

# St. John's UCC welcomes Cindy Berry

**DOVER** St. John's United Church of Christ is welcoming guest composer, Cindy Berry for a special weekend. Berry is a nationally known and published composer of sacred choral and piano music, a multiple winner of ASCAP special awards and a cancer survivor.

Berry started taking piano lessons from her church organist when she was only 6 years old, and started composing original songs when she was a teenager. But writing/composing was more of a hobby until God "called her" to write in 1983.

Cindy, who attended Houston Baptist University, has always been active in her local church music ministry, serving as church pianist and children's choir director.

Berry will be traveling from her home in Killeen, Texas to lead the community massed choir in a concert event at 3 p.m. on Saturday, April 20, in the sanctuary of St. John's United Church of Christ at 409 N. Wooster Ave. The concert will include several choral anthems composed by Berry, as well as her special "Piano Praise," personal testimony and sharing of experiences that have inspired her in her music career. The concert is a culmination of a morning workshop with area choirs led by Berry. Berry will also be in worship with St. John's UCC on Sunday morning, April 21. The worship service begins at 10:30 a.m.

Choirs participating, in addition to St. John's Chancel Choir, are: Grace Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dover;



TIMES-REPORTER PAT BURK

■ Choir members Karen Gerber (left) of Richville United Church of Christ, Marilyn Gordon of Zoar United Church of Christ, George Telle of St. John's United Church of Christ at Dover, Carolyn Berry of First Presbyterian in New Philadelphia, and Roberta Myers of Grace Lutheran Church in Dover prepare to join together with other area church choir members for a special event April 20 at St. John's at Dover.

Zoar United Church of Christ, Zoar; Richville United Church of Christ, Navarre; and First Presbyterian Church, New Philadelphia. Other participants in the massed choir are from Otterbein Methodist Church, New Philadelphia; St. Peters United Church of Christ, Baltic; Sacred Heart Catholic Church, New Philadelphia, and United Methodist Church, Mineral City.

Jeanne Baker, chancel choir director and workshop coordinator, proposed the event as a music ministry outreach event to the community —

and beyond — as a way to worship through music. The special Cindy Berry weekend is the result of the efforts of many people led by Kay Mat-tevi, Debra Burkhart, Jean Paddock, Margery Burkhart, June Wright, Sue Ferbrache and Bill Arnold.

Advance tickets for the concert are \$10 and can be purchased at Dayspring Christian Bookstore, New Philadelphia; Berean Christian Bookstore, Canton or St. John's church office weekdays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or \$15 at the door as long as available.