

The Origin of the Chapin Chimes



By Amy Mangram

On July 13, 1952, the Chapin Chimes were dedicated as a gift from Marie Arnold Chapin, who presented them in gratitude to St. Paul's parish. A longtime communicant and devoted lover of music, Mrs. Chapin frequently expressed her faith and generosity through charitable gifts that supported the church's musical life.

The dedication service featured three of her favorite hymns: Rock of Ages, Art Thou Weary, Art Thou Languid?, and Onward, Christian Soldier.

The chimes are electronically controlled and can be played both inside and outside the church. When heard outdoors, their sound carries for nearly a mile and a half, reaching far beyond the church grounds.

Mrs. Chapin's obituary noted that one of her greatest joys in later life was hearing the chimes ring regularly from her beloved church, their music echoing across the city. More than seventy years after their dedication, the Chapin Chimes remain a lasting reminder of her generosity, faith, and love of sacred music.

