

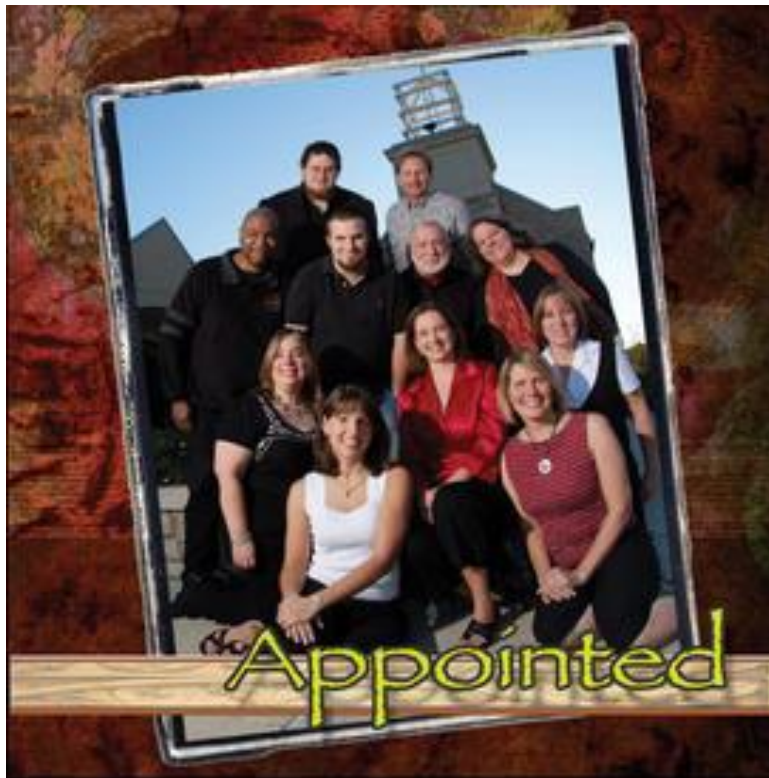
Thursday January 8, 2009

Album marks success of praise church's band

by [Charlotte Ferrell Smith](#)

Daily Mail staff

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- The members of the praise band at St. Timothy Lutheran Church trickled into the congregation a little at a time.



Appointed, the Praise Band at St. Timothy Lutheran Church, has released its first CD. Band members kneeling in front, from left, are Terri Powell and Elaine Hackman. On the second row are Nancy Vatalare, Rachel Driggs and Cindy Giardina. On the third row are Philip Washington, Brandon Hughes, Rob Burdette and Jenny Morris. In the back are James Townsend and Mike Greene.

"We started about six years ago when a few people did contemporary music for services," said Rachel Driggs, worship leader. "In the last four or five years, it really took off. We believe the Lord just brought them to us. We have six musicians and five vocalists."

What began as a church ministry has expanded with the praise band, called Appointed, traveling to other venues in West Virginia, Ohio and Maryland. In December, Appointed released its first CD and titled it with the same name as the band.

"People asked for a CD, and a generous donor funded it," said Driggs, who is lead vocalist. The CD was recorded in August with Steve Riley of Smash Hits Studio in Huntington. Songs selected for the CD are those that the band loves most and those frequently requested.

The songs are "Forever," "Again & Again," "God of Wonders," "More of You, Jesus," "Majestic," "Made Me Glad," "No Sweeter Name," "The More I Seek You," "Sing to the King," and "Mighty to Save."

"The music is uplifting and encouraging," she said.

While the music is mostly contemporary, the band also does a variety that includes hymns and gospel tunes. Members are now writing some original tunes and hope to release a second CD.

Driggs said God has blessed St. Timothy with a growing congregation. Sharing the praise band's music with others is a ministry for the church, she said.

"We consider our gift a gift to the community and the body of Christ," she said. "God has given us such an opportunity to go encourage people not to give up on their faith. We give testimony as to what God has done."

The rest of the band includes Rob Burdette, acoustic guitar; Cindy Giardina, vocals; Mike Greene, keyboard and vocals; Elaine Hackman, vocals; Brandon Hughes, drums; Jenny Morris, oboe, recorder and percussion; Terri Powell, vocals; James Townsend, acoustic guitar, electric guitar and vocals; Joe Vatalare, sound technician; Nancy Vatalare, vocals; and Philip Washington, bass and vocals.

St. Timothy Lutheran Church is located at 900 Lawndale Lane, Charleston. The pastor is the Rev. Richard Mahan, who is one of 15 revivalists in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America.

St. Timothy is one of 65 congregations in the West Virginia-Maryland Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of American.

Mahan and the praise band travel together to other churches.

"The idea is to bring revival back to the church," Mahan said. "A big portion of that is music. That has become an intricate part of revivals. Praise music is really uplifting in our worship services."

During regular services, St. Timothy has a mix of music that includes hymns, choir anthems and the praise band.

"The praise band has revitalized our worship service," Mahan said.

The CD is available on the church Web site at <http://www.sttimothy.com/> or by calling the church at 304-343-0424. Cost is \$15 each, \$12 for each additional one, and \$10 each for those who purchase 10 or more. Proceeds go into a fund for travel and other band expenses.