Since I only went on tour once, my quantity of memories in limited. All I really remember is we Elaine Frazier-Hammons had a great time and learned a lot!

Being part of one big, happy family!

Julie (Freeman) Moskal

I spent my 18th birthday on tour and the choir sang "Happy Birthday" to me in front of the Majestic Theater in New York where we saw "42nd Street" from the very back row. Christina Petzke

McDonalds after choir practice

Beth Himmel

Traveling with friends, performing and especially the last nights of each tour! Richard Hancock

On the Colorado tour, the second time we sang at a church in Nebraska. Our first visit had a poor turnout. But those who were there were so impressed with us that they invited us back on the return trip9a week later). At our second performance, the church was filled to overflowing. The audience response, support and enthusiasm was overwhelming. Steve Blancard

My favorite memories are those of when we went on tour - the friendships that formed, lives that were touched by the songs we sang, and of course walking all the way down the Washington Monument with Craig Mindrum, Debbie Bush and Kim Jones.

John Neve's direction.

Valerie (Herlihy) Phillips

All the tour programs, practical jokes, and the closeness. Mindy Graika

Home concerts

Christi Holeman-Duman

Goofing off, going to Washington, D.C., Getting to play those bells when they were new. Sandi (Isenberger) Murray

Having John Neve as a choir director!

Lynn (Humphrey) Andren

Mrs. Neve and Mrs. Schultz putting black jelly beans on their teeth to get us to smile.

Darrilyn(Albright) Fraser

I just remember having such a fun time with everyone! Sharon (Isenberger) Fischer

In the 1980 tour when we sang and stayed at the college in Georgia.

Herb Bartron

Tour 83!

Shawnie Anderson-Pierson

Making out in a church.

Sara Armstrong

Being a part of the drama team in Celebrate Life and doing the Russian dance in We Three Kings with Craig Roselieb and Jim Schultz. Also, knowing that we were Spreading the Good News to so many people around the United States was exciting. Kent Ebersold

I loved touring and being a part of the production.

Debbie (Aumann) Hollensbee

Christmas Eve services.

Pam (Padgett) Higgins

The Christmas Eve services. They always seemed to capture the true spirit of the holiday. Glenn Beggs

Going on choir retreats, meeting for rehearsals and singing on Sundays! Suzanne Gassen

Listening to Art Eymann play prelude music before a show (especially the prelude to Celebrate Life). Jeff Bell

The day we spent in New York City and skated in Rockefeller Center.

Stacy Yenerich

My favorite memory is the commitment to choir and the church and all the wonderful and spiritual opportunities that opened up for us. I have looked back on those experiences many times over the years and have come to realize that we learned an awful lot about people during those tours that have meaning even today. Lori (Herlihy) Roberts

The close knit group of friends that I had at that time.

Lea Anne (Botsford) Crosier

Haircuts and earrings with Andy Wells, Jon Graika, Matt Kresl, etc in Boston

Carl Niemann

All the fellowship and fun on the bus and at the performances.

Denise (Bowen) Hage

Last night of tour, Tim Norris singing Chicken like to Hallelujah Amen. Carolyn (Colby) Donnelly

Christmas Eve services

Nancy (Martin) Horn

After a performance, somewhere outside of Washington, D.C., having a local teenager approach me - obviously emotionally moved by what they had seen and heard. What a powerful message we had! Nancy (Cramer) Trehey

Being a part of the Actors and Dancers for each choir tour. Susan (Matthias) Nagy

The lock-in at the church and the friends I made.

Bob Moore

Choir tour and last night of skits and staying at the churches.

Nancy Mattison-Trevino

The whole tour routine - gather in the morning - brief song/prayer, travel on the bus - being with friends, seeing new places, set-up and quick rehearsal, potluck supper, stay with hosts Mary Ann (McCowin) Goering

Tour - New York

Diana Walthour

"Friends" tour

Kelly McCartney

Coming home from Tour and giving our best performance to our own church. Todd Vandenbark

Christmas Eve candlelight services

Laura (Moore) Gurski

My favorite night on tour was the lock-in night where we would share feelings - happy and sad. We'd also reveal secret pals! Polly Needham

Home tour concerts and Christmas Eve services

Dave Neve

The incredible "high" I felt at the end of "Celebrate Life"

Sue McCowin

Sunday mornings with all of my friends Callie Thompson

Traveling with the tour choir and meeting all the host families across the country. Melinda Bergstrom

Riding the bus through the mountains on the way to Washington, D.C. surrounded by friends, just having a great time together. Dave Swartwout

My favorite experience was by far the last night of every tour. It was always an emotional experience that left us all feeling much closer. Richard Uphoff

T.P.ing of our home after home concerts. Sue Ebersold leaning on the door bell, which woke us up and alerted us to one such t.p.ing(she didn't know what she had done). The first "Celebrate Life" in 1974; the coach driver on one tour would "boogity-boogity" down the road; the Tech Crew always getting things up in time under pressure; the Schupmann twins - double the trouble and double the fun; Bill and Bob, our coach drivers; turning our name tags on the coach as we got back on; fines if we didn't turn them; fines from Bill and Bob if we said bus instead of coach; the "Ralph"; Art Eymann at the piano. Jane Neve

Christmas 11:00 p.m. service my freshman year when we surrounded the church by candlelight and sang "Silent Night." The feeling of peace and love filled the church. Diana (Moore) Neilson

Fred Conger with nylons on his head.

Andrew Tallman

Tour - absolutely! Fellowship, excitement, friendship, music, the incredible bonding with friends and adult chaperones. Shari VanderVelde

Being able to visit different parts of the country that I otherwise would probably never have had a chance to see. Holly (Beggs) Atwood

Dressing as a clown for the '87 tour show and sharing the love of God with others. Pamela Pickett

The people. I became close with people during tour and our friendships have only strengthened. My tour choir roommate was a bridesmaid in my wedding. Now, we're raising our children together! Kim (Mochel) Yaglowski

Singing "Amazing Grace" at Tuskegee Institute.

Ross Welshimer

The year we did Celebrate Life with the fun choreography and costuming.

James Patten

The Neves! The sleepovers in the church basements, Mr. Eymann, the fun pranks on the bus - Roxanne Campbell.

Deanna (Bowen) Ward

Mr. Neve threatening to put our gum between our toes.

Katy Weeks

Don Ross' daily letters that eventually spelled out DON'T LET IT END LOVE DON.

Tracy Ehrlich

The coach rides and the performances and morning prayer time - everything!

Kristi (Purser) Zemaitis

Practices for tour, the skits we performed on our last day of tour

Becky (Weber) Warga

Cards in the back of the bus and the post concert celebrations

Mark Priest

Too many to count!

Robin (Reich) Galbreath

Lots! Mostly feeling proud of our choir and performances.

Donna (Ebersold) Fletcher

When Gorden, Glenn, Rich and Rob got sent home for drinking beer.

Geoff Reddington

Skits and sharing time on the last night

Tammi Ponstein

Staying in the church after our final tour concert, performing class skits and sharing our experiences! Erin (Rogers) Vadala

I loved acting in the tour choir programs, but my favorite memory was my boyfriends and the crushes!

Georgia (Eblin) Levy

Bob Beardsley borrowing my tour dress for a skit the last night.

Karen (Dennett) Witek

Getting to perform a solo to my grandmother on the '93 tour in Colorado. Scott Rhodes

Mr. Neve and how he "Taught" us.

Deb (Curtis) Franzee

Performing for SRO crowds at FUMC in Downers Grove

Laurie (Roberts) Schupmann

Home performances of Tour

Lisa Schmidt

Putting full make-up on Dave Carlson on the bus and all of Tour '93.

Jennifer Foskett

Seeing Butch Vandenbark walk out of the bathroom on the bus with all of his clothes on backwards!

Becky Reed

Tours and high school friendships

Laura Doerr

The celebrations we had each night after a performance. I really felt close to everyone and very much part of a wonderful group.

Nancy (Ebersold) Bifulco

Sharing our feelings/dreams/joys the last night of tour.

Russ Fletcher

The spring '73 tour. Sleeping in sleeping bags at the host churches.

Dennis Curtis

All four tours I attended were the highlights of my time in choir. I especially remember the tour my senior year when my mom came along as a chaperone.

Janet Flewelling

The last night of tour when everyone told their favorite part of tour. It was a great bonding experience and I felt really close to everyone.

Erin Ellis

Rooming with good friends on tour

Eric Schmutzler

Surfing in the back of the "coach" while Roosevelt swerved, singing "Friends" as our senior song, seeing Phantom on Broadway.

Julie Kresl

Laughing and having fun in the choir loft

Jim Rogers

Absolutely all of them, no doubt about it!

Mark Flory

The Choir Tour and the closeness we all shared.

Ginger Sides

Going on all the tours to spend time with my friends and to continue making new ones along the way.

Kristen Flory

Mr. Neve

Tim Ryniec

Our senior year skit - Dave Lockhart and Jeff Gordon dressed as dancers(tights)

Kay (Kresl) Vandenbark

Roaming the streets of New York City, without parents, seeing the sights. Herb Schmutzler

Having my brother on tour

Mary Visockis

Just coming to choir rehearsal and worship every week. Choir was like family for me. My friends were my brothers and sisters. John Neve was like a father to me. I had so much fun being there. Choir was the place I most wanted to be.

Michael Shannon

Going to the Cook County Jail and performing

Kristen Speta

The last night of tour

Lynn (McDowell) Smith

Share time with friends

Bonnie (Johnson) Hall

Communicating the solos by Robin and Linda in sign language during '87 tour.

Tracy Sides

Choir retreat 1990

Cheri Siebert

Singing the Christmas Eve services.

Cami Koptik

Shooting fireworks out of hosts second story window while hosts were sleeping. Dave Lockhart

Tour - the last nights, the skits, the songs, the seniors saying good-bye, the lack of sleep and the "moonings."

Going on tour each year and going into congregations and watching the wonderful responses during the performances.

Mary (Kisseberth) Bedson

All the friends and becoming even closer friends while traveling together. Brian Stauffer

Sitting amongst the Colorado mountains with great friends sampling Colorado's finest brew!

Karen (Kennelly) Yanik

Home shows

Ken Vandenbark

Coming home from tour and performing the show in our own church

Lisa (Wells) Small

Playing encores in bathrobes

Dave Kresl

Performing in "Godspell" as an actor/dancer.

Linda (Bute) Vinson

The excitement of going to choir rehearsals every week and accomplishing something on each piece of music. Mr. Neve always motivated us to go beyond what we had done before. The "rush" we felt while singing was contagious!

Susan (Kesl) Karim

My favorite memory is preparing for the tour in the spring and Mr. Neve. He was a great choir director.

Linda (Broehl) Rasmussen

Singing in different churches and being with Lois Lawrence in D.C.

Gwen Clore

T.P.ing Neve's house before tour.

Larry Bute

Home concerts

Elizabeth Conner

Some great harmony!

Mariann Mahnke

The singing and fellowship.

Linda Burson

The trip to New York City my junior year. I enjoyed seeing the sights of NYC, Attsburg, Philadelphia and West Point.

Tracy (Cale) Gramm

My favorite memory is that of my entire first tour. I had looked forward for years to going on tour. In addition, my first tour was Mr. Neve's last with the church. Kevin Bute

Sharing one week on tour in a bus with very close friends. Ray Campbell

Probably Tour. Feelings of excitement, getting together with friends, traveling, meeting new people and feeling independent and important.

Mary Kenney

When we performed the tour show for the jail April Ludwig

Three guys in Memphis who gave a private "Memphis music" guitar and song performance to the five girls and their host and hostess, at the house we stayed at in Memphis. Kay (Cook) Kendall

During the intermission, as most kids went downstairs to rest, a few of us would stay to listen to the soloists. Sitting in the darkness of the back row, eyes closed, listening to Laura Conner sing "I Dreamed A Dream." Ahhh, it was our secret joy!

Mike Swartwout

Singing and dancing at many different churches and also meeting many nice people at all the churches we sang at.

Susan Colby

Tour 1994 - Myrtle Beach Scott Marsch

Being a dancer for the tour choir my senior year Ellen Mohr

1978 Tour Choir - Tuskegee Michael Mohr

Choir was closely tied with UMYF. Together and had the opportunity to develop great friendships and develop in my faith.

Randi (Olson) Topps

My brother came to see the choir perform in Rhode Island when we performed there during my sophomore year. He was going to RI at that time. Robin Rogus

In awe at some of the massive, ornate churches out east. Rhonda Rogus

Spending the day in New Orleans Tina Wells

I liked going on the Spring Tours every year.

Ann Whitney

Being in the '93 tour and being with some of the closest friends I could ever meet. Tom Esler

The joy of watching young people mature over 4 years and the appreciation the audience felt for the message.

Jan Guthrie

Singing "God Save The Queen" for John Neve. I was the last to audition and I figured he was bored with "My Country Tis Of Thee," not getting sick of the spaghetti in Dallas and making hundreds of friends.

Clay Cook

Eating at a huge indoor Mexican restaurant in Denver with waterfalls and different levels, selling leather cowboy hats and fluorescent, neon green necklaces. Ellen Mohr

The bus rides! Robin Rogus

Fighting over the "costume" selection for tours, Mrs. Eymann's purple luggage. Deb (Curtis) Franzee

Pam Pickett and I met a friend of hers in Washington, D.C. and we were in his car all day looking for a place to park!

Tina Wells

The skits that were performed my senior year. There was a lot of wacky ones. Tracy (Cale) Gramm

Denver trip, ate elk stew at hosts' house

Michael Mohr

The last nights of our trips, staying up all night, bus rides and the bonds that were made.

Melissa (Dossett) Meyer

Seeing Stone Mountain in Georgia!

Darriyn (Albright) Fraser

Are you "Alive, Alert, Awake, Enthusiastic?" It was all so special and memorable.

Deanna (Bowen) Ward

When the tour choir sang at my lowa high school two years after I had moved to lowa.

Dennis Curtis

The most vivid memory is definitely the fellowship and commitment of all members of the choir and the last night of tour each year!

Herb Bartron

Stealing Superpickle. After returning the original to Nevo, I bought my own Superpickle and I still have him!

Heidi Applegate

The long hours of travel and rehearsal time, meeting families from other churches, working together as a group.

Holly (Beggs) Atwood

Host families, Washington, D.C., Iowa creamery, theft in Beloit, Memphis mall, roommates, Seleshi D.

Denise (Bowen) Hage

Every year I went one of the coaches broke down to where we had to all be in one coach. Gwen Clore

Sitting on ancient folding chairs designed to produce backaches in a damp basement between Roxane Campbell and Jan Hawkins, whose sole purpose on Wednesday evenings was to have the alto section in stitches. They were subversive and Roxane's memory will never be forgotten.

Shari VanderVelde

As a member of "Tech Crew" I vividly remember putting up and taking down all the equipment before and after each performance, as well as loading it all on the coaches early in the mornings before we left for our next stop.

Kevin Bute

My first tour choir trip was to Beloit and we got robbed while we were performing in the church.

Linda (Broehl) Rasmussen

How happy everyone was to be there, including Mr. Neve and Mr. Eymann Karen (Kennelly) Yanik

Mr. Neve's wonderful sense of humor, whether he was making a joke or a joke was being played on him. His devotion to music is truly unique. Robin (Beggs) Vi

Dancing in a really small church and tripping over a person in the audience. Blowing out fuses with all the curling irons.

Carolyn (Colby) Donnelly

Looking for missing kids in New York City

Tom and Jean Graika

Meeting new people and visiting other churches all over the East coast. Julie (Freeman) Moskal

Turning bread into stone!

Richard Hancock

Teepeeing the Neve's house every year after tour.

Mindy Graika

The closeness that many of us shared and the common bond in Jesus we all felt.

Alan Reed trying to open a soda bottle on an antique crib during Tour.

Ross Welshimer

Herr Nevo directing and tapping his wedding ring on the music stand.

Lori (Herlihy) Roberts

I remember the "Love Fest" held on the last night of Tour each year. Before we could enter, though, we had to make amends with everyone we had hurt/etc. As a freshman, I almost cried when I turned around and found a line of people waiting to make amends with me.

Todd Vandenbark

Playing "Count and Amount" on the bus with Ken Calvert while Tim Norris chugged yet another Dr. Pepper.

Scott Jable

Having no host families for the first two nights my freshman year. Beth Himmel

Having a speaking and dancing part in Lightshine. Also having good clean fun!

Mary (Kisseberth) Bedson

The skit we put on my sophomore year. We did an Academy Awards show and probably wound up tastefully offending everyone. Glenn Beggs

Passing out during a Tour performance

Katy Weeks

Georgia sitting on the mall in D.C.

Sarah Sippy

Sharing thoughts and feelings in a big circle with everyone, the last night of Tour.Lisa (Wells) Small

The senior song at our last home concert my senior year.

Stacy Yenerich

The painted faces of the Godspell characters.

Bill Schultz

Mr. Neve's last Tour concert.

Becky Reed

Dinner at Ginsberg and Wong, Toronto

Jan Guthrie

The energy and enthusiasm of the young people! On Tour, I remember standing under a pawn shop sign in PA with Jane Neve, singing "There's a Pawn Shop on the corner in Pittsburg, PA!" So I also remember the energy and dedication of the adults. Peg Schultz

Running one morning in PA with Andy Wells in search of a gallon jar of pickles, snuggies, Niagara Falls ... "Slowly I Turned" Matt Kresl

The last night on tour when everyone got together for a big group sleepover.

Beth Conner

Messing up my lines in "Friends" because Todd Jable had me laughing too hard. Being approached by a cop in Cincinnati who thought Mr. Graika was "harassing" us. Julie Kresl

Jane Neve using black jelly beans to make a "toothless" smile as a way of helping remind the choir to smile Jim Schultz

Dave and Russ Schupmann and the tenor section trying to hit the high notes! Linda (Bute) Vinson

Mr. Neve's LOOK if we were particularly unruly, playing Hearts and Spades on the bus until I was something of a card shark, Julie Hanford's solo in Celebrate Life, Lightshine overalls, hauling the vibes but loving to play them, being a part of the creativity and powerfulness that was Celebrate Life. Nancy (Cramer) Trehey

Some psycho kid from a host family threatening my boyfriend with a knife. Sara Armstrong

Car wash fundraisers and those dresses of blue weave fabric. Linda (Dennett) MacAfee

Tripping and falling during a tour performance! Also the counting cows game. Donna (Ebersold) Fletcher When we were doing the pre-tour concert the year we did "Joseph" and the electricity went off. Mark Flory

My silver lame pants and Glenn Beggs and I disagreeing about the 1981 senior skit. You were right Glenn! Georgia (Eblin) Levy

Listening to the Gospel Choir of Tuskegee University performing for us in 1980. Richard Uphoff

Singing every Sunday morning and during the sermons writing notes to friends. Ann (Stauffer) Whitney

I always enjoyed the last night of tour when we would pass the candle around the circle and everyone could speak their mind and remain free from judgement. I felt closest to the group at those times. Janet Flewelling

It's the last night of Tour, my senior year. It's late, after the tearful farewells, and I found myself in the sanctuary, saddened and weary and yet there was a peace and a power in the stillness around me. Upset at it all being over, frustrated that the time went so quickly, I wrestled in angry tears with a God who would give such good things and then take them away. But, y'know, He still gave me peace and an assurance of His presence in the middle of that. Mike Swartwout

During our tour in 1979, we met a lot of wonderful people. I met a lasting friend in Lincoln, NE. We wrote to each other for several years.

Elaine (Frazier) Hammons

The alto "cows"

Kay (Kresl) Vandenbark

Growing up with the same kids for so many years.

Tim Ryniec

The first practice I went to everyone had been in choir for years together and I knew no one, yet everyone made me feel at home.

April Ludwig

All the choir tours, the places we went, the people we met and the fun of being together for a whole week with your peers.

Susan (Matthias) Nagy

Walking around Boston in '86 with Lori Wilkey and Polly Needham looking for the real Cheers bar to take photos and then getting lost and tired. Pam Pickett

Being in someone's home and one of my fellow choir members broke a vase or flowerpot and remembering the agony of telling the people.

Herb Schmutzler

I remember all the noise and seeming chaos of unloading the buses and setting up. Yet somehow everything managed to get done.

Sue McCowin

The last night of Tour. Emotions were high by then. After performing, we all stayed together in a church basement or somewhere. I remember a very meaningful chapel time and long talks with friends throughout the night.

Mary (McCowin) Goering

NEVO!!!

Kim (Mochel) Yaglowski

I will always remember the late practices which were a lot of work but a lot of fun. We all were so close! Polly Needham

The final performance of Tour my senior year. It was very emotional to realize that this was the end of our High School Choir years. The Rock-A-Thon my freshman year to raise money for Tour. I really got close to everyone who was going on Choir Tour. Diana (Moore) Neilson

Counting cows and Chris Blair in a dress!

Pam (Padgett) Higgins

Hearing the 90-100 voice Chapel Choir singing "The Last Words of David" as it should be sung! It still brings goosebumps. Also, the commitment of each choir member to be a part of the 9:30 Sunday worship services.

Jane Neve

Andy Wells solo on tour.

Carl Niemann

Erick splitting his head open in Canada.

Mark Priest

Being able to participate in the Sunday 9:30 service every week and never having to sit in the overflow!

Dave Neve

Pranks! For example: the tour year when in Kearney,NB Randy Stauffer switched my suitcase with that of one of the choir girls. However, unwilling to be daunted by their tricks, I came to church dressed up (Make-up, bra and all) in her clothes and came in running down the aisle in her red nightgown, etc. The unforgettable line was when a 4 year old watching me said, "Mom, is that superman?" I had a great time laughing about the whole switch.

James Patten

Fellowships and Mr. Neve. Also the great feeling after a concert of joy, love, oneness with God and fellow mankind. It was awesome! Nancy (Mattison) Trevino

Vickie Chapman setting her hair on fire, Christmas Eve, 1993.

Adam Rettberg

In addition to learning about music and spirituality, traveling, and meeting new people, I made some of my best life long friends.

Kevin McCoy

Rehearsal every Wednesday night all through high school. Erin (Rogers) Vadala

The blackouts we had between songs that were filled with creaking risers and lots of coughing.

Nancy (Ebersold) Bifulco

Scott Yenerich fainting in a tour performance.

Lisa Schmidt

Selection of clothes for the choir members of tour.

Scott Schupmann

The night John Neve read a quotation about the importance of listening. I am now a minister and the thing I enjoy most about ministry is listening to people, having the privilege to hear their stories and perhaps, in some small way, to be of help.

Michael Shannon

Singing "Friends" until I was a complete mess.

Tracy Ehrlich

The closeness, kindness and love we all shared. The patience of Mr. Neve and the other chaperones.

Lynn (McDowell) Smith

The comraderie of tour, all the hugs, and the long bus rides Tracy Sides

Tour and singing "Hallelujah Chorus" on Christmas Eve.

Kelly McCartney

On my senior year we went to New York City and I remember everything from that day, including when 6 students got lost.

Kristen Speta

Every time we walked into a church to perform.

Ginger Sides

It's a toss up between performing in the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C. and the whole bus full of kids picking their feet up off the floor and crossing their fingers to keep from becoming "old maids" whenever crossing railroad tracks. Or was it rooming with Don LaBrose and diving off a top bunk into my suitcase in my sleep(thinking it was a pool).

Brian Stauffer

The closing prayer "May the Roads Rise to Meet You."

Callie Thompson

Going into Canada, border guard asks everyone their naturalization(where born) and everyone says "U.S." They get to my sister (Kay Kresl Vandenbark), and she says "Milwaukee." Dave Kresl

The unity and closeness that developed among everyone. I remember one host family that was very prejudiced and talked about it all during breakfast. They were so happy that we didn't have any of "Those dark folks" in our group. It surprised my roommate and me. Susan (Kesl) Karim

Tech Crew initiation wedgie

Dave Swartwout

Last night of candle passing

Andrew Tallman

Secret pals, Art Eymann playing the organ, the sadness when John Neve left.

Becky (Weber) Warga

The purple seatcover(on the bus) for Mrs. Eymann.

Steve Blancard

I have lots of vivid memories of things that happened on Tour, but seeing Harry Lindenmuth and Dave Pedigo dressed to a T like Star Trek characters walking the streets of Downtown Atlanta with everyone just staring at them ranks right up there near the top.

Kent Ebersold