

Chancel Times

PUBLISHED FOR THE MEMBERS AND FRIENDS OF THE MANCHESTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH CHANCEL CHOIR

Full Messiah Performance Tops New Season Schedule

During his annual state-of-the-choir address at the June 25 end-of-year party, Kevin said this year would feature some old favorites. One look at the schedule confirms the favorites are back.

At the top of the agenda for fall is preparation for a Dec. 18 holiday concert of the music of John Rutter. The performance, entitled "GLORIA!" will include Rutter

First Rehearsal Is Sept. 1

carol arrangements for choir and orchestra.

The Rutter "Gloria" will also be part of the concert.

"The Gloria concert will commemorate Rutter's 60th birthday in September," Kevin says.

Handle's Messiah will occupy the rehearsal schedule soon after the Christmas holidays. As part of the choir's Choral Masterworks Series, the full Messiah will be performed on Sunday, April 23, with a chamber orchestra.

Easter Sunday worship services on April 16, also will feature multiple selections from the Messiah.

The world-famous St. Olaf Choir from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., will perform in our Sanctuary on Friday, Feb. 10.

The St. Olaf Choir, with 75 mixed voices, is the pioneer a cappella choir in the United States. It has been directed since 1990 by Anton Armstrong.

Kevin also revealed the possibility of a return trip to New York in the future.



The Chancel Choir, joined by members of St. Louis Metro Singers, provided music for Sunday worship at the Parish Church of St. Cuthbert in Edinburgh, Scotland on June 12. Additional photos of the choir's trip to Great Britain appear on page six and on the Chancel Choir Web site.

Fall Kickoff Party Aug. 20

The Chancel Choir's annual Kickoff party is set for 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 20 at the home of Jo Ann and Bruce Jones, 13536 Royal Glen Drive. Invite a new member or a former singer to return.

The party will be potluck. The Jones home is easy to find – directions and additional details will be provided by email just before the party. If you get lost, call 314-469-1511 and we'll talk you in.

Got Talent? Follies Returns Oct. 29

Once again church and Chancel Choir members are being encouraged to join the cast of the second bi-annual Fall Follies variety show on Saturday, Oct. 29. The show was conceived two years ago as a fund raiser for the Chancel Choir and met with instant success.

Bill Borger is returning as director for the 2005 edition of the Follies. This year's show will have a

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Dinners A Hit This Summer

Everybody likes to eat and Chancel Choir members are no exception. The traveling Thursday night dinners have been a hit this summer.

Stops have included Senor Pique, Emperor's Palace, Applebee's, HomeTown Buffet, Bandanna's, and the Olive Garden.

An average of 40 people join the group each week. Chance Choir social director Sandy Ford coordinates the dinners which will run through the last week in August.



Fall Follies Director Bill Berger discusses the 2005 talent and variety show during an informational meeting in May. The show will be presented on Saturday, Oct. 29, as a fund raiser for the Chancel Choir.

Chancel Times

August 2005

Chancel Choir Officers ~ 2005-2006

Mary DeanPresident
Chris KennedyVice-President
Lois HendricksonRecording Secretary
Ann GarberAttendance Secretary
Jacque RocchioTreasurer
Tim ZinkAsst. Treasurer
Rose Carlisle, Judi Shepard,
Josh Hayes, and Doug Ross
.....Member Representatives
Jim DescherPast President

Operations Staff

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Rosanne and Andy Miller,
Rhoda and Bud KemperHospitality
Rose CarlislePhone Tree
To Be DeterminedFellowship Friends
Sandy FordSocial Events
Jim BelvalOperations
Fran McMillianRecognition
Melissa LarsenWardrobe
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Harriet Kettenhofen, Rose Carlisle,
Janie Walker, Carolyn Andrews,
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Section Managers

Cece SpatolaSoprano
Barb FarmerAlto
Bud KemperTenor
Charles ShafferBass
Kevin McBethDirector of Music Ministries
Ted CronbaughAccompanist

Chancel Times Editor/Webmaster Gary Ford
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'05 Fall Follies Set For Oct. 29

Continued from Page 1

travel/vacation/places/people in motion theme and will include performances by the entire Chancel Choir as well as individual acts. The show will have an "elaborate" set and Mr. Screen will be back by popular demand.

A casting call will be held on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 11 and 12, in the choir room so performers can present their acts for review. There is a place for everyone in the show, but you may be placed in a number or act different from what

you bring to the casting call, Bill says

Both general admission and patron tickets will be sold. Patrons will receive preferred seating down. As with previous fund raisers, Chancel Choir members will be asked to sell a minimum number of tickets.

Participation is open to college age or older church members.

Further details will be provided soon, meanwhile work on those acts, invite your talented non-choir friends and try to match the theme of the show.

Treasurer's Activity Report

| | <u>Expense</u> | <u>Revenue</u> | <u>Balance</u> |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Prior Treasury Balance (3/31) | | | \$12,514.45 |
| Revenue | | | |
| England Trip deposits | | 58,312.00 | |
| Choir Expenses | | | |
| England funds to travel agent | 58,312.00 | | |
| Treasury Balance (4/30) | | | \$12,514.45 |

Choir Fund Balances

| | <u>Balances 3/31/05</u> | <u>Balances 4/30/05</u> |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Choir Activity | 10,764.45 | 10,764.45 |
| Choir England Trip | 1,750.00 | 1,750.00 |
| Total All Funds | \$12,514.45 | \$12,514.45 |

Choir Scholar Headed To Truman State

In front of a standing ovation of worshippers and Chancel Choir members, Parkway South Senior Chessey Lynn was awarded the 10th annual Chancel Choir scholarship during Youth Sunday worship services on May 22.

"This was a very hard decision and is a testimony to the youth of our church," choir vice president and scholarship committee chair Mary Dean told the congregation. She then began revealing details about the recipient, pointing out her academic achievement, church youth activities, and music program participation.

Chessey is the daughter of Nancy and George Lynn of Manchester, Mo. She will attend Truman State

University this fall where she plans to major in Spanish education and put the \$2,000 scholarship to good use. Chessey is a member of Joyful Noise and performed in the group's production of *Godspell*.

The annual Chancel Choir scholarship is presented to a graduating senior each spring. The selection process begins in March with applications and ends with extensive interviews in May.

The selection committee is chaired each year by the choir's vice president/president elect. Members of the committee this year, in addition to Dean, were: Tenor Tim Zink, Soprano Linn Willets, Youth Director Nancy Cooper and Kevin.



Chessey Lynn, right, accepts the Chancel Choir scholarship from Mary Dean, scholarship chair, during Youth Sunday services May 22.

Retreat Returns to Nearby Mercy Center Oct. 7 & 8

The annual Chancel Choir retreat is returning to Mercy Center in Frontenac this year. The retreat is set for the weekend of Oct. 7 and 8.

Mercy Center is a religious conference center operated by the Sisters of Mercy. Located at 2039 North Geyer Road on a large acreage tucked away in West St. Louis County, the center includes a beautiful circular chapel, sleeping rooms, a dining room, walking trails and a chance to "get away from it all" without a long drive.

The choir held its retreat there four years ago, but due to scheduling conflicts, the center was not again

available until this year.

Although details of this year's retreat were not yet finalized when the *Chancel Times* was published, normally an evening rehearsal is held following dinner on Friday night. Several rehearsal session are held on Saturday with breakfast, lunch and dinner available on site.

Mercy Center has double occupancy sleeping rooms available for those wishing to stay over night.

Rehearsals are held in the circular chapel, an excellent room for a large choir to rehearse in. You can bet the rehearsal agenda will include Rutter Christmas carols in preparation for

the GLORIA! concert in December.

Look for details on the retreat to be announced soon. An early registration deadline is expected so that meal and sleeping arrangements can be made.

A survey conducted earlier this year found that 91 percent of the choir rated the retreat as very important to learning new music for the coming year. The choir was evenly divided on the benefit of holding the retreat overnight.

Complete results of the survey are posted on the Chancel Choir Web site at www.mumcchancelchoir.org.



Fun, fellowship and rehearsal are on the schedule at Chancel Choir retreats. Last fall, the choir rehearsed Christmas music, above. Tenor Wes Sailor sorted music at right and Alto Jean Lange displayed a fellowship building technique at left.





Larry Shepard helps put Fran McMillian into the holiday spirit at the Chancel Choir's annual holiday party at Spazio's in early January.

Holiday Party Returns to Spazio's On Jan. 7, 2006

They love the food and the location," Lois Hendrickson, holiday party chair, told Chancel Choir officers earlier this year when she recommended the party return to Spazio's in Westport next year. The next party is set for Saturday, Jan. 7, 2006.

For many years, the Chancel Choir's annual Christmas party was held in various choir members' homes. Until we got too big, that is. Then parties were held at the Ballwin Recreation Center.

When schedules began to conflict and nearly 100 people began showing up, it was decided a change was in order.

Two years ago an early January party was tested with a sit down dinner and dancing. This will be our third year at Spazio's.

Calendar

Saturday, Aug. 20, 5:30 p.m. ~ Annual Back-to-Choir Party at the Jo Ann and Bruce Jones home

Thursday, Sept. 1, 7:30 p.m. ~ First rehearsal of season

Sunday, Sept. 11, 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. ~ First Sunday Chancel Choir sings for worship

Friday/Saturday, Oct. 7 & 8 ~ Choir Retreat at Mercy Center

Sunday, Oct. 16 ~ Music Ministry Dedication Sunday

Saturday, Oct. 29, 7:30 p.m. ~ Fall Follies - fund raising cabaret show.

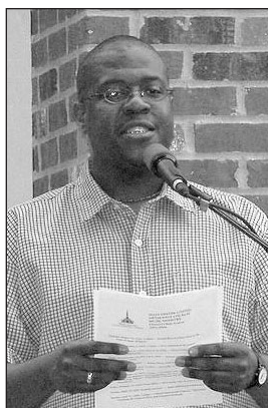
Sunday, Dec. 18, 7:30 p.m. ~ GLORIA! The Music of John Rutter. An evening of Rutter carol arrangements for choir and orchestra.

Saturday, Jan. 7 ~ Holiday Party at Spazio's

Friday, Feb. 10 ~ In Concert: St. Olaf Choir

Sunday, April 16 ~ Easter MESSIAH Celebration

Sunday, April 23, 7:30 p.m. ~ Choral Masterworks Concert: MESSIAH with chamber orchestra.



The heat didn't stop the Chancel Choir from celebrating a busy season at its annual end-of-year party on June 25. Kevin announces exciting plans for next year as about 75 choir members watch from in front of a fan. The Chief Justice displays a leadership manual for a .5MTC mega choir. Royal Music Police agent Ramona Schroeder places the crown on the head of Kenneth Dean, new choir monarch during coronation ceremonies. Officers were installed and summer birthdays were announced.



In what was billed as a first-ever event, 96 musicians from 14 symphony orchestras performed a joint concert March 13 in the Sanctuary. The concert was first organized as a fund raiser for local musicians, however once a labor dispute was settled it proceeded as a thank you to St. Louis for supporting the musicians. Benjamin Zander, former director of the Boston Philharmonic, conducted. Orchestras represented: Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Indianapolis, Louisville, Nashville, New York, Baltimore, Cleveland, Houston, Kansas City, Milwaukee, Philadelphia, and the Florida Philharmonic. More than 1,500 people attended the event which attracted attention in the national news media.



Officers Seek Ways To Expand Choir's Impact on Church, Community

Even before the new officers were installed in June, newly-elected choir president Mary Dean was already busy brainstorming ideas on how the Chancel Choir could make a bigger contribution to the church and the local community.

Officers have discussed some of the ideas for assisting ministries in the church, providing further outreach into the community and using the choir's talents to expand church membership.

Dean and the officers plan to present the best of these ideas to the choir for discussion soon with the goal of starting some new programs and projects this year.



Dean

Vice president/president-elect, Chris Kennedy; recording secretary, Lois

Hendrickson; attendance secretary, Ann Garber; treasurer, Jackie Rocchio; assistant treasurer, Tim Zink; member representatives, Rose Carlisle, Judi Shepard, Josh Hayes and Doug Ross; and past president, Jim Descher.

Operations staff members who work behind the scenes to make sure the choir's business runs smoothly were asked to remain in their jobs and have not changed. They are listed on page two of this newsletter.

Chancel Choir director Kevin McBeth recruits section managers who followup on absent members and help with signups and collections as needed.

Current section managers are: soprano, Cece Spatola; alto, Barb Farmer; tenor, Bud Kemper; and bass, Charles Shaffer.



Kennedy



Hendrickson



Rocchio



Garber



Zink



Carlisle



Shepard



Hayes



Ross



Descher

Road Trip To Great Britain









52 Years of Chancel Choir Music, Worship and Outreach

This fall marks the 52nd season of the Chancel Choir. Begun in 1953 with 12 members in the historic Chapel, the choir has grown to more than 160 singers. Through the years, the Chancel Choir has provided music for worship, support for activities and ministries in the church, and outreach projects for the community. Here is a brief look at some recent activities and the impressions of some new members.

Dr. Phil's Advice, Choir Changes Her Life

An afternoon reading a book by Dr. Phil following the loss of her job brought Alto Kristie Whitney to the choir room.

"In his book *Self Matters*, Dr. Phil says you will never be fully whole until you get in touch with your spiritual self. I come from a missionary family, yet I had not been in church

for 29 years," she said. Kristie's father and mother were Baptist



Missionaries in Malaysia where Kristie spent much of her early childhood.

She decided to restore the missing spiritual component

to her life and headed for church the next Sunday. "That first Sunday I heard the choir. That was it. It was awesomely good and I had to be a part of it."

At Kristie's first rehearsal in 2003, Alto Roxanne Miller was assigned to be her fellowship friend. "It was meant that I be there that night. In just a few weeks I was diagnosed with cancer and Roxanne took care of us. She cooked for us. Called

Music Brings Catholic Back to Church

For a life-long Catholic, it was the music that brought him back to church – the Methodist Church.

"I always wanted to try singing in a choir," Baritone Jim Descher said. "I just loved the sound and when I first heard this choir, well I fell in love with it and just had to try."

Soon Jim realized that being part of a large church choir was more than attending rehearsal and sitting in the loft on Sunday morning. "I joined in 2000 right after my dad became very ill and then died. Without a doubt, it was the choir that helped me. They just adopted me. The



The Chancel Choir sings for Mass at the St. Louis Cathedral Basilica as an outreach to the community.

every day. She got me through it."

Kristie says the choir now is her extended family. "Because of my job, we went 23 years without establishing couple friends. Now we have people to be with and places to go," she says.

But, even with these life changing experiences, Kristie says her favorite part of being in the choir is still the music. "My father is a singer. Every time I hear a piece of music my father sang in church, I think of my parents. It helps me worship and I know we help others worship, too."

phone never stopped ringing. Cards arrived by the basketful."

It was then that Jim decided to put "a little more into it" by volunteering to be a choir officer and getting involved in helping with projects.

Jim says being a part of the choir has enhanced his family's lives. "I can't think of a better small group within the church to join – people who love being around each other and making music together."



Young Composer Thanks Choir With Special Music

Receiving the Chancel Choir Scholarship in 2001 did more than help Daniel Vendt receive his bachelor's degree in music composition this May. It motivated him to write a special composition for the choir based on Psalm 31.

"I was so surprised to receive the scholarship. There were lots of my friends competing," Daniel says. His undergraduate degree from Illinois Wesleyan University has prepared him for his ultimate dream – a Master's Degree in Film and Television Music from the Royal College of Music in London.

Meanwhile, one of Daniel's films he wrote, directed and composed was featured in the St. Louis Film Festival in July.

During the 10 years of the Chancel Choir scholarship program, more than \$20,000 has been awarded to college bound youth active in the church.

Missionary Reaches Out To Choir Members

A desire to get acquainted in a new place drove Tenor Dick Vreeland directly to the church's music room soon after moving to St.



Louis from Michigan in 2001. "I had always sung in choir – it seemed the natural way to become acquainted with our new church."

It's no mystery that Dick would know the tricks to becoming better acquainted. Much of his life has been

spent working with Methodist missionaries throughout the world. Making new friends quickly is the name of their game.

"I thought the size of the church was most impressive. The largest church I had belonged to before moving here was a congregation of 450. Always before, I would feel guilty to be gone from the choir loft if I was one of a handful of tenors. But here with 20 tenors, it's not so much a problem," he said.

Dick believes the annual overnight choir retreats are one of the most important activities for new members. "I immediately knew many people in the choir after my first retreat. It's a great way to become bonded," he said.

When Dick's wife was killed in a tragic automobile accident, the choir offered his family the support he says they needed. "The choir sang for the congregation on the Sunday of Peg's



Tenor Tim Zink plates food for one of two gourmet dinners the Chancel Choir donated to the Youth Auction this year. The dinners raised more than \$1,500.

memorial service even though they weren't scheduled to and even though there was a raging blizzard outside," he said.

"This is a loving and caring community that shares its God given skills and graces with each other and the congregation."

Passing Hat Changed A Life

Soprano Sue Sturhahn's daughter had met a young woman who had lost her job and become homeless. She couldn't provide for her children and was about to lose her car.

Sue asked the choir for help. A quick collection raised \$1,400 – more than the \$400 needed to save the car. The rest paid rent and utility bills.

The woman now has a full-time job, has bought a condo and joined a small area church. She is doing well.

Stranger's Smile Moves Her Into The Loft

It started with a stranger's smile for Soprano Beth Morey. She'd always enjoyed singing and thought the choir in this new church was really impressive. "That's something I would like to do," she thought as she watched the choir in the loft.

On a Sunday in August 2003, Beth found herself sitting in a pew enjoying a worship service consisting mainly of hymn singing. "It was so much fun. Some of the hymns that Sunday were my favorites," she recalls.

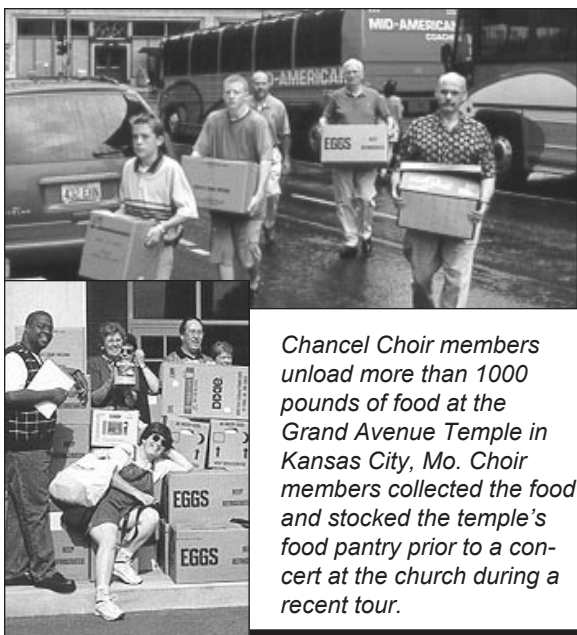
A pleasant stranger sitting next to her smiled and leaned toward her. "You know, you should be in the choir," he whispered. She smiled back and told him she was going to join that fall. The stranger was Baritone Doug Ross and in a few

weeks Beth found herself sitting in the choir loft.

For Beth the music is the most meaningful part of choir. "We sing all types of music and I enjoy the message in the music. I've found the choir loft to be a very spiritual place." Beth says joining the choir was one of the best things she's done as a church member.

"I've been accepted and cared for." Through two major illnesses – a serious leg injury and a bout with breast cancer – Beth says she received support from her new choir friends.

"I can't tell you how many calls, cards and prayers I had from choir members. They've made a big difference in my life."



Chancel Choir members unload more than 1000 pounds of food at the Grand Avenue Temple in Kansas City, Mo. Choir members collected the food and stocked the temple's food pantry prior to a concert at the church during a recent tour.

Notes

Chancel



A rock star photo op? No, just Kevin and some of his admirers on the bonny, bonny banks of Loch Lohman. But, from the "paparazzi" gathered it could have been a scene from *Desperate Housewives*.

TYPECASTING? **Alto Laura Ferree** seemed to fit right into the part during her latest foray into showbiz as one of the sultry jailhouse girls in the musical *Chicago* this summer. Her one big line: "So that night, I fixed him a drink. Some guys just can't hold their arsenic."

PRETTY TOUGH. How tough are sopranos? Tough enough to nurse a broken arm across the Atlantic. Seems **Soprano Kathy Givens** broke an arm during a fall in Paris while on an extended visit following the Great Britain tour. Back in the US, it was first stop customs, next stop the ER.

ASK ME AGAIN. For **Tenor Chris Kennedy's** family, the fun didn't stop with the choir tour. They spent another week visiting relatives in Scotland. The kids enjoyed the visit until they discovered at lunch they were eating a tongue sandwich. "Where do you get tongue," came

Lois Hinderickson discovered befriending the director of food service at a big Glasgow hotel can get you extra rolls at dinner.



the question. "Straight from the cow's mouth," was the reply.

WORDS TO LIVE BY. After some particularly rude treatment by a ticket taker at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, **Baritone Jim Belval** uttered the best line of the trip: "Don't let this tux fool you."



Souvenir anyone? Cinda Divjak spots a unique piece of "pop" art in Luss, Scotland.

UPGRADE. Things are a little more formal at church in Scotland. Ushers at St. Cuthbert's church in Edinburgh wear tailcoats while seating people on Sunday morning. Asked why they dressed so formally, the answer was, "why wouldn't we?"

MOM'S HOUSE? St. Cuthbert's is considered the Mother Church of the Presbyterian denomination. Was

Wesley Chapel ours?

BUGS ON BOOST. One of the highlights of the stop at the Hilton Hotel in Warrick, England, was the wildlife on the hotel grounds. "Look at that," **Baritone Larry Woolweaver** said while pointing at a rabbit the size of a medium sized dog. An inquiry at the hotel desk brought a sly smile and an explanation: "It's the nuclear power plant up the road."



Barb Barrett makes friends wherever she goes. This parafin guard appears petrified by her advances.

PUB DOG. Some singers spent



Hell's angels have no furry like Mike and Pam Campbell on a Harley in San Antonio, Texas.

two evenings at the Britannia Pub in Kennington. Highlight was Charlie the Pub Dog, a black lab who went from table to table begging for handouts. Made us homesick.

IGLOO CITY. It's a long way to escape the St. Louis heat, but **Soprano Mary Ann Brinkley**

spent a part of June walking on a glacier in Alaska. She also was seen riding a horse on the frozen tundra near Mount McKinley.



Six pubs on the Kennington-Baywater Ale Trail in four days while in London got Dave Divjak a tee shirt. One wonders when he had time to sing -- oh yes, they sing in pubs too.