

Holiday Party - Jan. 10
Money Due • See Page 2

December 2003

Chancel

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

Fall Follies Showcases Church Talent

The evening started with an enthusiastic audience talking to a video screen and ended with more than 70 performers bowing in front of a standing ovation.

In between, talented members and friends of Manchester United Methodist Church did their best to prove that talent was alive and well in our congregation. The MUMC Fall Follies Music Revue was produced by

the Chancel Choir Nov. 7 as a fund raiser for its scholarship and community outreach activities. More than \$7,000 was raised during the performance.

As more than 700 persons watched, dancers, singers, acrobats, clowns, and instrumentalists performed 28 acts during the two-hour show.

Prior to the revue, a special pre-show party for patron tick-



The Last Resort featuring, from left: Harriet Kettenhofen, Joyce Humphrey, Debbie Brader and Charlotte Moser. Andy Miller sings for his supper at Snoopy at left.

et holders was held in Old Fellowship Hall. Joe Elstner provided piano entertainment for more than 20 patrons enjoying a dessert buffet.

The show was directed by Bill Borger with the help of dozens of volunteers from the Chancel Choir. Planning for the revue began in April with an organizational meeting and

duty assignments. Auditions were held in September and rehearsals continued up to the night before the performance.

Talent shows are not new to our church. In the late 80s and early 90s, the MUMY Revue was produced as a fund raiser for the church's youth

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Allen Pote Will Conduct Festival of Praise Concert

Composer Allen Pote will bring his musical talent to Manchester this spring to conduct a Festival of Praise concert on Sunday, May 23.

The performance will feature the Chancel Choir, youth ensembles and children's choirs.

Pote is known nationally as a composer of sacred music as well as a clinician for festivals and workshops.

Since 1975 his published choral works, which include 12 musicals for youth and children, have been widely performed and he continues to

receive numerous commissions for new works. In 1999 he was commissioned to compose an overture for the Pensacola Symphony Orchestra for the city's tri-centennial celebration.

Pote will conduct a rehearsal for all choral groups on Saturday, May 22, in preparation for the Sunday concert.



Allen Pote



Fall Follies Showcases Church Talent

Continued from Page 1
program. Over the years, interest would occasionally surface for a

reprise of that show. The idea for the Fall Follies came from a discussion about choir fundraising projects. The choir's ad hoc marketing team took the proposal for the Follies to the choir officers for approval last spring and the rest is show biz history.

As of the end of November, show revenue totaled just over \$9,000. Expenses stood at \$988 with net profit at \$8,100. According to choir treasurer John Lemen, some expenses still remain to be paid. Once they are paid and our traditional 10 percent tithe is paid to the church, net proceeds from the Follies should be about \$7,200.

Plans do call for talent shows to be a regular part of the choir's fundraising options however when the next Follies is produced is up for discussion.



Director Bill Borger meets with the show cast and crew, top left. The "scrub women" prepare to audition, top right. Show band drummer Gary Halls, unpacks for auditions, above.

Chancel

December, 2003

Chancel Choir Officers ~ 2003-2004

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Jim DescherVice-President
Ann GarberSecretary
Cece SpatolaAsst. Secretary
John LemenTreasurer
Barb Barrett, Joyce Humphrey,
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Melissa LarsenWardrobe
June Van Klaveren,
Gary FordPublicity
Harriet Kettenhofen, Rose Carlisle,
Janie Walker, Carolyn Andrews,
Jo Ann JonesLibrarians

Section Managers

Cece SpatolaSoprano
Barb FarmerAlto
Bud KemperTenor
Larry WoolweaverBass

Kevin McBethDirector of Music Ministries
W. Theodore CronbaughAccompanist

Chancel Times Editor/Webmaster Gary Ford
Published for the Chancel Choir by
Ford Communications LLC
Available electronically in PDF format.
www.mumcchancelchoir.org

Holiday Party Set For Jan. 10 - Money Is Due

This year's Christmas party is in January. Breaking with tradition, and in the spirit of trying something different, the Chancel Choir's holiday party will be held at 7 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 10 at Spazio's in Westport.

The party will include a catered buffet meal, cash bar and music provided by a DJ. Cost for to attend the party is \$25 per person and your reservation is due to Lois

Hendrickson, party chair, on or before Sunday, Jan. 4.

Spazio's is located in the Comfort Inn Hotel on Lackland Road. Directions

appear with this story.

More information about the party may be obtained by calling Lois at 636-394-7536. **Your money for the party must be received by Jan. 4.**

There will be no gift exchange. Just bring yourself, a spouse or friend and plan on having a good time.

Don't miss the holiday party. It will be a great way to celebrate a great choir year.

Directions To Spazio's -- From I-270, take Page east. approx 1/2 mile to the Lackland Road/Westport Plaza exit. Turn right onto Lackland Road. The hotel is located at the intersection of Lackland Road and Westport Plaza Drive on the right. Look for the Comfort Inn sign.



After a long, hot summer, Chancel Choir members were anxious to return to singing. More than 145 persons attended the first rehearsal in September. A total of 17 new members joined the choir this fall. Choir president Moe Parisien welcomes the choir back, above. Altos Terri Thompson, Melinda Zimmerman, Carolyn Andrews and Mary Lou Adams compare vacation pictures at right.

Fundraisers Bring Choir Treasury Into Black

The success of both the Fall Follies and 100 Years of Broadway concerts has returned the choir's treasury to financial health. As of Nov.26, the balance in the choir member activity account was \$10,624.62.

When this report was prepared, final Fall Follies accounting had not been completed.

To simplify accounting, choir treasurer John Lemen has set up four sub accounts to track funds. Balances of those accounts are shown below. The Choir Fundraising sub account is the main account for the choir's members money. The activity sub account is used to pay expenses. As needed, "pass through" sub accounts are set up to track money for specific

projects such as Fall Follies and the Fall Retreat.

Negative balances are shown in two of the sub accounts. A total of \$398 was paid to the retreat center for rooms reserved that were not used at the retreat this year. Choir officers voted to write off the loss at their meeting Dec. 12. Also, a \$1500 deposit for use of Mercy Center in 2005 was paid from the choir member account.

Officers were undecided if member activity funds or church music ministry funds should be used to finance the retreat deposit for 2005.

A previous policy on use of choir member funds will be revised by the choir treasurer and presented to officers for review.



The previous policy outlined appropriate uses for choir member funds and set in place a process for choir members to approve large expenditures.

Operational expenses for the chancel choir are provided through church music ministry funds. Member activity funds raided by fund raising projects are spent at the discretion and approval of the choir.

Choir Sub Account Balances

November 26, 2003

Choir Fundraising	\$ 4,753.08
Choir Activity*	(333.84)
Fall Follies	8,103.38
Fall Retreat**	(1,898.00)
TOTAL	\$ 10,624.62

* Includes \$250 deposit to Spazio's for holiday party and flower expense.

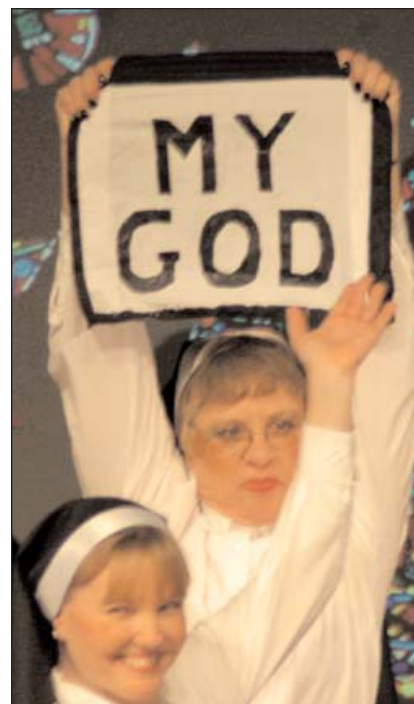
** Includes \$398 loss for retreat rooms reserved and not used and \$1,500 deposit to Mercy Center for 2005

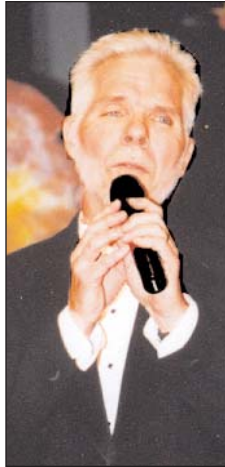
Chancel Choir Treasurer's Report - November

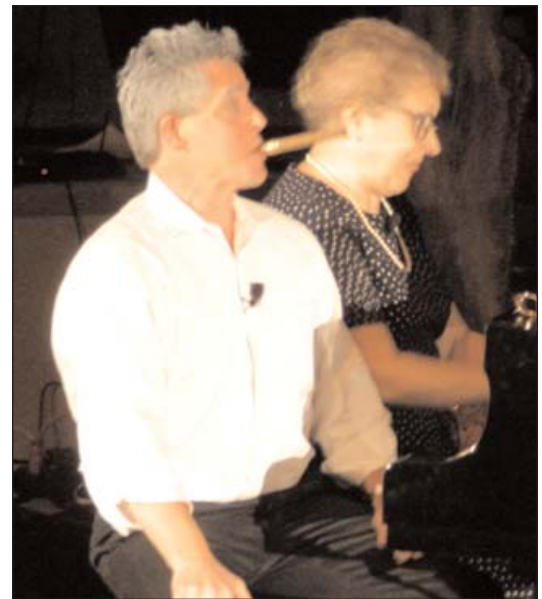
	<u>Expense</u>	<u>Revenue</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Prior Treasury Balance (10/31)			3,523.79
Fall Follies			
Tickets and Concessions		7,862.25	
Concert Expense	677.58		
Choir Expenses			
Flowers	83.64		
Current Treasury Balance (11/26)			10,624.62

MUMC Cabaret 2003:

FALL FOLLIES









MUMC Cabaret 2003:

FALL FOLLIES





Not an epidemic of flu, just an infection of poor vocal technique in the alto section. Kevin made the mistake at the fall retreat of suggesting that altos sing as if they had a mask over their face. They took him up on the idea and whipped out surgical masks during a rehearsal.

Fourth New York Opportunity Offered

If you haven't gotten enough of the Big Apple on the choir's three trips to perform in New York, there is one more chance.

While not a part of the choir's programming, interested singers are being offered an opportunity to sing when Kevin directs the Faure Requiem at Carnegie Hall for Mid-America Productions next year.

The trip will take place on Nov. 11 through 15. "Requiem comes in many shapes and sizes, but this 40-minute gem by romantic French

composer Gabriel Faure, is in my estimation the most beautiful," Kevin says.

So far, about 25 choir members have expressed interest in the trip. The full choir will not perform the requiem and rehearsals for the New York performance will not involve the Chancel Choir.

Deadline for the \$100 deposit to commit you for the trip is in mid-January. The first organizational meeting for those making the trip will be at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 15.

Email Updates Quick, Popular

Use of email to update and inform members of the Chancel Choir is popular and provides a quick way to get the word out.

But you've got to let us know when your email changes. Also, a number of email providers are attempting to reduce SPAM messages by applying restrictive filters which also can prevent you from getting choir updates. Netscape mail, AOL and MSN are a few that have caused problems.

If you aren't getting an average of one email update a week from the choir, check the filters used by your email provider and make sure the choir Webmaster has your correct email address.

Chancel President

By Moe Parisien

Still in the midst of digesting my Thanksgiving dinner (along with a day or two of leftovers), I can't think of a better time to reflect on all that we have to be thankful for as members of this fantastic MUMC Chancel Choir.

It was just this past summer when conversations took place on what we might be able to do as a major fundraiser for the year. The one idea that seemed to have a lot of interest was to resurrect the MUMY (Manchester United Methodist Youth) Review of over a decade ago, but given the fact that we've all pretty much left our years of youth long behind, we'd have to come up with a new name.

Creative juices started to flow, and we landed on the name Fall Follies. From the first few organization meetings when Bill Borger agreed to take on the responsibility of show director and sketched out his ideas and a vision of what could be, I don't think that any of us (other than Bill) could have ever dreamed that the program would come together as it did. With the talented production staff and show talent we were able to generate in the neighborhood of \$7,000 after expenses and our tithe to the church. What a night, and What a program!

Keeping with the theme, I'd like to "give thanks" to those individuals that gave their best to make this program a success. A big "thanks" needs to go out to Bill Borger, as show director and Gary Ford, who headed up show administration and operations, (as well as doing an outstanding job as emcee along with Larry Dietzel). Laura Ferree, choreographer; Barb Bommarito, stage manager; Sue Shepard, assistant stage manager; Will Brinkhorst, Amy Farfan, Dylan Briggs, Kristie Whitney and Mary Ann Brinkley for lighting, sound and video.

Thanks also should go out to June Van Klaveren for doing a great job with design of tickets, posters, and theme art. Thanks also to Melissa Larson and Mary Ann Sumpter for doing a great job with wardrobe, and to Tom Lawrence, the show's band director and countless other members of our choir and MUMC staff that made the Fall Follies the success that it was. The good news out of our efforts is that the Chancel Choir is now in a solid financial position to continue with our support of the annual youth scholarship program along with other outreach efforts.

What more could we be thankful for? ... New members. Since beginning with our 2003 fall season, the Chancel Choir has added 17 new members to our ranks. And the reason that we've been successful in attracting these new members is that so many of our veteran singers have gone out of their way to extend a hand, and make these new singers feel comfortable, and at home in our choir family.

Yes, maybe we don't have a music folder, or a robe for every new member that comes to choir, but we can go out of our way to let our new members know that they are appreciated and that our choir is just that much better in praising God's name in song as a result of their being a part of Chancel Choir. To you new members, thanks for being flexible in sharing music and robes until we are able to permanently assign a robe and music folder.

In closing out my "thanks" this message would not be complete without extending sincere "thanks" to Kevin and Ted for the outstanding work that the both of you perform week in and week out. Kevin, our choir is so incredibly fortunate to have you leading us in praising God through his gift of music.

And finally, thanks be to God for the opportunity to serve our church, and for this choir to be able to play a part in helping create a meaningful worship experience for our congregation. Wishing you all a very blessed Advent and Christmas season!

Chancel Director

The View From My Window

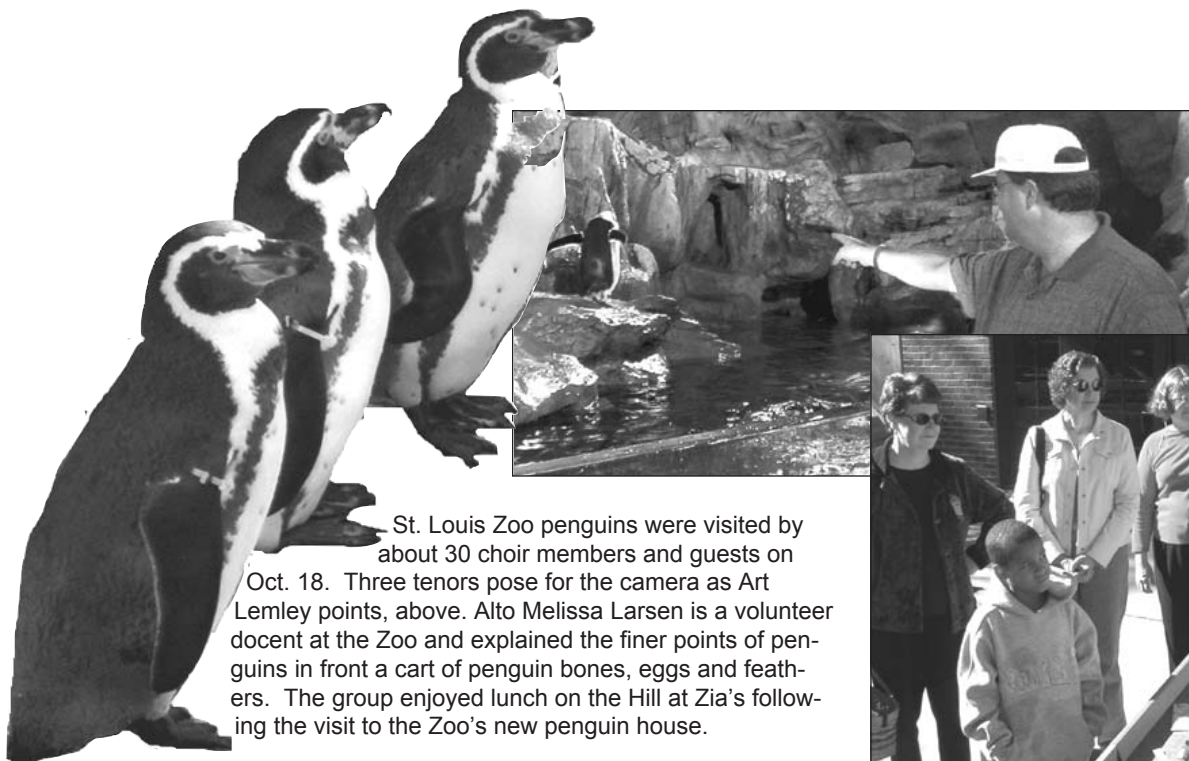
By Kevin McBeth

If you're reading this, it probably means you have survived the bulk of the Christmas rush, and are eagerly awaiting the coming of a new year.

The year 2003 was filled to the brim with some exciting moments for our choir family. Who could forget our amazing weekend of hymn singing with Hal Hopson?

The excitement of 100 Years of Broadway was enough to last us all year, and who knew we had all that hidden talent that blossomed for Fall Follies?

I'm so blessed by the musical growth that we have accomplished. I look forward to more mountaintop experiences and musical highlights. Let me be the first to wish you a Happy New Year!



St. Louis Zoo penguins were visited by about 30 choir members and guests on Oct. 18. Three tenors pose for the camera as Art Lemley points, above. Alto Melissa Larsen is a volunteer docent at the Zoo and explained the finer points of penguins in front a cart of penguin bones, eggs and feathers. The group enjoyed lunch on the Hill at Zia's following the visit to the Zoo's new penguin house.



Indy Trip Plans Includes Concert, Sunday Worship at St. Luke's

Plans are beginning to come together for the choir's tour to Indianapolis in June.

It will be a weekend of great music and family fun. "Indy's a cool place for our trip and an awesome place for families to play," Kevin says.

The trip will begin with departure for Indy on Friday, June 11 either by chartered coach or personal vehicle.

During the day on Saturday, June 12, there will be many options for fun things to do, including: Indy's new Circle Centre (mega shopping), the Zoo, White River State Park, Indiana State Museum and Imax, the Indiana State Capitol, and the Indy World War Memorial. We may even try to work in a tour of the Indy 500 Raceway for those fans of fast cars.

Saturday evening, the choir will present a concert of the Chancel Choirs greatest hits. The concert location is still to be determined.

On Sunday morning, June 13, the choir will sing for worship at St. Luke's United Methodist Church in north Indy. St. Luke's is a church very much like ours, with a brand

new sanctuary and music facilities built in 1999. The church has over 5,000 members. Following worship we'll have lunch in Indy and then head for home.

Costs for the trip are based on travel and lodging. The bus is typically about \$40 per person. "We'll secure a block of rooms at a very

nice hotel, but try to keep things reasonable," Kevin says.

Remember that spouses and family are invited to join us for this exciting weekend of music ministry in motion.

The choir takes a midwestern tour every other year and has visited Chicago, Kansas City and Nashville.



More than 40 choir members once again enjoyed good eats at Fast Eddy's Bonn Aire in Alton on Sept. 27. Fast Eddy's is noted for its huge shrimp and cheap 1/2 pound hamburgers. No South Beach dieters allowed here.

Retreat Again To Dittmer



The choir's annual fall retreat was held Oct. 3-4 at the Rive Us Again Conference Center in Dittmer, Mo. At top David Schenck sets sail on the lake and senior member John Johnson studies his music. Center, left to right, Kevin relaxes and listens; Terry Houts and Becky Hoeken Seger touch noses during one of the games; and Jim Descher and Larry Shepard play foosball. At the request of the choir, retreat rehearsal time was increased 35 percent this year and is evident by the hard working musicians pictured here.

Notes

Chancel

SPECIAL GIFT. We all know about bringing white gifts to church, but what choir member left a stack of brown gifts in the church's dumpster?

TWO WHEELED GETAWAY. Trail riding bass **John Lemen** headed to Indiana in October for a two-day bike ride called the Hilly Hundred. "The name speaks for itself," Lemen said. He was accompanied by non-choir church type Bill Bergman.

HEY, CARLOS. That eternal rock band groupie **Merry Gnaegy** rubbed elbows with Carlos Santana at a big Hewlett-Packard sales conference in Las Vegas last month. Actually she was 20 feet away, but did talk with a couple of band members and got an autographed play list. "He's awesome. In fact, he's just like Fran McMillan, he'll keep on playing his music as long as he's able and doesn't let his age slow him down," she says. Fran and Carlos – who'd a thought.

CAN'T FORGET THAT MUG. Just when we grew tired of seeing bass **Larry Shepard's** face in that American Equity Mortgage television commercial, he's back. This time for Motorola cell phones and only during the Pro Bowl. Larry is an extra in a



It was chili mac instead of turkey for soprano Donna Biolchini when she had Thanksgiving dinner with the choir at Steak 'N Shake on Nov. 22. Her husband Paul is in the center, the turkey is on the right.

stadium crowd shot with 99 other people behind an interview with Marshall Faulk. Although the commercial is supposed to take place in Hawaii, Larry and friends were perched in the SLU soccer field. Can you hear me know?

HUNG UP HIS POSTAGE SCALE. It's quits for bass **Bill Lange**. He retired on Nov. 30 after selling his UPS Store at Brentwood and Manchester roads. But before he faded into business history, Bill received the Business Person of the Year honor from the Brentwood Chamber of Commerce during a gala dinner on Dec. 4.

EMERIL LOOKOUT. It was gourmet dining at the **Rose Carlisle** house when she claimed one of those fancy dinners the choir donated to the youth auction. Guests included Dean Carlisle and seven women fondly called his harem.

'TIS THE SEASON. Imagine our surprise when treasurer **John Lemen** reported last week receiving an anonymous \$500 contribution to the Fall Follies. Somebody either has great taste in theatrical talent or they are hard of hearing. In either case, the choir is grateful.

HOW YOU SAY? Many found the Fall Follies a truly educational experience. The Portuguese lesson alone was worth the price of admission.

I'M NEXT. Several stage struck diva's who bailed out on the auditions found themselves envious when they saw the Fall Follies. "I'll stop the show next year," one was overheard saying.

PASS THE CUPID. It's a Valentine Feast for **Jim Descher** and his selected guests when he claims the second gourmet dinner the choir donated to the youth auction. No word yet on the menu, but at the final bid price it better be good.

AUTHOR, AUTHOR. Soprano **June Van Klaveren** has written a book about small business marketing entitled *The Edge Up*. You may have caught her on KEZK hocking her tome last week.

LEWIS AND CLARK APPROVE. A Chancel Choir advance team has just returned from a mission to explore the interior of the new **Belval** mansion and reports it



It is easy to see why Chancel Choir president Moe Parisien was in a popular rock band in his younger days. He's a Warren Zevon look alike.

is fit for a future choir party. The team recommends maps for the inside of the house as well as the streets leading to it.

HE TAKES REQUESTS. That was once and previous bass **Joe "Fingers" Elstner** pounding the ivories at the Fall Follies patron party. Joe is seriously considering a return to the loft and needs further encouragement from his choir friends.



You've always suspected attorneys were hungry? Here's proof. Joan Descher, wife of bass Jim Descher, presents the evidence at the back to choir party in August.