



Number 35
Spring 2008

OLD HARP

The
New Harp of Columbia
Newsletter



Four generations singing Old Harp

by Janet Whaley

I cannot remember the first time I heard "old harp singing." Every year we had singing and dinner on the ground at the First Baptist Church in Wears Valley. My dad, Paul Clabo and my mamaw, Edith McCarter sang it and I grew up hearing it. My twin sister, Terry Wiley and I started singing with my dad (con't. on page 3)

FRIENDS OF THE NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA

A Word from the Treasurer

2007 was a busy year financially for Friends of The New Harp of Columbia. We saw good income and had several significant expenses.

We had income as follows:

Donations	\$925.00
Book and CD Sales	\$1,242.00
Singing Schools Proceeds	\$195.00
Total Income	\$2,362.00

Expenses of:

Newsletter, Spring 2007	\$415.43
Copying of Singing Announcements	\$20.98
Postage	\$92.79
Web site hosting	\$89.70
501(c)(3) application	\$300.00
Headrick Chapel supplies	\$202.38
Jubilee Community Arts	\$300.00
Other	\$89.59
Total Expenses	\$1,510.87

With a total net income for the year of \$851.13. Total assets for the organization at the end of 2007 was \$5045.03. Even with the significant expenses, this is an increase of \$761.13 from 2006.

Joe Sarten, Treasurer

A Word from the Board

The current Board members are: Tina Becker, President; Chris Stoddart, Vice President; Joe Sarten, Treasurer; Ann Strange, Secretary; David Sarten; Bob Richmond; Kathleen Mavournin; Eddie Mash, Finance Committee.

Since it has been three years since the Charter and Bylaws were created, it is now time to replace some Board members. If you are willing to serve or would like to nominate someone to serve, please notify Tina Becker at (865) 982-7777. The Board meets approximately quarterly and is responsible for carrying out the objective of the organization which is: This is a growing mission because of the increase in singings in East Tennessee, the growing interest in the Old Harp tradition, and the impor-

tance of continuing these efforts which have deep historical roots and were recently promoted and preserved by Larry Olszewski. The Board took over the efforts Larry made to promote the tradition and it is expected that others will step up and offer their services to continue the tradition they love.

ALL ARE INVITED TO THE ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP
MEETING JUNE 8, 6:30, LAUREL THEATRE

Donations

Any donations, both past and future, are tax deductible. Should you wish to make a donation by check, please make it out to Friends of The New Harp of Columbia and mail it to 307 Lake Forest Dr., Knoxville, TN 37920.

AND! by the time you read this, we should have completed modification on the web site to accept donations through the PayPal system.

www.OLDHARP.org
<http://oldharp.wetpaint.com>



In Memorium
Doris DeSpain,
Died December 1, 2007

OLD HARP NEWSLETTER

Number 35 Spring 2008

ISSN No. 1546-038X

Founder: Larry Olszewski

Publisher: Friends of *The New Harp of Columbia*

Editor and Layout: Ann Strange

Additional Editing: Lois Luebke

Calendar Editor: Tina Becker

Media Coordinator: Chris Stoddart

chris.stoddart@gmail.com

Four generations singing Old Harp (continued from cover)

when we were about 8 or 9 years old. I started out singing lead because that is what my dad, mamaw, and sister sang. However, my dad would not let me sing that part for very long. I had sung alto in the choir for a couple of years and that's what dad wanted me to sing. He would always say, "lead singers are a dime a dozen," so I had to sing alto because at that time there were few altos.

I didn't know alto based on the shaped notes but I'd had several years of piano lessons from Mae Adams who sung alto in the harp. It was only natural, I guess that I sat by and learned



the alto from her. She was very patient with me and pointed out our part and each note. Mostly, I memorized the lines and sing to this day from memory. My son, Andrew Whaley who is 16, never took music lessons but knows the notes perfectly. He reads the notes and has several songs memorized. When he first became interested in the music he came to me for help. Several other singers and I made some instructional C.D's with certain songs recorded from the book. He listened to those and has since gotten all the old harp recordings that he could get his hands on to learn more. While he still doesn't read music, he reads the notes extremely well. Recently, we had the opportunity to sing and lead a song alongside my dad and my grandfather, Herb Clabo. My grandfather who is 95 years old, was so proud that all four generations were there singing together. It was a very special time for all of us. I am proud to sing this music and am thrilled that my son has such a love for it as well.

Scenes from Singings



Robin Goddard leads a song in the historic building at Maryville College with the sun coming in the beautiful stained glass window.



Ira Goforth is part of the Athens singers who host a wonderful singing each May.



Kathleen Mavournin shows how it's done in East Tennessee. The Boston Camerata spent the Fall semester at UT and we co-hosted a Singing School.

CAMP DO-RE-MI 2007

BY CLAUDIA DEAN

On Friday, August 19, about 50 shape note singers met at Wildacres Retreat In North Carolina for 2 days of singing at "Camp Doremi." Old Harp singers attending were **Tina Becker, Ann Strange, Kathleen Mavournin, Bob Richmond and I, Claudia Dean, from Knoxville, Jeff Farr and his family from Chuckey, TN and Bob Wiley from Johnson City.** Most of the singers were from North Carolina, Tennessee, or Georgia, but several came from Florida and Pennsylvania. I was touched by the groups of mothers, daughters and granddaughters attending. Jane Spencer, Camp Doremi's indefatigable impresario, came with husband, son, mother, and countless aunts.

Wildacres Retreat is just off the Blue Ridge Parkway, about 50 miles northeast of Asheville. The location is high in the mountains, remote, and lovely. Singers gathered on the patio to relax in the rocking chairs, gaze over the hills, and enjoy breezes cooler than Knoxville's. Accommodations were very comfortable and serene. Tasty meals were served family style in a pleasant dining hall.

Classes met during the day. Beginning and Intermediate Rudiments were offered twice, and Advanced Rudiments, Leading a Song, and Parts Practice: Find your Niche or Broaden Your Horizons were offered on Saturday. It was like choosing dessert at dinner on the grounds; I was sorry I couldn't try each one. There was also a Children's Singing School, and, at the final camp singing, three young people, each expertly and fearlessly, led a song.

The most wonderful part of camp was the singing. We sang from the North Carolina Christian Harmony book except when Jeff Farr led us in some lessons from the New Harp of Columbia. I was looking forward to this as I had

been struggling with the unfamiliar shapes, words and music of Christian Harmony. However, we sang a number of lessons I didn't know, including "Africa" (#97 in the back) which has interesting words. Once again, I was reminded how much

there is to learn and sing in our book. The North Carolina singers set their pitch without a pitch pipe which requires many skills, including negotiating and arbitrating, from the leader.

This was the first time I have sung Christian Harmony and I have been thinking how to describe its differences from Old Harp. The North Carolina singers

sing slower and find and savor the harmony of each chord before moving on to the next. Sometimes the harmonies are anchored more by the lead line than the independent harmonies of Old Harp. A musician would give a better explanation of the differences, but the thrilling and transcendent effect of the music is the same. I found that singing with these very strong singers united my mind, body and spirit and joined me with the group in a wonderful communion. As a relatively inexperienced shape note singer, I found the camp exciting and inspiring and I'm looking forward to returning. Sunday morning some of the singers prepared to drive about 65 miles northeast to the Ashe County Sing in West Jefferson, NC. The rest of us lingered over pancakes and coffee, taking parting hands before driving back down the mountain.



Camp Do-Re-Mi 2008

August 7-10, 2008 • Wildacres Retreat • Little Switzerland, North Carolina. Cost: \$180 includes 3 nights lodging and meals and classes. Rooms are double occupancy. The schedule and registration information will be available on <http://www.christianharmony.org>

Contact Jane Spencer - ejanespencer@yahoo.com or (706) 769-8782 if you need further information.

THE NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA - 2008 CALENDAR

<u>DATE</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>POTLUCK?</u>	<u>INFORMATION</u>
Feb. 10	Sunday	12:30 PM	Yes	Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, 2931 Kingston Pike, Knoxville, Potluck at 12:30. Sing at 1:30.
Feb. 17	Sunday	10:00AM	No	Knoxville Dance Festival, Laurel High School across from Laurel Theatre, Knoxville
March 7	Friday	6:15 PM	No	Jubilee Festival, Laurel Theatre, Knoxville
March 9	Sunday (2)	11:00 AM	Yes	Epworth Old Harp Singers Annual Singing at the Laurel Theatre
March 23	Sunday	5:30 PM	Yes	Easter Singing, Gooch-Mabbs Residence, 4401 Alta Vista Way, Knoxville
April 6	Sunday	2:00 PM	No	Oldhams Creek Missionary Baptist Church (end of Kings Branch Rd) Sevier County
April 27	Sunday (4)	2:00 PM	No	Tuckaleechee Methodist Church Singing, Townsend
May 4	Sunday (1)	2:00 PM	No	Middle Creek United Methodist Church, Sevierville
May 18	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Old College Singing at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Athens, TN
May 31	Saturday	10:00 AM	Yes	Franklin Singing at New Bethel Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Greene County
June 22	Sunday (4)	NOON	Yes	Beech Grove Primitive Baptist Church Singing, Sevier County
Aug. 17	Sunday (3)	2:30 PM	No	Cades Cove Missionary Baptist Church Singing, Great Smoky Mtns. National. Park
Sept. TBA	Thursday	6:30 PM	Yes	Music of Appalachia class from the University of Tennessee, Laurel Theatre, Knoxville (call to confirm)
Sept. 7	Sunday	2:00 PM	No	Wears Valley Methodist Church Singing, (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County
Sept. 20	Saturday	TBA	No	Pittman Center Singing (above Gatlinburg)
Sept. 28	Sunday (4)	11:00 AM	Yes	Headrick Chapel Singing, (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County
Oct. 5	Sunday (1)	2:00 PM	No	Wears Valley Singing at Valley View Baptist Church, (Wears Valley Rd.), Sevier County
Oct. 11	Saturday (2)	TBA	No	Museum of Appalachia Homecoming Singing, Norris, TN (call to confirm)
Oct. 11	Saturday	TBA	No	Pumpkin Town Festival, Athens, TN (call to confirm)
Oct. 19	Sunday (3)	2:00 PM	No	Dollywood Singing presentation, Pigeon Forge (call to confirm)
Oct. 26	Sunday (4)	2:00 PM	No	Maryville College Singing, Maryville
Nov. 1	Saturday	10:00 AM	Yes	Johnson City Singing, exact location TBA (call to confirm)
Nov. 26	Wednesday	6:30 PM	Yes	Thanksgiving Eve Potluck & Old Harp Singing, Laurel Theatre
Dec. 7	Sunday	7:30 PM	No	Christmas Singing at Kathy Jones' home, Karns
Dec. 13	Saturday	9:30 AM	No	Sugarlands Singing, Sugarlands Visitors Center, Great Smoky Mountains National Park
Jan. 17, 2009	Saturday	12:00-4:00	Yes	Larry O Annual Memorial Potluck & Singing, Laurel Theatre (call to confirm)

THE NEW HARP OF COLUMBIA CALENDAR 2008 SINGINGS BY EAST TENNESSEE COUNTY

Knox County Epworth Old Harp Singers

**Second Sunday Singings,
6:30 p.m., Laurel Theatre, Knoxville**

January 13 (no February or March), April 13, May 11, June 8 (ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING, 6:30 p.m.), July 13, August 10, (no September), October 12, November 9 (no December).

(Area Code for Knoxville is 865)

TVUUC OLD HARP SINGING — Sunday, February 10, at Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist Church, Knoxville.

The potluck with church members begins 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 email at barbarakemper@gmail.com.

KNOXVILLE DANCE WEEKEND SINGING — Sunday, February 17, 10:00 A.M. at Laurel High School, Knoxville.

Sunday morning we are joined by dancers who are here for the Knoxville Country Dance weekend. 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 Ann Strange at (865) 573-4468 or strange@esper.com.

JUBILEE FESTIVAL PRESENTATION — Friday, March 7, 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 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 Kathleen Mavournin at 691-9506 or kmav@icx.net. For more information on the Jubilee Festival call Jubilee Community Arts at 865-522-5851.

EPWORTH OLD HARP SINGING — Sunday, March 9, 11:00 A.M. at the Laurel Theatre.

The Epworth Old Harp singers sponsor this annual Singing at the Laurel Theatre (directions above). Contact Tina Becker at 982-7777 or strokeofhealth@bellsouth.net. 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 23, Potluck at 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 Gooch or Meg Mabbs at 522-0515.

MUSIC OF APPALACHIA CLASS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE — September DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED LATER, 6:30 p.m. at the Laurel Theatre, Knoxville.

The Epworth Old Harp singers 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 the date and more information, call Tina at 982-7777.

OLD HARP SINGINGS - 2008

MUSEUM OF APPALACHIA HOMECOMING SINGING

— **Saturday, October 11.**

Old Harp presentation at the Museum of Appalachia Homecoming. Last year, we had a conflict and not enough singers could be rounded up for this event. We look forward to returning in 2008. Sara Baskin makes the arrangements for tickets and times so look for more information to be announced nearer the date. Sara can be reached at 588-8728 or mam-abgrass@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..

EPWORTH THANKSGIVING EVE SINGING —

Wednesday, November 26, Potluck at 6:30 P.M.

Thanksgiving Eve Old Harp Singing Community Celebration at the Laurel Theatre in Knoxville. For more information, call Gideon Fryer at 524-3136 or Dave and Tina Becker at 982-7777.

CHRISTMAS SINGING — Sunday, Dec. 7, 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. Call Kathy (865-690-3906) for directions.

Knox County - 2009

LARRY O ANNUAL MEMORIAL OLD HARP SINGING AND POTLUCK —Saturday, January 17, 2009 at the Laurel Theatre beginning with a potluck at noon and singing until 4:00.



Blount County Maryville Old Harp Singers

**Fourth Monday Singings, 7:00 p.m.
Broadway United Methodist Church,
Maryville**

January 28, February 25, March 24, April 28, May 26, June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, (no October, November or December). (It is recommended you call first-- Nancy at 983-7631 or Nan at 984-8585.)

(Area Code for Blount County is 865)

TUCKALEECHEE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SINGING — Sunday, April 27, 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, stay on Rt. 321 to Townsend (20⁺ miles). Turn right at the billboard saying Tuckaleechee Caverns. The church is a mile on the left. John Wright Dunn is the host. Tom Taylor is his assistant for this singing. His phone is 984-8585 or e-mail Tom at TTaylor706@aol.com.

CADES COVE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING —Sunday, August 17, 2:30 P.M.

An educational presentation at the Cades Cove Missionary Baptist Church. 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

OLD HARP SINGINGS - 2008

singing. Take the Cades Cove Loop. The Missionary Baptist Church is the third church on the loop. Add one hour to travel time due to the tourist traffic jams.

For more information, call Robin Goddard at 982-6148 or rlgoddard@aol.com or Tom and Nan Taylor at 984-8585.

MARYVILLE COLLEGE SINGING — Sunday, October 26, 2:00 P.M.

Traditional Old Harp Singing at Maryville College. 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. It's called the Center for Campus Ministry. Park at Feyerweather Hall.

For more information, call Nancy Olsen at 983-7631 or bryne_olsen@yahoo.com.

Cocke County Newport Old Harp Singers

Second Tuesday Singings, 6:30 p.m.
Newport Community Center
423 Prospect Avenue

2008 Dates

January 8, February 12, March 11, April 8,
May 13, June 10, July 8, August 12, September
9, October 14, November 11, and December 9.

(Area Code for Cocke County is 423)

Directions: From I-40, exit 435, go north on Cosby Highway first traffic light after you get beyond the exit area. Turn right onto Jones

Circle and immediately left onto Prospect Avenue. The Community Center is the first building on the left (but there aren't any buildings on the left until you've gone a ways). Donations of \$1 are requested to defray room costs.

For more information, call Judy Bryant at 623-6811

Greene County Franklin Old Harp Singers

Last Sunday Singings, 3:00 p.m.
Cumberland Presbyterian Church
201 N. Main Street, Greeneville

January 27, February 24, March 30, April 27,
May 25, June 29, July 27, August 31 (no
September), October 26, November 30,
December 28.

Directions to Cumberland Presbyterian Church from the Knoxville area: Take I-40 east toward Asheville. At exit 421 take I-81 north toward Bristol. Take exit 23 onto turning right on 11E toward Greeneville. After 11 miles exit right onto TN-70S/11E Business/Summer Street. Continue 1.5 miles turning left onto Main Street. At the second intersection turn left onto Church Street. The church is on the corner of N. Main and Church. Parking lot is in the rear of the building.

(Area Code for Greene County is 423)

GREENEVILLE/FRANKLIN OLD HARP SINGING —
Saturday, May 31, 10:00 A.M. at New Bethel
Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Greene
County, TN. Potluck at noon, sing until 3:00.
Directions to New Bethel Cumberland
Presbyterian Church from Knoxville area: Take

OLD HARP SINGINGS - 2008

I-40 toward Asheville. At exit 421 take I-81 north toward Bristol. Take exit 30 turning right onto TN-70. Continue 7.5 miles. Turn right onto Cox Road. New Bethel is on the right. For more information, contact Jeff Farr at 620-8267, Summersfarr@embarqmail.com, or Mary Grace Meador at 967-5554.

McMinn County Old College Harp Singers

Third Tuesday Singings, 6:00 p.m.
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
123 S. Jackson Street, Athens

January 15, February 19, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18 (no December).

(Area Code for McMinn County is 423)

OLD COLLEGE SINGING – Sunday, May 18, 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.

Directions: From I-75, 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.

For more information, contact Cora Sweatt at 745-0248, or Genevieve Wiggins at 745-5322, drgewi@bellsouth.net

PUMPKIN TOWN FESTIVAL — Saturday, October 11, Time TBA, in Athens.

For more information, call Cora Sweatt.

Sevier County Sevier County Old Harp Singers

Third Tuesday Singings, 7:00 p.m.
Middle Creek United Methodist Church,
1828 Middle Creek Rd., Pigeon Forge

January 15, February 19, March 18, April 15, May 20, June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16, October 21, November 18 (no December).

(Area Code for Sevier County is 865)

OLDHAMS CREEK MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — Sunday, April 6, 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, king2717@bellsouth.net.

MIDDLE CREEK METHODIST CHURCH SINGING — Sunday, May 4, 2:00 P.M. in Sevierville

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

Directions: The church is on Middle Creek Road in Pigeon Forge. Because of construction, please contact David Sarten at 428-0874 (D_Sarten@msn.com) for directions.

BEECH GROVE PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING — Sunday, June 22, Potluck at noon.

We always like to welcome Sharee Green back to East Tennessee to host this singing. Mentored by Larry Olszewski and now living in Oklahoma and working as a school teacher,

OLD HARP SINGINGS - 2008

this lady wants to keep the tradition of Old Harp singing at this church going. Potluck dinner at noon. Contact Shirley Henry at 453-5983 or Sharee Green at 654-3557, auburn-act@yahoo.com.

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.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH SINGING — **Sunday, Sept. 7, 2 P.M.** in Wear's Valley

Bruce Wheeler hosts this singing which has recently added some gospel singing into the mix of Old Harp singing. He can be reached at 453-9328 or 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. Or, from Pigeon Forge, go on 321, Wears Valley Road, and the church is on the right.

HEADRICK CHAPEL SINGING —**Sunday, September 28, 11 A.M.** in Wears Valley

Traditional Old Harp Singing at Headrick Chapel. Potluck dinner at noon. **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.

For more information, contact Ann Strange at 573-4468, strange@esper.com or Bruce Wheeler at 453-9328, wwheele1@utk.edu.

WEARS VALLEY SINGING AT VALLEY VIEW BAPTIST CHURCH SINGING—**Sunday, October 5, 2:00 P.M.** in Wear's Valley.

Traditional Old Harp Singing, held annually since 1921, now at Valley View Baptist Church. **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.

Contacts are Dr. Bruce Wheeler 453-9328, wwheele1@utk.edu and Paul Clabo 453-5847.

DOLLYWOOD SINGING — **Sunday, October 19, 2:00 P.M.** in Pigeon Forge

Presentation for Dollywood visitors. For information call 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.

SUGARLANDS VISITORS CENTER SINGING — **Saturday, December 13, 9:30 A.M.**

Old Harp Singing Presentation in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park followed by singing from the old red gospel book. Hosted by Paul Clabo and family.

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 Bruce Wheeler at 453-9328.

Washington County Johnson City Singers

JOHNSON CITY SINGING — **Saturday, November 1, 10:00 a.m., Location TBA**

Singing begins at 10:00 with dinner on the grounds at noon and singing until 3:00. This is a new two-book singing with the *New Harp of Columbia* and *Christian Harmony*. Don Wiley is the host and can be reached more for information at (423) 341-8893.

Friends Outside East Tennessee

www.christianharmony.org

www.fasola.com

<http://mywebpages.comcast.net/david.l.carlton/harpeth/index.htm>

JOHN WRIGHT DUNN

BY GLADYS FLETCHER

John Dunn is a big part of shaped note singing although he didn't sing it as a child. When he was about six years old, he remembers listening to one of his uncles.

When he was building his house in Townsend in 1962, he became interested and in a few years singing was started in his new basement--for practice he said. Nan and Tom Taylor were good friends and helped start this.

John tried to remember names and he says Charlie Johnson, who was a very fine tenor, stands out in his mind. He says he accidentally attended an Old Harp singing at Headrick Chapel and this is what started his interest. His dad was one of a family of 16 and all were settled around Townsend and Dry Valley. John was postmaster in Townsend for a number of years so many people knew him, even the young people who came to Tremont for a few months in the year.

When Nan and Tom Taylor were asked about these singings they said, "Yes, it was an interesting group that first sang and talked, never any food, but it was fun. There was always a chair for everyone and sometimes the crowd was big.

Once they felt strong enough, John wanted to organize Easter singing at Tuckaleechee United Methodist Church. At first it was held on Easter Sunday but was later changed to the fourth Sunday in April. The first few years, it was held in the Sunday School room but later moved to the sanctuary. John says he helped build this church in 1937 and he helped with the addition in the 1950's.

Some years later, John and Tom were approached by Johnnie Myers to start singing in their church in Cades Cove, the Missionary Baptist Church. John got that one organized and Rose Gregory, John's cousin, always spent the opened the singing with a tune or two on the old organ that was originally in the building. It has since been removed. That singing continues the third Sunday in August. It is

interesting to note that John still hosts these two singings. Here is a list of those attending these two singings as Nan and Tom Taylor remember. There are some familiar names on it:

Nan (Krause) Taylor
Tom Taylor
Ann (Briggs) Baumann
Mary Yoder
Alice Beth (Cook) Royce
Ellis Bacon
Luke & Lena Headrick
Charlie Clabough
Burl & Mae Adams
Rose Gregory
Liz Crawford
Doug Cox
Kate Headrick
Martha Graham
Otha Henry
Newman Garner
Mary Abbott
George & Mary Davis
Calvin Dunn
Stanley Burns
Mary Gall
Mary Lynn Morgan
Mathes Dunn
Jess Eldridge
Susan Bratton
Cora Adams
(and others who came occasionally)



John is an old-timer who has always enjoyed the Old Harp singing groups just for fun. These people met together for the fellowship and, for some, it was their entertainment for the week. John still likes to lead a song or two and we appreciate his doing it.

(Gladys and John live at Morning View in Maryville and Gladys took the opportunity to write down some of John's remembrances about the old days. Thanks, Gladys.)

THE OLD PASSES AWAY AND THE NEW ARRIVES

Singings Added to the Calendar in 2007

- January 24 - Fountain City United Methodist Church*
- February 28 - First United Methodist Church, Maryville*
- March 25 - Appalachian Studies Conference, Maryville College
- April 24 - Pigeon Forge Primary Heritage Festival*
- April 28 - Great Smoky Mountains Heritage Center Townsend;
- August 3 - Blount Mansion Visitors Center, Knoxville*
- September 11 - Doris DeSpain Funeral Service, St. John's Episcopal, Knoxville*
- September 15 - Pittman Center Heritage Days
- October 13 - Boston Camerata Singing School, Knoxville*
- December 14 - Headrick Chapel video

*Meal provided
Requests for new singings are based on how many regulars can show up and if it fits with our tradition and mission. Requests for new singings should be directed to Tina Becker (865-982-7777 or strokeofhealth@bell-south.net).

Get on the Bus!

An exciting new possibility for 2008 is returning to the tradition of singers traveling together by bus! Al Wishart, who runs Sassafras Transportation and is a treble Old Harp Singer, is willing to take singers from Knoxville to singings in other East Tennessee counties.

The bus is NOT available on Saturdays in June and July, but some out-of-town possibilities include:

- May 18 - Old College Singing in Athens
- May 31 - Franklin Singing in Greeneville
- Oct. 11 - Museum of Appalachia in Norris
- Nov. 1 - Johnson City Singing

If enough people are interested, we could ride together by bus to some Sevier County or

Blount County singings. Our generous driver is only asking \$5 for gas to participate. His bus holds 15 people including the driver. We would need to find a central location in Knoxville to gather and those kind of logistics will be figured out later.

If you are interested in participating or hearing more about riding a bus to the singings, please contact Al Wishart at (865) 696-7125.

Singing Schools 2007 and 2008

A singing school with 20 students was held this fall in Newport, Tennessee, organized by the Newport Community Theater in support of their production of an adaptation for the stage of Wilma Dykeman's novel "The Tall Woman." One of the songs we practiced, Oh Sing to Me of Heaven, #73t, was featured in the play, and members of the class participated. The class also performed at Old Timey Day on the Cocke County Courthouse Lawn in October. Class members continue to meet for monthly practice sessions on second Tuesdays, 6:30 to 8:00, at the Newport Community Center.

A new singing school format for the New Harp of Columbia is in the planning stage. We hope to have all-day sessions on Saturdays before several of our major singing events throughout the year. If all goes well, the first one will be on the Saturday of the Jubilee Festival, March 8, at the Laurel Theatre (but call to confirm). This would come the day before the annual singing sponsored by the Epworth Old Harp singers and we are hopeful of a big crowd. The new students will have the opportunity to sit next to experienced singers and get the feel of the full sound and glorious event that is a real Old Harp singing.

For more information, call teacher Kathleen Mavournin at (865) 691-9506 or kmav@icx.net.