

Ring Touch!

The
James
River
Ringers

The Newsletter of The James River Ringers, Inc.
Spring 2008 Volume 8, Issue 1

2-3 Octave Festival: Learning, Ringing, Bonding (and eating!)



Guest Clinician Mark Gourley of First Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville, NC provided this year's 2—3 Octave Festival attendees with direction for both the Friday evening workshop and the all-day Saturday event on March 1st.

Fifteen groups from Virginia and North Carolina participated in the festival—held again at Mechanicsville Church of Christ.

The stores were busy selling much-needed - as well as fun - items from handbell vendors.

Following lunch and before the afternoon session began, The James River Ringers performed a program for festival participants.

Over half of the registrants took advantage of our pre-ordered lunch which was available on-site again this year. And ringers were treated to homemade cookies, brownies, and fudge for dessert—all made by JRR members .

The festival was enjoyed by many. The director of one participating group wrote of their experience: "... our handbell choir enjoyed the festival this past weekend. They learned a lot and 'bonded' as a group. Thank you for all the work that the James River Ringers put into organizing and carrying off the event."



ECHOES... echoes...

Recent news told that the United States has now lost over 4,000 soldiers in the Mideast conflict—a sad note to hear.

A monument to hopes for peace—The World Peace Bell—was installed a few years ago in Newport, Kentucky. The bell, conceived of by Cincinnati businessman Wayne Carlisle, was created for the International Day of Peace in 2000 and was first rung at midnight, December 31, 1999.

The World Peace Bell was created by the Verdin Company, and was cast at Paccard's ship propeller foundry in Nantes, France. It is one of more than twenty peace bells in existence around the world.

The bell:

- Peals the A1 note
- Is the world's largest free-swinging bell
- Is 12 feet in diameter and 12 feet high
- Weighs 33 tons
- Hangs from a yoke that weighs 8 tons
- Has a clapper weighing over 3 tons
- Is cast—of course— in copper and tin, and
- Is rung every day at noon.



You can hear the ringing of the bell at <http://www.verdin.com/info/world-peacebell.asp>. Or—you can watch the bell ring on YouTube.com.

Meet our Ringers for 2008!

We welcome new members Cathy Curfman, Jennifer Hanes, and David Jones to JRR.

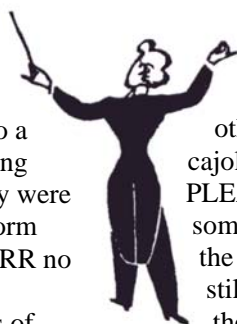
Also new this year is our intern, Diana Stone. Diana plays the same position as one of our seasoned ringers as "on-the-job" training. She hopes the experience will enable her to be a full-time member next year.

Returning to JRR this year are Sue Atkins, Karen Bowles, Carol Burrely, Ann Clarke, Sharon Freuda, Cara Griggs, Juanita Lee, Matt Spangler, and Jo Ann Youhas.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by JRR Director, Dottie Tweedie

Wow - 10 years old! It's hard to believe that over ten years ago a handful of ring-a-holics enjoyed getting together just to play so much that they were willing to make the commitment to form this organization. New members to JRR no longer have to spend long hours of meetings, discussing by-laws, articles of incorporation, IRS non-profit regulations or figuring out where to find equipment (and space) to use. Although none of the "founding" members of JRR have been with the group since our inception, some have returned after taking some time off. I feel a deep gratitude for the early members who were willing and eager to put so much time and energy into making this venture a success and very honored to be their director over the past 10 years.



We've had many ringers come and go over the years. For some, it was their first ringing experience. For others, it was my pleading, cajoling, arm-twisting "please, PLEASE come ring with us, I need some more people!", but for most the underlying reason was, and still is, a passion to ring. This is the only instrument which takes 10-13 people to play 5 octaves, and that alone makes it unique. It's an instrument of immediate gratification – when it rings, it is perfectly pitched, no sour notes, and most of all, the music is a result of the team of ringers working together to produce something which transcends the mere clanging of bells.

See our announcement about our upcoming spring concerts, and come join us as we celebrate JRR's 10 years by performing some of our favorite pieces from years past.

THE JAMES RIVER RINGERS,
INC.

11001 Continental Road
Quinton, VA 23141

www.jamesriverringers.org

For more information:
Call Dottie Tweedie, Director
(804)932-4448

E-mail:
JamesRRingers@juno.com

The **MISSION** of the James River Ringers is to promote the art of handbell ringing and to present quality handbell music through public concerts, workshops and classes that help to both educate and entertain. We also provide opportunities for individual ringers to improve their ringing skills as participating ringers, as well as organize and participate in clinics, festivals and symposia relating to handbell music and performance.

Let's Party!

JRR Alumni to Have a Hand in Birthday Concert!

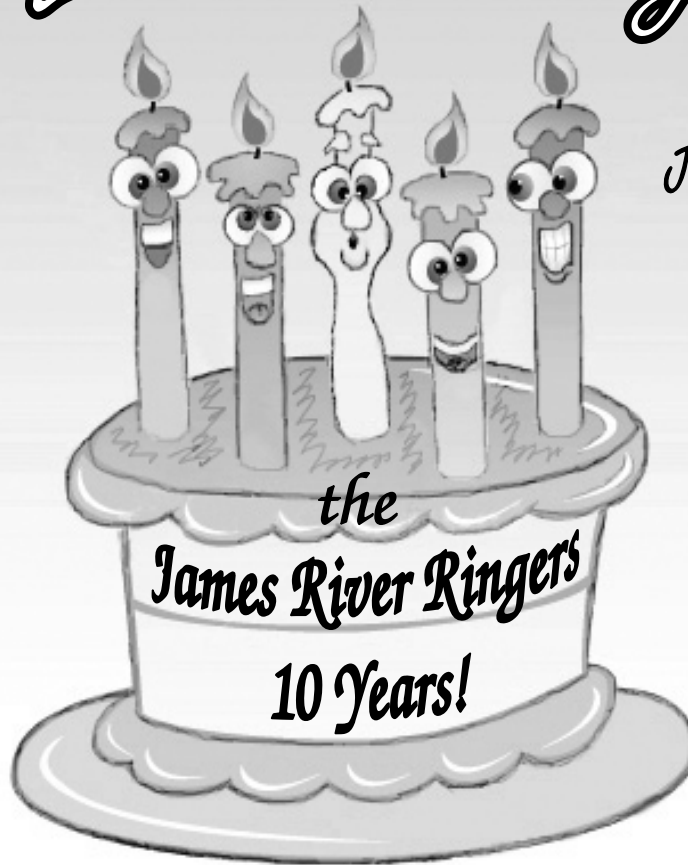
We're pulling out all of the stops in a big finale piece for our 2008 Birthday Celebration Concert.

In order to pull off performing William Griffin's arrangement of Sousa's *Stars and Stripes Forever*, we've invited several of our former JRR members to lend us some extra hands.

Extra bells, extra chimes, extra



ringers—it's going to be great! Plan now to join us for the big party! .



Join us for a Celebration concert

2 Shows!

Saturday, May 17, 2008 - 7:00 PM
Church of the Epiphany Episcopal
8000 Hermitage Road, Richmond, VA

Sunday, May 18, 2008 - 5:00 PM
Westover Hills United Methodist Church
1705 Westover Hills Blvd, Richmond, VA

Tickets: \$8 in advance, \$10 at the door (children 8 & under are free)

Order or purchase tickets on-line at: www.jamesriverringers.org

JRR Birthday Concert –Let's Party Ticket Order Form (children 8 & under are free)

Name: _____

Address: _____ City/St/Zip _____

Daytime phone: _____ e-mail: _____

Saturday, May 17th, 7 PM - Church of the Epiphany Episcopal # Tickets requested _____ X \$8.00 = _____ total encl.

Sunday May 18th, 5 PM - Westover Hills UMC # Tickets requested _____ X \$8.00 _____ total encl.

Please make checks payable to: The James River Ringers, Inc.
11001 Continental Road, Quinton, VA 23141

Tickets are available from any JRR member or by calling (804) 357-9810

THE JAMES RIVER RINGERS, INC.
11001 CONTINENTAL ROAD
QUINTON, VA 23141

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Spring Concert ticket info inside!

Space Wanted

Would you like to host JRR's Annual Fall Ringers Workshop this year?

If your church or organization has a space that can accommodate 40 ringers (that's about [4] 30' rows of tables) for a Saturday in September, please contact Dottie Tweedie at (804) 357-9810.

How to reach us!

on the web:

www.jamesriverringers.org

via e-mail: (new!)

jamesriverringers@yahoo.com

via snail mail:

11001 Continental Road
Quinton, VA 23141

via phone: (804) 357-9810

BraVissimo! ... is coming

*AGEHR's Area III is presenting a new event
in June of this year for performing ensembles*

Community and performing groups...get out your calendars now! Plans are underway for a unique event to help network all styles and sizes of community and performing groups. This event will focus not on performing, but practical and creative solutions and ideas for the challenges unique to performing ensembles.

Classes will be geared toward topics that are relevant to performing groups. There will be classes of interest for both ringers and directors.

The event will be held in Gaithersburg, MD—June 6 & 7, 2008.

Contact Linda Simms at 302-677-0187 or at keys2ring@aol.com to be added to the mailing list for this event. See <http://www.areaiii.org/events/events.php#bravissimo> for all details to date.

Editor's Note: Due to the increasing costs of printing and mailing, this newsletter is being mailed only to churches and organizations. Individuals have been notified via postcard that the newsletter is available on our website, www.jamesriverringers.org. Those wishing to receive printed mailings should contact JRR.