



FROM THE CHOIRMASTER

EDWARD E. JONES

*Gund University Organist and Choirmaster
in the Memorial Church*



November is a time of remembrance and reflection in the Memorial Church, and in that spirit I look back on a very busy and successful two months for our music department, while looking forward to the many musical offerings in the coming months.

At the start of the Fall Term [we welcomed Thomas](#)

[Sheehan to the staff of the Memorial Church](#) as Assistant University Organist and Choirmaster. Prior to his appointment, Tom served on the music staff of Saint Mark's Church in Philadelphia, and Trinity Episcopal Church in Princeton, New Jersey; he is a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music, and Westminster Choir College. Tom has already become a valued member of our staff, and wowed congregation and choir alike with his postlude on [Freshman Sunday](#) — a thrilling rendition of Langlais's *Fête*, from memory! I am thoroughly enjoying our work together: a wonderful all-round musician, Tom is not only a superb organist, but a harpsichordist, pianist, and conductor too.

The Harvard University Choir returned to St. Paul's School, Concord, New Hampshire, at the start of October for its annual retreat, which ended with evensong in the school's beautiful chapel, featuring music by Howells and Bainton. The following afternoon, we welcomed the St. Paul's choir to Harvard and repeated the service in Appleton Chapel to an enthusiastic congregation.

On [Sunday, October 12, we celebrated the official installation of the Reverend Dr. Lucy Forster-Smith](#) as Senior Minister in the Memorial Church and Sedgwick Chaplain to the University. The music included the world premiere of Composer-in-Residence Carson Cooman's

In This Issue:

From the Choirmaster	1–2
A Space of Radical Hospitality	3–4
From Our Ministry Fellow	4
Financial Report	5
In Photos: A Space of Grace	6–7

The Guest House, on a text chosen by Dr. Forster-Smith, as well as works by two famous Minnesota composers with connections to Lucy: Libby Larsen and Stephen Paulus. The following Sunday, Stephen Paulus — who had been in a coma since July 2013 — passed away: the memory of that performance of his stirring *Pilgrims' Hymn* will remain with me for a long time.

The main highlight of the Spring Term was a performance of C. P. E. Bach's *Die Israeliten in der Wüste* ([which can be watched through the church website](#)), in celebration of the composer's 300th anniversary; similarly, on Sunday, October 19, the Harvard University Choir and the period orchestra Grand Harmonie gave a concert performance of Christoph Willibald Gluck's seminal opera

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Edward Jones directing the choir during Lucy Forster-Smith's installation service on Sunday, October 12.

(From the Choirmaster continued...)

Orfeo ed Euridice, honoring his 300th anniversary. It was a wonderful afternoon, and the Memorial Church was filled with an audience of nearly 400 for this free presentation. The soloists — Julia Mintzer, Amanda Forsythe, and Margot Rood — gave compelling performances, as did the choir in all their various guises, but particularly as the infernal spirits of the work's thrilling second act. This concert, too, will soon be available to watch online through the church website, where [archived audio content](#) can be found, and where you can also sign up to join our main mailing list. In addition, [the choir's latest CD, Spring Bursts Today: A Celebration of Eastertide, is available to download for free.](#)

Our Sunday and daily services have been filled with a wide variety of repertoire, including Bernstein's "Urah, hanevel" from the *Chichester Psalms*, Weelkes's *O Lord Arise*, Schubert's *Mass in G Major*, and Bach's fifth motet, *Komm, Jesu, komm*. To commemorate [the Feast of All Saints and All Souls](#), the choir presented selections from Fauré's *Requiem* on November 2, and on November 9, it offered works by Parry and Vaughan Williams during the [Commemoration of Benefactors and War Dead service](#), which this year marked the centenary of the outbreak of World War I. On Sunday, November 16, the Choral Fellows participated in the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra's fall concert with a performance of Johann Christoph Bach's remarkable wedding dialogue "Meine Freundin, du bist Schön." The choir is busy preparing for the 105th annual Christmas Carol services (on Sunday, December 14 at 5:00 p.m., and Monday, December 15 at 8:00 p.m.) which include a commission from uchoir alum Ronald Perera to a text of Longfellow; [WHRB](#) will broadcast and stream Sunday's service live.

The 2014–15 organ recital series is off to a wonderful start: Tom Sheehan gave the inaugural recital, which featured Reubke's majestic setting of the ninety-fourth psalm. On Sunday, September 21, the Memorial Church hosted a benefit recital, given by the distinguished recitalist and pedagogue William Porter, to raise support for the restoration of Skinner Op. 708 in the Parish of All Saints, Ashmont. Connections between our two institutions are many, and long-established — including the tenure of the third University Organist and Choirmaster Archibald T. Davison ("Doc" Davison) as organist of All Saints from 1906—1910. I am delighted to announce that the afternoon's efforts raised the requisite amount of money, and I am excited to see — and hear — the results in the coming months in Ashmont.

Next Term will be a particularly busy one for the Harvard University Choir. In January, the group will embark on a mini-tour of New York City (January 22), New Haven (January 23), and Worcester MA (January 24) before participating in workshops and masterclasses with Sir John Eliot Gardiner during his residency at Harvard. Building on the success of the uchoir reunion in the fall of 2012, we will be hosting another reunion in March 2015; the spring concert will be an [ARTS FIRST](#) presentation of Handel's majestic oratorio *Athalia*, featuring internationally acclaimed soprano Dominique Labelle in the title role, and the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra.

It continues to be a privilege to serve in the Memorial Church under the inspiring leadership of Professor Jonathan L. Walton, and to work with such wonderful colleagues and students. On Christmas Eve, our 5:00 p.m. worship service will feature a choir of uchoir alums and community members: if you would like to sing on that festive occasion please show up at 3:30 p.m. in the choir room for a brief rehearsal. In closing I wish you a very happy holiday season, and I look forward to seeing many of you in Cambridge soon — if not on Christmas Eve, then hopefully in the new year. 🙏

STAY TUNED



The Fall Concert, Gluck's *Orfeo ed Euridice*, performed by the Harvard UChoir & Grand Harmonie, will be available soon on our website to download for free.

Image above used for Fall Concert: Corot, Jean-Baptiste-Camille. Orpheus Leading Eurydice from the Underworld. 1861. Oil on canvas. The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

A Space of **RADICAL** Hospitality

BY **LUCY A. FORSTER-SMITH**
*Sedgwick Chaplain to Harvard University
 and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church*



AS a newcomer to Harvard University I have experienced a robust sense of welcome from many quarters of the campus. From the custodial staff in Memorial Church knowing my morning coffee routine, to delicious invitations into homes for warm conversations and a spicy meal, to the lovely surprise of gorgeous floral bouquets, Harvard knows how to open its doors to the newcomer. But the welcome doesn't stop with the hospitality extended to a newly arrived chaplain. A few months ago we welcomed to the Yard the Class of 2018. We all pulled out the stops (literally) to make sure these precious young souls were greeted, taken across the College threshold to their Entryways, met by a caring and competent staff of tutors, proctors, house deans, not to mention brilliant faculty and attentive staff. I was aware of a palpable joy that exuded from the community as the spiffed up Yard received an eager new class. Through these first months at Harvard I have been acutely aware of the importance of hospitality especially when great uncertainty abounds. I have come to realize that there may be no more important place for hospitality than this grand, spacious, sacred space known as the Memorial Church.

There are certainly those who wonder what role a Church has in a secular academy such as Harvard. Perhaps the central role of this church is to be a space of radical hospitality. Memorial Church offers such hospitality in many ways. I suggest three. First, the Memorial Church is just that, a place of memory. It was given as a memorial to

those who lost their lives in [World War I](#). It extends the memory by offering a space for services that recall the contribution of alumni, friends, faculty, and staff of the University. History has the function of engendering trust and engaging the customs that shape the culture. Like families have their traditions and customs, so also this Church has practices that influence our life together. Honoring those is an act of hospitality.

Second, the Church's hospitality not only extends to the past but it opens each day as an anchoring presence. Whether those who enter the Church are visitors who come to Harvard to rub John Harvard's foot and then turn the corner and stumble into the inner sanctum of the Church's sanctuary; or are students who gather on a crisp autumn evening to mourn the passing of a classmate whose life was cut short by an accident; whether the light shines brightly at Morning Prayers or through the brilliant

words of a rabbi who is the preacher for the day, the days and weeks of our lives are moored to the place in surprising ways. Even for the most cynical, the shimmering sanctum of the Church may catch the heart unaware.

A third response to the question about the role of a church on a secular campus centers less on the building and more on the way the Memorial Church is a place that offers and equips the campus community in practices of hospitality. The 13th Century Persian poet Rumi speaks of this in his poem, [The Guest House](#). He says, "This being human is a guest house. Every morning a new arrival. A joy, a depression, a meanness, some momentary

***"EVEN FOR THE MOST CYNICAL,
 THE SHIMMERING SANCTUM
 OF THE CHURCH MAY CATCH
 THE HEART UNAWARE."***

Top photos: ACURA conference annual meeting on religion and spirituality in higher education

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(A Space of Radical Hospitality continued...)

awareness comes as an unexpected visitor.” And the response? “Welcome and entertain them all...meet them at the door laughing, and invite them in. Be grateful for whoever comes, because each has been sent as a guide from beyond.” What would the Memorial Church be with its doors flung open to students in residences such as Canaday, Thayer, Wigglesworth? What would it be like to step out onto the porch with our hands and hearts open to the campus of which it is a part? How is radical hospitality connected with the Church’s activity of pricking the conscience of the Harvard community to sew justice and peace into the human fabric? How can this Church hold the hurt, the fear, the uncertainty and the delight and laughter of children, older adults, the bold and the shy? The vision of a campus church for the 21st Century is one that begins with gratitude for the infusing energy of past and present and one that leans forward to the future, awaiting the guiding light of the Holy Splendor who invites, guides and readies us for all who step across the threshold. It is a place of deep welcome and a space of gracious sending. It is a setting for illumination and also one that quenches the deepest thirst of a human community. And it brims with joy and laughter, a holy welcome for all kindred. This is a radical place of holy hospitality. 🕊



Group prayer before Rev. Dr. Lucy Forster-Smith’s installation service on Sunday, October 12.

FROM OUR MINISTRY FELLOW

ALANNA COPENHAVER



IT has been an exciting fall in the life of Memorial Church. With the start of the new academic year, our building is abuzz with activity — organ and choir practice, Mem-Café, storytelling hours, and fellowship meals. The Ministerial Staff often talks about our shared vision of increasing student participation inside of our walls and this flurry of activity is invigorating!

One area of committed student engagement has been the Grants Committee. For over twenty years, students and congregants have come together to support the work of non-profit charity organizations that serve the Greater Boston Area. Here students build lasting relationships with longtime Harvard community members. When the committee meets to discuss grant applications, lively discussions happen about how we live out Jesus’s call to love our neighbors, what does social justice look like in our world, and how is this different from charity?

Over the past several months at Harvard, the question of sex and sexuality has been the source of especially lively discussion. We learned from students and administrators that missing from this discussion thus far has been questions about the role of religion and faith in sex and sexuality. Many in the Harvard community, both within and without the sphere of religion, have expressed a need for a space for these conversations. As a university church we are called to serve the spiritual and intellectual needs of our student populations. Thus, we will begin these important conversations with the launch of a new program, [Body & Soul: Harvard Religion and Sexuality Forum](#), in November. We are reaching out to various student groups and organizations at Harvard, to start a diverse and inclusive conversation on the importance of religion and sexuality.

With so many activities going on at the Memorial Church, the Ministerial Staff has come to the conclusion that we need a new way to meet regularly with the many groups that gather inside of our walls to coordinate our programming together. Therefore, we are putting together a Student Advisory Board. The Board will also help to catalyze increased student participation by informing us of the spiritual needs, religious interests, and intellectual curiosities of Harvard’s diverse student populations. As a space of grace at the center of Harvard Yard — a space that educates minds, expands hearts, and enriches lives — we pray the Memorial Church community continues to serve as a space of transformative connection for our students. 🕊

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

NANCY B. GRANERT

Dear Friends:

I am pleased to present the results of the 13–14 fiscal year. The actual expenses are compared to our original budget, rather than to the “revised” budget prepared mid-year, as this is the budget of record for the University.

Income

Our income overall was down a bit from our budgeted amount of \$3,768K. A favorable variance was seen in the Offering, but our Current use receipts and Annual Appeal were down this year. This is consistent with the last time the University was in the midst of a major campaign.

Expense

We were slightly under budget in the expense area, due to real efforts to contain our costs. We are making more and more use of social media, email, and the web to get our word out about our services and programs. Our Wednesday MemCafé was a big success again this year, serving Morning Prayer attendees, students, faculty, and walkers-by! Especially notable this year is that we continued to offer our musical events at no charge.

My Door Is Open

I am nearly always available, and always happy to answer questions you may have. My email is nancy_granert@harvard.edu, and my phone number is 617-496-1203. Please let me hear from you!

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Granert
Director of Finance

The Memorial Church Financial Statement (in thousands) for the Year Ended 6/30/14

Operating Revenue	FY14 budget	FY14 actual
Annual Appeal	\$200	\$155
Other Current Use Gifts	\$47	\$38
Endowment Income	\$3,325	\$3,325
Weddings, Memorials	\$71	\$65
Offering	\$49	\$51
Other Income	\$21	\$20
Subvention	\$55	\$51
Total	\$3,768	\$3,705
Operating Expenses		
Salaries and Wages	\$1,221	\$1,192
Employee Benefits	\$388	\$394
Supplies, Materials, Equip.	\$96	\$104
Space and Occupancy	\$860	\$847
Other Expense	\$444	\$425
Transfers	\$25	\$24
Total	\$3,034	\$2,986
Net Operating Result	\$734	\$719
Non-Operating Activity	\$335	\$328
Net Change	\$399	\$391

A Space of Grace

Images from Within the Church



4. Rev. Dr. Lucy Forster-Smith (center) stands with her family as she is officially installed as the Segwick Chaplain to Harvard University and Senior Minister in the Memorial Church.

5. Members of the congregation sing from the hymnbook accompanied by the Harvard University Choir in the balcony.

6. Gund University Organist and Choirmaster Edward Jones directs the choir during the singing of "God So Loved the World" by composer Libby Larsen during Rev. Dr. Forster-Smith's installation service.



1. HDS Dean David Hempton, former President of the United States Jimmy Carter, and Prof. Jonathan Walton share a moment together before President Carter's book signing event for "A Call to Action: Women, Religion, Violence, and Power" on Nov. 19.

2. Colonel Everett Spain DBA '14, Academy Professor at the United States Military Academy at West Point, preaches at the annual service of Commemoration of Benefactors and of The War Dead on Nov. 9.

3. Author Florence Ladd greets Rev. Dr. Lucy Forster-Smith after her installation service on Oct. 12.



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7. The ROTC Colorguard stands before the congregation with the wreath of laurel for the annual commemoration service honoring the Harvard War Dead.



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8. Hymn singing at Morning Prayers in Appleton Chapel.



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9. Panel members speak at the Association for College and University Religious Affairs Annual Meeting (ACURA).



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10. Lucy and Thomas Forster-Smith embrace after Lucy's installation.



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11. ACURA attendee reading "College & University Chaplaincy in the 21st Century" (a book that Rev. Dr. Lucy Forster Smith contributed to).

12. Father and son attend Sunday service.



12

Want to see more photos? Then visit our [Facebook page!](#)

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'Tis the Season * * * * *

The 105th Annual Christmas Carol Services

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 5 PM
MONDAY, DECEMBER 15, 8 PM

These services feature seasonal music performed by the Harvard University Choir. Doors open one hour before the services. Admission is free; an offering for charity is collected.

The Annual Christmas Eve Service

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24, 5 PM

A service will be held to celebrate the Nativity of Our Lord with hymns and Holy Communion. Professor Jonathan L. Walton will preach. Singers are welcome to join in the community choir for the Christmas Eve service; rehearsal is before the service at 3:30 p.m.

Spring is in the Air

Organ Recital Series

Recitals begin at 7:30 PM and admission is free

TUESDAY, JANUARY 27

Michael Kraft, Executive Vice President and Senior Reed Voicer, C.B. Fisk, Inc.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 10

Brink Bush, Minister of Music, St. John's Episcopal Church, Beverly Farms, MA

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Carson Cooman, Composer in Residence, The Memorial Church

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Caroline Robinson, Curtis Institute of Music and Eastman School of Music

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

Jonathan Ortloff, President, Ortloff Organ Company

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

Members of the Harvard Organ Society

Holy Week Musical Meditation

TUESDAY, MARCH 31, 8 PM

Featuring the Choral Fellows of the Harvard University Choir and members of the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra

Harvard University Choir ARTS FIRST Performance

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 7:30 PM

George Frideric Handel's *Athalia*
Featuring the Harvard Baroque Chamber Orchestra

For more info about events and services at the Memorial Church, please visit us on the web at memorialchurch.harvard.edu.



HARVARD
The Memorial Church

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