

The final concert of the year on **June 6<sup>th</sup>** will feature the **St. Paul's Vocal Jazz Quartet**. The group, accompanied by a combo, will highlight sacred vocal music by Duke Ellington. The spirit in which Ellington approached his music and his band was in line with that of the African-American religious tradition and with its antecedent African traditions wherein music, and also dance, were primary expressions of religious understanding and practice. Ellington wanted his music to speak plainly and in his language. He kept his spiritual ideas basic and nondenominational. And what was once considered divisive music now feels, in our own religiously disjointed era, universal. By implication and expression, his work provides a model for even greater diversity of expression to come forth and enrich our common life. Whether his numbers solemnly sing the blues or raise the rafters, Ellington's message is always brotherhood.