



QUAVERS

AREA VIII: ILLINOIS, IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA
JULY, 2008

BLENDING BELLS INTO WORSHIP

Hello Ringers!

Of course, the ultimate goal for any music in worship is to forward the act of worship. It is not a performance; you are actively leading in worship. Worship generally includes prayer, music, Bible reading and a sermon based on the scripture. It may also include The Sacraments, a time of personal response/offering, and community concerns.

Prelude: This is an obvious choice for ringing, but be sure to coordinate your watches with the organist and pastors! I have served some churches where the prelude actually *began* the worship service and did not come *before* the service started.

Call to Worship: A perfect place for a short little "ditty"—often a great location for your children's bell choir. This is also a wonderful opportunity to ring something from memory (gasp!), and even a random ring would suffice; just choose all the black notes and ring them in any order. What a great opportunity to talk about the pentatonic scale!

Hymn Accompaniments: Where do I start? There are *gobs* (is that a word?) out there in publication, and the first place I would send anyone looking for accompaniments, descants, etc., would be to the *Creative Church Musician Series* by Hal Hopson. Many of these can be taught by rote. They are kid-friendly and most of the tunes are written in popular hymn-book keys.

Psalm Reading: Here my thoughts go to any of the *Psalms for All Seasons* by Barbara Semmann. These include your chancel choir, or even your congregation in singing, and are responsive in nature. They are kid-friendly as well as easily memorized. One has permission to copy the response in the church bulletin as well.

Congregational Responses: You will find *The Doxology* arranged several times by various composers, usually with the option for the congregation to sing. Blessings and benediction responses are also plentiful.

Anthem: From *Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*: "A piece of sacred vocal music." But I *really* like the definition from the *American Heritage Dictionary*: "A modern ballad accompanied by rock music instrumentation." You might have some music directors that feel like the lyrics need to be "sung" in order to be "heard", so you might try any of the plethora of combined choir and handbell compositions and arrangements currently being published.

Offertory: Another obvious choice for bell ringing, but another one that has to be timed well.

Postlude: This is a good time to combine your bells with the organ or piano and there are *lots* to choose from, including the piece we just rang at the festival, *When in Our Music God is Glorified*.

I hope this helps your choir in worship. Bells are not just for the prelude anymore!

Marilyn Lake ~ Area VIII Chair Elect

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A LITTLE OF THIS, A LITTLE OF THAT

How can I get handbells more involved in a worship service? I recently sat down with David L. Weck, handbell editor at Hope Publishing, and asked him just that. I've decided all you need are a few good resources and maybe the musical talents of others in your congregation!

What if I don't have a full choir? Too many bells but not enough hands? A great book is *The Creative Use of Handbells in Worship* (Hopson, HP956). Hopson provides many examples of how just a few bells can add to any hymn, by using different kinds of chords, special techniques, and entrances. Your ringers can even become a handbell zimbeldern!

Do handbells play well with others? Of course! David could not think of an instrument that doesn't sound well when combined with handbells. With my high school group, I've used *Rhythm and Bells* (Thompson, HP1772). The kids enjoyed having a hand drum and other rhythmic instruments involved. Flutes are popular in combination with handbells, as you are sure to find a flutist in your congregation. *Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella* (Raney/Sherman, HP2327) actually uses two! If you don't have a piece of music specifically for an instrument you'd like to use, try experimenting. Have the instrument play the melody line on a verse of a handbell piece. David emphasizes that when you involve an instrumentalist, you need to allow for a good rehearsal. Overtones of handbells can cause difficulty with the intonation of the instrumentalist, especially for those who have not performed with handbells before. Another benefit of rehearsal is to adjust the balance. For example, if brass instruments are involved, they may overpower the handbells. Try using a double choir if blessed with many ringers or a visiting choir.

How do I get the congregation involved? They can sing! Many arrangements of recognizable tunes are out there. The organ-piano duet preludes by Joel Raney all use organ and/or piano, handbells, vocals, and other instruments. I enjoy *Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory* (Raney, HP8348), as it also adds trumpet and percussion. If you don't have a piece already set for ringing and singing, choose one you already have that has defined verses where your vocal choir could lead the congregation. Sometimes handbells get lost in the congregation's voices, so David recommends doubling up an octave or two to make sure the handbells are still heard.

Can handbells be a little more contemporary? More and more churches have contemporary or at least blended services and handbell arrangers have responded. Many praise and worship tunes are available for handbells (and other instruments of course). Invite the handbell choir to be a special guest and perform one of these pieces at the contemporary service. Or just go ahead and perform the praise and worship piece at the traditional service! It's a more contemporary piece but handbells give it a traditional feel. I am fond of *Lamb of God* (Paris/Larson, HP2352) which also has vocal parts available, and I consider myself very traditional!

Special thanks again to David for discussing handbells and worship with me. Happy ringing! And singing and drumming and trumpeting...

Kristin Kalitowski ~ Illinois State Chair

Summer 2008 Handbell Music Reading Session

Monday evening, July 21, 2008
6:45 to 9:15 PM

Gary United Methodist Church
224 N. Main Street, Wheaton, IL

\$8 per person registration fee.

July 11 registration deadline.

Please contact Kristin for space
availability after the deadline.

40 participants maximum

Your Illinois State Committee presents an opportunity to ring new and old handbell releases from various publishers. Phil Roberts and Chicago Bronze will serve as your clinicians. Music will span two-octave through five-octave selections, from easy pieces through challenging ones. **Play and select music for the upcoming year. Directors encouraged to attend and to bring a ringer with you!**

Download a registration form at www.il-agehr.org

Questions? Kristin Kalitowski, *Illinois State Chair*
(630) 699-3802 • Kristin880@gmail.com



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BELLS AND WORSHIP

Beginning children's choirs are the perfect fit for contemporary services. The children already know and like the standard Praise and Worship tunes. Many of these *standards* have simple chordal accompaniments that are accidental free! Your pianist can play along with your ringers from the hymnal. The children learn the chords and all play the same rhythm. What could be better? Some titles that work well this way are *Surely the Presence of the Lord*, *I Love You, Lord*, *Make Me a Servant*, and *Change My Heart, O God*.

A fantastic piece by Janet Linker and Jane McFadden is *The Church's One Foundation* for 3-5 octaves of bells, chimes, brass, and organ. We used this as a farewell piece when our pastor moved on. You could have heard a pin drop when we finished. Janet and Jane have many pieces out there for bells and organ or piano and all of them are wonderful. Both the organ and brass parts take good players.

This year we also used two pieces with flute and bells that are more in the contemporary mode: *Father Welcomes* and *Prelude on Lamb of God*. Both are arranged by J. Wayne Kerr and published by Concordia. Level 2. The flute parts are playable by a moderately good high school student.

Let your bells ring on hymns and service music no matter what style the service is. Hymns make great warm ups for your rehearsals so you get a two-fer! Doxologies, Amens, and almost any other responses are greatly enhanced by adding a bell part. You can read them right out of your hymnals. Let the higher and lower bells double the octaves.

Carolyn Sternowski ~ Iowa Secretary

CHRISTMAS IN JULY READING SESSION AND ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Come, ring and listen to the sounds of Christmas on July 12th at First UMC in Cedar Falls. This is a great opportunity for everyone to pick up a bell over the summer and also a chance to get together and make some beautiful music. Check out the Iowa Website or contact Kathryn Jaeger for more info.

jkjdjaeger@juno.com

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



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BELLS AND OTHER INSTRUMENTS

Going through the music library at church, I discovered we own over 70 non-Christmas selections for handbells accompanied by voice or other instruments! From that group, I chose our choir's favorite Top 12 (all still in print!).

Bells + Vocal

<i>Ah, Holy Jesus</i> We have a baritone sing the chorale in ms 21-34, 41-54	Cruger/Sherman	Hope 1612	L.3
<i>Hymn of Promise</i> On Mother's Day, our adult choir played the bells and our kids (K-8) played the chime part	Sleeth/Thompson	Hope 1519	L.3 + chimes
<i>Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring</i> This was lovely with the youth choir singing the chorale from the balcony	Bach/Thompson	Concordia 97-7112	L.3 + chimes + C or Bb instrument + SATB

<i>One Small Child</i>	Meece/Larson	Hope 2403	L.3 SATB or SAB
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Bells+Organ+Brass

<i>Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken</i>	Haydn/McKechnie	Shawnee HP5138	Na
<i>God of Grace</i>	Manz/Thompson	Morning Star 30810	L.3

Bells+Solo instrument

<i>It Is Well w/My Soul</i>	Bliss/Moklebust	Alfred 20206	L.3 + flute or violin
<i>Just a Closer Walk w/Thee</i>	Greer	Ringin Word 8036	L.3 + clarinet
<i>Prelude in Classic Style</i>	Young/Waldrop	Lorenz 20/1110L	L.3 + flute
<i>The Shepherd's Psalm</i>	Kerr	Choristers Guild B116	L3 + flute/penny whistle/narrator

Bells & Percussion

<i>Jesus, We Want to Meet</i>	Peery	Agehr 35064	L.3 + percussion
<i>Shades of Forest Green</i>	Waugh	Ring Out! Press 2115	L.3 + finger cymbals

Now I must get to work and re-file all of those 70 pieces! Hope some of these inspire your choirs!

Kathy Leonard ~ Kansas State Chair



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VOTING IS A PRIVILEGE

Hello, everyone!

First, I want to give a personal thank you to everyone who helped to make *Peoria Rings My Bells* a big success! I couldn't have done it without you! I hope all the attendees had a great time!

As you all know, setting up these conferences is a lot of work. It is definitely a labor of love. To that end, participating in the election of your Area VIII board is **extremely** important. These are the people that plan these conferences. You want to choose people who **you** think can do the best job of running the area and planning the events. The slate of candidates is filled with people who are willing to give their time and energy to that end. Please make sure you look over their bios and vote for the person for each position that you feel will best fulfill that job. Please be sure to mark your ballot and return it.

Debbie Llewellyn—Area VIII Chair

CHICAGO BRONZE AUDITIONS:

Chicago Bronze will be holding open auditions on
Monday, August 25th at 7:30 PM

If you are an experienced ringer, have a passion for handbells, and are interested in ringing fun and challenging music, please contact us at:

1-877-7WE-RING

or send an e-mail to Bill Ondratschek at:

billo@duroclean.com

An audition packet will be mailed to you.

Audition Location:

Lutheran Church of the Cross
2025 S. Goebbert Rd.
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BLENDING BELLS AND WORSHIP

...something that is becoming more and more common within church services that have regular, blended and contemporary services. Perhaps one factor could be that handbell composers are writing music that works in all types of worship services. In listening to the recordings I receive from the music publishers, many of them offer several musical suggestions for incorporating the piece into a worship service.

Praise bands are at both of the churches where I have handbell choirs. We have worked together on several pieces during the past couple of years using drums, guitar, vocal and other musical instrumentation. We do not do this every time we ring as it does involve some extra rehearsal planning, but when we do work together, the congregation has expressed their musical appreciation.

Easter is a good time to use bells and instruments. St. Andrews did *Christ Arose* this year with trumpets, organ and the choir. Both pastors were truly amazed that this could be done and sound great. We have already been asked to present something for next Easter.

I did visit with some of my other handbell ringers to see what is done in their church services. Some are taking small steps in adding bells with their praise band; others are having a more difficult time. Having both a music minister and pastor that are willing to implement bells within the worship service is a necessary factor.

Hymn descants are also a great way to add bells during the worship service. Hal Hopson has several books available that offer wonderful suggestions for adding bells to worship. There are also several books on hymn descants using the seasons of the church year. These are also very good if your church has a youth choir as it offers them an opportunity to be more a part of the service.

Sometimes it just takes courage to ask the powers that be if the bell choir can do more than ring the prelude. One might be surprised that the answer could be YES. Be brave and take a step forward to blending bells into your worship service. You will be glad you did as it does add a new musical dimension to worship.

Joyce Miller ~ Nebraska State Chair

U.S. to Host International Symposium

If you are unable to attend the International Symposium, please watch for the upcoming issues of *Overtones* as it will feature events, topics, conversations and photos from the symposium.



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AREA VIII ELECTIONS

CHAIR ELECT

Dolan Bayless is a native of Topeka, Kansas. He holds the B.M.E. degree from Washburn University in Topeka, and the Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Kansas.

Dolan has been Director of Music Ministries at Kirkwood United Methodist Church in suburban St. Louis, MO since January 2006. Prior to moving to St. Louis, he served First United Methodist Church—Lake Jackson, TX, for nine years after being in the same capacity at First United Methodist Church—Ponca City, OK for nineteen years. He was employed as a public school band and chorus director previous to his full-time church positions.

Dolan is a long standing member of the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR) serving Area IX as treasurer for four years, Chair-Elect for two years, Chair for two years, and now as Past Chair and Area Representative. Dolan was chair of Pinnacle 2002, a ringing event sponsored by AGEHR for community, semi-professional and professional handbell ensembles and ringers held in Orlando, FL in January, 2002. He has served one term of office on the Board of Directors for the Greater Houston Handbell Association (GHHA). He served as co-chair of Feb-Fest, an annual handbell festival sponsored by GHHA, during his first term on the GHHA Board of Directors. Bayless is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Texas Conference Choir Clinic. He was Dean of the Choir Clinic during 1987-1988 and 1991-1992, and served as treasurer/registrar until January 2006.

As a handbell conductor he has led local festivals in Ponca City, OK, and Lake Jackson and Austin, TX. He has been a clinician for workshops at the Texas Conference Choir Clinic, during events sponsored by the GHHA and AGEHR Area IX, and in various churches throughout Arkansas, Texas, Illinois and Oklahoma. In the summer of 1999, Dolan was a faculty member for the National Handbell Festival held in Tulsa.

Dolan was musical director and conductor for the Houston Bronze Ensemble, a professional auditioned handbell ensemble, for more than five years, taking this ringing ensemble on their first tour, recording their first compact disc and performing for Pinnacle. Previous to being named as conductor of Houston Bronze Ensemble, Dolan was a ringing member of the ensemble.

In the St. Louis area, Dolan has rung as a substitute with Gateway Ringers (a community ensemble) and guest conducted a concert with them. Currently he is president of the Choristers Guild St. Louis Chapter and serves as the treasurer for the Missouri State AGEHR. In addition to supervising a music ministry staff of six persons, he finds time to teach handbells in the continuing education department of Meramec Community College.

Edward S. Rollins is Associate Pastor of Music and Administration at First Baptist Church of Columbia, MO, where he has served for twenty years. He received a B.S. in church Music from William Jewell College and a Master of Church Music degree from Southern Seminary in Louisville, KY. Ed has served in many capacities for the AGEHR including Missouri State Chair, Area VIII Chair, and member of the National Board of Directors. In addition, he has acted as clinician/coordinator/conductor for handbell events in 20 states. Ed is also co-founder and ringer/conductor of the highly acclaimed Columbia Handbell Ensemble (CHE) which will celebrate its 20th season beginning in the fall of 08. The CHE has been a featured choir for two Area VIII conferences and four national AGEHR conferences/seminars. When not *handbell*ing, Ed acts as Executive Director of the Odyssey Chamber Music Series. In his spare time, he chases his three dogs and one cat, works in the garden and participates in triathlons. He is married to Deborah Carr and is the stepdad to one University of Missouri graduate and another soon-to-be graduate.



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TREASURER

Cheryl Abney is secretary by day and the youth handbell director for King's Way United Methodist Church in her spare time. Cheryl has led several in-house training sessions, and was one of four clinicians at the Young Ringers Festival that was held at Windermere in 2003 and 2005. Cheryl has twenty-three years of handbell experience behind her of which three were spent with a local community bell choir and 16 years as a director. She has served Area VIII as secretary and is currently serving as treasurer.

Kathryn Jaeger from Clinton, IA is the current Iowa Chair and has held this position since 2006 and has been a member of the Iowa Committee since 2003. She has been playing bells for an estimated 18 years and directing for the past 10 years. She has spent a lot of her directing time working with children's chime and handbells choirs. Kathryn is currently the Director of Music at Chancy Lutheran Church in Clinton, IA. Her current challenge is sharing her love of handbells with her 3 children (ages 6, 8 & 9) as they join her bell choir at church. Kathryn has been involved either by attending with youth ringers or helping at the past three Area VIII Youth Handbell Camps. She has a lot of fun bonding with this young group of handbell ringers. When Kathryn is not working as a medical transcriptionist or as the Director of Music at church, she and her family enjoy spending time on sandbars at the Mighty Mississippi.

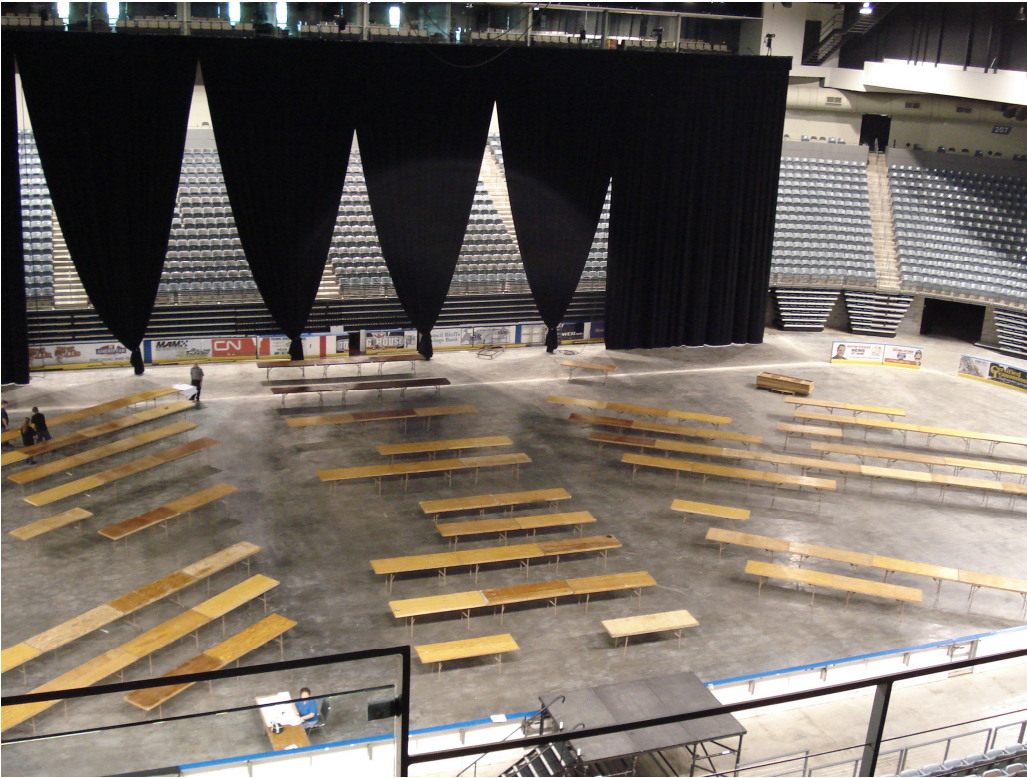
SECRETARY

Ruth McDonnell is the Metro St. Louis Mission Coordinator for the Missouri District of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod and a member of Salem Lutheran Church in Affton, MO. She is a member of the Gateway Ringers as well as Salem's Parish Handbells. Ruth served as Salem's parish deaconess from May of 2005 until April of 2008. Prior to moving to St. Louis in 2003, she served as Director of Music Ministry at Ascension Lutheran Church in Casselberry, FL. In addition to vocal choirs and other instrumental ensembles, she directed a five-octave adult handbell choir and a three-octave children's handbell choir. In 1996 Ruth chaired a committee to organize the Magic of Bronze, a Central Florida community handbell ensemble. She led this group as its music director until March of 2003. Ruth has taught at workshops and conducted massed ringing at festivals. She is an accomplished flutist and solo-ringer. Her educational background includes a master's degree in exegetical theology from Concordia Seminary—St. Louis and a B.M.E. from James Madison University in Harrisonburg, VA. Ruth has served the American Guild of English Handbell Ringers as Area IV secretary and area representative to the National Board. In addition to the AGEHR, Ruth is a member of Sigma Alpha Iota (a women's music fraternity) and the Concordia Deaconess Conference.

Natalie Radcliffe is the current Secretary for Area VIII and past Nebraska State Chair for AGEHR. She has been involved with handbells since 1980, both ringing and directing, and has taught a variety of classes at state and area workshops and conferences. Natalie currently conducts the Chancel Bells of 1st Lutheran Church in Kearney, NE. She has been instrumental in establishing an annual handbell vesper concert at Christmas time involving the Lutheran, Methodist and Presbyterian churches of Kearney.

Natalie is a member of the P.E.O. where she has been Recording Secretary and is currently the Chaplain.

Natalie has a degree in flute performance from the University of Southern California. She taught elementary and K-12 music and now works as a Program Specialist for the Kearney Housing Agency managing low income housing. She is the mother of two grown sons and the grandmother of two "perfect" grandsons.



Before the ringers arrive.

After the ringers arrive.





AGEHR SPONSORED EVENTS

2008	EVENT	CLINICIAN	LOCATION
Jul 12	IA Christmas Reading Session And Round Table Discussion Kathryn Jaeger jkjdjaeger@juno.com 563-242-0416 563-219-1845	IA State Committee Deadline July 5th	1st UMC Cedar Falls, IA
Jul 21 6:45—9:30p	IL Reading Session www.il-agehr.org Kristin Kalitowski	Phil Roberts	Gary UMC 224 N Main St Wheaton, IL
Aug 4-8	International Symposium www.agehr.org/learning/ intlsym.asp	various	Rosen Shingle Creek Resort Orlando, FL
Aug 6-8	Distinctly Teen www.agehr.org/learning/ distinctlyteen.asp	Tim Waugh Jason Wells	Rosen Shingle Creek Resort Orlando, FL
Aug 8-11	National Seminar <i>Ring in Unity</i> www.agehr.org/learning/ seminar.asp	various	Rosen Shingle Creek Resort Orlando, FL
Oct 2-5	Distinctly Bronze www.agehr.org/learning/ dbindex.asp	David Davidson	New Bern, NC
Oct 25 9:00—4:00p	Ringer Workshop www.il-agehr.org Kristin Kalitowski	The Agape Ringers	Prince of Peace Lutheran Schaumburg, IL

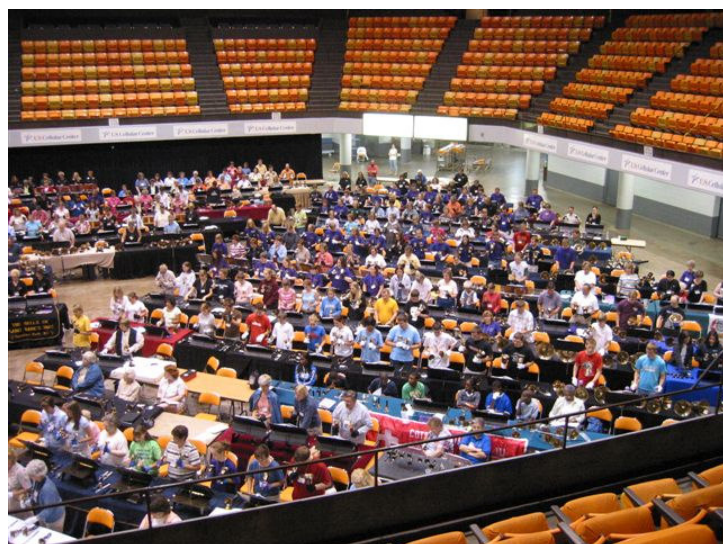


UPCOMING CONCERTS

2008	CONCERT	LOCATION	CONTACT
Sep 14 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	Bethany Lutheran Church 8 S Lincoln St Batavia, IL	Lisa Johnson 630-482-2465
Oct 26 4:00p	The Agape Ringers	Ridge UMC 8607 Columbia Ave Munster, IN	Peggy Schu 219-924-5396



All lined up and ready to go.



Above: Hard at work

Below: On the road again.





By the time this *Quavers* gets to you (via e-mail or snail mail), we will have enjoyed a marvelous festival in Peoria! I can say without reservation that we enjoyed lots of good ringing, and fellowship, we made lots of music, and we learned new techniques. Without fail, we all stuffed our brains with new tunes and brushed up on some golden oldies. Your board spends the majority of its time in planning and executing festivals and ringing events, and Peoria has been in our hearts and minds for the last two or more years! In fact, the contracts were probably "inked" before that even! Our fearless leader, Debbie Llewellyn, and her motley crew, have done it again. Thanks for all the hard work...it surely paid off!

Marilyn Lake—Chair Elect

Music Educator Training Seminar
9/13/08 Q Center, Chicago

This one-day seminar will discuss ways to incorporate bells and chimes into the music classroom at all levels while meeting the national standards. This event is presented by members of AGEHR's Music Educator Advisory Council, a team of experienced music educators who are using these techniques in their classrooms today.

AREA VIII

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NON-PROFIT

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