

# OLD HARP



Number 32  
Spring 2005

The  
*New Harp of Columbia*  
Newsletter

## 2005 Singing School

FEBRUARY 20, 27 AND MARCH 6, 13, 27; 2:30-4:00 P.M.

Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church; Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Tennessee

Kathleen Mavournin, Singing School Teacher

Pre-registration requested (see page 7)

\$15 for the class; *New Harp of Columbia* tunebooks provided and also for sale.

## East Tennessee Singings are expanding!

**\*Knox County:** The Epworth Old Harp Singers meet monthly at 6:30 p.m. at the Laurel Theatre, Knoxville, TN the second Sunday of the month.

**\*Greene County:** The Franklin Old Harp Singers meet monthly at 3:00 p.m. at Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Greeneville, TN the last Sunday of the month.



**\*Sevier County:** The Sevier County Old Harp Singers meet monthly at 6:30 p.m. at Middle Creek United Methodist Church, Sevierville, TN, the third Tuesday of the month.

**\*Blount County:** The Blount County Old Harp Singers meet monthly at 7:00 p.m. at Broadway United Methodist Church, Maryville, TN, the fourth Monday of the month.

**\*Athens, TN:** The Old College Old Harp Singers meet monthly at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens, TN the third Monday of the month.

**\*See Page 7 for dates. All are invited and welcome.  
Please call first to confirm.**

## WHY DO THEY CALL IT HARP SINGING? BY JIM RUTHEM, HARP BUILDER

As a musician and builder of instruments, I am interested in all types of music. Last year I was introduced to shape note singing in Pigeon Forge during a festival there. During the explanation of how shape note music worked, I was struck by the method of determining the range or key by getting a starter note and making that tone DO or the first note of a diatonic scale. My wife, Jeannie, who builds harps with me and usually strings and tunes the news harps, agreed that it was a familiar concept.

The harp is probably the oldest instrument known to man. The harp David played for Saul was probably actually more like what we could call a lyre. Even so, there are pictures of harps in the pyramids that appear strikingly like the folk harps played today. Unlike other instruments, harps are basically diatonic (a DO RE MI scale). Since the diatonic scale has no sharps or flats, in theory, such an instrument could only be played in the key of C. However, if the root note, or DO, were to be changed from C to another note, the whole instrument would be in a different key. This is how the harps of old were tuned to a different key. This is essentially how the harps of today are tuned. Sound familiar? I can imagine an early explanation of shape notes including the statement, "It's just like tuning up a harp."

For those of you who have a bit more knowledge about music, I present the following:



- The Diatonic scale in C major (like the white keys of a piano) is CDEFGABC = DO RE MI FA SO LA TI DO
- If the scale were to be started on F, then the root note and therefore the key would be F. Our new scale would be FGABflatCDEF = DO RE MI FA SO LA TI DO. The actual key, if compared to a piano, would be F (the first or root note of our new scale).
- If the scale were started on G, the root note and therefore the key would be G. The notes would be GABCEDFsharpG = DO RE MI FA SO LA TI DO.
- We change the root note or DO to change the key in both a harp and in shape note singing. I think this explains the origin of the term "harp" singing to describe shape note singing.

The above explanation is much easier to present while looking at a harp. We would be happy to present the explanation to a group if asked.

*Jim Ruthem  
Pathways Studio Harps, Etowah, Tennessee*

Editor's Note: This is one explanation of why they call it "harp singing." In previous editions of this newsletter, there are others such as "the harp is the voice of God" and "they lyre embossed on the binding of the book made it a harp book" and that the singing school teachers used to "harp" on the students to get the shapes right.

"Friends of the *New Harp of Columbia*" is a new non-profit with bylaws and a charter. Incorporators are: Tina Becker, Kathleen Mavournin, Larry Olszewski, Bob Richmond, Chris Stoddart, and Ann Strange. You may speak to any one of these with questions or comments but rest assured, the singings and the singers remain, as always, the most important thing. In the past, Larry O has handled all this on his own. Now he has "Friends." The purpose of the organization is to promote the old harp tradition through newsletters, web sites and listserves, promoting singing schools, interacting with interested parties, and acting as an information clearinghouse.

### FRIENDS



## ON OLD HARP BY LARRY OLSZEWSKI

In the last ten years, we have seen five Old Harp groups or singings start up. The Franklin Singers in Greeneville, Old College Singers in Athens, Oldhams Creek, started by Tom Wilson, and the Maryville Singings were just annual events until the singing school and now they meet once a month at Broadway United Methodist Church. David Sarten is starting a once-a-month singing at Middle Creek Methodist Church in Sevier County as well.

There are groups that have come and gone. The Greene County Convention was a rousing singing every year until the retired people who formed it died off. Around the same time, there were the East Tennessee Old Harp Singers that were in formation. I do not know much about them. Any trace of them may have disappeared in Mrs. Teffteller's archives when she passed away. Mrs. Teffteller was the last Secretary of the Knox County Old Harp Singers. I used to drive Bates Elliot, the last president, to some of these singings. Mr. Perryman and later Mr. Carter used to take a busload from Knoxville's Market Square to singings throughout East Tennessee.

The groups that existed for the longest time seemed to be the ones that had an outreach to new people, their ideas, their voices, their enthusiasm, their spirit, their willingness to sacrifice for the good of the Old Harp community as a whole. I remember in a copy of the 1919 Harp Singers Review from Greeneville, they asked for new songs written in the Old Harp style and they would do a compilation. They also had elders that would give out gold coins for the best alto (most likely posted by an alto) or altos at a singing. Later on, I saw pictures of quartets at a Cocker County singing after around 1941. Quartet singing was prevalent at Headrick Chapel, Oldhams Creek and the Wears Valley Baptist Singing into the 90's.

What keeps Old Harp singing around is what this generation is willing to carry on in the same vein. Harp singing does change, does get renewed, can be reinvigorated. The Epworth Old Harp singers still have 4 or 5 songs from Christian Harmony they still enjoy. We have also sung them in Maryville. Individual groups need to work out their own identity but share what they have in common with the other communities when they come together.

New people are trickling in to sing with us, more so after the movie Cold Mountain. We have the duty to encourage them to find what they are looking for. We inherit the Old Harp tradition from those who have come before and we have become a nurturer of this spiritual community tradition.

## IN MEMORIAM

Lena Brewer Headrick, a native of Wears Valley and lover of harp singing, passed away at age 95 on October 4, 2004. She was buried at Headrick Chapel on October 9, 2004. Lena and her beloved husband Luke, were part of the group of 17 Old Harp singers from Sevier County who traveled to Columbia University in New York City in 1950 to perform in a festival of traditional folk music. The same group was recorded for posterity on an album recorded in Wears Valley, also in 1950. She is fondly remembered by her family and Old Harp singers.

Dick Gast. The Old Harp singers were invited to sing at Dick's memorial by his wife Judy, on July 11, 2004. A large group gathered at Shannondale in Maryville and celebrated this treble's life by singing with Dick's family and friends. In Dick's name and honor, five books were donated to the Maryville singers, five books were donated to the Greeneville singers, and money was donated to this newsletter.

## SOME HISTORY OF THE EPWORTH OLD HARP SINGERS BY GIDEON FRYER

*As we expand into new areas, it's good to remember some of the history of the East Tennessee singers. Below, Gideon Fryer, longtime UT professor and Old Harp singer, shares some remembrances of the beginnings of the Epworth group. We hope to have more such memories to share in upcoming newsletters.*

The Epworth Old Harp singers that performed at the annual Jubilee Festival in the winter of 1973 included the Smathers Family String Band from Canton, NC. John McCutcheon was the Epworth Ministry director of music. He persuaded them to stay over for the Sunday service and teach us some shape note songs. The Epworth congregation (that met at the Laurel Theatre) was enthralled and about a dozen of us began meeting at Helen Hutchison's house on Sunday nights to sing. We became the Epworth choir and soon began receiving invitations to demonstrate shaped-note singing at churches and civic events. The early group, in addition to Helen, myself, and John, included Kathleen Mavournin, Ron Peterson, Candra Phillips, Nancy Olsen, Nancy Fryer (my daughter), Bruce Wheeler, Steve Stone and Drew Foster.

When the Epworth Harp Singers began, there was a Knox County Harp Singing organization. However, its main function appeared to be transportation to singings which still occurred at several sites around the area, mainly Sevier County, Townsend, and Jonesville. We attended these singings and began to include other singers in our "guest appearances" around the area.

We sang chiefly from the *New Harp of Columbia* manual, which was out of print. We had several copies of a 1921 printing of the 1867 compiling by M.L. Swan which uses a seven notation system. The Smathers family used another seven note system, *Christian Harmony*, which was in print, so we bought copies of that manual and have retained selections from that source in our repertoire.

Ron Petersen and Bruce Wheeler, being UT Arts and Sciences professors with connections at UT Press, began negotiations to get the *New Harp of Columbia* manual reprinted. Such efforts were successful and in 1978, the Tennessean Edition of the *New Harp of Columbia* was published. A few years into the era of plentiful manuals, someone in authority to do so at the University of Tennessee Press sold the entire remainder to Barnes and Noble which sold them out nationally at less than half what they had been sold for at the UT Bookstore. We were again without a source of new books. However, a paper-bound edition was published in 1989 and a new (current) edition which contains tunes which had been dropped from previous editions, was published in 2001.

Larry Olszewski brought his Explorer Scout troop to a harp singing. He and several Scouts became regular singers. As Larry became proficient at singing the Old Harp--in the hill country vernacular he became "eat up with it"--has promoted Old Harp tirelessly since. He financially founded this newsletter and purchased and distributed the books, coordinated and promoted harp singings, and has or will talk to and correspond with anybody interested in Old Harp.

-Gideon Fryer

*The "Epworth Old Harp singers" is still used to identify the group that gathers at the Laurel Theatre in Knoxville although the congregation that met there is no more.*

★★★ Unless otherwise noted, area code for phone numbers on this list is 865. ★★★

## CONTACT PEOPLE

| <u>NAME</u>                           | <u>PHONE</u>             | <u>ADDRESS</u>                    | <u>CITY</u>              | <u>ZIP</u>  | <u>E-MAIL ADDRESS</u>         |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|
| (A) Sharee Green .....                | (432) 654-3557 .....     | 2021 N. Sizer Ave. Apt. 277. .... | Jefferson City, TN ..... | 37760 ..    | .sagreen@cn.edu               |
| (B) Lois Luebke .....                 | 693-9292 .....           | 311 Triplett Lane .....           | Knoxville, TN .....      | 37922 ..... | LuebkeL@aol.org               |
| (C) John Wright Dunn .....            | 448-6445 .....           | 7937 Old Hwy. #73 .....           | Townsend, TN .....       | 37882       |                               |
| (D) Cora Sweatt .....                 | (423) 745-0248 .....     | 1214 Woodward Park .....          | Athens, TN .....         | 37303       |                               |
| (E) Martha Graham .....               | 453-3276 .....           | 210 Conner Hts. Rd. ....          | Pigeon Forge, TN .....   | 37863       |                               |
| (F) Dave and Tina Becker .....        | 982-7777 .....           | 313 High Street .....             | Maryville, TN .....      | 37804 ..    | .strokeofhealth@bellsouth.net |
| (G) Shirley Henry .....               | 453-5983 .....           | 1850 Little Cove Rd. ....         | Sevierville, TN .....    | 37862       |                               |
| (H) Paul Clabo .....                  | 453-5847 .....           | 3314 Bell Rd. ....                | Sevierville, TN .....    | 37962 ..    | .BABCEPN@aol.org              |
| (I) Kathleen Mavournin .....          | 414-7830 .....           | 344 S. Seven Oaks Dr. ....        | Knoxville, TN .....      | 37922 ..... | Kmav@icx.net                  |
| (J) Barbara Kemper .....              | 637-1506 .....           | .....                             | Knoxville, TN .....      | .....       | .arfus@mybluelight.org        |
| (K) Tom & Nan Taylor .....            | 984-8585 .....           | 138 Stanley .....                 | Maryville, TN .....      | 37803 ..... | TTaylor706@aol.org            |
| (L) Bruce Wheeler .....               | 453-9328 .....           | P.O. Box 1049 .....               | Pigeon Forge, TN .....   | 37868 ..... | wwheele1@utk.edu              |
| (M) Nancy Olsen .....                 | 983-7631 .....           | .....                             | .....                    | .....       | .olsenn@bellsouth.net         |
| (N) Hal Wilson .....                  | 436-2590 .....           | 950 Wilson Hollow Way .....       | Sevierville, TN .....    | 37876       |                               |
| (O) Larry Olszewski .....             | (lv. msg) 584-6633 ..... | 1232 Forest Brook Rd. ....        | Knoxville, TN .....      | 37919 ..... | Larryoharp@aol.org            |
| (P) Veta King .....                   | 428-1375 .....           | 2907 Jones Cove Rd. ....          | Sevierville, TN .....    | 37876 ..    | .king2717@bellsouth.net       |
| (Q) Lynn Bowerman .....               | (423) 798-9819 .....     | 3765 St. James Rd. ....           | Greeneville TN .....     | 37743 ..    | .Targhee5@wmconnect.org       |
| (R) Warren Massey .....               | 453-8286 .....           | 3032 Ogle View Rd. ....           | Sevierville, TN .....    | 37862       |                               |
| (S) Kathy Jones .....                 | 690-3906 .....           | 9121 Garrison Rd. ....            | Knoxville, TN .....      | 37931 ..... | KEJ37931@COMCAST.NET          |
| (T) Bill Gooch .....                  | 522-0515 .....           | 4401 Alta Vista Way .....         | Knoxville, TN .....      | 37919 ..... | Goochbill@aol.org             |
| (U) Carroll L. Ross .....             | (423) 263-1732 .....     | P. O. Box 1356 .....              | Athens, TN .....         | 37371       |                               |
| (V) Genevieve Wiggins .....           | (423) 745-5322 .....     | 218 Forest Ave. ....              | Athens, TN .....         | 37303 ..    | .drgewi@bellsouth.net         |
| (W) Jeff Farr .....                   | (423) 639-8211 .....     | 530 Morgan Rd. ....               | Greeneville, TN .....    | 37745 ..    | .Summersfarr@highstream.net   |
| (X) Bob Richmond .....                | 691-9506 .....           | 344 S. Seven Oaks Dr. ....        | Knoxville, TN .....      | 37922 ..... | RSRichmond@aol.org            |
| (Y) Meg Mabbs .....                   | 522-0515 .....           | 4401 Alta Vista Way .....         | Knoxville, TN .....      | 37919 ..    | .Megmabbs@aol.org             |
| (Z) David Sarten and Jairus Sarten .. | 428-0874 .....           | 1510 Ridge Rd. ....               | Sevierville, TN .....    | 37862 ..    | .D_Sarten@msn.org             |
| (AA) Mary Grace Meador .....          | (423) 967-5554 .....     | Rocky Mount Museum .....          | Piney Flats, TN .....    | .....       | .mgmnjct@yahoo.org            |
| (BB) Sara Baskin .....                | 588-8728 .....           | 801 Forest Heights .....          | Knoxville, TN .....      | 37919 ..    | .mamaabgrass@bellsouth.net    |
| (CC) Chaz Barber .....                | 357-1869 .....           | .....                             | .....                    | .....       | .cbarber@knology.net          |

## THE NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA CALENDAR - 2005 SINGINGS

| <u>DATE</u> | <u>DAY</u>   | <u>TIME</u>   | <u>POTLUCK?</u> | <u>INFORMATION (CONTACT PEOPLE)</u>   |
|-------------|--------------|---------------|-----------------|---|
| Feb. 13     | Sunday       | 12:30 PM      | Yes             | Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, (J)(S) Potluck at 12:30. Singing at 1:30. <i>No Second Sunday Singing at the Laurel Theatre.</i> |
| Feb. 20     | Sunday       | 10:00 AM      | No              | Knoxville Dance Festival, Laurel High School across from Laurel Theatre, Knoxville (O)  |
| Feb. 20     | Sunday       | 2:30 PM       | No              | First day of Singing School at TVUUC. (I)   |
| March 18    | Friday       | 6:15 PM       | No              | Jubilee Festival, Laurel Theatre, Knoxville (I)(O)(X)   |
| March 20    | Sunday (3)   | 11:00 AM      | Yes             | Epworth Old Harp Singers Annual Singing at the Laurel Theatre (F)((O)   |
| March 27    | Sunday       | 5:30 PM       | Yes             | Easter Singing, Gooch-Mabbs Residence, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville (T)(Y)  |
| April 3     | Sunday       | 2:00 PM       | No              | Oldhams Creek Missionary Baptist Church (end of Kings Branch Rd) Sevier County (N)(P)   |
| April 24    | Sunday (4)   | 2:00 PM       | No              | Tuckaleechee Methodist Church Singing, Townsend (C)(K)(M)   |
| May 1       | Sunday (1)   | 2:00 PM       | No              | Middle Creek United Methodist Church, Sevierville (Z)   |
| May 15      | Sunday (3)   | 2:30 PM       | No              | Old College Singing at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens, TN (U) (V) (D)  |
| June 4      | Saturday (1) | 11:00 AM      | Yes             | Franklin Singing at New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Greene County (Q)(W)   |
| June 19     | Sunday (3)   | NOON          | Yes             | Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church Singing, Sevier County (G) (A)   |
| July 17     | Sunday       | 6:00 PM       | Yes             | Swannsylvania Baptist Church, Dandridge, TN (O)   |
| Aug. 6      | Saturday     | 11:00 AM      | Yes             | Rocky Mount Museum, Old Harp and Christian Harmony, Piney Flats (AA)  |
| Aug. 21     | Sunday (3)   | 2:30 PM       | No              | Cades Cove Missionary Baptist Church Singing, Great Smoky Mtns. National. Park (K)(M) (C)   |
| Sept. 8     | Thursday     | 6:30 PM       | Yes             | Music of Appalachia class from the University of Tennessee, Laurel Theatre, Knoxville (F)(O) (call to confirm)  |
| Sept. 11    | Sunday (2)   | 2:00 PM       | No              | Wears Valley Methodist Church Singing, (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (L)(R).  |
| Sept. 25    | Sunday (4)   | 11:00 AM      | Yes             | Headrick Chapel Singing, (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (B)(O)   |
| Oct. 2      | Sunday (1)   | 2:00 PM       | No              | Wears Valley Singing at Valley View Baptist Church, (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County (L)   |
| Oct. 8      | Saturday (2) | 10:00 & 12:00 | No              | Museum of Appalachia Homecoming Singing, Norris, TN (O)(BB)   |
| Oct. 16     | Sunday (3)   | 2:00 PM       | No              | Dollywood Singing presentation, Pigeon Forge (I)(E) (call to confirm)   |
| Oct. 16     | Sunday       | 1:30 PM       | No              | Pumpkin Town Festival, Athens, TN (U)(D)(V)   |
| Oct. 23     | Sunday (4)   | 2:00 PM       | No              | Maryville College Singing, Maryville (K)((M)  |
| Nov. 23     | Wednesday    | 6:30 PM       | Yes             | Thanksgiving Eve Potluck & Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theatre, Knoxville (F)(O)   |
| Dec. 10     | Saturday     | 10:00 AM      | No              | Sugarlands Singing, Sugarlands Visitors Center, Great Smoky Mountains National Park (L)(H)  |
| Dec. 11     | Sunday       | 7:30 PM       | No              | Christmas Singing at Kathy Jones' home, Karns (S)(J)  |

## ONGOING EVENTS

Second Sunday of each month, **EPWORTH OLD HARP SINGING**, 6:30 PM, Laurel Theatre, 16th & Laurel Avenues, Knoxville, TN. For more information, call Tina at (865) 982-7777 or Larry at 584-6633.

**2005 Dates:** March 13, April 10, May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, November 13.

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Fourth Monday of each month, **MARYVILLE OLD HARP SINGING**, 7:00 PM, Broadway United Methodist Church, Broadway, Maryville, TN. For more information, call Nancy at (865) 983-7631.

**2005 Dates:** February 28, March 28, April 25, May 23, June 27, July 25, August 22, September 26, November 28.

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Last Sunday of each month, **FRANKLIN OLD HARP SINGING**, 3:00 PM, Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Greeneville, TN. For more information, call Jeff at (423) 639-8211.

**2005 Dates:** January 30, February 27, March 27, April 24, May 29, June 26, July 31, August 28, September 25, October 30, November 27.

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Third Monday of each month, **OLD COLLEGE OLD HARP SINGING**, 7:00PM, St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens, TN. For more information, call Cora at (423) 745-0248.

**2005 Dates:** February 21, March 21, April 18, May 16, June 20, July 18, August 15, September 19, October 17, November 21, December 19.

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Third Tuesday of each month, **SEVIER COUNTY OLD HARP SINGING**, 6:30 PM, Middle Creek United Methodist Church, Sevierville, Tennessee. For more information, call David at (865) 428-0874.

**2005 Dates:** February 15, March 15, April 19, May 17, June 21, July 19, August 16, September 20, October 18, November 22, December 20.

## SINGING SCHOOLS

**KNOXVILLE** - Kathleen Mavournin, respected Singing School teacher, is again willing to teach a class which will be held at the Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church on Kingston Pike in Knoxville, Tennessee (not far from the UT campus). The dates are February 20 and 27, and March 6, 13, and 27, 2005, from 2:30-4:00 each afternoon.

Cost is \$15 and books will be provided during class and also available for purchase (\$26) and instructional CDs are also available for loan. Pre-registration (not pre-payment) is requested. Please call Kathleen at (865) 414-7830 or by e-mail at kmav@icx.net to register or for more information.

The annual Epworth Old Harp Singing is at the Laurel Theatre on March 20 and students are encouraged to attend. March 27 is Easter and whether to have class on that date or make other arrangements will be discussed at the first class. (There is an Easter potluck and singing at 5:30 in Sequoyah Hills.)

**ATHENS** - A shape note singing school will be announced soon. Please call Cora Sweatt at (423) 745-0248 to be put on a list to be called when the singing school is arranged.

## ANNUAL SINGINGS — 2005

**OLD HARP SINGING** — Sunday, February 13, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville.

We are invited back to TVUUC the Sunday before the Singing School begins, with a potluck with church members beginning at 12:30 and singing at 1:30.

**Directions:** Go I-40 to Alcoa Hwy. and exit at Kingston Pike. Turn west, away from the university. TVUUC is on the right about half a mile and just past 2nd Presbyterian Church. For more information, contact Barbara Kemper at 637-1506 or Kathy Jones at 690-3906.

**SINGING SCHOOL** — Sundays, February 20 and 27, March 6, 13, and 27, 2:30-4:00 PM. at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Kingston Pike (near UT campus), Knoxville.

All are welcome and invited to learn more about Old Harp singing, starting from the beginning and with excellent instruction by Kathleen Mavournin. New Harp of Columbia books are available for practice and sale. This is a great way to learn the shapes and informally ask questions about the music and the tradition.

**Directions:** From I-40, taken Alcoa Hwy. (#129) to the Kingston Pike exit. Go west and it's the second church on the right, just past Second Presbyterian. For more info, call 414-7830.

**KNOXVILLE DANCE WEEKEND SINGING** — Sunday, February 20, 10:00 A.M. at Laurel High School, Knoxville.

The 31st annual dance festival, sponsored by Knoxville Country Dancers, is full of events all weekend. Sunday morning is for singing Old Harp joined by dancers from all over the country. Everyone is invited. Extra books will be available for use and sale. Laurel High School is across the street from the Laurel Theatre at 16th & Laurel Ave. in Knoxville. For more information, call Larry Olszewski at (865) 584-6633 or larryoharp@aol.org. The Epworth Old Harp singers are giving up their monthly Second Sunday singing to support this singing.

**JUBILEE FESTIVAL PRESENTATION** — Friday, March 18, 6:30 P.M. at the Laurel Theatre (Singers gather

at 6:15.)

The festival is held every year at the old Fort Sanders Presbyterian Church, later on called Epworth, at the corner of 16th and Laurel Ave. Take I-40 into Knoxville and take the 17th Street Exit. On 17th Street, turn south towards the University of Tennessee. At Laurel Ave., turn left one block, church on the right. For information on the Harp Singing, call Tina at 982-7777. For more information on the Jubilee Festival call Jubilee Community Arts at 865-522-5851.

**EPWORTH OLD HARP SINGING** — Sunday, March 20, 11:00 A.M. at the Laurel Theatre.

Epworth Old Harp singers sponsor this annual Singing at the Laurel Theatre (directions above). Contact Tina at 982-7777. The singing starts at 11:00 with a potluck dinner at noon. A large crowd will keep singing until 3:00 or so. All are invited to attend.

**EASTER SINGING** — Sunday, March 27, 5:30 P.M. at Bill Gooch and Meg Mabbs house. Their home is located at 4401 Alta Vista Way.

**Directions:** At Western Plaza (3 miles west of UT), turn south off Kingston Pike onto Noelton Drive which T's into Alta Vista Way in a half mile. Location is a wooden house with deck on corner on right. For more information call Bill or Meg at 522-0515.

**OLDHAMS CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING** — Sunday, April 3, 2:00 P.M.

**Directions:** From Pigeon Forge on Rt. #441 head south towards Gatlinburg. After about two miles, turn left over the river and cross the other two lanes onto Kings Branch Road. Take Kings Branch Road to the end. Turn right on Boogertown Road, church is 100 yards on the left. For more information, call Hal Wilson at 436-2590 or Veta King at 428-1375.

**TUCKALEECHIE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SINGING** — Sunday, April 24, 2:00 P.M. in Townsend.

**Directions:** From Knoxville take Alcoa Hwy. (Rt. 129) past McGhee Tyson Airport. Go left at the fork. In Maryville, take Rt. 321 to Townsend

(20+ miles). Turn at the billboard saying Tuckaleechee Caverns. The church is a mile on the left. John Wright Dunn is the host. His phone number is 448-6445. Tom Taylor is his assistant for this singing. His phone is 984-8585 or e-mail Tom at TTaylor706@aol.org.

MIDDLE CREEK METHODIST CHURCH SINGING —

**Sunday, May 1, 2:00 P.M.** in Sevierville

Old Harp Singing will take place at 2:00 P.M., with refreshments to follow.

Directions: From Sevierville, take Main Street/Dolly Parton Parkway to 4th traffic light and turn right onto Middle Creek Road (just past Ford dealer on left). Go 3.5 miles on Middle Creek Road to church on the left. From Pigeon Forge turn at traffic light #7 onto Old Mill Avenue and go 4/10 mile to Teaster Lane. Turn right, then immediately left onto Middle Creek Road. Go 2.5 miles to the church on the right. For more information, contact David Sarten at 428-0874 (D\_Sarten@msn.org) or Jairus Sarten (SCHSbandjock@aol.org).

OLD COLLEGE SINGING — **Sunday, May 15 2:30 P.M.**

Open House and traditional Old Harp Singing will be held at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 123 S. Jackson, two blocks east of Tennessee Wesleyan College, Athens, Tennessee. Refreshments and social after the singing. For more information, contact Cora at (423) 745-0248, Carroll Ross at (423) 263-1732 or Genevieve Wiggins at (423) 745-5322.

Directions: From I-40, take Exit #49. Go east 4 miles on Route #30. Off Hwy. 30 on the left is Jackson. St. Turn left into the parking lot.

FRANKLIN OLD HARP SINGING — **Saturday, June 4,**

**11:00 A.M.** at New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Greene County, TN.

Potluck at noon. See previous newsletters for map and directions or contact Jeff Farr at 423-639-8211, or Lynn Bowerman at 423-798-9819.

BEECH GROVE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING

— **Sunday, June 19, 1:00 P.M.**

Traditional Old Harp Singing. Potluck dinner at noon. Contact people are Sharee Rich 865-429-5877, sagreen@cn.edu; and Shirley Henry at 865-

453-5983.

Directions: From Pigeon Forge heading toward Gatlinburg on Rt. #441, take the first right onto Caney Creek Rd. There is a sign for Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church. The church is two miles or so up on the left.

SWANNSYLVANIA BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING —

**Sunday, July 17, 6:00 P.M.**

Old Harp presentation begins with a potluck dinner at 6:00 PM. They are interested in seeing if Old Harp singing is a fit for their community.

Directions from Knoxville: Take I-40 East, then keep on I-40 towards Asheville. Second exit is #424, White Pine/Dandridge. At the off ramp turn right. Go to Route 25/70 and go left across the new bridge. At two miles, turn right onto Swannsylvania Road. The church is on the right. For more information, call Terri Runyon at 397-9163 or runyant@k12tn.net or Larry o at 584-6633.

ROCKY MOUNT MUSEUM OLD HARP AND CHRISTIAN HARMONY SINGING — **Saturday, August 6, 11:00**

**A.M.** at Rocky Mount Museum in Piney Flats, TN. Christian Harmony will be sung 11:00 -1:00, then a potluck and Old Harp from 2:00-4:00. For more information, contact Mary Grace Meador at (423) 967-5554 or online at rockymountmuseum.org.

CADES COVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING

— **Sunday, August 21, 2:30 P.M.**

A traditional style Presentation at the Cades Cove Missionary Baptist Church. The host for many years is the retired Postmaster of Townsend, John Wright Dunn. For more information, call John at 448-6445 or Tom at 984-8585 or e-mail at TTaylor 706@aol.org

Directions: From Knoxville take Alcoa Hwy. past the McGhee Tyson Airport and take the left fork into Alcoa. Stay on this road as you enter Maryville and continue south on #321 to Townsend, Tennessee. Continue straight through Townsend into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. At the fork of the river (the "Y") turn right to Cades Cove. The Cades Cove ranger station has the last non-primitive facilities before you return from the singing. Take the Cades Cove Loop. The Missionary Baptist Church is the

## ANNUAL SINGINGS 2005 (CONT'D)

third church on the loop. Add one hour to travel time due to the tourist traffic jams. Beware of traffic jams!

**MUSIC OF APPALACHIA CLASS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE — Wednesday, September 7, 6:30 P.M.** at the Laurel Theatre, Knoxville.

The Epworth Old Harp singers again host the UT Music of Appalachia class. The potluck begins at 6:30 and a little extra food is sometimes needed. Instructor Sean McCullough has his class ready to sing. For more information, call Tina at 982-7777 or Larry at 584-6633.

**UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SINGING — Sunday, Sept. 11, 2 P.M.** in Wear's Valley

Old Harp traditional singing. Bruce Wheeler will host. He can be reached at 453-9328 or [wwheele1@utk.edu](mailto:wwheele1@utk.edu).

Directions: From Townsend turn left or east on Rt. #321 over into Wears Valley. The Methodist Church is about 10 miles on the left.

**HEADRICK CHAPEL SINGING — Sunday, September 25 11 A.M.** in Wears Valley

Traditional Old Harp Singing at Headrick Chapel. Potluck dinner at noon. Larry Olszewski and Lois Luebke are the contact people. For additional information, call Lois, (865) 693-9292.

Directions: From Townsend, Tennessee, take the turn onto Rt. #321 east to the Sevier County line. One hundred yards past the line is Headrick Chapel on the right.

**WEARS VALLEY SINGING AT VALLEY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — Sunday, October 2, 2:00 P.M.** in Wear's Valley

Traditional Old Harp Singing, held annually since 1921, now at Valley View Baptist Church. Hosted by Dr. Bruce Wheeler 453-9328 or [wwheele1@utk.edu](mailto:wwheele1@utk.edu).

Directions: From Townsend, take the turn on Rt. #321 into Wears Valley. When you pass Headrick Chapel on the right you will go another 4.4 miles to Valley View Road (on right, after an "s" turn). Church is .7 mile from Wears

Valley Road, on Valley View Road.

**MUSEUM OF APPALACHIA HOMECOMING SINGING — Saturday, October 8, 10:00 A.M. & 12 NOON**

Old Harp presentation at the Museum of Appalachia Homecoming. 30 tickets are given out to the singers for this yearly event. For more information call Sara Baskin at 588-8728 or [mamaabgrass@bellsouth.net](mailto:mamaabgrass@bellsouth.net).

Directions to Museum of Appalachia: Exit I-75 at the Clinton/Norris exit. Head east and the museum is one mile on the left.

**PUMPKIN TOWN FESTIVAL — Sunday, October 16, 1:30 P.M.** in Athens

For more information, call Cora Sweatt at (423) 745-0246.

**DOLLYWOOD SINGING — Sunday, October 16 2:00 P.M.** in Pigeon Forge

Presentation for Dollywood visitors. For information call Martha Graham at 453-3276 or Veta King at 428-1375.

Directions: Follow the signs to Dollywood in Pigeon Forge. Tell the parking attendant that you are singing at the church. Take trolley to main gate. Show ticket taker your *New Harp of Columbia* book for free entry.

**MARYVILLE COLLEGE SINGING — Sunday, October 23, 2:00 P.M.**

Traditional Old Harp Singing at Maryville College. Contact people are Tom and Nan Taylor. They can be reached at 984-8585.

Directions: From Knoxville, head south on Alcoa Hwy., Rt. #129. A half mile past the airport, take the left fork and stay on this road into Maryville. At Lamar Alexander Parkway, turn right and take an immediate left into Maryville College. The Singing will be held in the campus middle building, the old Post Office.

**EPWORTH THANKSGIVING EVE SINGING — Wednesday, November 23, 6:30 P.M.**

Thanksgiving Eve Old Harp Singing Community Celebration at the Laurel Theatre in Knoxville. For more information, call Gideon

## ANNUAL SINGINGS 2005 (CONT'D)

Fryer at 524-3136 or Dave and Tina Becker at 982-7777.

### SUGARLANDS VISITORS CENTER SINGING — Saturday, December 10, 10 A.M.

Old Harp Singing Presentation in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Directions: From Pigeon Forge, go through Gatlinburg on Rt. #441 (or the bypass around Gatlinburg) about three miles. The Visitors Center is just inside the park boundary. Paul Clabo will preside. He can be reached at 453-

5847 or contact Martha Graham at 453-3276.

CHRISTMAS SINGING — Sunday, Dec. 11, 7:30 PM, in Karns. Christmas Old Harp singing at Kathy Jones' home at 9121 Garrison Road. Bring a finger food or drink to share.

Directions: Take Oak Ridge Hwy toward Oak Ridge for several miles. At the stoplight by Hardees and Weigels, turn left onto Byington Beaver Ridge Rd (Hwy 131). Go about 1/2 mile, then turn right onto Garrison Rd. The driveway is on the right.

## MUSIC OF APPALACHIA CLASS BY SEAN MCCULLOUGH

For the past eight years, the Epworth Old Harp Singers have been kind enough to host singings for the benefit of my Music of Appalachia classes from both the University of Tennessee and Maryville College. This class "field trip" has proven to be one of the most enjoyable, educational and inspiring experiences of the semester.



My Music of Appalachia course is basically a journey through the history and culture of music in this region. We begin with the ballads and fiddle tunes from the British Isles; weave in the influence of African rhythms and the African banjo; experience how different music cultures came together in the early string bands and dance styles, explore the affects of commercialization on the development of Hillbilly

music, Country and Western, and Bluegrass; and, of course, examine the role of religion and religious music in shaping our musical heritage.

Old Harp singing, like bluegrass, is a wonderful example of how "tradition" in Appalachia has always integrated the old with the new, the local with the outside influences, the sacred with the profane. But beyond that, old harp singing is simply powerful, and there is nothing quite like experiencing it for oneself. I generally spend a couple of hours in class "preparing" the students for our field trip. Fortunately, there is really no way for me to prepare the students for such a profoundly unique experience—the experience must speak for itself. The students often come away from the singing with changed attitudes and new respect for the music. Sitting in the square with seasoned singers and being part of the music proves to be much more than a simple educational experience for most. Thank you to all who have participated in these singings with my students. I want you to know that it is meaningful. I hope to continue this tradition just as I am grateful to the Epworth singers for continuing the tradition of Old Harp.

## NEWSLETTER NOTES

**T**wo hundred years are folded into this Old Harp tradition. It is constantly evolving and find its place in the communities that still hold singings. It is a social, spiritual and musical tradition that predates gospel music and was a part of the forefront of early American Hymnody. New singers are always welcome to join in. In the last eight years, four monthly practices or singings have sprung up because of the rising interest in this music and the social basis of the American communities of old. If you are interested in learning and singing, please see the cover and articles of where these singings are held.

**A** new Listserve was established in July 2004 so that the Old Harp community could communicate directly among themselves via e-mail. List members may post requests for assistance, be reminded of upcoming singings, and post or hear announcements of interest to the Old Harp community. You may subscribe to the listserve by going to the web page <http://www.kornet.org/mailman/listinfo/oldharp> and following the instructions, or by sending email to the list administrator, Chris Stoddart, at [w.c.stoddart@att.net](mailto:w.c.stoddart@att.net). Please also direct your suggestions for improvements or questions about the listserve to Chris. EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Stoddart began the [www.oldharp.org](http://www.oldharp.org) web page which presented our community to the whole world last year and received assistance from Kathy Jones. This year, Chris has taken on the new position of administrator and moderator of the old harp listserve. What great talents and willingness to help out we have in our old harp community.



**A** revised version of John Lamb's recording of the 2001 Headrick Chapel recording will be available shortly. The new version is one disk, professionally designed and printed, containing notes with more information about the chapel, singing tradition, and lessons. The costo of the CD is \$11 (including tax). Shipping is \$2 per copy. To order, send your check to John Lamb, 7426 Hydrus Dr., Harrison, TN 37341. For more information, call (423) 344-0909 or [secondmdus,@att.net](mailto:secondmdus,@att.net). The original 2-CD set is also still available for \$22. Tapes also might be available at some singings.

**T**he Old Harp Newsletter concerning the oral, written and musical traditions is published in January of each year. We put out special announcements when needed. The cost of getting this Old Harp Newsletter mailed to you is around \$2.50. To the people on the contact list, schools and libraries, we send 5 to 10 copies to use as publicity. Please support our efforts by sending your donation to: Old Harp Newsletter, 1232 Forest Brook Rd., Knoxville, TN 37919. Please make check out to "Old Harp."

**T**he Old Harp singers thank Fred Brown of the Knoxville News Sentinel for his article on Old Harp in the January 17, 2005 edition. Please see [www.knoxnews.com](http://www.knoxnews.com) for more information.

### INTERNET ADDRESSES OF INTEREST

[www.oldharp.org](http://www.oldharp.org)  
[www.jubileearts.org](http://www.jubileearts.org)  
[www.fasola.org](http://www.fasola.org)  
<http://ChristianHarmony.org>  
<http://www.headrickchapel.org>

Thanks again to Chris Stoddart for keeping the web site updated and hosting the listserve.

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