

**Area 1, Handbell Musicians of America
CT Annual Report: June, 2013**

The Connecticut Spring Ring was held on April 27 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Bristol. We had well over 100 people in attendance—the first time for almost half of them to attend a massed ringing experience. We are hoping they will be interested in future events—including Festival Conferences.

Rick Wood was the clinician for the massed ring, leading the ringers through two rehearsals and an afternoon concert. The concert included the three pieces by massed ringers: “thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior” (Moklebust), “Fantasy on Terra Beata” and “Song of Gladness” (Sherman). One of the workshops groups also presented “Change Ring Prelude on ‘Divinum Mysterium’” (Gramann). Also performing two pieces were the Hockanum Valley Ringers, under their director, Lawrence Berdensey: “Marche Triumjphale” (Helman) and “Spanish Dance” (McChesney).

There were ten other workshops available for ringers to attend: basic ringing, weaving, 4-in-hand, bass ringing, rhythm, score study, small percussion instruments, Maori sticks, small ensemble ringing, bell maintenance. The directors also had a chance for discussion with Rick during lunch.

Many thanks to Todd Helming at Gloria Dei, to Rick Wood and all the workshop leaders, and to Brian Hager, the registrar.

Only half the ringers were in the front of the sanctuary, so some creativity was required. Todd constructed tables to go along the side and back aisles of the church sanctuary, and Rick conducted from the center. The audience was free to sit in any of the center aisles. It gave new meaning to “surround sound” during the concert!

This year we not only had a new location, but a new registration system, using the constantcontact account set up for Area 1. Each person was required to register themselves, instead of through a group registration. We adapted a bit, and it took a bit of getting used to by some people; but overall it was much easier to handle the registrations.

Mobby Larson,
CT State Chair