

# Church Choirs Tell America's Story

By Scott Webber

The Junior and Senior Choirs of the Calvary Baptist Church in Warwick presented a musical, *A Salute to America*, at both Sunday morning church services this past weekend. Directed by Karen Giammarino and Donna Freeman as junior director, the musical highlighted in spoken word and song the lives of George Washington, Abraham Lincoln, William Bradford, Caroline Pickersgill and Katherine Lee Bates. The players included Travis Calzada as Washington, Noelle Giammarino as Lincoln, Michael Rodriguez as William Bradford, Sara Yoo as Caroline Pickersgill, and Sarah Frueh as Katherine Bates.

Caroline Pickersgill was the daughter of Mary Pickersgill, the woman who made the 42-foot-long American flag that flew over Fort McHenry in the War of 1812 and inspired Francis Scott Key to write *The Star Spangled Banner*. Caroline tells the story of how her mother made that flag.

Katherine Lee Bates tells the story of how she climbed Pikes Peak in Colorado and was inspired to write the words to *America the Beautiful*. William Bradford was a pilgrim leader who played a key role in the establishment of the Plymouth Colony back in the 1620's. The musical was created by Rhonda Frazier and narrated by Donna Freeman. The Junior Choir sang *You're a Grand Old Flag*, *The Battle Hymn of the Republic*, and *My Country 'Tis of Thee*. Donna Freeman sang *The Star Spangled Banner*, and Sarah Frueh sang *America the Beautiful*.

The Junior Choir, accompanied by the Senior Choir, rendered the final song, *If My People*. The Junior Choir members are Michaela Ambuter, Emily Arnheiter, Christian Arnheiter, Travis Calzada, Sarah Frueh, Noelle Giammarino, Brianna Riggio, Ciara Rodriguez, Michael Rodriguez, and Sara Yoo. The director, Mrs. Giammarino, gave thanks to Gladys Calzada and Kay Proscia for making the costumes, and to Cherwyn Ambuter and the Senior Choir for helping out. Lastly, she thanked the people in the church sound room for making the performance possible.

In a brief church service at the beginning, Gladys Calzada sang a solo, *Blessed the Nation*. The pastor, the Rev. Craig Adams Jr., offered the benediction.



## Saluting America

Gladys Calzado, right, holds the American flag just after leading in the veterans and community service workers during Calvary Baptist Church's "Salute to America, which was held last Sunday after each service. Children from the congregation dressed as historical figures and spoke of the freedom our country enjoys. The junior choir sang patriotic songs including "You're a Grand Old Flag," "The Star Spangled Banner," "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," "My Country 'Tis of Thee" and "America, the Beautiful." The Senior Choir joined in as the veterans processed for the finale "If My People." (Photo by Linda Smith Hancharick)



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PEDIATRICS