

# Ring Touch!



The Newsletter of The James River Ringers, Inc.  
2009 Volume 10, Issue 1

## 2010 2-3 Octave Festival Announced!



81 participants from 13 churches worked with clinician, Michael Joy during JRR's 2009 2-3 Oct. Festival at Mt. Vernon Baptist Church

JRR is pleased to announce plans for another great 2-3 Octave Festival. The 2010 will be held on March 19-20, 2010. Details and registration forms are on pages 3-6 of this newsletter. They can also be found on our website - [www.jamesriverringers.org](http://www.jamesriverringers.org).

In addition to a day-long of ringing on Saturday, ringers may also take advantage of a special pre-festival workshop on Friday night. During the workshop, guest clinician David VanderMeer will be addressing *Rhythmic Vitality and Accuracy*, focusing on:

- demystifying rhythms and mixed meter (what is the difference between 3/4 and 6/8 when they both have 6 eighth notes in the measure?)
  - the difference between pulse and beat and why it is important
  - techniques to keep rhythms accurate and clean
- You do not need to participate in Saturday's festival to attend the workshop.

We are pleased to be returning to Mechanicsville Church of Christ's Family Life Center facility. It is conveniently located off I-295 with motel accommodations and eateries close by. We hope to see you there! (see insert for registration materials.)

## JRR's *Summer Camp* concert benefits Central VA Food Bank

Although the turnout was modest, JRR's 2009 spring concert, *Summer Camp* was successful in collecting four big baskets of canned goods for the Central Virginia Food Bank.

The "concert" was a musical trip to everybody's favorite summer camp and was accompanied by assorted videos depicting the fun we were having during a variety of activities such as swimming (*Wade in the Water*), horseback riding (*William Tell Overture*), boating (*Abominations on Row, Row, Row Your Boat*), hiking (*A Walk in the Park*), playing baseball (*In the Good 'Ole Summertime*) and lots more!

JRR campers Sharon Freude, Karen Bowles, and Carol Jones "test" the equipment!



Campers Kim Boan, Jo Ann Youhas, Mary Ann Wolfe, and Cathy Curfman demonstrate their advanced ringing skills - camper style!

# ECHOES... echoes...

## The LARGEST BELL in the World

The world's largest bell is the Tsar Bell III (Tsar-Kolokol) in Moscow. It is called the Tsar Kolokol "III" because it was cast three times, and more metal was added each time. The present incarnation was cast in 1733-35 and weighs about 400,000 pounds (180 tons). Tsarina Anna I commissioned the bell in 1734, fulfilling the dream of her grandfather, Tsar Alexei. At 6.14 meters high and 6.6 meters in diameter, it was to be the biggest and clearest sounding bell in the world. The Tsarina decided the bell should be cast in the ground beneath the place where it would be hung. After casting, it was to be dug out and raised in place. During the great fire of 1737, it still lay in its casting pit. Burning timber from the structure above it fell into the pit. Water was poured onto it, the bell cooled too fast, and a chunk weighing 11.5 tons broke off. This chunk alone weighs more than most bells in the world. The bell remained in place in the earth for almost 100 years. In 1836, it was raised and placed on its present granite pedestal. The surface of the bell is finely worked in relief with decorative patterns, embossed pictures, and inscriptions. It is said that when the bell was being cast, Russians threw jewels and plates of gold and silver into the molten metal. Some believe that this bell will be rung on Judgment Day.



Sources: <http://www.russianbells.com/interest/biggest.html>, Wikipedia, and "The Book of Bells" by Satis Coleman, 1938.

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## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by JRR Director, Dottie Tweedie

After taking June and July off, JRR ringers are busy putting together our annual Holiday Concert. This year, as a result of a suggestion during our 2-3 Oct. Festival, we are inviting other choirs to join us and *Share the Joy!* of the holiday season.

There was a comment made to me during one of the breaks at the festival about how much fun it was to have many groups ringing together so much so that they wished it could be done more often than once a year. My first thought was, "Are you nuts?! Do you have any idea how much work goes into organizing and hosting a festival?" My polite response to the comment was, "Hmmm, that might be something worth looking into."

So as I was pulling together ideas for something fresh for our Holiday Concert, I thought that it would be a great idea to invite choirs to come and participate with JRR by having just three massed pieces, then let each individual choir perform a piece of their choosing since most are working on something for the Advent/ Christmas season anyway.



So I issue the invitation to you to come and join JRR in sharing the joy of handbell music with the community on Saturday, December 5, 2009 at 7PM. We've selected three massed pieces: *Jesus, Jesus, Rest Your Head* - arr. Moglebust, Level 1 (from JRR's 2009 Festival repertoire); *Repeat the Sounding Joy* - Eithun, Level 2 (from AGO's 2008 Festival); and *Now the Green Blade Riseth* - McChesney, Level 3 (an oldie, but goodie!). We will have about one hour of rehearsal prior to the concert. More details are available from our website.

For our listeners, in addition to hearing several other groups perform, JRR has planned a dynamite program with a jazzy arrangement of *Rise Up Shepherds*, an arrangement of Trans-Siberian Orchestra's *Wizards in Winter* complete with electric guitar, our own arrangement of Three Dog Night's *Joy to the World*, and much more! We hope you will join us at St. Mark's UMC on Dec. 5th and *Share the Joy* of the season!

THE JAMES RIVER RINGERS,  
INC.

11001 Continental Road  
Quinton, VA 23141

[www.jamesriverringers.org](http://www.jamesriverringers.org)

For more information:  
Call Dottie Tweedie, Director  
(804) 357-9810

E-mail:  
[JamesRiverRingers@yahoo.com](mailto:JamesRiverRingers@yahoo.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.

★ ★ Come join  
★ *The James River Ringers*  
★ in concert as we

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
*Share the*



★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
*of the holiday season*



★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
**Saturday, December 5th, 2009**

**7:00 PM**

**St. Mark's United Methodist Church**

11551 Lucks Lane

Midlothian, VA 23114

★ ★ ★ ★ ★  
Several area church handbell choirs will also share their gift of music and join The James River Ringers in three massed ringing selections. A real treat for the whole family!

★ Call (804) 357-9810 for more info. or visit us on the web at:

www.jamesriverringers.org

★ ★ ★ Admission is free - however, donations will be requested at the door. ★ ★ ★

### ***JRR's Upcoming Appearances and Events***

- ★ "Jingle on the James" - Saturday & Sunday, Dec. 12 & 13. JRR plays several sets for a weekend of art, fine crafts, and holiday festivity at Rockett's Landing on the James River. For details, see <http://www.onesmartgallery.net/>.
- ★ "discoverRing" (Area III Youth Festival) —Friday & Saturday, Nov. 13 & 14. Richmond. JRR is the local liason.
- ★ Auditions for 2010 year—Saturday, Jan. 16, 9:30—11:30 a.m. Church of the Epiphany Episcopal, 8000 Hermitage Road, Richmond.
- ★ Attendance at Bravissimo! Adult Festival—Friday, March 12, 2010. Ocean City, MD.
- ★ 2010 2—3 Octave Festival— Friday & Saturday, March 19 & 20, 2010, Mechanicsville, VA.
- ★ Grace and Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Richmond—Sunday, April 11, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
- ★ St. Mathias Episcopal Church, Richmond—Sunday, April 18, 2010. Time to be determined.

THE JAMES RIVER RINGERS, INC.  
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*Holiday Concert and 2010 2-3 Oct. Festival  
information inside!*



## **discoverRING Youth are Coming!** **Need Bells ! Need Truck!**

Once again, JRR will serve as the local liaison for **discoverRING** (the new name for the Area III Youth Festival). It will be held in the Greater Richmond Convention Center in downtown Richmond Friday and Saturday, November 13 & 14. 500 youth from three states will converge for this fun annual event. JRR is responsible for contacting loaners, setting up and packing up the 20 sets of bells to be used for the classes. If you can loan your set of bells and pads for the event, please contact Dottie Tweedie at 357-9810. Also, our trusty van driver is unavailable to transport bells this year. So—if you have a truck or van and can help with pick up and/or delivery of bells to the convention center, **we sure could use your help**. Many thanks!

## Speaking of BIG Bells ! ...

**JRR has received the B2 bell we have long-wanted and finally saved up enough to purchase! This bell is made of aluminum and cost almost \$1,500.00. Listen for its beautiful notes during our upcoming concerts. (Now just 5 more big bells to go...!)**

