

Twice Tolloed Tales

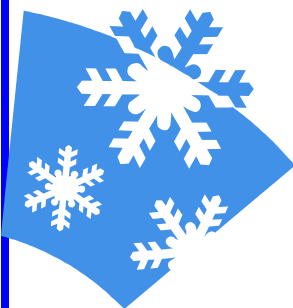


AGEHR AREA II

March 2007

Message from the Chair

Kathie Bittenbender



Well – It's snowing. I guess that can be good news or bad news. Bad news – I missed two bell choir rehearsals tonight and we have a concert coming up! Good news – It's Valentine's Day and I got stuck in the house with my husband! AND – We don't have nearly as much snow here in the Harrisburg area as some of you do in the Oswego area! I hope everyone is staying warm!

The 2007 Area II Festival Conference and Young Ringers Festival are coming together. By now you should have received your registration packet. I know some of you have already registered. Chris Braden and I made a trip to Oswego, NY (the day before the snow started!) to see the brand new ice rink which will be our ringing floor. We know you will be happy with our accommodations in Oswego. No, the dorms are not air conditioned – but the breeze off the lake provides natural air conditioning. All other buildings are air conditioned. Make your plans now to attend Young Ringers (June 26-28) or Festival (June 28-July1). You won't be disappointed!

The schedule is still being finalized, but for those of you wondering..... The Young Ringers' Concert will be Thursday, June 28 at 2:30 pm and the Festival Conference Concert will be Sunday, July 1 at 4:00 pm. Many classes and special concerts are being planned. Howard Moser is the conductor for the young ringers, Debbie Rice is the masterclass conductor, and Tim Waugh will be our Festival conductor.

I hope you will take the time to read this edition of Twice Tolloed Tales from cover to cover. You will want to make note of several things:

- 1 – Area II's new Spring Reading Session Workshops – you can still host one!
- 2 – The ballot for Area II officers is being put together – now is your chance to commit to getting more involved!
- 3 – Our Endowment Committee has awarded some monies! Let's keep the donations coming so we can grant more!
- 4 – Our mentoring program continues to grow.

It is time once again to think about hosting one of our Fall Workshops. These are full day workshops. We would really like to have two in each state. If you would be willing to host one of these please contact your state representative. It would be great if we could advertise these workshops at Festival Conference.

We welcome Art and Lee Morgan as our new Area II Historians. Lynn Rapp is now our newsletter editor. You will also notice we have several new members since our last newsletter. If any of these new members live near you, please extend a welcoming hand to them. Our membership is slowly diminishing. We all need to keep in touch with each other and encourage others to renew and to take advantage of the many things our area has to offer.

Again, I hope to see you Oswego. I'm sure their snow will be gone by June! Stay warm and healthy everyone.

Best Wishes,

Kathie Bittenbender

Chair of area II



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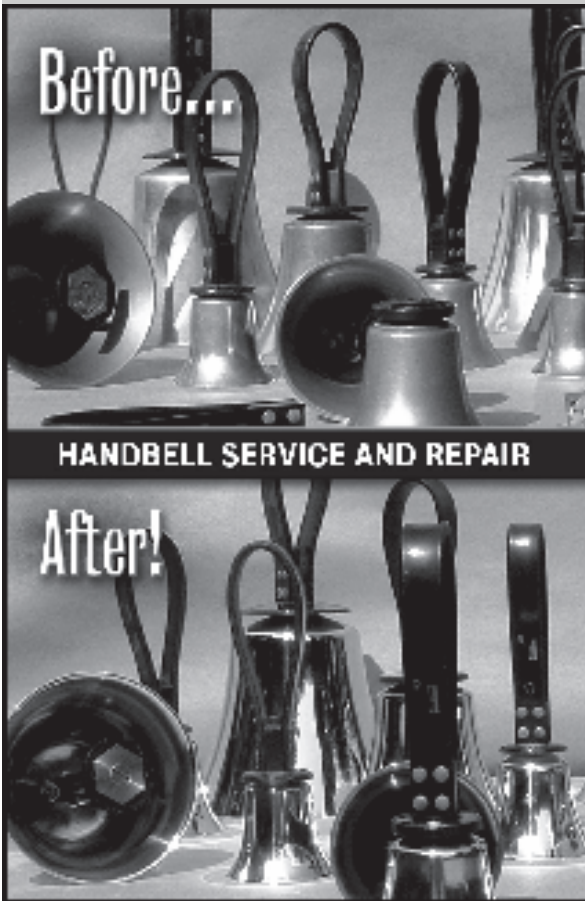
www.area2agehr.org

www.agehr.org

TWICE TOLLED TALES is published four times per year for the membership of AGEHR Area II. Publication dates are March, June, September, and December. The deadline for articles and photos is the first day of the month prior to the publication date; these will be included as space permits.

It is preferred that articles be sent in the format of Microsoft Office 2000 Publisher as an email attachment. Articles may also be sent in hard copy form, typewritten. Photos should be in black and white and be labeled on the back. A SASE should be included for those wishing to have their photos returned.

All information for publication and advertisements should be sent to the editor: Lynn Rapp 39 Honeysuckle Dr. Mechanicsburg, PA 17050 klsrapp@msn.com



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Philadelphia, PA**



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program which will take your solo or small ensemble over the top!! And our solo-specific pre-event Pre-SEE Solo Track, or PSST, is July 25-26. Write, call, or go to our website for more information.

SOLO/ENSEMBLE EXTRAVAGANZA INFORMATION:

Email: SEERegistrar@steproject.com

WEB: www.steproject.com/SEE.html

phone (303) 404-3035

Address: SEE, 5863 Fox Hollow Drive, Broomfield, CO 80020



NEW MEMBERS

We would like to take the opportunity to welcome all of our new members to Area II.



| | | |
|---|---|---|
| <p>Thomas J. VanDuyne First U. Methodist Church Island Height, NJ</p> <p>Elaine Vanderland Maranatha Christian Academy Remsen, NY</p> <p>Aletha B. Fassl St. Andrew's Evangelical Lutheran Bethlehem, PA</p> <p>Kenneth Hand St. Irenaeus Church Oakmont, PA</p> <p>Claudia Arndts Ridley Park U. Presbyterian Church Sharon Hill, PA</p> | <p>Lynn Akers Covenant Presbyterian Church Trenton, NJ</p> <p>Madeline Rooney Saratoga Springs, NY</p> <p>Bruce Tonkin New Hanover Lutheran Church Gilbertville, PA</p> <p>Amy Sterner Blue Mountain Middle School Orwigsburg, PA</p> <p>David Koskey Willamsport. PA</p> | <p>First Presbyterian Church Vineland, NJ</p> <p>Kevin Biddle Christ Church UCC Annville, PA</p> <p>Cheryl Moser St. Helena Catholic Church Norristown, NJ</p> <p>Florence Nemkovich St. Stanislaus Polish Nat'l Cathedral Scranton, PA</p> |
|---|---|---|

CHIME Lending Program

Just a reminder the deadline for the CHIME Lending program is May 1st. All applications should be sent to:

Jeremy Peters
171 Meigs Street, Apt 1
Rochester, NY 14607
Home: (585) 233-1451
Email: psbfan@rochester.rr.com

More information may be found on the website at www.area2agehr.org



Grants Made from the Area II Endowment Fund

The Endowment Committee recommended the first two grants be given from the Area II Endowment Fund and they were approved by the Area II Board! What a wonderful beginning to this program!

First Reformed Church of Fishkill, NY – Chime Choir Program. A grant was awarded to purchase music binders and supplies required to enhance the new chime program that has already started.

Good News Home for Women, Flemington, NJ - A grant was awarded to purchase the beginning bells to start a hand bell program. This will be offered to the residents and staff of the Good News Home for Women.

AREA II ENDOWMENT FUND

BANNER TO BE DISPLAYED IN OSWEGO!!!!



ALL NEW AND PAST CONTRIBUTIONS MADE TO THE AREA II ENDOWMENT FUND WILL BE ACKNOWLEDGED AT THE 2007 FESTIVAL CONFERENCE IN OSWEGO, NY! DONATIONS WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO BE ACKNOWLEDGED IN TWICE TOLLED TALES.

WE ARE PLEASED TO HAVE MADE OUR FIRST GRANTS FROM THE ENDOWMENT FUND AND WANT TO BE ABLE TO GIVE MORE GRANTS FOR AREA II MEMBERS IN THE FUTURE!

PLEASE CONSIDER MAKING A DONATION TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND AND BE PART OF THE CELEBRATION AT OSWEGO. DONATIONS MAY BE MADE BY DIRECTORS, CHURCHES, RINGERS ----- THEY HAVE BEEN MADE IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF INDIVIDUALS, DIRECTORS, AND CHOIRS.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION TO THE ENDOWMENT FUND PLEASE COMPLETE THE FORM BELOW AND RETURN IT TO JUDY DINKLER, TREASURER.

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION TO THE AREA II ENDOWMENT FUND:

Name _____ Address: _____

Email: _____ How donation should read _____

Amount of Donation: \$50.00 _____ \$25.00 _____ Other _____

Return to: Judy Dinkler, Treasurer

Mentoring Report

February 9, 2007

Marilyn Shenenberger

We had 3 Orientation workshops in November. Our clinicians were Art Morgan, Denise Pearson, and Millie Fischle. Millie held hers in 2 parts, which she found very helpful to reinforce what she had begun a few weeks earlier.

We had 2 Mentoring Workshops in November, and one in January, for which our clinicians were Bernie Garrett and Carol Roman. Carol's January workshop was a full day workshop, at which she worked with the adult choir in the morning and the youth choir in the afternoon.

We have four requests for workshops that have not yet been scheduled from other churches and schools.

Based on the January printout from Dan Virzi, 12 "Congratulations, you've won a free handbell workshop" letters have been mailed, and 13 "Welcome to AGEHR, we'd love to send a clinician to do a half-day workshop for \$100."



SPRING READING WORKSHOPS!!!

Area II will be sponsoring **SPRING READING WORKSHOPS** in 2007!

A listing of those already set up is included in this issue of *Twice Told Tales*, along with a registration form.

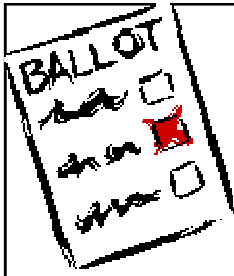
Would you like to ring through new repertoire from various publishers? Here is your chance to ring and look at the music for the rest of 2007! General music, Thanksgiving, Advent and Christmas (can you believe it!) is included.

We would like to have these workshops **ALL OVER Area II**. Look at the listing and if there is not a workshop being held in your area, why don't you host one? You pick the date and provide the location from 9:00 to 12:00, and we do the rest! Please contact Peggy McNamee at

peggymc@malachy.com or call her at 412/761-8910 in the evenings, 412/281-4050 during work hours. It's not too late to set one up.

Come and join us, it's a great way to meet other handbell directors and ringers!





Area II Elections

Area II is having elections for a Chair-Elect (six year term), Secretary and Treasurer (both positions are a two year term) for the Area II Board. The nominating committee is currently seeking individuals who are qualified and willing to dedicate time and skills to the new board that will take office October 1st, 2007, Chris Braden will be Chair of the board from October 1, 2007 to October 1, 2009. Please contact the Nominating Committee Chair, Peggy McNamee at mcnameebpk@aol.com, or call her at

412-761-8910 by March 15th if you have recommendations for these positions.

The Raleigh Ringers

David M. Harris, Director

8516 Sleepy Creek Drive • Raleigh, NC 27613

phone/fax: (919) 847-7574 • email: rringer@rr.org • web: www.rr.org

A community handbell choir

Area 2 Ringer Pursues Dream

In January, Erin Glendening, a former TTT editor and Area II webmaster, looked up and saw that her stars were in alignment...all pointed toward Raleigh, NC. Being unemployed in Pittsburgh for several months made the decision easier to audition for The Raleigh Ringers. None of Erin's friends had any question that her star was in ascent. They were right. Erin is one of four new ringers in this premier, internationally known community handbell ensemble, all of whom re-audition each year!

Erin's handbell journey to Raleigh began in Pella, Iowa where she grew up, learned to ring at church, and went to the college where her dad teaches. Like a lot of ringers, Erin began in the junior high church choir, but by the time she was in college, an adult choir was formed and Erin and her mother both joined. Erin moved to Pittsburgh after college but her mom still rings bells at Second Reformed Church in Pella.

In Pittsburgh, Erin found a church home at ShadySide Presbyterian where there was a handbell choir. Fate had it that Erin eventually became the director of this choir. Erin continued to expand her own skill set by learning solo and ensemble ringing. She also joined the Volkwein Ringers, a community group, so she'd have a chance to ring. When that group disbanded, Erin looked for another place to ring and joined the advanced choir at Mt Lebanon United Methodist Church. She understands the importance of ringing to a director.

Erin's desire to become a member of The Raleigh Ringers really began when the group made their first Pittsburgh

appearance. Erin couldn't wait to help. In addition to working on the committee, she helped to unload the truck and set up the stage for the concert. Being a techie, she got to sit in on their rehearsal and was impressed with director Dave Harris's way of working with the team, his high standards, and his music selections. Erin had the opportunity to experience his tutelage first hand as a participant in the Masterclass under Dave at the Area II festival in 2005 at Bucknell University.

"So Erin, what is life like with The Raleigh Ringers?" this writer asked. "Intense," she replied! The group is preparing thirteen pieces for their new concert season that begins April 14. Rehearsals begin at 7 pm and do not end before 10:30 pm. The seventeen ringers are all totally committed to the art form and do their best to help each other. "We have to think outside the box all the time," says Erin. "The difficulty of the music means that we have to look out for each other all the time. The other ringers have been really good about making suggestions to help me learn all this new music."

As a new member of the group, Erin received a ringer membership to AGEHR. She has always valued her membership in the Guild and is grateful for the experience that she had during her time on the Area II Board of Directors. If you'd like to see Erin in her premier season, check the website (www.rr.org) for concert details. The group will be performing at the AGEHR Seminar in Dallas in July and will be in Harrisburg November 30 and Pittsburgh December 1.

Area II Spring Workshops

March 17, 2007

Oakmont Presbyterian Church

415 Pennsylvania Avenue

Oakmont, PA 15139

9:00 to 12:00

Cost \$10.00 per person

Roberta Erickson, Hostess

Bert's number 412/828-0693

email ernx@verizon.net

March 24, 2007

First United Methodist Church

302 W. Walnut Street

Titusville, PA 16354

Phone: 814-827-1829

9:00 to 1:00

Cost \$16.00 which includes lunch!

Peg Knapp, Hostess

Peg's number 814/827-1092

email Knapping@csonline.net

March 31, 2007

Immanuel Lutheran Church

131 W. Main Street

Webster, NY 14580

Phone: 585-872-5185

9:00 to 12:00

Cost \$10.00 per person

Marguerite Manning, Hostess

Marguerite' number 585-265-1825

Email Toothorn39@aol.com

April 28, 2007

Faith United Methodist Church

700 Fairview Drive

Montoursville, PA 17754

Hostess: Lisa Konkle

Contact number 570-274-4623

May 5, 2007

Gettysburg United Methodist Church

30 W. High Street

Gettysburg, PA 17325

Phone Number: 717-334-3032

9:00 – 12:00

Cost \$10.00

Hostess: Debbie Henning

Phone number 410-848-5482

Email debbiehen@earthlink.net

May 5, 2007

Brighton Community Church

1225 Brighton Road

Tonawanda, NY 14150

Hostess: Janice Peters

Email: bellsrfun@verizon.net



SPRING READING WORKSHOP REGISTRATION FORM

Please register me for the reading workshop being held at:

- _____ Oakmont United Presbyterian Church, Oakmont, PA March 17, 2007
 _____ First United Methodist Church, Titusville, PA March 24, 2007
 _____ Immanuel Lutheran Church, Webster, NY March 31, 2007
 _____ Faith United Methodist Church, Montoursville, PA April 28, 2007
 _____ Gettysburg United Methodist Church, Gettysburg, PA May 5, 2007
 _____ Brighton Community Church, Tonawanda NY May 5, 2007

My check is enclosed made payable to AGEHR, Area II Please forward to Peggy McNamee, 5 Highland Drive, Pittsburgh, PA 15202.

- _____ \$10.00/person Oakmont United Presbyterian Church
 _____ \$16.00/person First United Methodist Church (includes lunch)
 _____ \$10.00 Immanuel Lutheran Church
 _____ \$10.00 Faith United Methodist Church
 _____ \$10.00 Gettysburg United Methodist Church
 _____ \$10.00 Brighton Community Church

Name _____ Address _____

Telephone Number _____ Email address _____

Amount of check _____

Plan to arrive between 8:30 and 8:45 for the workshop so it can begin promptly at 9:00.

Any questions? Email Peggy McNamee mcnameebpk@aol.com

Or call her at 412/761-8910

Westminster Ringers

a Maryland Community Ensemble

presents

Open Rings - Come ring along with the Westminster Ringers.

Thurs., June 7 & 14 2007 * 7:30 PM - 9:00 PM

Westminster COB - 5 Park Place, Westminster, MD

Auditions

Thursday, June 21, 2007

Ringer's Workshop

Saturday, September 22, 2007 * 8:30 AM - 5:00 PM

Calvary UMC - 405 Main St., Mt. Airy, MD

Clinicians: Kath Wissinger, Louise Borneman, Debbie & Larry Henning

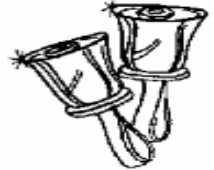
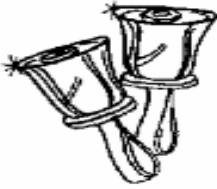
Full or partial choirs may attend

Fee: \$35 before Aug. 25, 2007; \$40 before Sept. 8, 2007; \$45 after Sept. 15, 2007

For more information about any of the above workshops/concerts,

please contact: Debbie Henning

410-848-5482 * director@thewestminsterringers.org



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Calling All Beginning Handbell Directors!!

Area 2 AGEHR has a new learning experience for beginning handbell/handchime directors and those who are considering assuming this position. On Saturday, April 21, the Western PA Handbell Festival will be held at The Community United Methodist Church of Harrison City. This one-day festival is designed for handbell choirs that play level 1 and 2 music; selections that are on the “easy” side of the difficulty scale. During the morning of April 21, we will offer a seminar for beginning directors while the festival choir is being rehearsed: 9:30 am until 12:30 pm.

Topics to be covered include:

Equipment: what do I need and how do I take care of it?

Ringers: what skills do new ringers need?

How many ringers do I need?

Music: How do I know what music I need?

How do I “prepare” the music I have selected?

Rehearsal: How do I prepare myself for the first rehearsal?

How do I teach my ringers the music?

How do I run an effective rehearsal?

Techniques: What exactly are handbell/handchime techniques?

How can I learn them? How do I teach them?

Conducting: What arm movements work for handbells?

How do I communicate with my ringers?

Education: Where can I learn more?

Are there books that can help me?

If you need help in answering any of the above questions, please consider registering for the Beginning Director’s Seminar on April 21st. The cost is \$20. You may register by calling or writing to Susan Simmons, event registrar. Check should be made to Western PA Directors Group.

The seminar clinician will be Nancy Lutz. She is director of handbells at Mt Lebanon United Methodist Church in Pittsburgh where she has a graded children’s program, a youth choir and three adult ensembles. Active in both the Area and National American Guild of English Handbell Ringers, Nancy currently serves AGEHR as Secretary to the National Board.

Western PA Directors’ Group

Susan Simmons

PO Box 12

Clark, PA 16113

stsimmons@aquaamerica.com

Do You Know??

Are you aware of the many grants and scholarships Area II has to offer? The Betty B. Garee Scholarship is for first time attendees to Area Festivals and Seminars as well as National Seminars. The Charlie Cramer Scholarship is for non-ringing "roadies" who help to move all your bells and equipment.

Grants from the Endowment Fund can help to supplement your present set of handbells or handchimes, or to get you started buying them. Area II offers grant monies (up to \$250) to sub-areas who are trying to get an annual workshop and/or festival started. "Special grants" have been awarded to mission projects that have been undertaken by members of Area II.

Area II has a very active Handchime Lending Program. Each state has several sets of handchimes to lend to schools or churches interested in starting a new handbell or handchime program.

New to the Area is the Mentoring Program that can bring personalized handbell help to you, your church or your school. Area II will send a clinician to you for a workshop that addresses your particular needs!

How can you find out more about all of these? Check out our website www.area2agehr.org. You may download the necessary forms there. Not web-savvy? Then call or e-mail any Area officer! We'll send you a brochure and application.

Take advantage of all that Area II has to offer you!

Solo Ringer to Perform in PA Area

Nancy Hascall of Lake Oswego, Oregon has performed as a handbell soloist since 1989 and has taught solo and ensemble ringing at all levels, both privately and for regional, national, and international handbell events.

Performing throughout the U.S., Canada and Australia, she has become known for her graceful ringing style and sensitivity, as well as her dazzling technique. In her quest for greater musicality and access to a wider repertoire, Nancy developed a system of techniques called traveling four-in-hand, which is now used by handbell soloists throughout the world.

In addition to performing, conducting, and teaching, Nancy has authored several articles on ringing techniques for *Overtones* magazine, and has more than twenty compositions and arrangements in print, including works for handbell solo, duet, quartet, and choir. In 2003 Nancy recorded her first CD, "Ringing From the Heart," available online at:

<http://www.heavenlyhandbells.com/recordings.htm>

Nancy directs Portland-based community handbell choir Bells of the Cascades and the Sanctuary Bell Choir of Portland First United Methodist Church. With her husband Glen, she still rings in the handbell choir at Lake Grove Presbyterian Church where she was first introduced to bells over twenty-five years ago.

"Probably the thing that impresses me the most about Nancy is that when she plays, it's just so extremely musical - it has phrase and line and beauty, and I've never seen anyone play like that, EVER. And of course all of that carries over into her conducting as well." -- Dr. William Payn, Composer, Handbell Clinician, and Director of Choral Studies at Bucknell

University

"Nancy Hascall, performing her beautiful arrangement of Bach's 'Arioso in D' with such artistry that the audience held its breath as the final note died away before leaping with a rush to its collective feet. That was a jewel of a musical offering." -- Tamara Raetz, in a review of the 2002 Area X Handbell Conference for Handbell-L Again, she sets the standard for the rest of us in artistry." --

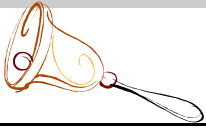
Charlotte Hoover, Handbell Soloist, Seattle, WA"

"When Nancy rings bells, it's as if she is singing lyrics. I call her Wonder Woman, she is a very inspirational person." -- Mary Kidd, Director of Music Ministries, Lake Grove Presbyterian Church, Lake Oswego, OR

"We witnessed some of the most graceful, energetic and engaging solo ringing we've ever seen. She thrilled the audience with 'Joshua' and dazzled them with the 'Maple Leaf Rag.' Her 'Arioso' was breathtaking, and her encore, 'What Can the Matter Be?' was lighthearted and fun.

Everyone who attended the concert will be telling their friends about the incredible concert opportunity that they missed." -- Heather Keith, Bells of St. Andrews and the Bronze Foundation, Ontario, Canada.

Nancy will be teaching at the Solo Ensemble Extravaganza July 25-29. She is planning a concert tour the following week. If you would like to sponsor a concert you may contact her at Nancy.Hascall@verizon.net



Bulletin Board

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> | <u>Location</u> | <u>Contact</u> | <u>Info.</u> |
|----------------|---|---|---|--|
| March 17, 2007 | Spring Reading Workshop | Oakmont United Presbyterian Church 415 Pennsylvania Ave. Oakmont, PA 15139 | Roberta Erickson 412-828-0693 | 9:00-12:00 \$10.00 |
| March 24, 2007 | Spring Reading Workshop | First UMC 302 W. Walnut St. Titusville, PA 16354 | Peg Knapp 814-827-1092 Knapping@csonline.net | 9:00-12:00 Cost is \$16.00 Including lunch |
| March 31, 2007 | Spring Reading Workshop | Immanuel Lutheran Church 131 W. Main St. Webster NY 14580 | Marguerite Mannig 585-265-1825 Toothorn39@aol.com | 9:00-12:00 \$10.00 |
| April 14, 2007 | Nittany Valley Handbell Festival | State College | Gail Ritchey 814-234-1655 | |
| April 21, 2007 | Western Pa Handbell Festival | Community United Methodist Church Harrison City, Pa | Susan Simmons 724-962-5125 | Donna Kinsey |
| April 28, 2007 | Spring Reading Workshop | Faith UMC 700 Fairview Dr. Montoursville, PA 17754 | Lisa Konkle 570-274-4623 | 9:00-12:00 \$10.00 |
| April 28, 2007 | Hudson Valley Handbell Festival | Nyack, NY | Susan Guse 845-227-7696 sguse@frontiernet.net | |
| May 5, 2007 | Spring Reading Workshop | Gettysburg UMC 30 W. High St. Gettysburg, PA 17325 | Debbie Henning 410-848-5482 debbiehen@earthlink.net | 9:00-12:00 \$10.00 |
| May 5, 2007 | Spring Reading Workshop | Brighton Community Church 1225 Birghton Rd Tonawanda, NY 14150 | Janice Peters 716-773-3859 bellsrfun@verizon.net | 9:00-12:00 \$10.00 |



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