



Tennessee Trip Returns Choir To Edgehill

When the light, but enthusiastic applause faded away, the Chancel Choir had completed its last performance of the season. A busy season that started with rehearsals for Viva Vivaldi and Celebrate The Spirit concerts and concluded with a concert in a small Nashville church.

The Tennessee tour was the choir's second visit to the Nashville area and to the Edgehill United Methodist Church – a repeat of a trip made five years earlier.

A total of 57 singers and about a dozen spouses, groupies and instrumentalists made the six-hour journey, most riding in "super scenicruiser" busses.

The Saturday evening concert at Edgehill, a church in the Nashville



With robes in boxes and suitcases in tow, members of the Chancel Choir load up for an outreach tour to Nashville over the weekend of June 7-9. A total of 57 singers, about half the choir, made the trip, accompanied by spouses, friends and family.

inner-city, was billed as "Sing Once More" and featured a number of songs from the choir's Celebrate The Spirit concert last fall including Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*.

Following a night on the town, the choir provided music for two Sunday worship services at the Hermitage United Methodist Church.

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The Royal Robe is installed on Jim Belval by court bailiffs Larry Dietzel and Jim Descher during coronation ceremonies at the end-of-season party on June 2. Belval was ordered to serve as Chancel Choir Queen by the Chief Justice of the Chancel after the president-elect presented no spouse for coronation.

Belval Assumes Throne as Chancel Queen

James Adrain Belval was ordered to serve as Queen of the Chancel Choir during coronation ceremonies at the choir's year-end party June 2. Belval was selected to serve by the Chancel Chief Justice when president-elect Karen Yoemans presented no spouse to assume the traditional role.

During a hearing before the coronation ceremonies, the Chief Justice reported that the court had conducted an extensive analysis of the dilemma. The court found it was appropriate to apply a provision of English Maritime Law allowing for conscription of sailors in times of threat to the Monarchy.

The court based its selection on the need to find a Queen that was compatible with the president who holds both nursing and civil engineering degrees. After careful deliberation the court identified Belval as both

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Chancel Choir Enjoys Southern Hospitality

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The choir and guests stayed at the famed Opryland Hotel, enjoying the acres of shops and restaurants under glass domes.

Once the choir members arrived at 11p.m. on Friday, they made a run to get some sleep or get a snack in one of the hotel's many restaurants.

Saturday offered choir members options of going downtown or staying at the hotel and walking to the nearby Opry Mills Outlet Mall built on the former site of Opryland.

Following the Edgehill concert, about half the group returned to the hotel for a pleasant dinner with the remainder heading for Nashville's Second Street for some late night entertainment.

An early call brought the choir to the busses on Sunday morning and the short trip to Hermitage.

Following worship, the Hermitage church provided lunch to the choir and its guests. Then it was back on the busses for the return trip to St. Louis with a quick dinner stop in Mount Vernon, Ill.

The choir makes an outreach tour every other year, usually to cities within a five-hour bus ride from St. Louis.

This year, the schedule called for a visit to Memphis, but competition for hotel rooms with the Mike Tyson boxing match left the choir with no place to stay and the promise of a difficult time getting around the city.

Last minute changes resulted in the repeat visit to Nashville. In addition to its previous trip to Tennessee, the choir has also visited Chicago and Kansas City, as well as its two trips to New York to perform at Carnegie Hall. Some members of the choir also made a trip to Europe in the 1980s.

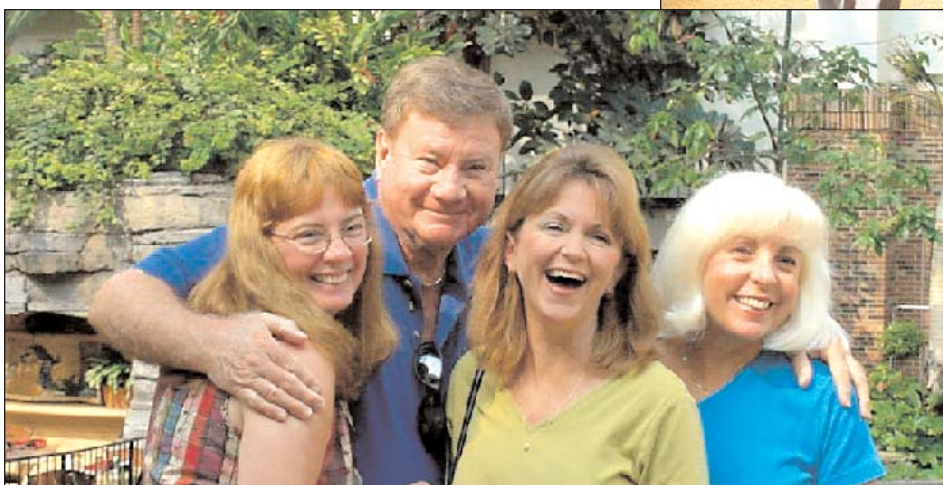
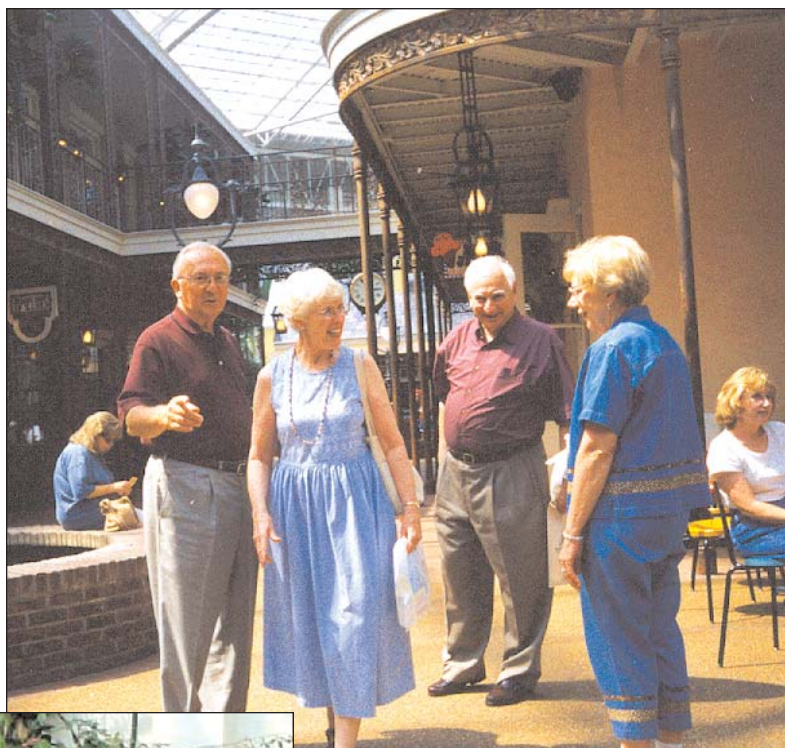


A last-minute executive decision left the robes in the boxes and the choir arrayed in bright casual cloths for the concert at Edgehill United Methodist Church. Here, Kevin introduces the choir at the beginning of the program.



Clutching folders, the choir marches toward the open doors of Edgehill, lower left. Above, a brief strategy session is held on the front lawn before the concert. Dave Gnaegy and Moe Parisien levitate a robe box over a car. Lois Hendrickson and Jeff Allee search through the boxes for their robe just before the decision is made to rebox them. Ann Garber makes a strong point to Sue Woolweaver, left, as the clock ticks 28 minutes to go.

Nashville Moments



Food and Fun Occupy Nashville Down Time

Get any number of Chancel Choir members together for an outing and you'll find food involved. Nashville was no different. Most of the entertainment on this trip consisted of eating.

As quickly as the bus engines shut down late Friday night, a large group headed for the Jack Daniel's Saloon at the hotel for pizza or a late night refreshment.

Sunrise found them in any number of hotel restaurants rehearsing the finer points of eggs benedict and biscuits and gravy.

Most of the crew stayed at the Opryland Hotel on Saturday exploring the hotel's many indoor gardens

or walking to the Opry Mills Outlet Mall a short distance away. A few hearty soles rode the bus to downtown Nashville and explored music and antique shops.

Following the concert Saturday night, about a third of the group headed back to the hotel for a sedate dinner while the rest headed for the Second Street area of downtown Nashville to wonder the streets with a few thousand kids, drunks, near-dowells and tourists. Most ate dinner at either the Crab House or River Grill.

Once safely back at the hotel, a few of the sleepless landed in Kevin's room for a night cap.

Larry Woolweaver and Julie Kramer enjoy some liquid refreshment in Kevin's room on Saturday night, top left. Jack and Mary Lou Adams and Bob and Kay Sherrill pause on Delta Island in the Opryland Hotel, top right. Cheryl Fletcher, Larry Shepard, Merry Gnaegy and Judi Shepard explore one of the many indoor gardens, bottom left. Ramona Schroeder chows down on some late night pizza at the Jack Daniel's Saloon, above.



John Stahr checks the Nashville newspaper for the latest, top left. Buddy Rains, Gene Stukey and Tom Lawrence review a sour note at Edgehill, above. Cece Spatola enjoys a hot fudge Sundae on Sunday after a stop in Mount Vernon, Ill., lower left. Kevin flashes an early morning smile while waiting for the bus on Sunday and Barb Vendt proudly displays her new bamboo plant that only looks like asparagus.

Real Celebrities Were Hard to Find In Nashville

Goin' to Nashville, so maybe we'll see somebody famous. Maybe we'll talk to a celebrity. Then, maybe not.

After Kevin saw Lou Rawls on a Nashville street during the last trip, choir members had their autograph books ready this time. But the pickin's turned out to be slim.

The closest we came to a bonified celebrity sighting was a quick look at sportscaster Terry Bradshaw. Our busses had just pulled up under the hotel canopy when a white, stretch limo pulled up and out popped Bradshaw. He was accompanied by a sweet young blond he seemed to know very well. They disappeared quickly into the hotel.

As it turns out, it was his daughter and they had been involved in an air-plane accident on their way to

Some basses thought there was a Nashville talent scout in the Edgehill audience when they spotted an attractive women in the front row singing along with the music and taking notes.

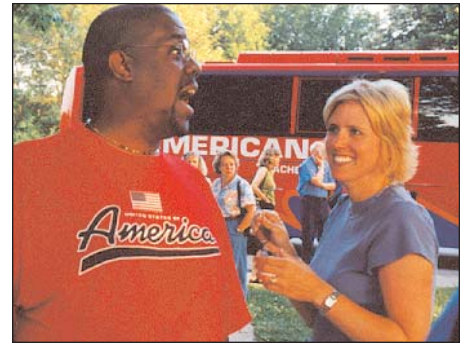
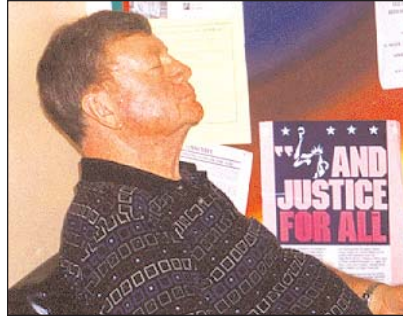
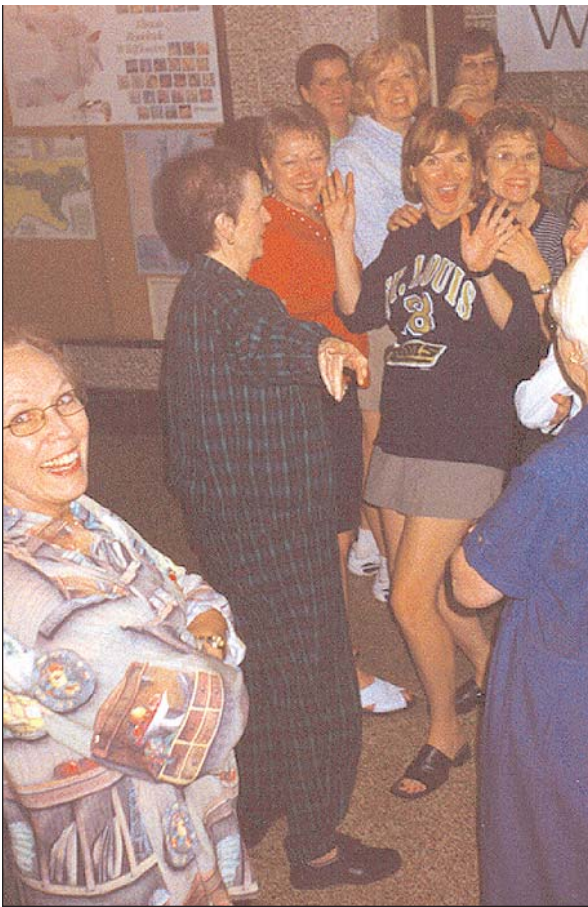
However, their vision of a national choral tour invitation were dashed, when they learned after the concert she was Jean Kinnard's daughter, Sarah Evins, from Franklin, Tenn. Sarah turned out to be a jazz pianist and has performed all of our music with her own church choir.

But a real celebrity did come to the Hermitage Church just to hear us. It was Warren Hartman who's been Kenny Rodger's pianist for 12 years. He also happens to be Carol Duggin's cousin.

Hartman said we sounded great. He liked our style. But made no promises on our being "discovered."

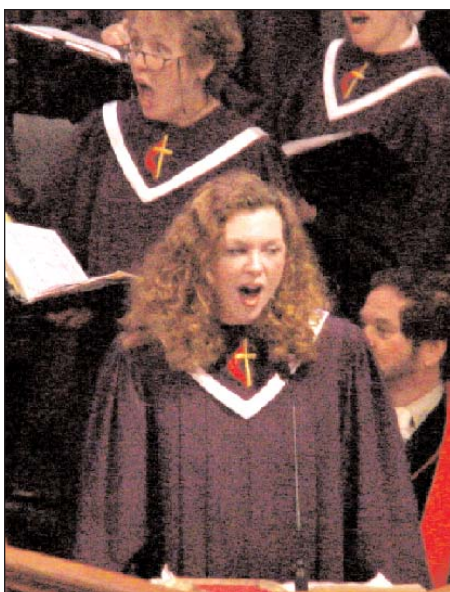


Although recent reports place Elvis alive in Kansas City, he was sighted at the Opry Mills Outlet Mall in Nashville with admirer Sandy Ford. Other celebrities didn't stand as still for choir members.





The Chancel Choir provided worship music for two Sunday morning services at the Hermitage United Methodist Church in Hermitage, Tenn. on June 9. Jackie Smith steps up to the pulpit for a solo in a selection from the *Gospel Mass* at left. Judi Shepard enjoys lunch the Hermitage church provided the choir after the worship services.



Laid Back Church Gets Dose of Gospel Rock

The Sunday morning worship crowd at Hermitage United Methodist Church may have been expecting a quiet, traditional service on what was billed as Lottery Awareness Sunday.

But as the dynamics increased and Jackie Smith let go with her *Gospel Mass* solo, the eyes in the pews betrayed the surprise.

The Chancel Choir was invited to provide worship music for the church's two services, performing selections from the *Gospel Mass* and a couple of other pieces from the tour program.

Kevin's introductory remarks to the congregation reporting that "Methodism was alive and well in Missouri despite what you've heard" drew quiet laughter.

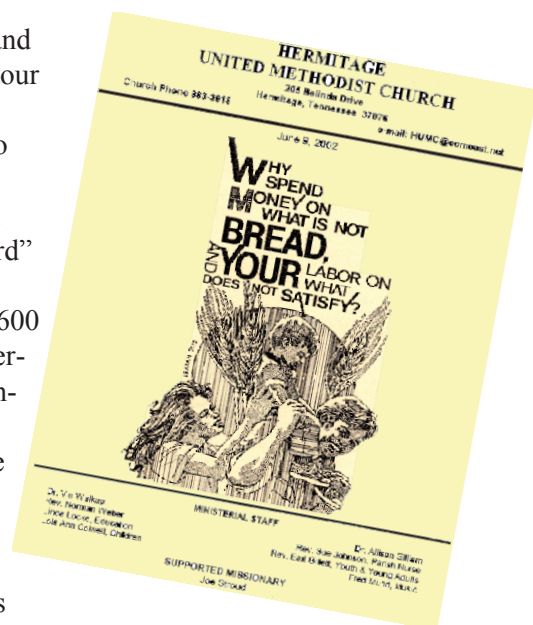
The church, which seats about 600 people, was half full for the two services. The choir's traveling contingent, referred to as "groupies and roadies" by the senior pastor, were also introduced.

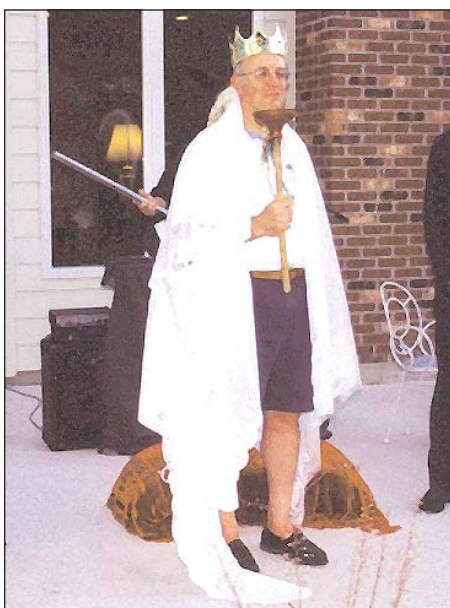
A large "Church For Sale" sign greeted cars entering the church's parking lot. Hermitage is

planning to build a new 1,200-seat sanctuary a short distance away from its current location. Reportedly, a nearby retirement home has agreed to purchase the current church property.

Following a break to pack up robes and instruments and change into more comfortable "traveling" cloths, the choir was served lunch by church members.

The lasagna was a perfect way to prepare for the long trip home.





Belval Assumes Throne as Chancel Queen

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an engineer and an employee of a St. Louis health care organization.

The court then ordered Belval to serve as Queen. He was escorted before the bench by two members of the Royal Music Police who served as bailiffs for the proceeding.

In consideration for the potential stress that serving in such a role might bring Belval, the Chief Justice placed four members of the choir on standby to aid the Queen should intervention be needed. They are Bertha Erhardt, nursing needs; Mindy Zimmerman, trauma needs; Martha Roper, counseling needs; and Sue Woolweaver, disaster needs.

Belval was then administered the oath of office and declared Queen for the ensuing year.

Prior to the coronation, the court stripped the Royal Regalia from Queen Diane Lawrence during the annual Defrocking Ceremony.

Following the coronation ceremony, the 2002 Chancel Choir officers were elected. Director of Music Ministries Kevin McBeth then gave the annual state-of-the-choir speech and outlined next year's performance schedule.

A complete list of officers and a detailed account of the speech will be published in the August edition of the *Chancel Times*.



Flanked by Larry Dietzel and Jim Descher, the Chief Justice delivers the selection order, top left. Mike Latimer, Royal Herald, sounds the call. Queen Belval greets his subjects after taking the oath, middle row. Outgoing Queen Diane Lawrence takes her final walk.

Chancel Notes

SMALL WORLD. The sign honoring POWs at the Rend Lake rest stop lists Capt. Thomas Daffon of Pinkneyville. Happens our **Janie Walker** went to high school with him.

LIKE FLIES TO HONEY. Ten minutes hadn't passed after walking into the Jack Daniel's Saloon at the Opryland Hotel before chanteuse **Jackie Smith**



Cover Story: Three Tales of Lottery Winners. Jackie Smith does a little light reading on the bus trip home.

received an invitation to sing with the band, a free drink from the bartender, and three phone numbers for men at the bar (one a groom hosting his bachelor party).

POWER BALL? After sitting through two blistering indictments of state-sponsored lotteries at the Hermitage church, some choir members pushed lotto tickets a little deeper into their pockets. "But she didn't mention Power Ball," came a whisper.

BUS WORTHY? Bus travel is more difficult for some. Five hours into the journey, **Bertha Erhardt** stood up and whined "I'm bored. Somebody entertain me." She later came down with a case "horizontigo" which is dizziness from long-term

sitting.

SEEN MAGELLAN? That Opryland Hotel is a big place. It took **Bill** and **Jean Lange** more than 45 minutes to find their room after arrival.

BUT OFFICER. Drummer **Joe Kingsbury** was nabbed by the long arm of the law. He was so anxious to get on the road, he got a speeding ticket driving to the church to load the busses for the trip.

LOOK YOUR AGE. **Diane Lawrence** was carded in a bar on Nashville's Second Street. Can't be too careful, things ain't always what the seem.

CLIMATE CONTROLLED. Passengers on the "Minnie Pearl" bus took a chill on the way to Nashville. It was cold enough for **Mary Lou Adams** to unpack her bathrobe and suit up. Meanwhile, folks on the Johnnie Cash bus were too hot and suffered from horizontigo.

WHAT KEY? Ever wonder what a panicked choral director looks like? Try Kevin's face after two big busses loaded with singers pull up to a locked Edgehill church. Some were hoping for a calendar mixup so we could go to dinner early.

LEAVE IT TO BROWN. Through an interesting twist of fate, one set of luggage decided to return to St. Louis under UPS escort.

LIMO FOUND. Last trip to Nashville **Moe Parisien** and friends spent several hours trying to find a limousine at 3 a.m. He found one easier this trip when a stretch pulled up on Second Street and offered a ride back to the hotel. **Moe** and three friends, **Jeff Allee**, **Julee Breakstone** and **Christina Vogal** took the ride in style.

CHORAL ADVICE. One soprano gave substitute soloist **Jim Descher** some unsolicited advice on how to stay calm when singing a

solo. "Just squeeze your cheeks," she said without explaining which ones.

M*A*S*H UNIT. The Chancel Choir travels like a self-contained Army. We had our own trial attorney, orthopedic surgeon, neonatal nurse and a mortician.. We were ready in case anyone was arrested, broke a bone, needed a diaper change or died from a high note.

POCKET PROTECTORS. **Tom Lawrence** was seen hanging out with individuals known to be occupational safety engineers staying at the hotel. Tom and Diane stayed on to join the convention. Coincidentally there was also a group of Harley-Davidson owners meeting there too.

ALL IN THE FAMILY. Some gave up a Saturday with their choir buddies to hang out with relatives. **Mary Dean** toured the Parthenon with cousins. **Jean Kinnard** visited antique stores in Franklin, Tenn. with her daughter.



Josh Hayes spent the Nashville nights in a Murphy bed – just one of the high-tech amenities of the Opryland Hotel.

THE POWER OF CHICKEN. **Sue Woolweaver** found out how powerful chicken wings can be when she offered some to three guys on the Second Street if they would drop their pants. They did.

PHANTOM GROUPIES. We never saw them, but we felt their presence. That was Rick Spatola and sons who drove to Nashville early. **Cece Spatola** swears they were there in the building. There was even a Spatola sighting in the hotel lobby. They say Elvis started this way.

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