



# Times Chancel

August 2007

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

## Concerts, Tours, Projects Fill New Year With Excitement

If you thought Chancel Choir has been exciting the last few years, you ain't seen nothing yet. This season brings some big, big events to our schedule.

### FALL FOLLIES 2007

Right out of the box this fall we'll begin working on the third biennial Fall Follies talent show, the choir's big fund raiser on Oct. 27. Got talent? Let's see it.

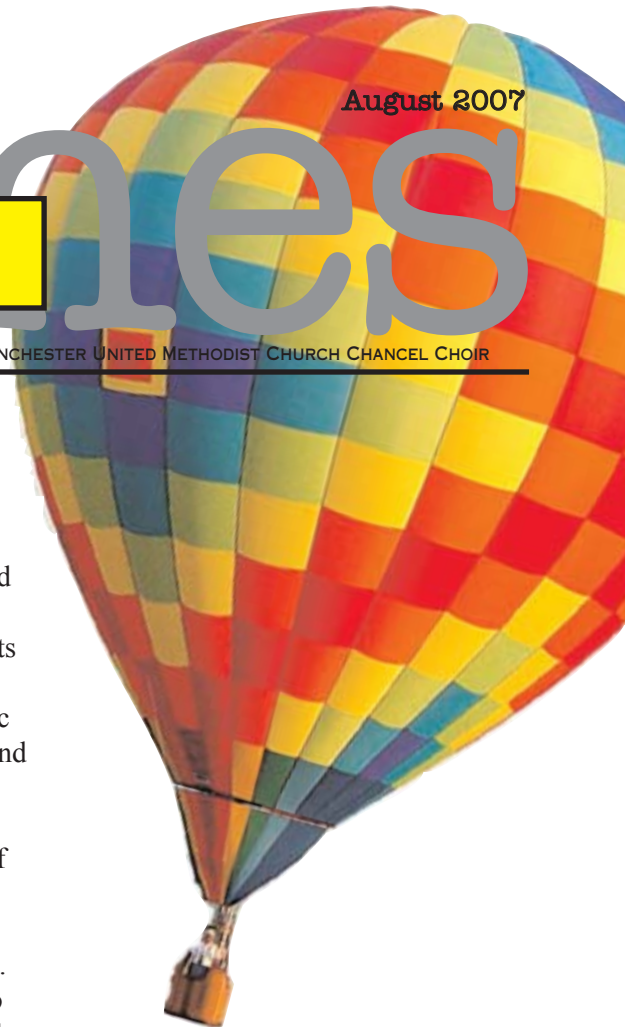
Our annual fall retreat Sept. 28-29 will take us to the main stage at the

Touhill Center. We'll go on the road Oct. 14 for our second Music Mission Sunday and sing in the lofts at four local churches.

On Dec. 19, we'll perform music of famed composers Mark Hayes and Mack Wilberg at our Classic Christmas holiday concert.

And if that isn't enough, dust off your suitcase for our trip to sing at Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., next Memorial Day weekend.

If these aren't reasons enough to join us this year, attend our fall kick-off party Aug. 25 and we'll tell you some more. Details on all of these events appear in this newsletter.



Who took a voyage on a hot air balloon during the summer break? Check out vacation stories starting on page 9.

## Chancel Choir Will Perform at Kennedy Center

We're headed to the nation's capitol. The Chancel Choir will sing at Kennedy Center on Saturday, May 24, 2008 during a tour to Washington, D.C. Kevin will direct the Kennedy Center performance of Randall Thompson's

*Testament of Freedom* and *Who Are The Brave*. A pre-tour concert will be presented in our Sanctuary on Sunday, May 18.

In addition to the Chancel Choir, the tour is also open to members of Metro Singers, the St. Louis singing

group that Kevin also directs, and a church choir from St. John's United Methodist Church in Memphis, Tenn.

The tour will also include a post concert dinner cruise on the Potomac River, participation in the changing of the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery on Friday, May 23; worship at the National Cathedral on Sunday, May 25; and the PBS Memorial Day concert on the Capitol steps on Sunday evening, May 25.

We will travel as a group to Washington on Thursday, May 22, and return on Memorial Day, Monday, May 26. We'll stay at the Hilton Washington Hotel located near the Dupont Circle Metro



The Chancel Choir will take the stage of the main Concert Hall at the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., on May 24. The hall opened in 1971 and seats 2,442 people.

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# Kennedy Center

Continued from Page 1

Station. The tour will be structured very much like our previous tours to New York, but will be handled by a different touring company headed by a former staff member of the New York tour operator.

Cost of the tour will be similar to our New York trips. Including hotel and air transportation, the cost per person will be in the \$1,200 range



The Kennedy Center is located on the banks of the Potomac River near the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C. and opened to the public in Sept. 1971

depending on how many persons stay in your room. A preliminary sign up this spring resulted in 240 persons expressing interest.

“Plans are shaping up for a great trip. If you haven’t signed up, there is still time. We’ll be talking about this trip for years. As with our other tours, payments will be staged throughout the year,” Kevin said.

A complete tour packet will be

available soon. The initial deposit will be due in mid-September.

Members of the Chancel Choir have participated in four trips to New York where we have sung at

Carnegie Hall, both as members of larger ensembles and in

a performance featuring only our singers. In 2005, the Chancel Choir toured Great Britain singing at six cathedrals in London, Stratford and Edinburgh.

**First Rehearsal Aug. 30**

## Got Talent? Third Fall Follies Set For Oct. 27

It’s the biennial Fall Follies back for another run on Oct. 27. The talent show is produced every other year by the Chancel Choir as its main fund raiser for the year. A traditional concert is offered in the off years.

You’ve seen your church friends in previous shows sing, dance, tell jokes, play instruments and attempt other forms of entertainment. Now’s the time to start planning for this year’s show.

“The Chancel Choir will be a big part of this year’s talent show

as well as individual acts,” Kevin says. This year the choir will sing several numbers.

Auditions for the show will begin in late-September. Solo and ensemble acts are encouraged. So start thinking about your act or

recruit some friends to perform.

Funds from the talent show are used for the choir’s scholarships, outreach projects, and tours. There’ll be of opportunity to help with the Follies and choir members will be asked to sell tickets.



## Fall Kickoff Party Set for August 25

The Chancel Choir’s annual Kickoff party is set for 5:30 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 25, at the home of Sandy Wilmoth, 710 Chancellor Heights Dr. in Manchester. Invite a new member or a former singer to return. The party will be potluck. Sandy’s home is easy to find. From the corner of Manchester and Henry roads, go north on Henry until you reach Chancellor Heights Drive (the seventh street to the right at the end of a long wooden fence), turn right (east) and follow the street around to the left. If you get lost, call 636-227-3144 and we’ll talk you in.

### Chancel Times

August 2007

#### Chancel Choir Officers ~ 2007-2008

Tim Zink .....President  
Ann Garber .....Vice-President  
Donna Biolchini .....Recording Secretary  
Kristie Whitney .....Attendance Secretary  
Tom Lawrence .....Treasurer  
Katheryn Cox .....Asst. Treasurer  
May Ann Whitaker, Joyce Humphrey  
Steve Nicholson, and Doug Ross  
.....Member Representatives  
Chris Kennedy .....Past President

#### Operations Staff

Jo Ann Jones, Kristie Whitney,  
Sue Grant, Donna Biolchini, Carol Broyles,  
Roxanne and Andy Miller,  
Rhoda and Bud Kemper .....Hospitality  
Rose Carlisle .....Phone Tree  
Janie Walker,  
Charlotte Shelton .....Fellowship Friends  
Sandy Ford .....Social Events  
Jim Belval .....Operations  
Fran McMillian .....Recognition  
Melissa Larsen .....Wardrobe  
Ramona Schroeder .....Security  
Carol Duggin .....Security Assistant  
June Van Klaveren, Gary Ford .....Publicity  
Harriet Kettenhofen, Rose Carlisle,  
Janie Walker, Carolyn Andrews,  
Jean Lange, Jo Ann Jones .....Librarians

#### Section Managers

Cece Spatola .....Soprano  
Barb Farmer .....Alto  
Bud Kemper .....Tenor  
Larry Woolweaver .....Bass  
Kevin McBeth .....Director of Music Ministries  
Stephanie Allee .....Accompanist

Chancel Times Editor/Webmaster Gary Ford

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*Katie Maestes and Pat Niday thank the Chancel Choir for their scholarships during a break between services June 3. Nancy Stiles, upper right, also received a scholarship.*



## Scholarships Awarded To Three Students

It was a surprise announcement for youth seeking the Chancel Choir Scholarship in more ways than one – this year the choir presented three scholarships instead of one.

A \$2,000 scholarship was presented to Katie Maestas and \$1,000 scholarships were presented to both Nancy Stiles and Pat Niday. Kevin made the presentation during worship on June 3, substituting for vice president Tenor Tim Zink who served as chair of the scholarship

committee this year.

Katie is the daughter of Dan and Bobbi Maestas; Pat is the son of Scott and Kim Niday; and Nancy is the daughter of Scott and Kay Stiles. Both Katie and Pat will attend Truman State University in the fall. Nancy is headed to the University of Missouri’s Journalism School.

During the break between the June 3 services, both Katie and Pat came to the Music Room and thanked the choir for their scholarships.

Earlier this spring, Chancel Choir officers approved granting a second scholarship if there were two worthy candidates during this year’s scholarship competition. During the screening process, members of the scholarship committee decided to split the second \$2,000 award between Pat Niday and Nancy Stiles.

## Fall Retreat Heads to Touhill Center

First there was Todd Hall. Then there was Revive Us Again in Dittmer. We made a few stops at Mercy Center in Frontenac. But this year will be something else. You’re going to step onto the main stage at the Touhill Center for the Performing Arts for the annual Chancel Choir fall retreat, Sept. 28-29. Our retreat is going to a whole new level.

The fun begins at 6 p.m. in the MUMC Fellowship Hall for snacks followed by our kickoff session from 7 p.m. until 9 p.m. Saturday’s all day session will be on the main stage of the Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Touhill Center on the University of Missouri-St. Louis campus.

We’ll spend the day in the acoustically perfect concert hall rehearsing music for the fall season, our Christmas concert and Music Mission project.

Retreat information packets and reservation forms will be available in early September. Details on costs and meals, as well as directions to the center, will be included.

“This is going to be an amazing retreat,” Kevin says. “This is the first time the Touhill has hosted a retreat in its concert hall.”



*The Anheuser-Busch Performance Hall at the Touhill Center on the UMSL Campus, site of the Chancel Choir’s fall retreat.*

# When's That Concert? Check The Choir Calendar

Don't know when the choir's Christmas concert is? No excuses now. The Chancel Choir's annual printed wall calendar was distributed at the year end party in June. Besides dates of concerts and events for the coming year, the calendar also lists every choir member's birthday.

The calendar was produced again this year by Soprano Mary Dean and Bass Gary Ford. Kevin says every choir member should have one of these purple calendars hanging in a prominent place so important dates and times will be handy. Copies of the calendar are available in the Music Room. If you did not contribute this spring, a donation of \$5 per calendar is being asked to cover a portion of the production cost for each copy.



From left, Rose Carlisle, Carolyn Andrews and Dick Vreeland check out the new calendar at the end of year party in June.

## Holiday Party Returns to Spazio's On Jan. 5, 2008

We're headed back to Spazio's in Westport next year for the Chancel Choir holiday party set for Saturday, Jan. 5, 2008.

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 over 100 people began showing up, it was decided a change was in order. So now, we have an elegant holiday party in early January.

You'll want to be sure and put Jan. 5 on your calendar.

## Project to Feed Homeless At Centenary Continues

Choir members continued to help feed the homeless at the Centenary UMC kitchen on Wednesdays this summer. Barb Farmer is in charge of the project. A fall schedule will be available for sign up when rehearsals resume.

## A Different Father's Voice I Kept Hearing

By Tim Zink

Gary told me this article could only be 200 words. Come on! Lincoln's Gettysburg Address was 269 words. I'm not usually at a loss for words. I have sat quietly for quite a while listening for God's voice. He always seems to help me find the right words.

But, it is a different father's voice I keep hearing. One of my Dad's most frequent messages to his kids was, "Keep your mouth shut and you might learn something."

We all have opinions. We have all shared them after careful thought. We have all shared them without thinking. We have all stepped on other people's toes, sometimes knowingly, most times unknowingly. We want to make sure our voice is heard.

The good news is, we want to do this because we believe that this choir is special, this ministry is special and we want to make sure that it survives and thrives. But, I want everyone to remember that we are in this

together and we need to be thoughtful, we need to share, and we need to follow Christ's example of loving one another.

You know what? I also believe God hears us even when we are quiet.

My philosophy, if you are wondering, is that this isn't just Kevin's choir, this isn't just our choir, and this isn't just MUMC's choir. We are one of God's choirs. What do we want God's choir to be? What does God want this choir to be? I'm going to be listening to you and him. Maybe I'll learn something.

**Chancel** President



## Music Ministry Outreach Brings Music To Sister Churches

One choir big enough to share worship music simultaneously in four church lofts. That's what the Chancel Choir's Music Ministry Outreach is all about. Last year on a bright October Sunday, four choirs fanned out to Lafayette Park UMC, University City UMC, Centenary UMC and Manchester UMC singing anthems and greeting congregations.

We're doing it again this year on Oct. 14. "It was so successful all of those churches want us back this year," Kevin says. But locations for this year's "visiting choirs" are yet to be worked out.

In each case last year, congregations of the smaller churches were thrilled to have a visiting choir. Most were amazed when told that each group represented about a fourth of the large Chancel Choir at Manchester.

"This is one of the ways our choir can provide a valuable ministry to other churches in the area," Kevin said. "We are blessed with abundance and sharing our talents is part of our outreach programming."

Chancel Choir officers began an outreach program last year. In addition to our Music Ministry Outreach, the choir also has served meals to the homeless in downtown St. Louis at Centenary, and worked to provide money for youth scholarships.



Lafayette Park UMC



Centenary UMC



University City UMC

## New Officers Set To Meet Chancel Choir Challenges

New Chancel Choir officers will again have their work cut out for them this year. Growing choir membership and our trip to Kennedy Center will present some management challenges.

Incoming president Tim Zink and new officers will continue to adapt the choir's traditional programs and activities for a much larger organization. Answering the church's need to buoy up our traditional worship ser-

VICES without fragmenting the choir membership is another issue facing the leadership.

In addition to Zink, other elected officers are: Vice president/president-elect, Ann Garber; recording secretary, Donna Biolchini; attendance secretary, Kristie Whitney; treasurer, Tom Lawrence; assistant treasurer, Kathryn Cox; member representatives, Mary Ann Whitaker, Joyce Humphrey, Steve Nicholson and

Doug Ross; and past president, Chris Kennedy.

Operations staff members who work behind the scenes making 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, Larry Woolweaver.



Zink



Garber



Whitney



Biolchini



Lawrence



Cox



Whitaker



Humphrey



Nicholson



Ross



Kennedy



# On The Road To Cincinnati









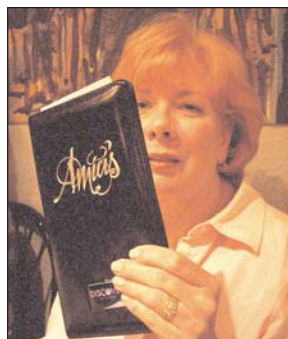
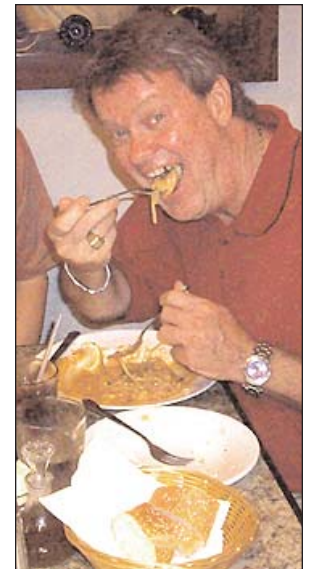
# Classic Christmas Holiday Concert

If you like traditional Christmas music, this is your year. The Chancel Choir's holiday concert on Dec. 16 will take on a Classic Christmas theme.

The choir will be joined by a 30-piece orchestra and the Vesper Bell Choir. We'll present several carol arrangements by Mack Wilberg of the Mormon Tabernacle Choir and two new works by Mark Hayes, the *Magnificat* (Mary's Song of Praise) and *Te Deum* (We Praise Thee).

## Treasurer's Report

With all outstanding bills and scholarships paid, treasurer Tom Lawrence reports the Chancel Choir is beginning the season with a balance of \$13,246.94. Lawrence will be responsible for tracking tour payments and special project budgets this year.



## Summer Dinner Tour Hits Local Restaurants

There was no shortage of good eats on Thursdays this summer as the Chancel Choir's summer dinner tour visited some of the area's best restaurants. Social director Sandy Ford, left, scouted Greek, Italian, Mexican, Chinese and American food for the weekly dinners. Top row, from left: Art Lemley with meat loaf at Big Bear in Ellisville, Sue Woolweaver samples beer at Alandale Brewery in Kirkwood, Larry Dietzel enjoys pasta at Amici's in Kirkwood.

# A Summer of Clarity

By Kevin McBeth

With only a few weeks of summer to go, I am so READY to start our next season! It's been a great summer and the three music conventions I've attended have helped to get me revved up, so come prepared!

I have learned so much in the last six weeks, and in some ways, this summer has been the most informative and the most enlightening for me in some time. I've spent several weeks with colleagues and friends and have quickly learned that longevity is sometimes an unusual thing. Most of them find it hard to believe that I've been at Manchester for almost 12 years. In many cases, they have all asked the same two questions: "Are you happy there?" and "What's next?" Normally, I would give the standard answers and remark about how "nice" things were going at MUMC, but for some reason, I found myself thinking more seriously about my answers to those questions.

When one of my friends, a conductor from Texas, asked me if I had the urge to move back to my home state, I shared one of my

favorite quotes with him: "When you have more memories than dreams, it's time to move on." The reality is, I have so many dreams for US together! Now, more than ever, our church is at a place where amazing and wonderful things are still happening and I look forward to many more incredible experiences with you all.

## Chancel Director

During these summer months, I've spent a great deal of time thinking about each of you and your importance to the Music Ministry! I am constantly reminded that Chancel Choir is not something that you DO; it's something that you ARE. (To steal a quote from Robert Shaw.)

Whether we begin this coming season with 60 singers or 600 singers, I hope you show up for choir because you can't imagine your life without it! For some of us it's therapy, for others it's social connection, still for others it's a distraction from the "otherness"

of our lives. The truth is, we need this, and once we become passionate about it, the dreams we have will begin to come true.

I know that this time of year I tend to go into hyper-mode because of the recharging of my batteries, but in this, my summer of clarity, I want to do more than just be a cheerleader for the choir. Sure, we'll see some new faces and probably even scare a few veterans out of the woodwork! But rather than focus on numbers, I want to celebrate the fact that we are all connected! Chancel Choir is our lifeline . . . a significant part of the DNA of the people who "live" it. Rather than just cheer you on, I want to encourage you to extend yourselves, because surely there is someone we don't know yet who needs this same lifeline. They need to feel accepted without strings or agendas. They need a place to call home, and that's our job . . . it's our call!

So, on Thursday, Aug. 30, I'm counting on the fact that you'll show up to start the coming season, not because you NEED to, but because you HAVE to.

I love you all!



# Notes Chancel

## What I Did On My Vacation

Say vacation to members of the Chancel Choir and they'll run for the airport, hiking trail, television studio, emergency room, Greek ruin, museum or golf course. It's been a busy summer. Here's part of the story.

**Soprano Barb Barrett** headed to the orient to visit son Ryan working in Shanghai before he moves back for graduate school at Northwestern. She also shopped in Hong Kong and enjoyed a \$400 dinner.



Barb Barrett in front of the Yellow River in Shanghai.

**Bass Jim Starbuck** parked 815 RVs at a recreational vehicle rally at the DuQuoin, Ill., Fairgrounds. He serves on the parking committee so he can – get a good place to park.

In the early summer **Soprano Mary Ann Whitaker** participated in the Richard Petty Racing Experience at the Indianapolis 500. She took four laps with a semi-pro Nascar driver at a top speed of 182 MPH. Talk about a speeding ticket. "No officer, I learned this at Indy . . ."



Mary Ann Whitaker took four laps at the Indianapolis 500 with a Nascar driver reaching 182 miles per hour.

The Lemleys sampled Colonial life at Williamsburg with a heat index of 105. The Lemleys' family marathon theme park tour took them to Jamestown, Yorktown, and Busch Gardens.

From the true stories of Life in the ER, comes **Soprano JoAnn Jones** saga that starts with a 60th birthday celebration for husband Bruce and his visiting family including mother, step father, brothers, wives, the works. During a performance of the Lion King at the Fox, his stepfather passed out. The family "air lifted" him down the row and Bruce performed CPR in the aisle of the orchestra section during the show – a real Circle of Life. Paramedics arrive and took him out without stopping the show. After a



The Woolweavers, the Erhardts and Lois Hendrickson at Banff in the Canadian Rockies.

night in the ER and a day in the hospital, the diagnosis – not a clue. They missed the show, but JoAnn wants to take a collection for some first aid supplies for The Fox.

**Tenor Don Erhardt** knows how much it costs to hire an ambulance in Canada. During a visit to Banff, Alberta, **Soprano Bertha Erhardt** fell ill with similar gastric attack she experienced before her trip. That U.S. health insurance wouldn't work in Canada, so Don pulled out his credit card to make the ambulance go. Bertha recovered – no report on Don's credit card balance.

The Shepards, Braders, and Walkers hit the links in Tennessee. They apparently had a great time, but they can't explain how **Tenor Bruce** and **Alto Debbi Brader** broke their hotel bed. There's a story there and they ain't talkin'.

**Alto Carolyn Andrews** took her granddaughter Caroline to the American Girl Palace in Chicago. The two had lunch, attended a show, took a bus tour and then shopped for a wedding dress for

Carolyn's daughter.

It was a memorable June morning in New York for **Soprano Christina**

**Vogel** and her Grandmother Swan. During broadcast of Live with Regis and Kelly, Grandmother Swan won a \$500 American Express gift card.



Christina Vogel laughs as her grandmother Swan wins at Regis and Kelly.

**Alto Karen Yeomans** was part of a 21-person team that participated in a one-day hike in the Rocky Mountain National Park for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. The team raised \$90,000. The hike was 8.5 miles at an altitude of 7,500 feet.

**Bass Tom Lawrence** and **Alto Diane Lawrence** participated in their daughter Caroline's wedding in their back yard June 1. The event took on a

*Continued on Page 10*



Tom and Diane Lawrence in Renaissance finery for daughter Caroline's wedding. That's the groom, Robert Depue, on the right.



# Notes

## Chancel

### What I Did On My Vacation

*Continued from Page 9*

Renaissance theme with a castle wedding cake made of chocolate blocks, a recorder (flute) duet, and period costumes. Which brings us to Tom's attire. We'll let you decide.

**Baritone Dave Gnaegy** and **Basses Andy Belval** and **Joe McMillen** spent part of the summer as members of MUMC's adult men's softball team.



*Jane Walker and Judi Shepard on the links in Tennessee.*

The Katy trail won't be the same. **Soprano Sue Woolweaver** and **Alto Lois Hendrickson** joined the church's Mo-Hab Riders for a four-day bike ride across Missouri on the trail. Sue's new knees held up great, but her seat – not so good.

They shared that Canadian junket with the Woolweavers and Lois Hendrickson and saw all manner of Rocky Mountain wild life including what **Soprano Sue Woolweaver** thinks was a Grizzly Bear "or maybe a black bear with brown fur."

**Soprano Cece Spatola** and son, Brett, took a high-altitude adventure aboard a hot air balloon, flying between the Jefferson County cities of High Ridge and House Springs. Cece bought the ride at a charity auction last year.



*This is the hot air balloon that took Cece Spatola and her son on a cross country flight in Jefferson County.*

She reports the ride was smooth, the balloon burner was hot and she didn't look down too often.

More than 120 members of the MUMC cast of *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and friends attended the Muny's performance of the same show. Following the final curtain call, the church's cast took a vote and decided our production was better – not that anyone at the Muny cared. Many of the musicians at the Muny also played our show and we borrowed several of the Muny props.

**Soprano Shari Sevier** hob knobbed with Hillary Clinton while at a meeting



*Yes, that's Sheri Sevier standing very near Hillary Rodham Clinton during a meeting in Washington.*

in DC. There was a breakfast for Hillary across the hall. Not to miss a glad hand, the Senator entered Shari's meeting room and greeted everyone personally. Hillary's Secret Service detail included a young woman who graduated from Parkway South and is a member of our church. Didn't get the name, it's apparently secret.

Speaking of Muny, **Alto Maida McCormack** was hired by the Muny



*The Braders, the Shepards and the Walkers enjoying their vacation and not talking about any hotel bed they may have broken.*



*Maida McCormack plays the accordion at the Muny for an opening night preshow event before *Les Miserables*. Note the purple beret?*

to play her accordion at a preshow party on opening night of *Les Miserables*. And she reports it was *Tres Miserables* with a temperature near 100 degrees.

Maida was "discovered" by a Muny producer attending *Joseph* at our church last April.

**Alto Jackie Smith**, along with her daughter Sydney, sister and mother, spent a week cruising in New England and Nova Scotia. She is particularly fond of the lighthouses and a place called Peggy's Cove.



*Karen Yeomans on the trail in the Rocky Mountains.*

Much higher education in ancient Greece was the topic for **Alto Charlotte** and **Tenor Gary Moser** during a University of Illinois-Carbondale sponsored study trip to Greece and Turkey. They hung out in Athens, the islands of Samo and Kos, the Turkish port of Bodrum, and attended lectures in the library in Ephesus.



*The Mosers pose in front of the library at Ephesus in Greece.*