

## **Chalice Singer and Chalice Bells 2017-2018 Annual Report**

### **Chalice Singers**

Director of Worship and Music Dr. Glen Thomas Rideout leads the music ministries at UUAA, and serves as the director of the Chalice Singers, who rehearse weekly from September through May. A highlight of this year will be the 4th annual BIGsing held on May 19-20, 2018, which is expected to draw an enthusiastic group of singers from the congregation and the region. This concert will feature innovative programming pairing Mozart's Requiem with several African-American Spirituals. The Requiem will be performed with orchestral accompaniment and invited soloists. The BIGsing provides an experience in music and community that reaches far beyond the walls of sanctuary.

The Chalice Singers are supported by an active team of volunteers from within the ensemble, who assist with score preparation, social events, the BIGsing, sectional rehearsals, and program note writing for the Order of Service. Of note is the work of the congregation's pianist-in-residence, Allison Halerz; Allison is most visible during Sunday worship but plays a vital collaborative role in rehearsals for both the Chalice Singers and the Chalice Sparks.

Music at UUAA continues to grow each year; the Chalice Singers now number close to 70 voices. Beyond the choir, the sound of the voices of this congregation singing on any given Sunday is clear evidence of how essential music is to the spiritual well-being of UUAA.

### **Chalice Bells**

The Chalice Bells have completed their second full year under the direction of Theresa Rohlck, rehearsing weekly September – December and February – May. The group welcomes new musicians to the community of ringers. The Chalice Bells are present in worship several times a year, and continue to collaborate with the Chalice Sparks and/or the Chalice Singers. In Fall 2017, the group participated in a workshop focusing on playing technique led by Susan Berry.

The Chalice Bells hosted the Detroit Handbell Ensemble for a performance at UUAA in early December 2017. The free concert was open to the public and was well attended. The Detroit group was very impressed with our beautiful space, the acoustics in the Sanctuary, and the warm welcome provided by the Chalice Bells. They have expressed interest in returning to our space in the future.

The group has worked on expanding its repertoire to include some less traditional pieces, including some works specifically for handchimes. In addition, we are beginning to tackle some challenging small ensemble playing (handbell quartet) that we hope will be part of worship in the coming year.