



**PRAISE ARTS FOR CREATIVE KIDS**

**Whitesburg Baptist Church**  
**Kids' Choirs**  
**Parent Handbook**

**2022-2023 Choir Theme:**

**SHORT STORIES, TALL TRUTHS**  
**LIFE LESSONS from the PARABLES OF JESUS**

# The Benefits of Choir

1. Choir allows children to praise God with body, mind, spirit, and voice.
2. Singing is a gift you can give children that will last their entire lives.
3. Choir creates a sound track for life—a faith database of scriptural truth.
4. Choir plants scriptural truth in the brain through rhythm, rhyme, and repetition for a lifetime.
5. Choir makes a significant contribution to a child's understanding of God and the experience of worship and worship leadership.
6. Choir develops a deeper appreciation for spiritual truth communicated in an artistic context.
7. Choir helps children develop creative problem-solving skills.
8. Movement activities in choir stimulate the development of the inner ear, which impacts coordination and athletic ability.
9. Choir offers movement activities that cross the midline, which stimulate communication between the left brain and right brain.
10. Songs in choir combine text, melody, harmony, rhythm, and movement, activating the higher learning centers of the brain.
11. Choir develops discipline, concentration, cooperation, and self-confidence, which carry over into other areas of singers' lives.
12. Choir involves reading, anticipating, listening, and memorization skills that enhance academic pursuits.
13. Choir helps the 17 percent of children who need special instruction to discover their singing voice.
14. Choir helps children learn to use the singing voice properly.
15. Choir gives children an inside glimpse of other cultures and helps build bridges to other people groups.
16. Choir focuses on doing rather than observing, teaching children to engage in their tasks.
17. Choir presentations help children conquer fear and take positive risks.
18. Choir includes rhythmic activities, which help children develop sequential ordering and organizational skills.
19. Choir gives children an opportunity to discover and use their creative gifts.
20. Choir gives children worthy heroes and role models.

# Children's Choirs 2022 - 2023 Calendar

**Regular choir sessions: Sundays 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.**  
**(Dates are subject to change.)**

August 14	Choir Kick Off/Session 1
August 21	Choir session 2
August 28	Choir session 3
<b>Sept. 4</b>	<b>No Choir</b> (Labor Day weekend)
Sept. 11	Choir session 4
Sept. 18	Choir session 5
Sept. 25	Choir session 6
<b>October 2</b>	<b>No Choir</b> (Fall Break)
<b>October 9</b>	<b>No Choir</b> (WBC Tate Farms Night)
October 16	Choir session 7
October 23	Choir session 8
October 30	Choir session 9
November 6	Choir session 10
November 13	Choir session 11
November 20	Choir session 12
November 27	Choir session 13
<b>December 3 (Saturday)</b>	<b>Extra Rehearsal Grades 1-5 only. 10: 45 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.</b>
<b>December 4</b>	<b>Grades 1-5 sing in Morning Services: 9:30 &amp; 11:00 a.m. Dress Rehearsal: (Grades 1-5 only): 8:30 a.m. in Worship Center</b>
December 11	<b>No Choir</b>
December 18	<b>No Choir</b>
December 25	<b>No Choir</b>

January 8	Choir session 14
January 15	Choir session 15
January 22	Choir session 16
January 29	Choir session 17
February 5	Choir session 18
<b>February 12</b>	<b>No Choir</b> (Life Action Conference)
February 19	Choir session 19
February 26	Choir session 20
March 5	Choir session 21
<b>March 12</b>	<b>No Choir</b> (Spring Break)
March 19	Choir Session 22
March 26	Choir session 23
April 2	Choir session 24
<b>April 9</b>	<b>No Choir</b> (Easter)
April 16	Choir session 25
April 23	Choir session 26
<b>April 29 (Saturday)</b>	<b>Extra Rehearsal Grades 1-5 only 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.</b>
<b>April 30</b>	<b>Children's Choir Night (End-of-Year Concert): 5:30 p.m. Dress Rehearsal: 3:00 p.m. (Grades 1-5 only)</b>  Preschool Choirs meet at 4:15 p.m.

# 2022-2023 Kids' Choir Workers

## Julie Cook, Kids' Choir Coordinator

julie.cook@whitesburgchristianacademy.org

### **Cherub Choir (PreK)**

(age 4 by 9/1/2022)

#### **Room 143**

Eva Ingerson, Co-Director

Kate Buss, Co-Director

Alesha McCluney

### **Music Makers (1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> Graders)**

#### **Room 247**

Wendy Dye, Co-Director

Melissa Romine, Co-Director

Erin Hitt

Cindy Tapp

### **Angel Choir (Kindergarten)**

(age 5 by 9/1/2022)

#### **Room 144**

Raine Wohlwend, Co-Director

Rebekah Wohlwend, Co-Director

Kaci Stroud

Jennifer Whitman

### **Young Musician Boys**

(3rd-4th-5th Grade boys)

#### **Room 244**

Julie Cook, Director

Carolyn Warren

### **Young Musician Girls**

(3rd-4th-5th Grade girls)

#### **Room 250**

Suzanna Clymer, Director

Marla Daves

Susan Lee

## **The Purpose of the Children's Music Ministry**

Church music education is to teach the whole child—spiritually, physically, emotionally, and morally. The role of teachers is to teach music in a positive, purposeful, expressive, and relevant way. The end of this teaching is that our children gain spiritual truths and understanding through music, and are capable of participating in the corporate worship experience of our church.

The Bible says SING: “psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God.” (Colossians 3:16)

The Bible says SING: “a new song... with a joyful shout.” (Psalm 33:3)

The Bible says SING: “to God! Sing praises to His Name!” (Psalm 68:4)



## Our Curriculum

We use the **Growing in Grace** curriculum, a comprehensive, scripturally-based music curriculum designed to nourish children while engaging multiple learning styles. The heart of Growing in Grace is the music. The songs appearing in each unit have been carefully written to ensure they are developmentally appropriate for the child, both theologically and musically. With understandable texts, singable melodies, and interesting accompaniments, these songs will help each child develop his or her natural singing skills, increase in musical knowledge, and grow spiritually. Although singing is our primary focus, other activities, such as games, focused listening, instruments, movement, speech, and drama, are integral components of the curriculum. Find out more about the Growing in Grace curriculum at [www.growing-in-grace.com](http://www.growing-in-grace.com).

## **SHORT STORIES, TALL TRUTHS** **LIFE LESSONS from the PARABLES OF JESUS**

## Our Theme

The theme for this choir year is “**Short Stories, Tall Truths.**” This curriculum draws from some of the best-known words of Jesus — the Parables. Through developmentally appropriate songs and activities, children will delve into six parables at the heart of Christian faith and will be challenged to connect with Jesus through biblical lessons that have withstood the test of time.

# “Hymns in My Heart”

## Hymn Memorization Program



As part of our Choir curriculum, we study several hymns throughout the choir year. We usually focus on each hymn for 4-6 weeks. In addition to singing the hymns, we also teach the children the Scriptural basis for each hymn and teach some background information about the hymn writers. We encourage children to memorize each hymn, and have established an **optional** Hymn memorization program to reward those children who do memorize one or more hymns. Our goal is for the children to memorize five hymns during the choir year. The number of verses memorized varies according to age. For most hymns, our goal is for Kindergarten, 1st, and 2nd grade children to memorize the first verse of each hymn. The goal for 3rd graders is to memorize two verses, usually the first and last, and 4th/5th graders usually learn three verses of most hymns. (Typically, the first, second, and last verses.) These goals are modified for some of the more difficult hymns.

**Why memorize hymns?** Have you ever stopped to think how much of your Christian faith and strength is drawn from the hymns we sing? For many Christians, the hymnal has become a devotional guide and a source of inspiration, knowledge of Christian doctrine, and a vehicle of personal evangelism. For children, the knowledge of hymns is very important in their personal spiritual pilgrimage. From hymns children learn about God and God's love, Jesus and his act of redemption, and about the need to minister to others and to share our faith.

Children may choose a small prize for each verse sung, from memory, to a choir worker. Children who memorize all five hymns (the number of verses will vary according to age of child) will receive an award that may be worn at the end-of-the-year choir program in May. Medals are awarded to those children memorizing all five hymns for the first time. Children who have received a medal in past years will earn a pin to wear on the ribbon of their medal.

Hymn verses may be sung to a choir worker at any time during the choir year, even though we may have moved on to a new hymn. Participation in the hymn memorization program is optional. Although we work on the hymns during choir time, children wishing to earn a memorization award will need to spend time working on the hymns at home as well. When we begin working on each new hymn, your child will receive a hymn information sheet which will include some background information about the hymn, the words and music to the hymn, and the memorization goal for each age group. Whenever possible, mp3 files &/or video links of each hymn are made available for listening.

# Registration

Registration is open throughout the choir year. Children's Choirs are open to all children ages four (by 9/1/2022) through fifth grade—WBC membership is not required. There is no fee required to participate. Pre-registration is encouraged. Online registration is preferred & is available at <https://forms.office.com/r/BLWZzWvYx0>, or scan the QR code below. If you prefer a paper registration form, they are available in the Children's and Preschool lobbies on Sunday evenings, or contact Julie Cook at [julie.cook@whitesburgchristianacademy.org](mailto:julie.cook@whitesburgchristianacademy.org) to have a form emailed to you.

Scan QR code for online registration form:



# Volunteers

It takes many volunteers to staff a quality choir program. Musical training is not required—just a love for children. Several of our choirs are in need of an additional helper or two. All volunteers must complete our Child Protection Policy Training. If you would like to volunteer in our choir program, please contact Julie Cook at [julie.cook@whitesburgchristianacademy.org](mailto:julie.cook@whitesburgchristianacademy.org) or 256-603-8991.

# Singing in Church

Children in Music Makers & Young Musicians choirs (grades 1-5) will lead in worship by singing several songs at the beginning of the morning services (9:30 & 11:00 a.m.) on **Sunday, December 4, 2022**

Our end of the year concert is **Sunday April 30, 2023**. The Cherub Choir (PreK), Angel Choir (K), Music Makers, and Young Musicians will present a concert in the Worship Center.

Please note: WBC Worship Services are live-streamed, and the live-stream video is usually archived on the WBC website and on the WBC YouTube channel. When the children sing in a service, they will be included in the live-stream. This includes our Choir Concerts as well as whenever the children sing for Sunday morning services. By bringing your child to sing with his/her choir for a Worship Service, you are consenting for him/her to appear on the Live-Stream as well as the archived video.