

# FUNDAMENTAL TONE

Newsletter of Area 1 • Handbell Musicians of America

Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont

Volume XXVIII, No. 5

November 2013

## UPCOMING EVENTS

November 14-15, 2013  
**Adult Ringers Weekend**  
Waters Edge  
Westbrook, CT

April 5, 2014  
**Massachusetts Spring Ring**  
Tewksbury Memorial High School  
Tewksbury, MA

April 26, 2014  
**Connecticut Spring Ring**  
Gloria Dei Lutheran Church  
Bristol, CT

## DIRECTORS SEMINAR

Fri., Jan. 31 - Sat., Feb. 1, 2014

**Location:** UMASS Amherst  
Campus Center  
Amherst, MA

**Guest Clinician:** Bill Alexander

**Price:** \$180 early bird (by Jan. 7)  
\$210 regular; includes Friday dinner,  
Saturday breakfast and lunch

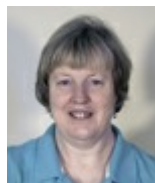
**Start time:** Check-in begins Friday  
4 p.m.; Welcome Reception  
begins Friday 4:15 p.m.

**Concludes:** Saturday 4 p.m.

**Lodging:** at Campus Center Hotel  
\$98 per room, per night, plus tax

Visit the Area 1 website at  
[area1.handbellmusicians.org](http://area1.handbellmusicians.org)  
or [handbellmusicians.org](http://handbellmusicians.org) for  
the National office website.

## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...



Happy Fall to all handbell musicians in Area 1! And a very special welcome to our new *Fundamental Tone* editor – Lauré Mackey! Bill Noss has faithfully served as both our *Fundamental Tone* editor and Webmaster for years, and it speaks volumes to his dedication to Area 1 that it takes two people to replace him! Lauré brings her professional skills to being our newsletter editor and Pete Larson has been working as our webmaster for over a year now. A big thank you to Bill for all he has done for Area 1 - he also managed our database and of course chaired Festival Conference 2013 in addition to being Webmaster and *Fundamental Tone* editor and always stepped up when needed to handle any “techy” issues. Area 1’s loss is certainly Area 4’s gain! So a hearty Area 1 welcome to Lauré and Pete!! Going forward, please send articles for *Fundamental Tone* to [editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org); Pete can be reached at [webmaster.area1@area1.org](mailto:webmaster.area1@area1.org).

Your new Area 1 Board held its first meeting in September and spent two days discussing all things Area 1. We have some new people on board and in addition to the newly elected board members that were announced in the last *Fundamental Tone*, we have a new New Hampshire state chair, Carol Seely, and a new Historian, Susan Schultz. We are still looking for a Rhode Island state chair as well as an Education Liaison, so if anyone is interested or knows of anyone who might be willing to step up into one of these leadership positions, please contact me at [chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org). Our next board meeting will be in January – if there are issues or ideas you would like to bring to our attention, please send those to me or any board member. Our board meetings are open and we welcome and value your input. You can find our email addresses in all *Fundamental Tone* issues and also at <http://area1.handbellmusicians.org/about-us/>.

As we move into the holiday season, there are a lot of concerts out there – whether they be by church groups, community groups, solo and ensemble ringers, or school groups. Please remember that you can get free

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Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA

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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR...

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event listings. Email [webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org). You just never know who might show up!!!!

The High School Ring Out was at the Wheeler School in Rhode Island on November 9<sup>th</sup>. After many years of chairing this annual event, Phil Brown has announced that this will be his final year as event coordinator. We all owe Phil a HUGE debt of gratitude for taking charge of this event for many years and building the event into the success it has become. Thank you for all you have done for this event and for Area 1, Phil!

Some other upcoming Area 1 events:

- The 2014 Directors' Seminar will be held at UMASS Amherst on January 31 and February 1, and our guest clinician will be Bill Alexander. Additional information on this event, including registration information, can be found in this edition of *Fundamental Tone*.
- Adult Ringers' Weekend, chaired by Ed and Sue Henderson, will return to Waters' Edge in Westbrook, CT on November 14 & 15, 2014. Plan on coming a day early or staying a day late and take advantage of all this resort has to offer! Further information will be forthcoming.
- It's only been four months since the end of Festival Conference 2013, but planning for Festival Conference 2015 has already begun! We will return to UMASS Amherst, and Paul Contrastano, Chair of F/C 2015, has been putting together his planning team. Our directors for that event will be Debbie Rice and Tim Waugh – stay tuned for more information!!

Martha Goodman and I will be heading to Cincinnati in November for a National Leadership meeting with the focus being on membership and event planning, and we will share our experiences and news from National in the next issue. As I mentioned in the last *Fundamental Tone*, the new Sub-Membership, designed for an individual member of an organization that has an existing Handbell Musician Membership, is a fantastic opportunity for all of your ringers to enjoy some of the benefits of a regular membership for just \$10 per person per year. Don't keep your ringers in the dark – encourage them to become active and take advantage of the opportunities that the Area and National can offer to them!! Remember that each person with this membership will enjoy access to online resources through a separate ID and password, as well as the online edition of *Overtones*, *E-Notes*, and *Event Notes*. \$10 is really a bargain for this type of membership. Please, please, please share this opportunity with your ringers and also make it a point to share the *Fundamental Tone* with them. As handbell ringers, it is our responsibility as an organization to promote the art of handbell ringing with every chance we get, and on a personal note, if someone in my own church had not shared their love of handbells with me over 25 years ago I wouldn't be where I am musically today and I imagine that is the case with many of us. So pass it on!!

As I write this it is still mid-October but since the next issue will be out in February, this is my opportunity to thank you all for all you do for Area 1 and the handbell world, and to wish you and your families a joyous and blessed holiday season. I hope to see many of you at concerts and events over the next several months!!

*Sue Wilber, Area 1 Chair*

## HANDBELL MUSICIANS OF AMERICA AREA 1 OFFICERS

### ELECTED OFFICERS

Chair	<b>Sue Wilber</b> (202.288.5847) <a href="mailto:chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org">chair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Chair-Elect	<b>Martha Goodman</b> (508.928.2078) <a href="mailto:chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org">chairelect.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Past Chair	<b>Jean Degan</b> (860.543.3638) <a href="mailto:pastchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org">pastchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Secretary	<b>Joan Fossum</b> (603.224.0866) <a href="mailto:secretary.area1@handbellmusicians.org">secretary.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Treasurer	<b>Sue Chamberlin</b> (603.942.7884) <a href="mailto:treasurer.area1@handbellmusicians.org">treasurer.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>

### NATIONAL LIAISONS

Education	<b>To be determined</b> <a href="mailto:education.area1@handbellmusicians.org">education.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
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### APPOINTED OFFICERS

Festival 2015	<b>Paul Contrastano</b> (860.877.4608)
Chair	<a href="mailto:fcchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org">fcchair.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>

Membership	<b>Jane Nolan</b> (860.464.2873) <a href="mailto:membership.area1@handbellmusicians.org">membership.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Webmaster	<b>Peter Larson</b> <a href="mailto:webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org">webmaster.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Bradford	<b>Jean Degan</b> (860.543.3638)
Scholarship	<a href="mailto:scholarship.area1@handbellmusicians.org">scholarship.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Historian	<b>Susan Schultz</b> <a href="mailto:historian.area1@handbellmusicians.org">historian.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>

### STATE CHAIRS

Connecticut	<b>Mobby Larson</b> (860.464.7593) <a href="mailto:ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org">ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Maine	<b>Sue Evans</b> (508.982.7992) <a href="mailto:me.area1@handbellmusicians.org">me.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Massachusetts	<b>Gail Granum</b> (508.359.9011) <a href="mailto:ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org">ma.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
New Hampshire	<b>Carol Seely</b> <a href="mailto:nh.area1@handbellmusicians.org">nh.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Rhode Island	<b>To be determined</b> <a href="mailto:ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org">ri.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>
Vermont	<b>Pat Pranger</b> (802.446.2066) <a href="mailto:vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org">vt.area1@handbellmusicians.org</a>

# DIRECTOR'S SEMINAR - 2014

**Fri., Jan. 31 – Sat., Feb. 1, 2014**

***UMass Amherst Hotel, Amherst, MA***

With Guest Clinician **Bill Alexander** of world-renowned *Strikepoint!*

Don't miss this chance to network with other directors, develop your skills, and discover new tips and tricks, all while having tons of fun with your colleagues and lots of opportunity to learn from our guest clinician, Bill Alexander!



We've added lots of new course options to make sure there's plenty for everyone: whether you're new to directing or an old timer, whether you direct in a church choir or community ensemble. Here's some highlights:

- *Conducting Master Classes*
- *Teaching Technique Classes*
- *Making Your First CD*
- *Great Conducting: A Ringer's View*
- *Conducting from Behind the Table*
- *All About U: Web and Social Marketing*

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Plus, we're looking for volunteers to ring for the Performance Master Class. Contact Peter Coulombe for more info: [handbells@oldsouth.org](mailto:handbells@oldsouth.org)

## **Early bird registration now open!**

Register here: <http://tinyurl.com/Area1DS2014>

- Full Seminar (recommended) –\$180, includes 3 meals
  - Just Saturday - \$140, includes lunch
- \*\*Hurry, rates increase after 1/7/14\*\**

### ***Advertising/Exhibition opportunities!***

**Program book advertising – very affordable!**

**Exhibitor tables for only a nominal fee!**

**Call Peter Coulombe at 617-406-8253 for more info.**

**Check out our event home page for more, including complete schedule and housing info: <http://tinyurl.com/Area1DS2014>**

## REPORT FROM CONNECTICUT



The **Connecticut Spring Ring** will be held on Saturday, April 26, 2014, at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Bristol. Jane Nolan will be our clinician/director for the Massed Ring. Jane has been active in handbell ringing for many years and is currently Membership Chair for Area 1, Handbell Musicians of America. Jane is Music Director at St. David's Episcopal Church in Gales Ferry, CT, and directs a bell choir there as well as Bells Afire in Norwich, CT and the Shoreline Ringers. She will be selecting three pieces for the Massed Ring at our event, which will be announced by January. If you want to be included on our email list, please drop a line to me (address below).

Besides the Massed Ring, there will be workshops available, and a chance for directors to share their problems and solutions. It's a day of learning, sharing, and fun! The cost will be about \$14 per person, to cover snacks, small stipends for the leaders and a dona-



### CALLING ALL HANDBELL RINGERS

The **Hockanum Valley Ringers, Inc.**, under the direction of Lawrence A. Berdensem, will be auditioning all experienced handbell ringers for the 2014 season.

- ♪ We are committed to promoting the art of handbell ringing and presenting our audiences with exceptional concerts.
- ♪ We are members of Handbell Musicians of America.
- ♪ We ring a variety of selections, including classical, show tunes, sacred music, and original selections written for handbells.
- ♪ We perform Christmas and Spring concerts throughout Connecticut and Massachusetts at venues from the Bushnell, Millbury Chain of Lights, churches, nursing homes and social clubs.
- ♪ Rehearsals take place every Monday evening, from 7:00-9:00 p.m., at Trinity Lutheran Church, Vernon, CT.

**For information email [hvringers@gmail.com](mailto:hvringers@gmail.com) or Contact Lawrence Berdensem, at 860-875-0333.**

tion to the church. Registration will once again be through Constant Contact, with each person registering him/herself and selecting his/her workshops. Again, that information will be emailed to everyone we have on the email list by January. Please make sure you get registered by the deadline—so we can plan effectively, and so you get your choice of workshops!

We hope that you will be interested in participating. As with any event sponsored by the Handbell Musicians of America, participants are required to be members of the Guild. Individual ringers are covered by the blanket membership of their director, whether or not they come as a group. If your whole ensemble is not able to come, individual ringers may be placed as "orphans" with another group for that day (or your group can adopt an orphan or two, if possible.)

Once again, we will be depending upon the generosity of groups willing to loan equipment to use in our workshops. Please offer if you are able! Thank you—and hope to see you then!

Meanwhile, there are two opportunities for ringers in or near Connecticut included in this issue, along with contact information. Check them out!

Wishing you a joyous holiday season and happy ringing!

*Mobby Larson, CT State Chair*  
[ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:ct.area1@handbellmusicians.org)

The **Connecticut Choral Society** is looking for 60 ringers who can memorize an eight-bar passage and ring three concerts as described below. Anyone interested may contact Janine Lempke, a current member of the organization, either with questions or to indicate a desire to ring. This is a nice opportunity for ringers to expose a different concert-going crowd to our genre.

For more information about CCS:  
<http://www.ctchoralsociety.org>

Contact Janine Lempke: [JLempke@woodbridgeps.org](mailto:JLempke@woodbridgeps.org)

**Saturday, December 21, 2013 | 3:00 PM**  
**Saturday, December 21, 2013 | 7:00 PM**  
North Congregational Church, 11 Main Street N  
Woodbury, CT

and

**Sunday, December 22, 2013 | 4:00 PM**  
First Congregational Church, 164 Deer Hill Avenue  
Danbury, CT



## REPORT FROM MAINE



With the arrival of the Fall, handbell groups are shifting into the routines of practice and performance. The activities of some of our choirs are identified in this issue including a handbell director's luncheon which was held on October 26<sup>th</sup> at First Parish Church in Brunswick. This meeting was designed to explore statewide and local activities for handbell ringing in the state of Maine and brought handbell leaders and directors together to share common interests and concerns. The invitation was sent to all current members of the Handbell Musicians of America in Maine as well as other directors or nonmembers who are not yet members. Special thanks to Jane Connors from First Parish for her assistance in securing a meeting space for this gathering and to all those who traveled the distance to participate in this important opportunity to gather for discussion and share lunch together.

News from other handbell choirs in Maine includes a couple of newly forming and restarting choirs as well as some well established handbell ensembles. Jura Litchfield wrote that a group of handbell enthusiasts are trying to form an ensemble in Kennebunkport, ME. They are seven beginners, looking for a few more ringers to fill out their numbers. They have a used set of handbells which came from a church in Columbia, South Carolina and was driven to Maine by Duane and Jura Litchfield. The set is now in their home in Kennebunkport awaiting ringers. The newly formed ensemble will play carols at local nursing homes this December. If you might be interested in joining them, they rehearse on Mondays from 1:00 – 2:30 pm. Contact Jura at [juralitchfield@gmail.com](mailto:juralitchfield@gmail.com) of the Kennebunkport Handbell Ensemble.

Also, Trinity Episcopal Church in Portland is restarting their Handbell Choir. Under the able direction of Nancy Vanites, a small group of ringers has joined the group.

They are looking for others to join and are hoping to begin playing soon. There are seven ringers in the group now, and they started rehearsals on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> with more training in the many facets of bell ringing. All are enthusiastic and ready to go.

In addition, a well established Handbell Choir: Penobscot Bay Ringers, Midcoast Maine's community handbell choir, has been very active this fall. The group performed two *Autumn Ring* concerts at the end of September: one at Quarry Hill Retirement Community in Camden and one at Harbor Hill Assisted Living Community in Belfast. Now the group is preparing music for the holiday season, with appearances scheduled for December 7<sup>th</sup> at *Ring in the Season* in Camden; December 8<sup>th</sup> at Montpelier, The Henry Knox Museum, in Thomaston; and December 21<sup>st</sup> at the *Maine Pro Musica Holiday Pops Concert* in Rockport. Penobscot Bay Ringers rehearses on Thursday evenings in Camden, and the group is always interested in talking to prospective ringers. Call Leigh Smith at 207.230.6628 or email [penobscotbayringers@gmail.com](mailto:penobscotbayringers@gmail.com).

The Winthrop Area Handbell Ringers are up and ringing this fall as well, with twelve members. They welcomed fellow ringer Laura Begenwald, a local musician and music educator, as their new director. The group is currently preparing for a busy holiday season, with performance scheduled at the CODA Chorus annual Christmas concert at Lithgow Library in Augusta and at local churches and nursing homes. They are having fun making good music together.

In closing, I wish you well over the holidays and hope that you will keep in contact with

me, especially if you want to tell me what is happening in your neck of the woods with handbell ringing. Just email me at [me.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:me.area1@handbellmusicians.org)

See you soon,

Sue Evans, ME State Chair



**PENOBSCOT BAY RINGERS**

# REPORT FROM MASSACHUSETTS



moving closer to becoming a resource for faith-based handbell groups in Boston, on the South Shore and beyond.

Holiday Greetings! I see this Fundamental Tone entry as an opportunity to share with Area 1 what is happening with handbell bell choirs in Massachusetts. I am absolutely delighted to have received so much news from all over the Commonwealth. So many of you have wonderful things going on! We have heard from faith-based groups, community ensembles, and individuals who organized workshops. I call this ... Clips from Corners of the Commonwealth. Read on and enjoy!

*Gail Granum, MA State Chair*

## CLIPS FROM CORNERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

### *From Acton, MA*

On a beautiful October morning in New England, 45 musicians gathered at St. Matthew's Church in Acton MA to ring in the start of the Holiday season. This Holiday Rep Reading for Groups Large and Small, sponsored by the Bells of St. Matthew's and the Lincoln Ringers of Lincoln, MA, included 25 pieces of Thanksgiving, Advent, and Christmas music directed by clinician Diane Burke. Some standout moments:

- our sightreading rendition of Valerie Stephenson's "Fum, Fum, Fum" proved that trying to execute mallet clicks with your neighbor makes ringing handbells a full contact sport!
- we took a virtual vacation when we moved and grooved to the bass rhythms of J.C. Harris' "Il Est Ne Calypso."
- we delighted in the opportunity to create our own handbell "flash mob" by learning Waugh's new version of "Joy World"!

What an exhilarating morning! Plans are underway to make next year a full day event, with a Skill Building Workshop in the morning and a Holiday Rep Reading session in the afternoon. Stay tuned for details, and come join us! For more information, please contact Diane Burke, [dpburke9@gmail.com](mailto:dpburke9@gmail.com) or Lynn Masson, [wmasson@verizon.net](mailto:wmasson@verizon.net).

### *From Hingham, MA*

Supporting Faith-Based Groups: What began with a casual conversation at Festival Conference in 2011 is

The House of Prayer Handbell Ringers of Hingham, MA, an intergenerational all-ages all-abilities choir, hosted an Inter-Church Skills Workshop on October 26 aimed at not only improving musicianship but at connecting and supporting handbell musicians in faith communities. Clinician Daniel K. Moore led ringers and directors in drills, instruction, and ensembles – breaking for a potluck lunch and carrot cake.

Faith-based groups have different goals than educational or community groups - to minister to ringers and directors so they can minister to their congregations. We welcome people of all abilities to create music together and provide a safe, supportive environment for making "joyful noise." Many faith-based groups do this on very tight budgets, making prayer a regular component of our ministry!

House of Prayer would like to welcome all faith-based handbell musicians of MA to join in conversation about topics that are of specific interest to us, such as choosing appropriate repertoire, containing costs, hiring clinicians, attending Guild events, sharing equipment, passing on resources our choirs have outgrown, supporting fellow church musicians, etc.

If you would like to share your thoughts about how to better connect and support faith-based handbell musicians please email Anna Dennelly at House of Prayer. [annadennelly@gmail.com](mailto:annadennelly@gmail.com)



**Holiday Rep Reading for Groups Large and Small  
Acton, MA**

### *From Tewksbury, MA*

Although the site is not yet confirmed, we will cross our fingers and feel free to announce the 28th Annual Massachusetts Spring Ring on Saturday, April 5, 2014, at Tewksbury High School.

*Ed and Sue Henderson* [ehenderson6@verizon.net](mailto:ehenderson6@verizon.net)



## CLIPS FROM CORNERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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### From Chelmsford, MA

Bjallerklängen, Trinity Lutheran Church from Chelmsford, MA, has started up a new season. We are excited to welcome Carl as our newest member. He is a trombone player so his reading skills are great. He has joined our incomparable Greg on the bass table. Our Greg has also set 'Bohemian Rhapsody' for bells. The arrangement is great. Hope you will be able to hear it soon.

David Lussier, Music Director

Trinity Lutheran Church

David Lussier, Musician, Educator, Composer

[davelussier.bandcamp.com](http://davelussier.bandcamp.com)

### From Worcester, MA

New England Ringers just relocated to our new location at Trinity Lutheran in Worcester. It's a beautiful space and we are excited with our new partnership with the church music program and serving the Worcester community. It is a convenient commute (less than 60 minutes) from many major New England cities, including Boston, Hartford, Nashua, Providence and Springfield.

We welcome people to our rehearsals. We are expanding our holiday season to the beautiful hall at Berklee and returning to the Rogers Center, and we

continue to serve audiences across New England, and still have dates available for the holiday season and are actively looking for new venues for the Spring. Contact Gail Granum at [bookings@newenglandringers.org](mailto:bookings@newenglandringers.org).

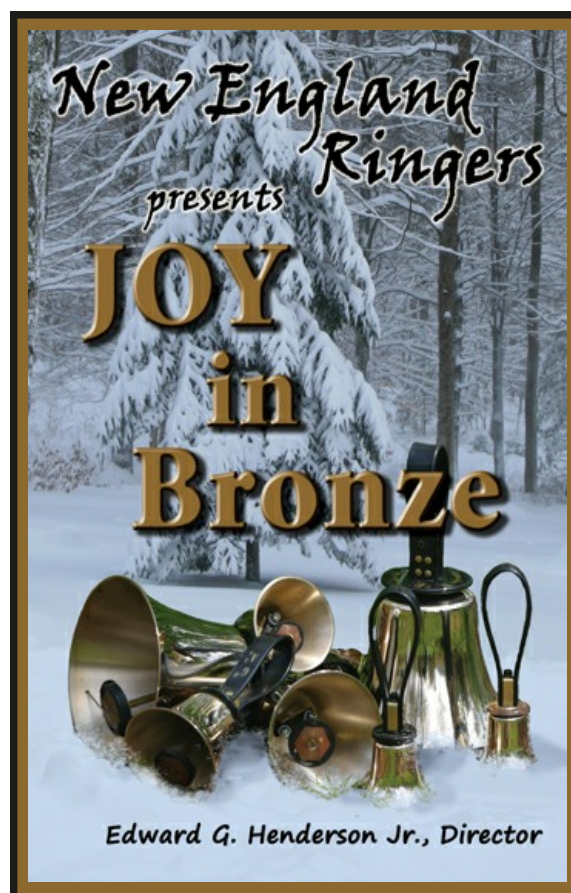
We are excited to have expanded our instrument to include the upper half of the seventh octave and added a set of orchestral chimes, giving us the honor, and responsibility, to possess the largest bell and chime collection in New England. We continue to seek new ringers and are happy to take new applicants at any time throughout the year. Contact Ed Henderson at [info@newenglandringers.org](mailto:info@newenglandringers.org). We invite you to celebrate the holidays at one of our concerts. [http://newenglandringers.org/?page\\_id=39](http://newenglandringers.org/?page_id=39)

### From Mattapoisett, MA

The Mattapoisett Congregational Church has a 2-Octave Bell Choir. The Bells were given to our church by Susan Roylance, in memory of her beloved father, Norman Roylance. We enjoy ringing together, and play often in church. We enjoy the fellowship of ringing, and love the beautiful music that we play. Our Bell Choir members are: Claire Keene, Jennifer Shepley, Bruce Harken, Betsy Sylvia, Roxanne Bungert, Lori Bardwell, Ellen Schneider, and Carolyn Price.

I would like to share with you a Bell Ringer's Prayer that I wrote for our Bell Choir, which expresses our love of ringing.

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**New England Ringers**  
presents  
**JOY in Bronze**  
Edward G. Henderson Jr., Director

## Join Us for One of our Upcoming Holiday Concerts

<b>Saturday, Nov. 23</b> 7:00 pm	<b>Trinity United Methodist Church</b> Windsor, Connecticut
<b>Sunday, Nov. 24</b> 7:00 pm	<b>First Music and Arts Series</b> First Congregational Church Old Greenwich, Connecticut
<b>Saturday, Nov. 30</b> 7:30 pm	<b>Franklin Federated Church</b> Franklin, Massachusetts
<b>Sunday, Dec. 1</b> 4:00 pm	<b>Rogers Center for the Arts</b> Merrimack College North Andover, Massachusetts
<b>Saturday, Dec. 7</b> 7:30 pm	<b>Berklee Performance Center</b> Berklee College of Music Boston, Massachusetts
<b>Sunday, Dec. 8</b> 4:00 pm	<b>United Church of Christ in Devon</b> Milford, Connecticut
<b>Saturday, Dec. 14</b> 7:00 pm	<b>Noank Baptist Church</b> Noank, Connecticut

For more detailed information, please visit our website [www.newenglandringers.org](http://www.newenglandringers.org) or contact us at 978.851.3024 or [info@newenglandringers.org](mailto:info@newenglandringers.org)

## CLIPS FROM CORNERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

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"We stand together as a small community of Believers who know that Music is a way to touch each other's soul. We acknowledge that our music brings beauty to the mundane - pleasure and rest to the weary. We thank you Lord for the opportunity to ring these bells together, and ask that You help us to understand that there is more to what we do than create harmony with sound. We seek to soothe souls that feel anguish; to be a sparkle in an otherwise dreary day, and to express our Lovethrough the music we make. We have found each other through the guidance of Jesus Christ, who placed us together to be Ministers of His gentle Lovethrough the sound of a simple bell. We stand in awe of Your great love for us, and in your trust in us as we bring your Love to life through sound. As the steeple bells of yesteryears called believers to worship, may the sound of the bells that we ring today bring us closer to You, through your Son, Jesus Christ."

Michelle Gordon, Bell Choir Director  
Mattapoisett Congregational Church  
[mgordonpiano@comcast.net](mailto:mgordonpiano@comcast.net)

### From Chelmsford, MA

Greetings from Merrimack Valley Ringers!

MVR has a busy concert schedule planned for November through January. You can find a list of our appearances on the Area 1 website and the MVR website: [www.mvringers.org](http://www.mvringers.org). We are especially excited for two

new performance opportunities this season. On December 8, 2013, we will be sharing the Family Holiday program with the Merrimack Valley Philharmonic Orchestra, as well as performing one selection with the orchestra. We are thrilled about this collaboration and the exposure it gives our art form! And on January 4, 2014, MVR will present our annual Chelmsford holiday concert. However, this year we have been invited to perform at the newly renovated Chelmsford Center for the Arts. The concert is free, but any donations at the door will be shared with the CCA to assist in its upkeep and future programming, as the Center is 100% self-sustaining. This is a wonderful opportunity for MVR to give back to our very supportive community. We hope to see you at any one of our holiday concerts and wish you all a joyful holiday season!

Karen Leonard  
[WCUMCKEL@aol.com](mailto:WCUMCKEL@aol.com)

### From Chatham, MA

Carillon Handbell Group is from First Congregational Church of Chatham, MA. We play every third Sunday of the month. We have 11 ringers and 4 octaves of bells, and last year at this time we were preparing to play for the Women's Club in Chatham. I have been directing this group for 2 years and also play in the Pilgrim Congregational's handbell choir as I love to play

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MVR presents their annual holiday tour, featuring some favorite familiar tunes presented in non-traditional settings, including a rather unorthodox arrangement of "Jingle Bells" set in 7/8 time. It's sure to introduce you to classic songs in brand new ways! See you there!

Fri 12/6, 7:30pm – Rutland MA

Sat 12/7, 7:00pm – Marlborough MA

Sun 12/8, 2:30pm – N. Andover MA

Sat 12/14, 11:30am – Lowell MA

Sat 12/14, 7:30pm – Burlington MA

Sat 1/4, 7:00pm – Chelmsford MA

Sun 1/5, 7:00pm – Leominster MA

WWW.MVRINGERS.ORG



## CLIPS FROM CORNERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

(continued from page 8)

handbells. We enjoy bringing music to our congregation and receive many positive comments

Cape Cod used to have a very active group of ringers that organized massed ringing events and I would love to bring that back to this area. My group, like many others, performs at church most of the time. Having a community handbell group on the Cape would be great fun performing in the summer and for special occasions. I would like to know how to get a group going or even just a massed ring. In the meantime, we play and have fun making music.

Marilyn Sink  
[marilyn377@gmail.com](mailto:marilyn377@gmail.com)

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### From Needham, MA

The Chancel Choir of Carter Memorial United Methodist Church, 800 Highland Avenue in Needham, will host their ninth annual **Messiah Sing** on Sunday, December 8, at 3:00 pm. A special feature again this year will be a Prelude by our handbell choir playing the church's five-octave set of Schulmerich handbells along with a five-octave set of Schulmerich Melody Chimes. The free will offering helps to fund the orchestra and includes use of a *Messiah* score (Schirmer edition). The *Sing* will include soloists from the Chancel Choir, a twelve-piece instrumental ensemble, and the chorus of all who come to sing. If you would rather listen, you are welcome to come and hear our neighbors participate in this wonderful Christmas tradition. There will be a reception following the *Sing* in the church parlor.

Millie Beane, Director of Music  
[milearl@verizon.net](mailto:milearl@verizon.net)

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### From Norwell, MA

The Celestial Ringers of the United Church of Christ in Norwell, MA, will be performing as one of four church choirs under the direction of Karen Harvey, Minister of Music, during the church's annual Christmas Celebration Concerts on Saturday, December 7, 2013, at 5:00 p.m. and Sunday, December 8, 2013, at 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. The church will be celebrating Ms. Harvey's 20 years of ministry with special performances and recordings, each of which will include several original compositions written by her for handbells and choir. The Celestial Ringers will also present an entire concert of seasonal handbell music on Tuesday, December 17 at Laura's Center for the Arts in Hanover, MA, where they will be joined by several faculty members from the South Shore Conservatory. On Sunday, January 5 at 3:00 pm the 4-octave ringing ensemble will again be featured (as the only handbell choir) in an Epiphany Concert featuring six area vocal choirs performing indi-



Handbell Musicians  
OF AMERICA

Area 1

vidual and massed selections. All events are free to the public, and refreshments will be served following the concerts. (781) 659-2887

Karen Harvey  
[kmhjag@gmail.com](mailto:kmhjag@gmail.com)

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### From Westborough, MA

The handbell choirs of First United Methodist Church of Westborough, MA, will be presenting their 25th annual Christmas Handbell Concerts this December. The four choirs (Good News Ringers, Praise Ringers, Joyful Sound, and Carillon Ringers) will hold two concerts on Sunday, December 15 at 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

The handbell ministry began in 1984, and the first concert was held in 1988 with the Good News Ringers (adults) and Joyful Sound (youth) performing. The directors are Cynthia Hamburger and Alice Morrison. All are welcome. There will be a free will offering to benefit the handbell ministry and an outreach project.

Cynthia Hamburger  
[chamburg182@gmail.com](mailto:chamburg182@gmail.com)

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### From Foxboro, MA

St. Mark's handbell choir in Foxboro is well into this season's rehearsals. Ten ringers have rejoined the choir and look forward to enhancing the Sunday morning worship. The handbell choir will perform in the annual Foxboro Christmas Concert to be held on December 8, where choirs from the Foxboro churches come together for a public concert. St. Mark's handbell choir is the only bell choir to perform.

Sue Evans  
[opsue2@verizon.net](mailto:opsue2@verizon.net)

(continued on page 10)



## Schulmerich Bells

December 31 will be my last day as your Schulmerich Sales Representative. I will give you a discount on any order placed with me before that date. I will still be available to help with your handbell questions and repairs in the future.

**Sue Chamberlin**

603-491-8358 [suecham@metrocast.net](mailto:suecham@metrocast.net)



# back bay ringers

*Boston's community handbell ensemble*

## ~ 2013 Holiday Concert Schedule ~



## Comfort and Joy

**Friday, December 6, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.**

First Church Boston  
66 Marlborough Street, Boston, MA

**Sunday, December 8, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.**

Amazing Things Arts Center  
160 Hollis Street, Framingham, MA

**Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 2:00 p.m.**

First Parish in Bedford  
75 Great Road, Bedford, MA

**Saturday, December 14, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.**

Maple Street Congregational Church  
90 Maple Street, Danvers, MA

## ~ 2014 Spring Concert Schedule ~



## BOSTON HANDBELL FESTIVAL

**Tuesday, May 20, 8:00 p.m.**  
Old South Church, Boston, MA

## The Art of Ringing

**Saturday, June 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**

Salem State University, Salem, MA

**Sunday, June 8, 2014 at 4:00 p.m.**

West Parish of Barnstable, West Barnstable, MA

Please visit [www.backbayringers.org](http://www.backbayringers.org) to learn about additional performances, receive full concert details, and subscribe to our e-mail newsletter.

## CLIPS FROM CORNERS OF THE COMMONWEALTH

*(continued from page 9)*

### From Worcester, MA

Fifth Annual Handbell Extravaganza at First Baptist Church, 111 Park Avenue, Worcester, MA, on Friday, December 13, 2013, at 7:30 p.m. Four bell choirs participating. Massed and solo works along with community singing with bell accompaniment. Reception following.

Participating choirs:

- Carillon Ringers from Tewksbury Congregational Church, Tewksbury
- Chancel Ringers from First Congregational Church, West Boylston
- First Handbells from First Baptist Church, Worcester
- Village Ringers from Village Congregational Church, Whitinsville

William Ness  
Minister of Music & Arts  
First Baptist Church of Worcester, MA  
[williamn@fbc-worc.org](mailto:williamn@fbc-worc.org)

## HANDBELL DIRECTOR/TEACHER WANTED

Part-time position available September, 2014. Established (34 year) 7-octave program in a prestigious New England independent day school. Auditioned concert ensemble and beginning classes.

Email letter of intent and current resume to:  
Neeltje Henneman, Upper School Head  
The Wheeler School  
216 Hope Street  
Providence, RI 02906  
[neeltjehenneman@wheelerschool.org](mailto:neeltjehenneman@wheelerschool.org)

## HANDBELL DIRECTOR WANTED

Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer in Foxboro has had a handbell choir for the past few years but our director cannot continue this year. This is a paid position. Rehearsals weekly and about three performances: Advent or Christmas, Easter, and one other date of your choice, usually done shortly after Easter. Flexible as far as the rehearsal day but 7:00 p.m. is best for most ringers. Visit [www.lcor.org](http://www.lcor.org). If interested, contact Gayle Olson, Chair of Worship & Music [geoatc@gmail.com](mailto:geoatc@gmail.com)

## NEXT FUNDAMENTAL TONE DEADLINE

January 18, 2014

Please have all submissions to [editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org](mailto:editor.area1@handbellmusicians.org)  
for inclusion in the  
February issue of *Fundamental Tone*

## Gifts for a Perfect Holiday!

### Pashmina Wool Scarves

Lovely Pashmina Wool Scarves with Black Treble Clef Design, available in eight lovely colors. Soft like cashmere, use as a scarf or shawl— 27" x 70" overall size. Make wonderful gifts for the music lovers in your life!

**Pashmina Wool Scarves** **\$24.95**

Green: #5600, Navy: #5601, Red: #5602, Pink: #5603, Brown: #5604, Silver: #5605, Purple: #5606, Gold: #5607

### Musical Motif Jewelry

**Musical Bracelets & Earrings.** Beautifully crafted jewelry with musical designs. All are rhodium plated and lead-free.

**Earrings & Bracelets** **\$14.00**

**Bracelets:** Leatherette Music Staff: #5476, Amazing Grace: #5477

**Earrings:** Wire Staff: #5478, Wire 16th Notes: #5479, Wire Treble I ó Music: #5487

**Earrings & Bracelets** **\$16.95**

**Bracelets:** Crys. Note: #5480, Leatherette Crys. Treble: #5481,

Crys. Treble: #5482, Clasp w Crys. Treble & Heart: #5488

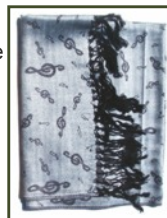
**Earrings:** Post Crys. Treble: #5483, Wire Crys. 16ths: #5484,

Post Crys. 16ths: #5485, Wire Crys. 8th: #5486

**Silver-plated Treble Jewelry.** Beautifully finished jewelry with exquisite swarovski crystals. Each piece comes in a lovely gift box.

**Silver-plated Treble Jewelry** **\$29.95**

**Earrings:** #5472, Brooch: #5473, Black Enamel Brooch: #5475 (2355)



### Musical Motif Ties

Four musical motifs guaranteed to charm! All hand-made of soft polyester. Made in the USA. A great gift!

**Music Ties** **\$16.95**

**Oversized Treble:**

#5618, Black/Gray Trebles: #5619, Jazzy

Keyboard: #5620, Musical Blocks: #5621



### Pewter Keychains

Each Keyring is cast in heavy-weight English Pewter and has a strong clip and chain. Choose from Treble Clef or Eighth Note designs.

**Pewter Keychains** **\$12.95**



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Eighth page: (3.5" w. x 2.2" h.) \$20.00.  
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