

# Choral gifts of song brighten nine lessons of Christmas

BY WENDY BYERLY

On Dec. 2 and 3 melodic voices rose into the balcony and rafters of the sanctuary of the First United Methodist Church of Brevard with songs celebrating the coming Christmas. This is the second consecutive year that the members of the Brevard College Concert Choir and Chamber Chorale have done "A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols," a program which was taken from the traditional service presented at the King's College Chapel of Cambridge, England.

More of a worship service, the concert is appropriately held in a church rather than in the fairly new Paul Porter Center. In the program, the composition supports and celebrates the lessons telling the story of Redemption, originating from Archbishop Benson's research.

Before one or two beautiful Christmas pieces are performed by the Choir or Chorale, a Bible verse is read explaining one of the nine lessons. The lessons begin with

Genesis 3:8-15, when God announces in the Garden of Eden that the seed of woman shall bruise the serpent's head, and end with John 1:1-14, when St. John unfolds the great mystery of the Incarnation. In these lessons the prophecy of Jesus are read as well as excerpts from the birth of Jesus.

The choral pieces performed by both the Choir and the Chorale were extraordinarily wonderful. The words were easily understood even over the difficult music supported the lessons that were read. The singers used their voices well and made the walk across the street to the church through the cold night very worthwhile. Every note was on pitch, whether sung with the organ or accapela. There were beautiful solos done by Andrea Cox, Tera Carter, Donna Pimental, Joshua Sellers and Christan Raxter, as well as descants by the high tones of the first sopranos.

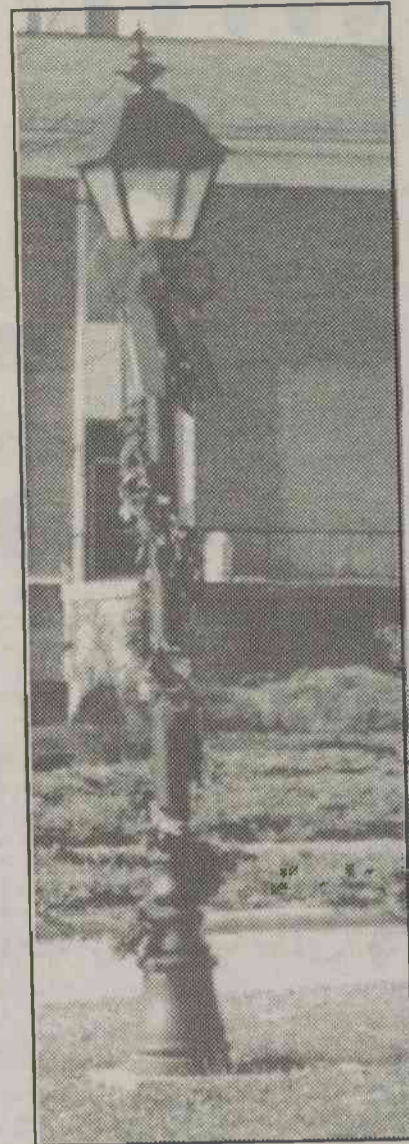
The service also involved the singing voices of the congregation, participating with the choirs during four traditional Christmas carols. These songs were "Once in Royal

David's City," a less known carol, "God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen," "O Come, All Ye Faithful" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

The service was free to everyone and was full both nights. The second night there was no seating room available though, because it was a Friday night and more people were able to attend.

Since the service was considered sacred the congregation was asked to not applaud, although there should have been a standing ovation and a few encores as well. The choirs consisted, not only of voice majors, but also of many students, faculty and staff not in the music department. A few community members also participated.

If word gets around that the service is to be performed for a third year in a row, they might have to hold it three nights rather than two to accommodate all of the people who enjoyed it so well and who will bring friends with them next time.



## Take a trip of a life-time

### FEATURES COLUMN

BY RYAN BAUSLAUGH

I would like to believe at some point in every person's life they get an opportunity to see some of the things I saw while traveling through Greece in the Summer of 1998. It is not just the location or the building and architecture that is so fascinating but also what transpired in these places – the rich history. In my eyes, very few places in the world captivate my mind more. Greece is the birthplace for some of man's finest hours. Democracy, Philosophy, Mythology, Architecture and the Olympics were cornerstones of this once flourishing empire.

I wish I could truly put my experience of traveling around this beautiful country into words, but I really can't. However, as fortune would have it I don't have to. This summer Anne Chapin and Brad Kimzey will lead a group of Brevard students on the adventure I had the privilege of being a part last year.

If this information interests you then please read further, maybe I can spark your enthusiasm a bit more. Although I must tell I am slightly biased because this is my kind of trip. If you are the type of person

who loves rugged mountains, hiking and outdoor adventure (without any humidity) then this is your gig. If you are the type of person who likes ancient building and ruins, then this is the trip for you. If you are more interested in a cultural experience, then you will find it in Greece. And if you like history, well, you won't want to miss out.

Greece is full of history, but not the kind of history thrown at you since the second grade. Unless you have taken a course on ancient Greece, nothing can prepare you for how engulfed in it you will become. City states like Athens, where democracy was born and where the Acropolis rises above the city to remind the world of a golden age, and the Bronze Age cities of Mycenae and Tiryns, with their cyclopean masonry and the Minoan palaces on Crete, show where an entire civilizations of people flourished and then just disappeared. You will go to these places, Corinth, Delphi and more. You may not have heard of them now but if you go you will never forget them.

This trip to Greece is open to all Brevard College students. Take some time and think about it. It is 23 days at the end of spring



semester. I can honestly say you will cherish the memory of this trip as I do today. I strongly encourage you to watch your email for the opportunity and privilege to let yourself go. It is a life experience and it will stir your intellect and spirit unlike anything you can dream.

For example my favorite part of the trip was on the island of Santorini. The island is actually an active volcano. In about 1627 BC the volcano erupted collapsing half the island in the sea and burying the ancient city of Akrotiri in ash, leaving it preserved for archaeolo-

gists to discover more than 3000 years later. The island is truly breathtaking, with some of the most beautiful beaches I have ever seen. Clubs and restaurants in town are world famous and a lot of fun. The group sailed out to the active volcanic core where you could light a cigarette on the ground; and in our free time we even rented a sail boat and sailed around to one of the most beautiful beaches on earth. It was great!

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