



Drawing by Anne Tebbe Kidd

All God's Children Got A Place in the Church

by Teresa Moore

All God's critters got a place in the church,
Some soar high, and some just perch.
And some like me are meant to search
Here, there, and everywhere that God is.

Listen to the mission statement's intent
Right in the bulletin, in bold print!
The Vestry thinks it was heaven sent
'Cause no one disagreed!

Worshiping, caring and praying are right
If we want to be a people, walkin' in the light,
Preparing each one to fight the good fight
With effective ministry.

Maybe it'll take a 30-hour famine
To get more of God, and less of 'mammon'!
Don't get me wrong, I ain't slammin'
Cell groups, 'pioneer' troops, or anything we might get!

If you're searchin' for significance
I'll tell you now, get off the fence!
'Cause sittin' around doesn't make much sense.
If you don't like my views, tell REDEEMER NEWS!

Singin' in the right key would take all day,
It won't be long til I'm on my way!
Maybe it would help if we'd all pray
Together, out loud, all at the same time!

So if my song tempts you to sin
I'll beg the Lord, so you won't give in!
I'm just tryin' to put a positive spin
On this, that, and everything we got now!

All God's critters got a place in the Lord,
Whether or not we can hit the right chord!
Anyway, it looks like we're movin' toward
Free, flat, and anything we got now!



"SENIOR RECITAL"

(This skit was written after the recording of a Latin mass and Latin motets. At that time a number of choir members were in school, and final exams were coming up).

CAST: Soprano Uno, Soprano Dos, and Amicti Stolis

The skit opens with Soprano Uno and Soprano Dos discussing their plans for the senior recital and voice exam. They greet one another:

Soprano Uno: "Quo-cum-que!"

Soprano Dos: "Gaude."

Soprano Uno: "I'm nervous about the final exam coming up."

Soprano Dos: "I am, tu-a."

Soprano Uno: "I bought a new ver-cia to wear to my recital."

Soprano Dos: "I'm just wearing the same old vestimente. Haec, if nothing else, I can work for Eastern Onion after graduation."

Soprano Uno: "I just found out that I'm graduating pro-nobis."

Soprano Dos: "Oh, really? I just made propter magnum. I only make the no-mi-ne grades."

Soprano Uno: "Well, I made a few a-ahs this semester. I guess that helps."

Soprano Dos: "Have you heard anything about the final exam George Mims gives in his class?"

Soprano Uno: "Well, all I've heard is that if you don't sing in the right key at your recital he makes you do tu-solus instead one."

Soprano Dos: "Yeah, singing for him is always a cru-chi-fix-us experience."

Soprano Uno: "This only my si-cut time to sing for him. I think e-jus supposed to open your mouth wide enough for thri fingers to fit in nicely."

Soprano Dos: "That's a bad habitare. I'll be flat with a capital "F"."

Soprano Uno: "Don't worry. He ex-cel-sis in flat keys."

Soprano Dos: "Well, I'm going to prae-gus-ta-tum before I go to his class. I sure cu-jus some help."

CONTINUED...

"IN SEARCH OF LIVING WATERS"

(This was a skit performed during the recording of the album, "Sweet Water". It plays on a lot of the comments and lessons Betty Fulkingham made to the choir as she directed the recording).

THEME: FANTASY ISLAND

SCENE: A young woman, "Ginger Ale", is seeking the Fountain of youth. She enters the nave from a side door. She walks up to two characters who are spitting consonants into a microphone nearby, Boss and Tatoo.

Ginger: "Hi! I'm Ginger, Ginger Ale. What are you two doing?"

Boss: "Oh, we're practicing for the recording."

Tatoo: "Yes, every consonant must be heard."

Ginger: "I've never made a recording before. What's it like?"

Boss: "It's lots of fun, but you have to be in good shape. It takes a lot of practice before you can energize the songs."

(Tatoo makes "warm-up" sounds in the background).

Ginger: "Those are the same sounds I heard when I walked in."

Boss: "Oh, yes, it's just like joining a spa. You start by warming up, taking big breaths, doing exercises, etc. Tatoo, show her the lips exercise."

Tatoo: "Yes, Boss. (He begins.) "The lips, the mouth, the tongue and the teeth; the lips, the mouth, the tongue and the teeth". (Boss joins in; they do it two more times)

Ginger: "Well, I need to join a spa, but what I really want is one that has a fountain of youth. I'm not so sure I want to go through all that work."

Tatoo: "Yeah, but lady, spitting consonants is good for you! Just like eating Special K for breakfast!"

Boss: "Tatoo!! Look, miss, if you start by taking big breaths and keep up the momentum, then everyone who listens to you will be able to understand everything you say."

Ginger: "But I'm looking for a land of rest that I can enter now! Isn't there a land where one can sit 'dripping at the springs of living water', without having to enunciate all the time?"

Tatoo: (meekly) "Well, every once in a while there is a silent "s"."

CONTINUED...

"CLIMB EVERY MOUNTAIN"

(This was written for the Redeemer Choir as they set out to sing at the General Convention of the Episcopal Church in 1979. The convention was held in Denver that year. Some choir members were not able to make the trip, because of job obligations or schedules. I was one such member, so I sent the choir off with this 'song').

Climb every mountain,
Sing high and low,
Especially in Denver--
Every note you know.

If you're a tenor
Denver is a dream.
Because the air is thinner,
You won't have to scream!

But your voice will need
All the lift you can give.
Just don't overdo it,
Or you may not live!

Climb every mountain,
Sing every note.
Don't hesitate or worry:
Just open up your throat!

Climb every mountain;
But before you try,
Don't forget to Warm-Up
For a Rocky Mountain high!

If you should wonder
Where the ^{o²t} note is at,
Don't hesitate or ponder,
Or you will go flat!

Climb every mountain,
Let your voices rise.
Just control the volume,
Or you may swallow flies*!

*Someone had recently swallowed a fly at choir practice.

"You can't rely on the room...put your body in orbit!" -BOG

"...especially in this area where we are more dense". -BOG

"WE'RE GETTING READY FOR THE CONFERENCE", Cont.

And we'll be busy throughout July,
So if I sound dizzy, now you know why!

Yes, we're getting ready for the conference.
We'll all be singing at our prime.
So if you take a vacation*
This is an invitation
To get back to the church on time!

Don't get excited,
Just remember, you're invited
To get back to the church,
Get back to the church,
Get back to the church on time!

*George had sent around a list weeks before of when we could take vacations, because he wanted as many choir members as possible to be in town for the conference.

TRIVIA QUESTION: "What former member of Redeemer performed before the Queen of England?"

Answer: "Claudia Gumbinner."

TRIVIA QUESTION: "What do Albert Einstein, Zasu Pitts, and Mamie Eisenhower have in common with the Church of the Redeemer?"

Answer: "Their potraits were painted by John Orth, who also did the Redeemer Mural."

TRIVIA QUESTION; "What was the prophetic name by which Redeemer was commonly known for its first thirty years?"

Answer: Eastwood Community Church.

TRIVIA QUESTION: What were the living quarters at the Ranch called? *Bar-None*

Answer: Hogans.

SENIOR RECITAL, CONT.

Soprano Uno glances around and notices that their friend, Amicti Stolis, is coming towards them.

Soprano Uno: "Look, here comes Amicti Stolis."

Soprano Dos: "So what! I saw him last night in the bar-bam. He seemed a little ecce."

Soprano Uno: "Well, ju-cum imagine why. He's been dating Dona Nobis."

Soprano Dos: "No, I think he's worried about the ex-iam, too. I've heard that this is the se-cum time he's had to take it."

Together they greet their friend.

Both Sopranos: "Hi, Amicti!"

Soprano Dos: "How are you to-deo?"

Amicti: "Oh, filio, I guess. At least its a plesinut deo."

Soprano Uno: "Well, it is a little chaeli."

They begin discussing the final exam.

Soprano Uno: "Amicti, are you ready for your final voice exiam?"

Amicti: "I expecto to do well if I take my vitamins before the test."

Soprano Dos: "What are you, Amicti? A smart illic trying to impress the professor?"

Soprano Uno: "What are you going to sing, Amicti?"

Amicti: "Credo Enunum Deo."

Soprano Uno: "A-num you would pick that one."

Amicti: "Et's the only song I know."

Soprano Dos: "You don't sae-eu-la. Where did you learn it?"

Amicti: "Et's simu-adoratur to everything else we sing in class."

Soprano Dos: "Amicti, what do vitamins have to do with singing well on a voice exiam?"

Amicti: "Well, depending on the kind you take, they can give you omnipotentem power over your diaphragm. For example, when you take vitamin A, you can expecto get an A on the exiam."

CONTINUED...

"WE'RE GETTING READY FOR THE CONFERENCE"

(Written for the first Worship and Liturgy conference held at the Church of the Redeemer in 1979).

TUNE: "I'M GETTING MARRIED IN THE MORNING" (from PORGY AND BESS)

We're getting ready for the conference,
But first, let me tell you what we've done:
Here in the choir that should inspire
Lots of conferees to come...

First, we got us a brand new organ.
When it came in, we were all smiles.
It's better than a Spinet,
We put more money in it
'Cause it came to us from Gress and Miles.

Next, we received a special visit:
The Hymnal Commission came our way.
Although we were nervous,
The Lord blessed our service
And the Supplement is ours today!

If you want to hear us on a special show,
Get up at six and play your radio*!

We've been to sing at the Convention,
And all across our diocese.
From Houston to Denver,
You name it, we've been there!
(And even the Baptists were pleased)**

This year we made some new recordings.
It took more than one long midnight fling!
We've added Mass exposure,
And Latin that's Kosher
To the repertoire of songs we sing.

*We were featured on the Episcopal Radio-TV foundation broadcasts on Sunday mornings.

**We had presented a conference to some Baptists congregations earlier that year.

"SENIOR RECITAL", CONT.

Soprano Uno: "That's locutus! I take u-numbar of vitamins every deo, and my voice still is en remissionem. No matter how many I iterum, it doesn't seem to do any good or matter one homo-factus."

Soprano Dos: "Viva! I think I am deschending how it works. If we've been taking vitamin B-12, that's why all of our takes have to go to at least 12-B!"

Soprano Uno: "No wonder my voice has nostram!"

Amicti: "Did you know that Mims takes vitamins?"

Soprano Uno: "He looks like he cu-jus some. What kind does he take?"

Amicti: "Oh, a substantialem amount. Let's see,
There's deprecationem for the diaghram,
Nostram for the nostrils,
Sedes to settle him down,
Dexteram to help him reach all the organ keys,
Quoniam to help him cope with the large choir,
Omnium to help him feel like he's in charge,
Filium to help him work through all his feelings,
Unigenitum to help him hear the blend in the choir,
Anteomnia to help him deal with the flatting,
Verum to help him keep the choir for late rehearsals,
And iterum, to convince him of our commitment.
Those are just a few of them!"

Soprano Uno: "It sounds like he needs to be on the Palmer Drug Abuse Program!"

Soprano Dos: "No wonder his puns carry such P-DAP!"

Soprano Uno: "Maybe he needs to go on a Polyphonic diet."

Amicti: "I've got an idea! Let's teach him a new lei-son."

Soprano Dos: "Anything to put him in re-mis-si-o-nem!"

Soprano Uno: "Let's pecca ta-rum to lock him up in before the exiam!"

Amicti: "We cau do that Mundi. Right now we'd better practice and warm up so our voices won't sound so misirere at the recital."

Both Sopranos: "You're right. We've got to practice for our so-lus."

The three of them begin to make various sounds affiliated with the choir warm-up sessions, popping vitamins into their mouths.

END

"IN SEARCH OF LIVING WATERS", CONT.

Boss: "Well, from what you say, I take it your looking for the Kingdom. I tell you, it's neither here, nor there (he's waving his arms).

Ginger: "I'm getting kind of tired. I've been out every night for the last week trying to find this kingdom. I'm ready for 'the pause that refreshes'.

Boss: "I have just the thing you need, no if's, and's or but's. This is probably the best stuff you will ever turn your 'ice' upon."

(Tatoo brings out a bottle of Perrier water)

Tatoo: "Like the Boss says, "it's the real thing"."

Ginger: "Where did you get it?"

Boss: "I found it 'flowing out of the Rock'. It's bound to quench your thirst, because things go better with living water."

Ginger: "Has anyone else tried it?"

Tatoo: "Boss, Boss, tell her about the girl who came a few weeks ago who said she was tired of the same old song and dance."

Boss: "Oh, Yes. She wanted something that had some brillian-cee to it; something that would make her feel like she could live on eternal-lee."

Ginger: "And you gave her some of this Sweet Water? What finally happened to her?"

Tatoo: "It made her change her tune."

Boss: "She went away singing and came back bringing others for the water."

Three characters fade out; dance group enters to "The Song of Moses."

END

TRIVIA QUESTION: What Ministry dressed up like little kids, one wearing roller skates, and danced to the song, "On Tiptoe"?

Answer: The Ushers.

"THE SOUNDS OF CRY HOSANNA"

(Written for Betty Pulkingham at the "Cry Hosanna" Conference
in Woodland Park, CO., April 1982.)

TUNE: "MARIA" from THE SOUND OF MUSIC

You press - and cram- your diaphragm,
And hope you force up air.
You do not look down at you book
For words that are not there.
You sit and wait for action
On the edge of your chair;
So you can make the sounds of Cry Hosanna...

You always pay attention
So you won't miss a note.
You seldom ever mention
The frog down in your throat.
And even if you said it,
Someone would get your goat---
Silence is an asset in the choir...

I'd like to say a word about this act:
Everything I claim here is a fact!

How do you make the sounds of Cry Hosanna?
How do you celebrate the whole of it?
How do you make the sounds of Cry Hosanna!
You open your mouth, 'til the deep South will fit!

Many a time you know you des-cant get it.
Many a time you know you will be flat!
You sing it again and again
Until you com-pre-hend,
It's better to hit the pitch on the first bat!

Oh, how do you make the sounds of Cry Hosanna?
How do you find out where they're at?

CONTINUED...

HE WILL FILL YOUR EARS TONIGHT"

(1983)

TUNE: "HE WILL FILL YOUR HEARTS TODAY"

He will fill your ears tonight to overflowing.
As he has commanded you, bring your folders,
not a few.

He will fill your ears tonight to overflowing,
With his lectures, hour on hour.

(Verses)

When the night of rehearsal had come
Choir members had gathered together.
Had gathered down in B-14
Prepared for George, as the night had demanded.

Suddenly, a noise from the hall
Which sounded like some hot air blowing,
Some hot air blowing by, filled the whole room,
The noise kept on growing!!!

As they were warming up,
People in the choir got tongues of fire.
Tongues of fire coming out, of their mouths,
Spreading out among each section.

All of them were filled with a strong desire,
A desire to be in power.
They began to complain in many languages;
Languages he taught them in that hour!

"I hear two or three words (words) first, then the rest of
you." -BOG

"The theology of church music, plus a polygrammatical
analysis of the English language (on how to interpret
tenses)." -BOG

"A LITTLE BIT OF WHITE-OUT"

(This was written for one of the parish secretaries at the Church of the Redeemer, when she took a secular job).

TUNE: "A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR", FROM MARY POPPINS

In every job that must be done
There is an element of 'pun'.
Ignore the pun and "Snap!", the job's a breeze!
For every task you undertake
There are some changes you must make;
Whether two, or three, it's very clear to me, that:
A little bit of white-out helps the bulletin go down,
Bulletin go down, bulletin go down,
Just a little bit of white-out helps the bulletin go
down,
In a much more peaceful way.
Tho' you've given it your best
Some things can put you to the test,
When you're typing up the program for the week.
Sometimes changes in the text
Make you wonder, "Lord, what's next!"
But you'll get through
If your white-out is with you.

Now while your there at your new job
Don't ever let your duties rob
You of the tricks you've mastered at the Church,
Before you fly into a rage
Or tear up a new page,
Don't screech! Just reach
For that jar of paper bleach!

1980

TRIVIA QUESTION: What was the first name of a Redeemer publishing company?

Answer: Not Distributing.

"THE SOUNDS OF CRY HOSANNA", CONT.

If you are not doing your best
You will be put to the test,
And all will know exactly where you are.
Though the anthem may be high,
It does no good to cry
Because the notes are 'way above the bar.

If you cannot change the plans,
When all else fails, raise your hands
And perhaps you will discover that, in spite,
Of the highness of the key,
You will gain the victory
When you praise the Lord above with all your might!

How do you make the sounds of Cry Hosanna?
How do you celebrate the whole of it?
How do you find the way to cry "Hosanna"?
I think I have shown,
A few that I've known
A bit!

Many a thing a choir director can tell you.
Many a thing another one could share.
I probably have forgot
Some that might help a lot,
But these are the ones of which I am most aware.

Oh, how do you make the sounds of Cry Hosanna?
Mostly, you worship the Lord without a care.

"You sound like the girl in a pretty dress with spinach
between her teeth". -BOG

"THE SOUND OF LIVING WATERS", Cont.

But I will be blessed
With the sound of music,
And I'll praise the Lord!

"The sound is like you were trickling on top of stones and they opened a reservoir". -BOG

TRIVIA QUESTION: "What was the name of the church cat who attempted to process in front of the choir at one of Redeemer's Sunday services?"

Answer: "Hallelujah!"

TRIVIA QUESTION: "What ministry won the first talent show at Redeemer?"

Answer: "The choir".

TRIVIA QUESTION: "Where were Redeemer's first three music albums recorded?"

Answer: "The Villa de Matel".

TRIVIA QUESTION: "Who said "moah" and "moah" during confirmation services?"

Answer: Bishop Richardson.

TRIVIA QUESTION: "Who was the dog pictured on Redeemer's first children's album?"

Answer: "Amos." (He belonged to the Mims)

TRIVIA QUESTION: "Who wrote "Where are My Socks and My Underwear?"

Answer: "Bill Cavnar." (Not the East End Onion - she always knew where hers were!)

And still one more...

TRIVIA QUESTION: "Who shared songs at the Friday night services accompanied by the autoharp?"

Answer: "Nan Pagano." (Now Credle).

"THOSE WERE THE DAYS"

(Written for a friend who was moving to the Isle of Cumbrae,
Scotland, to join the Community of Celebration there.)

Since you're moving to Cumbrae
And it is so far away,
I hope you will find a way
To remember these days.

Colorado was so cold!
There was not a note that you could hold.
Even in the choir it snowed;
Those were the days!

Lent went on at least a year;
"Sacrifice" was all you'd hear!
Everlasting life was great,
But man, you needed a break!

Basses didn't give much sass.
Warm-ups didn't give you gas.
We never had to sing the Mass;
Those were the days!

It didn't matter where you sat:
Everybody knew where you were at
Because the choir was always flat;
Those were the days!

Descants didn't top the staff.
Rehearsals would be cut in half.
Choir practice was a laugh!
Those were the days!

"A good rehearsal sometimes takes us off our toes." -BOG

"Water off a duck's back is not rhythm." -BOG

"THE SOUND OF LIVING WATERS"

(This was written during the recording of the album "O, For A Thousand Tongues" in 1979. It is not a parody of the Fisher-Folk title "The Sound of Living Waters".)

TUNE: THE SOUND OF MUSIC

My day in the choir has come to an end, I know,
And my vital signs tell me it's time to go.
But deep in the dark green shadows
Is a voice to urge me to stay:
So I pause and I wait and I listen,
For one more take, for one more added change
That George might make!

The choir is alive
With the sound of living waters.
The sound they have made
With a thousand tongues.
The songs fill my head
Like the sound of living waters,
And now how I wish I had iron lungs!

My voice wants to rest after every song we sing
Since there are so many takes left.
I wait for the end of a line so I
Can hurry and catch my breath.
I choke on my voice as it trips and falls
Over notes on the way;
But to hear puns all night,
Makes me wish that I didn't have to stay!

I know he will say
To do this 'take' over;
I know I will hear
What I've heard before...

CONTINUED...

"IF WE WERE A RICH CHURCH"

(Given as part of the skit "Fiddler on the Organ" for the Redeemer Reunion, June 1987).

If we were a rich church,
We wouldn't have to worry about having mouths to feed.
All day long we'd all be at sharing,
Waiting for the Lord to lead!

We wouldn't have to work hard.
We could sit around all day and play on our guitars.
If we were a very wealthy church,
Everything we needed would be ours!

We'd build a great big organ with pipes by the dozen
Right in the middle of the nave;
A fine-tuned piece with a telephone right below!
There'd be one long pipe to cover all the basses,
And hundreds for trebles coming down.
And several playing nothing, just for show!

I'd fill my vegetable basket up to the rim
With only the things that I liked.
(Squash would never come into my house!)
The Cattle Program would give me all of the steak
And prime rib that I could eat,
And I would live the life of J. R.'s spouse!

Oh, if we were a rich church,
There'd be plenty of trained voices to sing notes above the "C".
If we were a very wealthy church,
George would never call one me!

But if we were a rich church,
Perhaps we would be missing something money cannot buy.
Every one of us here in this place
Has known the kind of love that doesn't die.

1987 by Teresa R. Moore

TUNE: "IF I WERE A RICH MAN", from the Broadway Musical
FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.

"It's my prerogative to pick and choose you like vegetables
because I'm the director." -BOG

"I believe that every vegetable in my house is used for the
Lord." -BOG

TRIVIA QUESTION: What special circumstances attended the
birth of John Michael Schiffmayer?

Answer: Fr. Jeff received the news on the phone
in the middle of a Sunday morning service.
The phone was on the organ!

"TRADITION"

(The second selection from "Fiddler on the Organ", performed at the Redeemer Reunion, June, 1987).

Who day and night must go to all the meetings,
Counsel all the people, lead the Common Prayers?
And who has the right as Head of the Household
To have the final word at home?

The Elders! The Elders! Tradition!
The Elders! The Elders! Tradition!

Who must know the way to make the children sit
Through the service, all of it?
Who must stay at home with them when they are sick,
And read to them until the fever's gone?

The Nanny's! The Nanny's! Tradition!
The Nanny's! The Nanny's! Tradition!

And who must start to take some more responsibility;
So that they can be in charge, eventually?

The Supports! The Supports! Tradition!
The Supports! The Supports! Tradition!

And who did George Mims teach to sing in parts from two to six,
Preparing them to share some day whatever songs he picks?

The Choir! The Choir! Tradition!
The Choir! The Choir! Tradition!

And who do you think supported all the households
Out in the workplace, punching the clock?
So everyone could take a vacation,
Some weekend to the Ranch?

Wage-Earners! Wage-Earners! Tradition!
Wage-Earners! Wage-Earners! Tradition!

Tradition! Tradition!
Tradition! Tradition!

1987 by Teresa R. Moore

TUNE: "TRADITION" from the Broadway Musical FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.

Elders, Nanny's, Supports, Choir Members and Wage Earners were specific positions held by community members. These were vital functions in the identity of the community centered around the Church of the Redeemer.

"BETTY JANE, LEADER OF THE FAITHFUL", Cont.

So then, I'll sing you this song that I have writ-
'Cause this way I can be sure that these notes I
can hit!

Out of heaven an angel spoke and said,
"Are you insane?
You don't have to force yourself to sing like
Betty Jane!"
Oh, Lord, I thank you, that I can sing this song
On the birthday of my friend, though the notes are
surely wrong!

Betty Jane, leader of the faithful,
I believe God spoke to her.
Betty Jane, leader of the faithful,
I'm never gonna sing like her!!!

"Singing is the body." -BOG

"That felt like moving lard on a splintery board." -BOG

TRIVIA QUESTION: Describe two different types of choir robes
worn at Redeemer.

Answer: Black robes with beanies, followed by brown
monks' garb for men and acqua for the women.

*Timberline was the name of the construction company operated
by the Community of Celebration in Woodland Park, CO.

COME AND DINE, O.K.?!!

Jesus has the table spread
But the saints of God are dead!
He invites His "frozen chosen"
"Come and Dine!"
They say His manna they don't need,
"Cause His Word they just don't read
And to sit and be with Jesus wastes their time.

"Come and dine", the Master calleth,
"Come and dine!"
"I've prepared for you a table set so fine."
But it seems the multitudes
Aren't hungry at this time,
So they just don't want to eat His food sublime.

Many Christians go to church
But they want to sit and perch
As the pastor calls to them,
"O, come and dine!"
They can't find their hearts desire
'Cause the world's put out their fire,
So they go home hungry every time.

Soon the Lord will come again,
His faithful ones to gather in
To His home in heaven for eternity.
But t'will be a sad, sad sight
For the saints who have no light
'Cause they didn't eat the food that sets men free.

2007 by Teresa R. Moore

Written for Molly and Alan Mills' "Soup, Song and Puzzle" Gathering

WHAT COULD BE BETTER?

What could be better than to come and dine
With these friends of ours, so fine?
As in old times we're gathered in bunches
Eating our own brown bag lunches.

What could be better than to reminisce
About those things we sometimes miss?
Community was a powerful place -
We were the first to be "in your face"!

What could be better than that gathering
Known to all as the "family meeting"?
On Sunday night we'd sit and discuss
All the stuff that bothered us!

What could be better than "morning sharing"
Around a table of love and caring?
We'd sit with our bibles and try to make
Sense of the Scriptures, tho' barely awake!

What could be better than to hear the Lord
And find healing in the Living Word?
We'd ask the Spirit for clarity
And when it came, how happy we'd be!

What could be better than to be free
Of the newest technology?
Instead of reaching for our I-Pod,
We'd all join hands and talk to God!

What could be better than to work at the church
Where in the parish hall we'd search
For somebody on the maintenance crew
Who had the keys to let us through!

23. in-Common

- a. something you share with your common-law spouse
- b. holdings commonly held by a group of people
- c. all nouns that are not capitalized

24. "fruit-basket" turnover

- a. when several households move people around at the same time
- b. when membership changes on the Vestry
- c. when a crate falls off a produce truck and shuts down the free-way.

25. Bi-lingual service

- a. an intense Vestry meeting
- b. a service where tongues are spoken
- c. a service conducted in both Spanish and English

19. Vigorous

- a. extremely healthy
- b. too intense
- c. hard-headed

20. shared life

- a. intentional accessibility and vulnerability to others in the Body of Christ
- b. living together outside of marriage
- c. communism

21. laid down

- a. what someone desires to do after a long Vestry meeting
- b. placed on the table
- c. voluntary surrender of one's personal agenda for the good of the whole

22. raised-up

- a. elevated to a position of leadership
- b. what we will be when Jesus returns
- c. how dough looks if the expiration date hasn't been passed on the yeast.

14. "Head"

- a. the leader of a ministry
- b. the top of the class
- c. hippie jargon for a "cool dude"

15. unanimity

- a. the infinity of the universe
- b. total agreement by all
- c. wishful thinking

16. Corporate

- a. a policy for stockholders
- b. a level of management
- c. belonging to everyone

17. Leaders

- a. people lower than "heads" and elders
- b. elected officials
- c. people with designated leadership roles

18. "in-charge"

- a. when you purchase something at Redeemer Books on credit
- b. when you are in authority over a situation
- c. when you are the one with the keys and everyone needs you

10. sister

- a. a kindred spirit
- b. a sibling of the female sex
- c. a female member at a fundamentalist church

11. household

- a. a group of people sharing expenses for a house
- b. a group of people sharing a common vision and living together
- c. any word that is part of the language of the masses, i.e. a household word

12. pastor

- a. someone you look to for spiritual counsel
- b. someone who asks you for spiritual counsel
- c. someone who finished seminary but is not ordained in the Episcopal church.

13. "Hearing the Lord"

- a. hearing an audible voice from heaven
- b. justifying yourself or your opinions
- c. a confirmation of a direction one believes the Holy Spirit is showing

5. elders

- a. - a group of overseers
- b. - a senior citizen group
- c. - someone related to Jocelyn

6. Redeemer time

- a. 7:30 p.m.
- b. anytime
- c. 12 p.m.

7. calling

- a. a Divine initiative
- b. a visit from an Avon lady
- c. an emergency meeting of the Vestry

8. Vision

- a. something Eye-Master's can help with
- b. a revelation
- c. a direction you hope everyone else will endorse

9. brother

- a. a kindred spirit
- b. a sibling of the male sex
- c. a member of your club

Redeemer-eze Final Exam

Circle the letter that best describes the meaning of the following words or phrases:

1. Community

- a. an exclusive group of people
- b. a section of town
- c. we're still trying to figure it out.

2. commitment -

- a. a pledge
- b. something you make when you like how things are going
- c. a prison sentence

3. fellowship

- a. what you have had with people you like.
- b. a group of male sailors
- c. friendliness or companionship

4. submitted

- a. under water
- b. under someone's authority.
- c. An order placed at Subway

"I Wonder as I Wonder"

I wonder as I wonder
When the song sheet I read
Changes each week
With such furious speed.
Are there others who wonder,
And ponder, indeed,
Just where all the changes
Are going to lead?
Will there still be descants?
Will we sing the Creed?

I wonder as I wonder
What on earth will become
Of classical music?
OH, I'm sure there'll be some...
But what of rehearsals
That last 'til we're numb?
Will guitarists still practice,
For the perfect strum?

Will there still be anthems?
Will small groups still sing?
Will oboes and clarinets
Make our tunes swing?
And what of the song books
That we used bring
So we would be ready
For some unplanned thing?

I wonder as I wonder
Through the songs of praise,
Is God up to something?
Are we in a new phase?
Of course, we all know
There are thousands of ways
To sing of His mercy
And infinite grace.
May He always be glorified
Here in this place!

"MUTUAL CELEBRATION SOCIETY"

(This was written in 1981 after Graham Pulkingham had made some presentations to the Redeemer parish on his proposed "Society of Celebration").

TUNE: "MUTUAL ADMIRATION SOCIETY", from "Happy Hunting"

We belong to a mutual admiration society;
Tho' it isn't an actual Celebration society.

He says we'll have a common pot if we just give it all
we've got,
And there will be a corporate rector to advise the
private sector,
And a spiritual advisor to make me a little wiser---
So I will know which way I ought to go.

No matter if I'm in the Chapter there is one redeeming
factor:
If I commit a misdemeanor there will be a just Convenor.
We are sure to have a quorum when there needs to be a
forum---
It's one good way to pass the time of day!

Now, our "unqualified devotion" is what keeps this thing
in motion,
And though a novice I may be, it seems very plain to me
That if I ever have a beau he will surely have to know:
He'll either fit, or I'll "celibate the whole of it"!!!

"...not a field of variegated daisies, daffodils, anemones;
but a field of black-eyed susans." -BOG

"The Civic Association meeting is where you will meet most of
the people who go there." -BOG

"BETTY JANE, LEADER OF THE FAITHFUL"

(Written for Betty Pulkingham before she moved to Post Green, England from Woodland Park, CO. in September 1983).

TUNE: "ABRAHAM, FATHER OF THE FAITHFUL"

Betty Jane, leader of the faithful;
I believe God spoke to her.
Betty Jane, leader of the faithful;
Someday, I'm gonna sing like her!

Tho' she is a-going to a land so far away,
She can't leave before this song, 'cause that's
what I heard God say.
Tho' she is a-leaving all her descants behind,
I'll never learn to sing them,
'Cause God never had that in mind!

A very good friend is Betty, and a wonderful
woman, too;
But she doesn't have any idea what her descants
are comin' too!
When I joined the choir I thought I was so bold,
Until we hit those descants,
And my voice turned blue with cold!

I said: "Take these descants, and sing them on
your own.
I never would have joined you if I had to sing
them all alone!"
She said, "No, you sing along. I'll sit right
by your side,
And every time you lose the pitch, I'll sing out
so you can hide."

Betty, oh, Betty, I hope you understand
I love your music and your songs, but the descants
are out of hand!

CONTINUED....

"GEORGE HAS GONE OUT WITH A BANG!!!", CONT.

Pray for the organ in the sky!

Pray for the organ in the sky!

Listen to him shouting (at the sopranos)!

To his thundering (at the basses)!

And acknowledge the power of George!!!

"Be careful because I realize I excite some of you!"-BOG

TRIVIA QUESTION: What 'going away' present did the alto section of the Redeemer choir give to George Mims in 1983?

Answer: A size 44-D bra.

TRIVIA QUESTION: What ministry was for years a place of healing and teaching in our church, and often had in it membership guests and newcomers?

Answer: The Maintenance Crew .

TRIVIA QUESTION: What going away gift was given to the Woodland Park Community of Celebration by the Redeemer carpenters?

Answer: Extra-heavy bunk beds.

TRIVIA QUESTION: When did the first wave of people leave to establish the Community of Celebration in Woodland Park?

Answer: September 6, 1975 at 6 A.M.

TRIVIA QUESTION: Who was the first set designer for the "Way In" Coffeehouse?

Answer: Marie Haeffner.

"GEORGE HAS GONE OUT WITH A BANG!"

(In 1983 George Mims left Church of the Redeemer for a new position in New York City. Some members of the choir and congregation gave me an expense-paid trip to Houston so I could sing to him at his farewell party. This was his final good-bye song).

TUNE: "GOD HAS GONE UP WITH A SHOUT!"

George has gone out with a bang!
The choir can go on vacation!
George, we have descanted on high--
You have led the sopranos captive!
And received flack from them!

George has gone out with a bang!
Sing those descants again;
All sopranos on earth sing descants!

Blessed be this man
Day after day; day after day:
This man who led us,
And plays the organ.

Oh, frightened voice sore wounded,
That's flat and monotone.
Oh, simple voice surrounded
By small groups singing in turn.
What descant mars thy solo?
Can pitch thy voice empower?
Oh, countenance whose terror
The face of George ignores!

This 'bod of ours is a bod that sings!
This 'bod of ours is a bod that sings!

Sing those descants again,
All sopranos on earth, sing descants!!!

CONTINUED.....