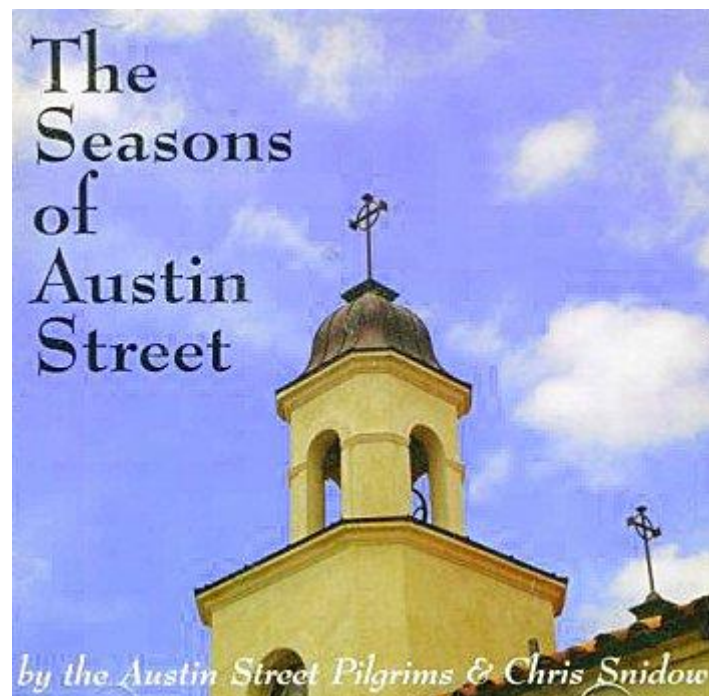


# The Seasons of Austin Street

Austin Street Pilgrims and Chris Snidow



## Dallas homeless choir strikes all the right notes

By Marcia Davis-Seale, c. 2006 Religion News Service

Published: February 1, 2007

DALLAS, Texas — It's Wednesday morning at the Austin Street Centre and the gates are open at the faith-based fortress at the foot of the downtown skyline. The bell in the tower clatters harshly against the cold wind, beckoning those on the streets for a pious word or two, a prayer, perhaps a cracker crumb dipped in the Communion cup.

Up in the low-ceilinged chapel loft, Chris Snidow is shifting gears from psychiatric nurse to choirmaster as his proteges straggle in for a midweek worship service.

From the front row, a tall and strapping Rufus Barnes clears his throat. He's missing the other half of his duet, so he'll go solo today. Other key vocalists are no-shows, so yesterday's carefully planned repertoire is abandoned as if it had never been rehearsed.

Barnes grew up singing in the church, then spent years singing the blues in smoky night clubs, jive joints, and now, on the streets. Diabetes took part of his foot and any prospects of steady work. He lost his family, his home, and eventually most of his belongings.

He's written a million lyrics before tearing them up. He never thought — homeless and older than 50 — he would fulfill his lifelong dream of actually recording a song he'd written. "Just something to talk about," he said.

But that's just what's happening at the 400-bed shelter. Rising above the sour notes of hardship, the voices of the shelter's transient homeless choir have found a permanent home on a professionally recorded CD of spiritual songs labeled *The Seasons of Austin Street*.

Seasons includes a few Christmas songs and a poem, "Homelessness," written by a former shelter dweller whom no one's seen for a while. Snidow hopes she's still alive. He has "sent word out on the street to tell her to come in," he said.

A small portion of the proceeds from the \$20 CD cover recording costs; most money, Snidow said, goes to shelter operations. The 120 church groups that support the shelter are snapping them up.

Attendance at rehearsals was forever unpredictable, so Snidow instead escorted the members of his choir, one by one, to his cramped home sound studio to record their parts.

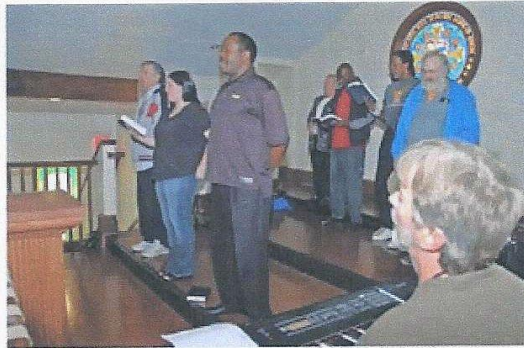
Laying down each voice separately, adding music, track by track, it took him 18 months to painstakingly synthesize a cohesive group presence and performance, and send the finished CD to be reproduced.

"This choir has given many a spiritual reconnection, and helped their self-esteem," he said.

Which is not to say that pulling together a homeless choir is a simple feat.

Snidow would like to find time to rehearse Christmas music. But the daily rhythm of shelter life — anger management classes, job interviews, and doctor's appointments — always seem to get in the way.

Somewhere in her 50s, Debbie Whiddon's eyes reflect the pain of a shattered life tentatively glued back together, holding for now.



Marcia Davis-Seale/RNS

Choirmaster Chris Snidow, right, accompanies members of the homeless choir at the Austin Street Centre in Dallas. From left to right are, front row, Mike Ricker, Heather Butler, and Rufus Barnes; on back row are Debbie Whiddon, George Alexander, Ronald Butler, and Harold Baker.

She remembers taking voice lessons. But music got lost in the struggle to raise two sons and survive 20 years at the backhand of an abusive husband. She escaped to the streets, where she drank in her fill of hardship and hard liquor.

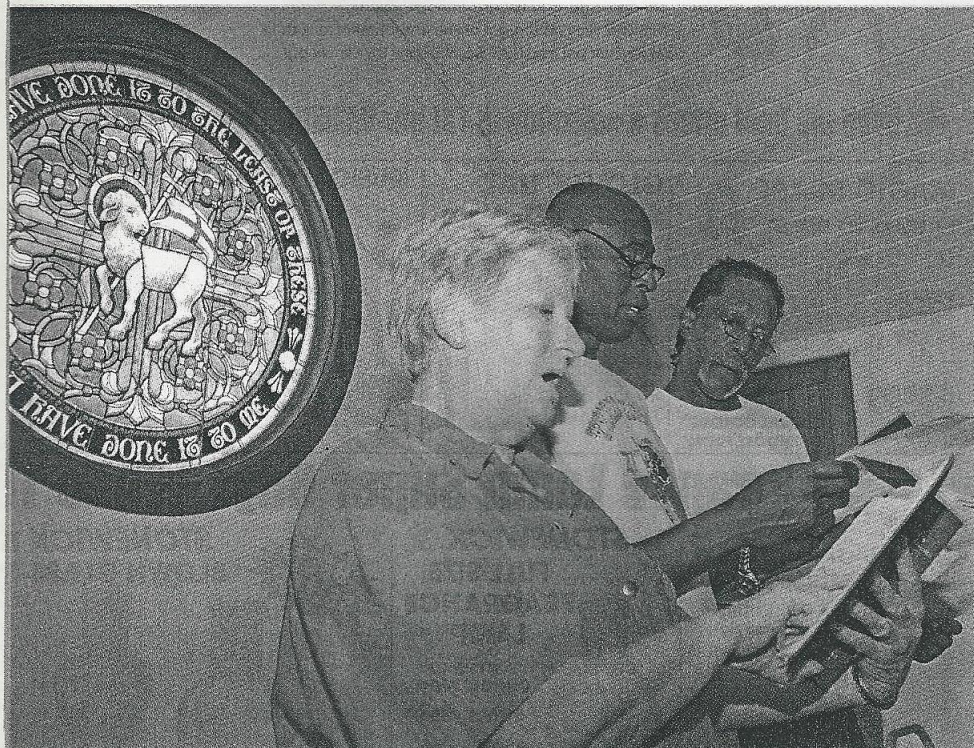
"I started out as a client," she says, "and now I work here and have a future."

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INSPIRATION

## VOICES OF HOPE



RELIGION NEWS SERVICE/MARCIA DAVIS-SEALE/

From left: Debbie Whiddon, George Alexander and Ronald Butler are part of the homeless choir at the Austin Street Centre in Dallas. The choir has recorded a CD of spiritual songs called *The Seasons of Austin Street*. Most of the proceeds from the CD go to shelter operations.

### At Dallas' Austin Street Centre, a homeless choir rises above the sour notes of hardship by recording a spiritual CD

By **MARCIA DAVIS-SEALE**  
RELIGION NEWS SERVICE

**D**ALLAS — It's Wednesday morning at the Austin Street Centre, and the gates are open at the faith-based fortress at the foot of the downtown skyline. The bell in the tower clatters harshly against the cold wind, beckoning those on the streets for a pious word or two, a prayer, perhaps a cracker crumb dipped in the Communion cup.

Up in the low-ceilinged chapel loft, Chris Snidow is shifting gears from psychiatric nurse to choirmaster as his proteges straggle in for a midweek worship service. Sun streams through beveled cuts of glass, splashing stains of hot color against the smooth white walls.

From the front row, a tall and strapping Rufus Barnes clears his throat. He's missing the other half of his duet, so he'll go solo today. Other key vocal-

ists are no-shows, so yesterday's carefully planned repertoire is abandoned as if it had never been rehearsed.

Barnes grew up singing in the church, then spent years singing the blues in smoky night clubs, jive joints and now, on the streets. Diabetes took part of his foot and any prospects of steady work. He lost his family, his home and most of his belongings.

He has written a million lyrics before tearing them up. He never thought — homeless and older than 50 — he would fulfill his lifelong dream of recording a song he'd written. "Just something to talk about," he said.

But that's just what's happening at the 400-bed shelter. Rising above the sour notes of hardship, the voices of the shelter's transient homeless choir have found a permanent home on a professionally recorded CD of spiritual songs labeled *The Seasons of Austin Street*.

More on CD on 17E

#### How to help

*The Seasons of Austin Street* CD is available for \$20 at the Austin Street Centre, 2929 Hickory St., in Dallas. The center is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and receives no government funding. A small portion of the proceeds from the \$20 CD covers recording costs, with most money going toward shelter operations, which includes providing emergency services and shelter to homeless people. For information on the center, call 214-428-4242 or go to [www.austinstreet.org](http://www.austinstreet.org).



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RELIGION | I

### CD: Shelter's choir gives homeless spiritual connection, self-esteem



RELIGION NEWS SERVICE/MARCIA DAVIS-SEALE

Choirmaster Chris Snidow, right, accompanies the homeless choir at Dallas' Austin Street Centre. In the front row, from left, are Mike Ricker, Heather Butler and Rufus Barnes; in the back row are Debbie Whiddon, George Alexander, Ronald Butler and Harold Baker.

#### CONTINUED FROM 16E

Seasons includes a few Christmas songs and a poem, *Homelessness*, written by a former shelter dweller whom no one has seen for a while. He has "sent word out on the street to tell her to come in," he said.

Most of the proceeds from the CD go to shelter operations, Snidow said. The 120 church groups that support the shelter are snapping them up.

Attendance at rehearsals was unpredictable, so Snidow decided that scheduling a group recording session was out of the question. Instead, he escorted the members of his choir, one by one, to his cramped and cluttered home sound studio to record their parts. A few friends chimed in to round out the sound.

Laying down each voice separately, adding music, track by track, it took him 18 months to painstakingly synthesize a cohesive group presence and performance and send the finished CD to be reproduced.

"This choir has given many a spiritual reconnection and helped their self-esteem," he said.

Which is not to say that pulling together a homeless choir is a simple feat.

There's Stephanie Cook, a 21-year-old with a sultry country croon and a tenuous perch on a bipolar pendulum that keeps her choir singing — and very existence — erratic. She's MIA this particular morning. The number of foster, institutional and tempo-

rary homes she has passed through surpasses the number of years she has lived.

Then there's Harold Baker, who sits, resting his gray beard on his chest, nodding off during the service. Baker, 59, has called Austin Street home for 17 years. He's the choir's silent voice — no one has yet to hear him sing — but also the most conscientious in promptness and attendance.

"If you can't sing, you can't be in this choir," Snidow said. "Everyone has had to try out ... except for Harold. And, well, everyone loves Harold."

Austin Street opened in 1983. What started as a drafty soup kitchen has grown into a well-ventilated, security-minded shelter that includes a chapel for worship, funerals and weddings; transitional housing; thrift shop; day program for the mentally ill; and drug and alcohol support groups — all backed by a professional staff.

"A lot of psychiatric programs don't want to recognize the spiritual, and if they get government money, they can't," said Snidow, 57. "But no one can receive long-term deep healing unless the spiritual foundation is laid down ... You can find God, sense his presence, even more so, in a shelter."

Snidow would like to find time to rehearse Christmas music. But the daily rhythm of shelter life — anger-management classes, job interviews and doctor's appointments — always seem to get in the way. Ron Byrd has found his

way back to choir. His thin frame is draped in a wool coat with padded shoulders, street stylish but too heavy for what will become an unseasonably warm day. He takes it off and settles in at the piano.

"You can't practice on the streets. Someone is going to have a complaint," he said.

Between the cigarette smoke and the barrel fires lighted for warmth, the relentless damp and cold and the constant need to speak loudly just to be heard above the cacophony of street noise — all that takes a toll on the homeless singer.

"A lot of people think we're lazy," said Byrd, 52. "God is working with us personally, and homeless or not, all of us still have to sometimes say a prayer alone."

Nearby, Debbie Whiddon shakes her head and laughs at Byrd. She's in her 50s, and her eyes reflect the pain of a shattered life tentatively glued back together.

She remembers taking voice lessons. But music got lost in the struggle to raise two sons and survive 20 years at the backhand of an abusive husband. She escaped to the streets.

"I started out as a client," she says, "and now I work here and have a future."

She said she draws comfort from the lyrics of a song on the CD. "Seek Ye First the Kingdom of God ... That one song means so much to me. It's what my life's about now."

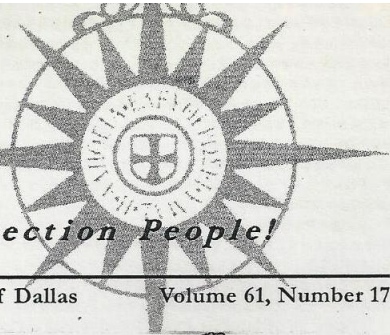
"I hope it will mean as much to others — struggling — who hear it on the CD."





# Esprit

*We are Resurrection People!*



December 2005

The Publication of the Episcopal Diocese of Dallas

Volume 61, Number 17

## *T'is the Season at Austin Street Centre*

by Chris Snidow, RN – Austin Street Centre

"Hey, you! Stop that right now! My God in heaven! What do you think you're doing? Don't you know the law? NO PRAYING! You'll offend someone! Oh ... and by the way ... Happy Holidayze."

"What on earth! Get that Christmas tree (or réche) down, and I mean NOW! We don't need a lawsuit at THIS time of year! What's wrong with you? Oh ... and by the way ... Happy Holidayze."

Have you heard anything like these "cheery" greetings this Christmas season? It seems that Jesus' holiday isn't politically correct anymore. Never fear, though. This year, God will once again celebrate the birth of His only Son with all of His children throughout the world.

The Austin Street Centre (ASC), a homeless shelter on Hickory Street in Dallas, is one place where the true spirit of Christmas is still alive and well. Rev. Bubba and Fr. Harry Dailey, the heart and soul behind ASC, are both Episcopal priests who co-direct ASC, providing comfortable cots and warm meals in a safe atmosphere for the needy, homeless, hungry, sick, and the lost. However, the Daileys offer more than the provision of physical needs. They fully acknowledge, "Man does not live

without a façade. The thin veneer of 'civilization' pops off when someone loses everything, even hope.

They could be you or me one day. No one is exempt from a possible stay at ASC. College professors, schoolteachers, police officers, truck drivers, electricians, secretaries, waitresses, bus drivers, military veterans, and countless others have found their way to the shelter. Their stories paint an amazing picture of the fragility of life in Dallas.

Things get very busy at ASC around this time of year. It's always a scramble to get enough clothes,

on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God" (Mt. 4:4).

Political correctness has its own laws, and if a "faith-based initiative" seeks financial help from the government, it has to play by the government's rules. So, while maintaining a shelter that houses, on average, 475 souls a night is a very expensive business, accepting the government's help might require the center to give up preaching God's Word and using Christian-based tools to help those in their charge.

The Daileys steadfastly refuse to pay that price. Therefore, with God's help and direction, they have shepherded one of the few shelters in the Dallas area that neither the city nor the state nor the national government supports financially. They insist that ASC will care for people's souls as well as their bodies.

In 2001, Rev. Bubba and Fr. Harry built a beautiful, small church next door to the shelter. Three days a week, they hold an Episcopalian worship service. Although those who attend are mostly people from ASC, the church holds an open invitation for everyone. When those in the service share the peace, the Spirit of God is evident in their eyes and the mask of hurt and protection drops

away. Where suffering is present, God is there.

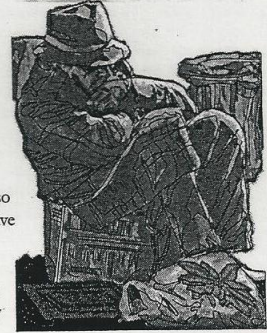
food, and gifts for the residents. As the weather turns cold, the shelter fills quickly. But one thing is for sure. ASC will celebrate the REAL "reason for the season" as "Happy Holidayze" once again becomes Merry Christ Mass. God does provide.

Scripture states that caring for the needy is a ministry shared by each of us. It does not tell us to create large bureaucracies in order to raise and distribute money. Rather, it commands us to help where we can, when we can. In the first century Christian church, "There were no needy persons

among them. For from time to time, those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostle's feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need" (Acts 4:34-35).

The shelter also offers comprehensive programs that include 12-step alcohol and drug counseling led by a licensed chemical dependency counselor, out-patient therapy for the mentally ill led by an experienced psychiatric RN, and extensive services for women. Carisa Austin, a licensed social worker, has been the director of Women's Services for 15 years. She teaches parenting classes, helps with school enrollment, supervises individual and group therapy, and assists with a host of other things to help women get back on their feet.

Just who are the people who end up at ASC? Some are 'down-on-their-luck,' mentally ill, alcoholics and drug addicts. Some come from terribly abusive homes, and their emotional scars have never healed. They are the abandoned and the unwanted—humanity



among them. For from time to time, those who owned lands or houses sold them, brought the money from the sales and put it at the apostle's feet, and it was distributed to anyone as he had need" (Acts 4:34-35).

This holiday season, may we all keep our eyes and hearts focused on the celebration and meaning of our Lord and Savior's birth, and, then, carry that spirit forward in our daily lives the year round.

*Born in poverty, raised to God's Royalty and Glory. Merry Christ Mass to you all, and to all a Holy night.* ASC gladly welcomes all donations (214-421-0912).



## GOOD DEED

### Residents lifting voices, spirits at homeless shelter

**Dallas:** Choir leader releases CD filled with spiritual songs

By **KIM HORNER**  
Staff Writer

As choir director at Dallas' Austin Street Centre, Chris Snidow discovered that some of the shelter's residents could really sing.

"There were so many people coming through there who were very talented," said Mr. Snidow, a musician who works as a psychiatric nurse at the shelter.

Leading a choir at a homeless shelter can be tough because the singers frequently come and go. But Mr. Snidow did not let that stop him from taking the group beyond its regular performances at the on-site chapel.

The shelter just released *The Seasons of Austin Street*, a collection of spiritual songs featuring several homeless singers plus some nonhomeless musicians.

All proceeds will benefit the faith-based shelter just south of Deep Ellum, which does not accept government funding.

Besides hopefully helping the shelter's bottom line, the project has been uplifting for the singers, Mr. Snidow said.

Rufus Barnes, who sings on several numbers and wrote the lyrics for one song, was in several

#### KNOW OF A GOOD DEED?

Send nominations to:  
[Metro@dallasnews.com](mailto:Metro@dallasnews.com).

local bands in Lubbock. He has been living off and on at the shelter since health problems left him homeless in 2004. The 54-year-old man said he never expected that he would finally record a CD while at a shelter.

"It's just been good," he said.

The Rev. Bubba Dailey, who runs the shelter with her husband, the Rev. Harry Dailey, said the project has helped build confidence among the homeless.

She said she hopes to take the choir on tour at Dallas-area churches.

"I knew these dudes could sing," she said.

Mr. Dailey said he was proud of the group's CD.

"It brought tears to my eyes, and it's hard to do that," he said. "It's so powerful."

*The Seasons of Austin Street* CD is available for \$20 at the Austin Street Centre, 2929 Hickory Street in Dallas. Or people can call the shelter and have it mailed to them for \$22. For more information, call the shelter at 214-428-4242. For general information about the shelter, go to [www.austinst.org](http://www.austinst.org).

E-mail [khorne@dallasnews.com](mailto:khorne@dallasnews.com)



MONA REEDER/Staff Photograph

*The Seasons of Austin Street* features (front row) Sondra Neal, Debbie Whiddon, (second row) Stephanie Cook, Ron Byrd, (back) Harold Baker, the Rev. Harry Dailey, the Rev. Bubba Dailey, Rufus Barnes and Chris Snidow.

The following comes from the CD booklet:

## The Seasons of Austin Street by The Austin Street Pilgrims & Chris Snidow

1. What is Austin Street Centre? It is a Christian, Non-Profit, faith-based homeless shelter, located in Dallas, Texas. Each night between 400-600 souls are welcomed to a safe and clean place to sleep. Licensed and experienced professionals provide many services to the clients. These include: drug/alcohol programs, woman's support/educational groups, and a unique day-program for the mentally ill. Three days a week church services are held in the beautiful chapel that was built for that purpose, located right next to the shelter.

2. Where did **Austin Street Centre** come from? By the grace of God, ASC opened their doors on November 17, 1983. **Rev. Bubba Dailey** and **Fr. Harry Dailey** are the driving force behind it, and also Co-Executive Directors.

From the time she was a child, **Bubba** felt God was calling her to be of service to the poor. Bubba's parents, and especially her father (Aaron Huffman), had taught her well about God's unconditional love for all his children...even the poor, disadvantaged, and the homeless. When she was in the sixth grade, she gave away the only winter coat she would have that year, to a girl whose family was too poor to provide her one. Bubba wanted to do more, but didn't know exactly how. As she got older, she continued looking for concrete ways to help the poor. She was already volunteering her time to be of service to them, when she began working out of the trunk of her car; delivering blankets, clothes, food and blessings to the homeless in places most people wouldn't venture. For nine years Bubba prayed to God for a place where she could be of greater service to the poor. A place that would be dedicated to the honor and glory of God's holy name. But the road leading her to Austin Street would be long and full of unexpected curves. It would be a road of preparation for her. Who could have guessed that God's calling would eventually lead her to the founding of a homeless shelter, becoming an Episcopalian priest, and finding her future husband, a "homeless alcoholic" when they first met? Certainly not Bubba.

**Harry Dailey** came from a difficult and abusive childhood, with plenty of alcohol and drugs in the mix. It wasn't long before Harry's childhood history became his own self-fulfilling legacy as an adult. Living the lifestyle of the vagabond alcoholic, he eventually became homeless, and over time, hopeless. He reached a point where he just wanted to die. During the dead of winter, he decided to let nature take its course. He was still sleeping outside, and for five days he quit eating and drinking. Finally, on a cold wintry night, Harry had a "near death experience". Not the nice "non-judgmental", "it's all good" experience some report, but rather an experience where he found himself in darkest hell. You might say that this experience scared the hell out of Harry. He had an encounter with the Living God, asking him if he would serve Him. Harry said that yes, he would. He almost died from exposure and pneumonia during this time. He ended up in ICU for a week. He slowly recovered from his close brush with death, and began turning to the God of the Bible. From here, he would sober up for good; become a licensed expert in substance abuse, and eventually an Episcopalian priest. He also married the Lady of the house, Rev. Bubba. Over the years, uncounted thousands of the "poorest of the poor" have found refuge at Austin Street Centre.



3. Who is **Carisa Austin**? The daughter of Rev. Bubba from a previous marriage, Carisa saw firsthand the reality of the homeless through her mother. She too, from a very young age, felt called to be of service to them. This would not become her job, but like her mother, her ministry. Wanting to equip herself as best she could for it, she went to school, and in 1997 received her B.S.W. diploma in Social Work. Currently, she is actively involved in many of the support and educational groups, as well as the daily running of the shelter.

4. Who are the **Austin Street Pilgrims**? We are all pilgrims on our way from, with, and back to God. At times, we share a part of our pilgrimage with others. The Austin Street Pilgrims are those who have, for the benefit of Austin Street Centre, so graciously contributed their large talents and valuable time to this project. It has been our blessing here at Austin Street, to have worked on this CD with these, our fellow pilgrims. They are, in alphabetical order:

**-Rufus Barnes**-Rufus is a former lead singer of several groups. When his health declined, one thing led to another, and he eventually ended up coming to the shelter to try and re-organize his life. He soon began helping out the Austin Street Choir (the ever-changing choir for Austin Street Chapel) with his obvious talents. Originally from Lubbock, he is currently in the process of moving out of the shelter into his own place. He continues to sing at Austin Street when he can, and is increasingly active with other bands, both in and outside of Dallas. Hear him doing all the vocals on: *Blessed at His Feet*, *Holy Holy Holy*, and *At the Cross*. On *Jesus is Here*, Rufus wrote the lyrics, and does nearly all the vocals (except the very high parts on the last two choruses). He also does the lead vocals on *'Til We Meet Again*, and some of the background parts for *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*.

**-Ron Byrd**-An excellent pianist and vocalist, Ron has been choir director and band director of both churches and groups in several places. Having fallen on hard times, Ron ended up at Austin Street, and quickly demonstrated his kind spirit, considerable talents, and desire to be of service. Currently, he is putting together a songbook for A.S.C., and is also actively involved in choir development for the Austin Street Choir. Hear Ron's original and powerful harmony parts on *'Til We Meet Again*, and *Jesus is Here*.

**-Stephanie Cook**-Coming from a life of abuse, instability, and mental hospitals, the odds seemed stacked against Stephanie. One thing led to another, and she eventually ended up homeless at Austin Street. Since then, in spite of many difficulties, she has begun putting her life on a more constructive path. Recognized from a very young age for her voice, once Stephanie landed at Austin Street, she quickly began putting her talents to use, often doing the lead vocals during Austin Street Chapel services. Now only 21 years old, she has moved out of the shelter, and is moving forward with her life. Although she is not yet sure exactly what God has in mind for her, she wants to follow His light, and somehow be of service to Him. Hear her doing all the vocals on: *Turn to Me*, *Amazing Grace*, and *O Come All Ye Faithful*. She also does nearly all of the vocals on *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*, and also the lovely back-up vocals and harmonies on *Seek Ye First* and *'Til We Meet Again*.

**-Sondra Neal**-Sondra graduated from high school with honors, went to college, got married and had a daughter. Gifted with a great sense of humor, intelligence, and a thoughtful and compassionate approach to others, her future looked bright. But then, the trials of life and divorce contributed to her choice of alcohol as her way of coping. She became an alcoholic, and then lost everything, including her health. Sondra has been at ASC for several months now, as she attempts to put her life back together. Although the author of her own poems, on this CD she reads with conviction the poem (*Homelessness*) of another former resident of ASC.

**-Linda Renfro**-Linda was mostly interested in theater when in high school, but as she grew older and began singing in public, it became obvious that one of her greatest God-given gifts was her voice. She has sung with many professional groups, with styles ranging from rock to



pop to jazz to country. As she continued to refine her art, jazz has become the vehicle best suited for displaying her large talent. She currently is focused on recording and teaching, as well as continuing to do live performances. Hear Linda doing all the vocals on her wonderful rendition of *Mary Did You Know?*

**-Martha Schattman**-Martha is well known in Dallas for her beautiful voice. She has sung for many church services, 'Taize-style' prayer get-togethers, and on numerous other occasions. She was kind enough to share her great talents with us for this one song, *O Holy Night*. She has just recently moved from Dallas, and is now pursuing her studies in Seminary school. Martha does all the vocal parts on this original rendition of this beloved Christmas song.

**-Chris Snidow**-A professional musician for most of his life, he played drums with several groups in Texas, California, France, and Holland. He became a Registered Nurse in 1978, and has worked in the Psychiatry/Drug Abuse fields for twenty-seven years. Austin Street Centre brought him on board three years ago, where he now runs a day program for those who are not only homeless, but are also suffering from mental illness, chemical dependency, and/or severe physical problems. He is also in charge of the Austin Street Choir. In 1985 he founded Biblical Sound Pictures, and has since released six CD/cassettes, to critical acclaim in both the United States and France. On this CD, he wrote the arrangements, plays the instruments, and served as recording engineer and producer. He wrote the lyrics for *Turn to Me*, and the music for *Jesus is Here*. Today he continues to work at Austin Street, composes and records music, and on occasion he and his wife Catherine lead Joan of Arc pilgrimages to France.

**-Eric Tagg**-A professional studio and performing musician all his life, Eric has worked with some of the most well-known musicians of his time. He was "the voice" for many of Lee Ritenour's early CDs. A very talented singer, arranger, and composer, he has released several CDs internationally, and has toured in Holland, Japan, and the USA. He also is an accomplished pianist, bassist, and flutist. Many years ago, Eric, Linda, and Chris worked together in a band in Dallas (*Cheshire*). Now, for a few songs, they have reunited to share their faith and talents, hoping to be of service to Austin Street. Today, Eric continues to be very busy with several musical projects, including composing, recording and performing. Hear Eric doing all the vocals on: *We Three Kings*, *Come Thou Fount*, and *Alleluia # 1*.

**-Debbie Whiddon**-As Debbie's troubled marriage fell apart, things continued to spiral downward. She was surprised to eventually find herself a resident of Austin Street. Debbie has had lots of ups and downs in life, but she has persevered and has now worked herself up to a position of leadership and responsibility at ASC. Among the many things she does for Austin Street, singing in the chapel choir when possible is a gift for all those who hear her. Hear Debbie's lead vocals on *Seek Ye First*.

**-Sandy Wilson**-Sandy's childhood was more abusive than most. Her first miracle was surviving it. A lady of great intelligence, heart and talent, Sandy ended up at ASC hoping to get back on her feet. She has written many beautiful poems, and has shared some of them with us here at ASC. Her poem, *Homelessness*, presents a realistic picture of daily life at Austin Street, complete with some of the battles and blessings she has experienced. Please keep Sandy in your prayers, as her continuing struggle with alcohol and drugs remains very real. Indeed, we ask for prayers for all those mentioned here, as well as the thousands who have, and will in the future, come to Austin Street Centre.

*"My soul yearns, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God... Blessed are those whose strength is in You, who have set their hearts on pilgrimage...blessed is the man who trusts in You."* From Psalm 84



5. What are the Seasons of Austin Street? For this CD, the Seasons of Austin Street refer to the **Seasons of God's Blessings**, as experienced at Austin Street. This CD is designed to be a "year-round" CD.

We, as believers in the God of the Bible, believe that our life's blessings began in abundance with the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. So, the first season we celebrate here is the **Season of the Incarnation**, i.e. Christmas.

*"But when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons."* Galatians 4: 4 KJV

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The next blessing we address is our season of life on this planet. We call it the **Season of Earthly Life**. This gift, full of both joy and suffering, is often a mystery to us. Sprinkled throughout this season are glimpses of God's loving presence, kindness and faithfulness. As the Psalmists often remind us, it is inevitably brief:

*"Each man's life is but a breath, Man is a mere phantom as he goes to and fro."*  
Psalm 39: 5-6

We are but *"a passing breeze that does not return."* Psalm 78: 39

*"For my days vanish like smoke."* Psalm 102: 3

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Our ultimate blessing, named here our **Season of Eternal Life**, is found when we cross over from this life to the next. On that day, may we be in the presence of the Living God, in His Heavenly Kingdom, forever. Amen.

As Jesus said, *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms, if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."* Amen. John 14: 1-4

## Tracks

### Season of the Incarnation

1. *"The Fullness of Time..."* (Galatians 4:4) Read by Rev. Bubba Dailey
2. We Three Kings (John Henry Hopkins, Jr. 1820-1891)
3. Mary Did You Know (Mark Lowry & Buddy Greene 1991, Rufus Music-Word Music)
4. O Come All Ye Faithful (John Francis Wade 1711-1786)
5. O Holy Night (*Minuit Chretiens*-Adolphe Charles Adam 1893-1856)
6. O Come Emmanuel (*Veni, veni, Emmanuel*-Processionale, 15<sup>th</sup> century)

### Season of Earthly Life

7. *"A Time to Every Purpose under the Heavens"* (Ecclesiastes 3)  
Read by Fr. Harry Dailey
8. At the Cross (Words: Isaac Watts 1707; melody: Ralph Hudson 1885)
9. Just a Closer Walk with Thee (John C Hallett)
10. Come Thou Fount (Words: Robert Robinson 1735-1790; melody: Nettleton 1813)



11. Turn to Me (Music from: *Let it Be*-Lennon/McCarthy; Lyrics and arrangement copyright by Chris Snidow 2005)
12. Jesus is Here (C 2006, Words: Rufus Barnes; Music: Chris Snidow)
13. Seek Ye First (Karen Lafferty-1972-Maranatha Music)

### Season of Eternal Life

14. *"In Due Season..."* (Galatians 6:9) Read by Rev. Bubba Dailey
15. Alleluia # 1 (Donald E. Gishel 1973, Word of God Music)
16. Blessed at His Feet (Traditional Spiritual)
17. Amazing Grace (Words: John Newton 1725-1807; Music: Edwin Excell 1851-1921)
18. Holy, Holy, Holy (Words: Reginald Heber 1826; Melody: John B. Dykes 1861)
19. 'Til We Meet Again (Traditional Spiritual)

### Bonus Track

20. Homelessness (Words: Sandy Wilson; Music: Chris Snidow) Read by Sondra Neal

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*"Yet the Lord pleads with you still: Ask where the good road is, the Godly paths you used to walk in, in the days of long ago. Travel there, and you will find rest for your souls."*  
Jeremiah 6:16

Special thanks to **Harold Baker** for all his help with the making of this CD.

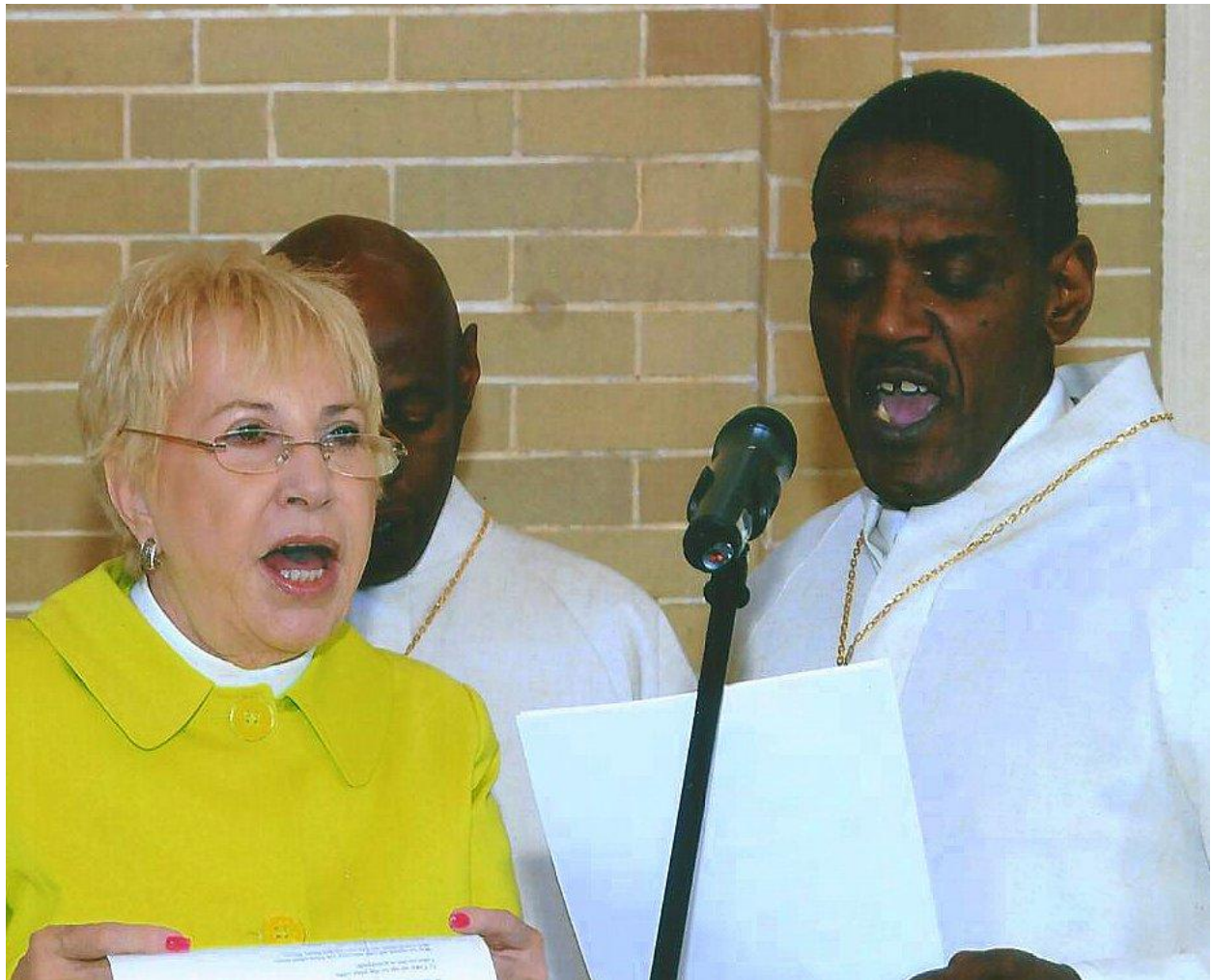
Read the biographical story of Bubba and Harry Dailey in Russ Pate's book,  
**Heaven Sent**, available through Amazon.Com.

For **Biblical Sound Pictures**, and information regarding French Pilgrimages led by Chris and Catherine Snidow, see their web site: [www.pilgrimwitnesses.com](http://www.pilgrimwitnesses.com)

We give all thanks and praise to the God of the Bible, His Holy Spirit, and His only Son, Jesus of Nazareth, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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Rev. Bubba Dailey singing with Derrick Augustus and others.





Austin Street Pilgrims rehearsing for a performance

