

St. Paul's Church History – The Hymnal 1982

week #19, 01/29/2012

This week has been a busy for me personally so I have prepared an abbreviated version of the History & Heroes of St. Paul's.

The Hymnal 1982 is the seventh in a series of official hymnals used throughout Episcopal Church History. It is required that the lyrics from each hymn come from officially approved sources and it includes a large section of service music and chants. The service music; denoted by an "S" before the page number, became important in conjunction with the 1979 version of the Book of Common Prayer. In addition, it contains 720 songs, encouraging congregational singing.

Hymns are grouped according to the Church season, special liturgical services such as baptism or confirmations, as well as other themes, like patriotic songs. The Hymnal sites Canon 24, section 1, which gives the Minister the final authority in music chosen for use during the Church services.

Our hymnals, despite the title of 1982, were actually published and purchased in 1985. I ask you to locate a Hymnal near you and open to the first page. The book jacket in most of the hymnals contains a plate depicting a memorial or a dedication. These names, in most cases both the recipient and donor, are added to the Heroes of St. Paul's. Please take a moment to acknowledge and appreciate the contributors and dedications.