

The American Center of CHURCH MUSIC

Volume 3, Number 1

July 1991

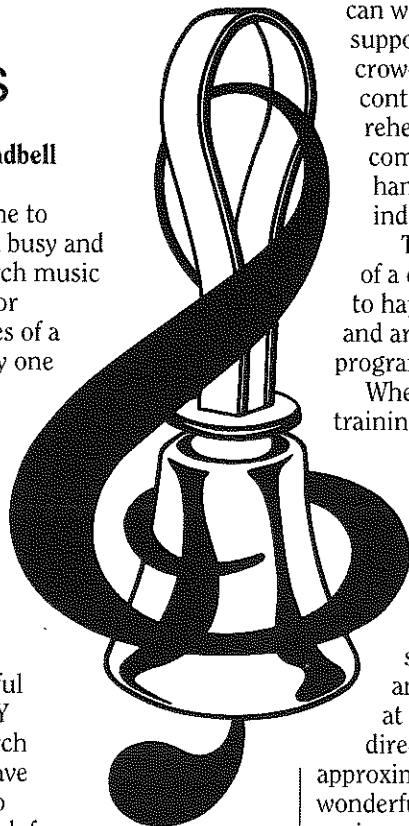
Handbell Happenings

by Susan M. Berry, Handbell Services, Inc.

Summer should be a time to recover and regroup after a busy and active season within a church music program. Whether a director oversees the music activities of a large church or directs only one choir, it is important that time be taken to evaluate the previous year's program and to set new goals necessary for a successful startup in the fall. A new handbell program could well be among these planning activities.

Handbells add a wonderful dimension to the life of ANY congregation—talk to church musicians who presently have active handbell programs to discover this for yourself. Ask for their success stories—about individual adult ringers, about bonding within the groups, or perhaps about the child discovering self-worth with handbell choir involvement. With the right leadership, handbells will improve an existing youth program, increase membership within a music department, and add texture and meaning to any worship service.

Parents, Ministers, and music directors are always looking for ways to actively involve youth and to keep them participating in the life of the church throughout the adolescent years. Handbells can be the great motivator and solid attendance booster within any music program. Youth will participate in a handbell program because: 1) it is a physical activity that's "sportlike" in nature; 2) it is an activity that will give an individual instant recognition from parents and members within a congregation; 3) handbells can be learned quickly, without the years of training necessary to master "traditional" instruments; 4) kids with various levels of music abilities



can work together and share individual talents and support one another; 5) no one gets lost in the crowd—no two ringing positions are alike, and contributions from all are essential for successful rehearsals and performances; 6) the time commitment is not overwhelming, since handbells are normally not practiced individually at home.

The handbells, though, must be in the hands of a capable and trained leader for this outcome to happen—a person who can plan, coordinate, and arrange handbells properly for youth programs.

Where does a new director get this all-important training?

Handbell Services—a consulting company—supports handbell/handchime directors with direct hands-on experiences.

Various workshops will be organized and offered throughout the upcoming year.

On Friday and Saturday, September 6 and 7, *Handbell Services* is sponsoring a sequential training workshop for potential and new handbell directors. This will happen at the Lake Huron United Methodist Camp, directly on the shores of Lake Huron, approximately 12 miles north of Port Huron. This wonderful setting—away from an everyday environment—allows effective learning of the "basics" of ringing and the skills of teaching to others. This weekend seminar will allow participants the time to meet other musicians in problem solving sessions, will enable directors to return to the opposite side of the table and ring, and will offer a lot of *practical* information about creating, organizing, and starting a handbell program.

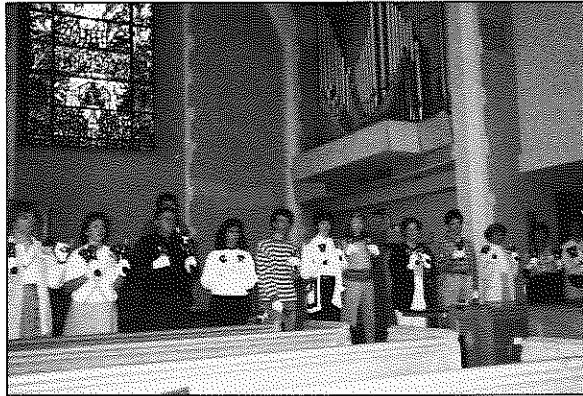
For further information, please write to Handbell Services, Inc., Attn: Susan Berry, 15105 Piedmont, Detroit, MI 48223.

Susan M. Berry is a well-known handbell clinician and conductor from Detroit, Michigan, who has directed many handbell seminars throughout the nation, and is an author/music arranger who is especially known for excellent guidance in organizing beginning handbell programs. Susan is on the music staff at Metropolitan United Methodist Church in Detroit, and is the director of the Detroit Handbell Ensemble. She is also the sales representative/consultant for Malmark, Inc. in most of Michigan and owner of *Handbell Services, Inc.*

ACCM Satellite?

Where? At the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven, Michigan! The ACCM has had the privilege of promoting church music skills at this church on two recent occasions. In addition, Marilyn Mason and Michele Johns presented the complete Sonatas for Two Organs by Antonio Soler, using the ACCM-owned portatif organ as well as the church's organ. The church was not only hospitable but much more. There is a story to tell here. This 1200-member congregation is one of the larger ones on the Western Michigan lakefront. The physical plant is spacious enough to allow room for rehearsals, music offices, special musical productions, and (of course) the warm hospitality generated in the eating area! The church officers care enough about a strong music ministry to provide adequate funding and publicity for its programs.

So, what's the story? The story is of the three musicians who drive this program! Kay Wells is at the helm as the Director of Music.



**Recent
"Bells in
Worship"
workshop
conducted at
First
Presbyterian
Church by
Michele
Johns and
Susan Berry**

She is also on the music faculty of the Muskegon Community College. Joanne Jansen is the organist and is also an accomplished and published composer of organ, handbell, and choral music. Ellen Cutting, Youth Choir Director, is also a music instructor at Muskegon High School. Together these musicians operate a multi-choir program of voice choirs, handbell choirs, and concerts of extended musical works. They successfully straddle the weekly ministry of music to the congregation and the community outreach of sacred concerts. In recent years, this ministry has produced works such as Mendelssohn's *Elijah*, Rutter's *Requiem*, several Bach cantatas,

and youth musicals such as the original version of *Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

The care and feeding of volunteers! The volunteer ministry of nearly 100 parishioners is the result of the intense spirit and caring of these three directors. They operate on the premise that a church's music ministry is an important stabilizing influence in a congregation. Through the music ministry's leadership, the people receive consistent and inspiring support in their faith journey.

The American Center of Church Music salutes the First Presbyterian Church of Grand Haven and looks forward to future collaborations.

Marilyn Mason Master Class

MONDAYS, SEPTEMBER 16, 23, AND 30, AT 7:30 P.M.

Many of you started in on the Neumeister Chorales of J.S. Bach, masterfully coached by Marilyn Mason. Aren't they delightful little pieces? And hardly any pedal parts! These chorales were so enjoyable that we will continue to teach them on the Mondays of September 16, 23, and 30, at 7:30 p.m. in the first Congregational Church. If you need to purchase the volume, the edition is Bärenreiter #5181. We will also continue the study of the Magnificat settings of Jean-François Dandrieu. The volume is entitled, "First Organ Book" (Kalmus edition #4151). And GOOD NEWS! If you arrive a little late to our classes we now have a "door person" to let you in! Please let us know through the registration form that you plan to attend.

REGISTRATION FORM MASON MASTERCLASS

Please enclose a check for \$20 (payable to ACCM) as a non-refundable application fee which will be credited toward the Class.

RETURN TO:

The American Center of Church Music
3339 Burbank Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

(313) 662-8612

I plan to attend the Mason Master Classes:

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State/ZIP: _____

Phone: (____) _____

Coming Events

SUNDAY AFTERNOON, OCTOBER 13,
AT 4:00 P.M.

■ Feature Event in October

Celebrate the Third anniversary of The American Center of Church Music at Hill auditorium on the central campus of the University of Michigan.

This "**Autumn Festival of Choirs**" will be presented in collaboration with the U-M Organ Department and the Thirty-First Annual Conference on Organ Music. The

conference will feature three days of lectures and concerts by William Albright, Colin Andrews, Janette Fishell, Michel Pinte, Carole Terry, Rudolf Innig, and many more. In addition, the first annual meeting of the newly-formed "Alain Association in America" will be held.

Now, back to the "**Autumn Festival of Choirs.**" Several church choirs from the Ann Arbor area have been invited to present a short hour of varied anthem repertoire en masse. Come and sing some favorite hymns and thrill to the sound of a massed choir singing "How

Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" by Brahms plus many of your other favorites. Admission is free.

WEDNESDAYS DECEMBER 4, 11,
AND 18 AT 12:15 P.M.

■ Advent Music Series

These half-hour gems will take place on the Karl Wilhelm organ of the First Congregational Church at State and William Streets in Ann Arbor, followed by a light lunch in the Mayflower Room. HINT: You can park downtown without frustration if you go in the morning and do your Christmas shopping first!

Polishing Your Bell Program... A Handbell Workshop for Directors

sponsored by *The American Center of Church Music and the First United Methodist Church of Howell;*
conducted by *Susan Berry and Michele Johns*

The Workshop

Want to give your bell program a shot in the arm? This workshop is for you! Topics will include director preparation, score marking, uniform ringing, bell assignments, selection of repertoire, plus examples of worship music to add color to parts of worship such as organ preludes, psalm-singing, hymns, anthems, and more!

Saturday, October 12, 1991, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Fee: \$20. Includes instruction packet of music, workshop materials, beverages and dessert. Bring a sack lunch for the midday break.

Schedule for the day:

- 8:30 Registration and coffee
- 9:00 Review of the basics—fine-tuning your program
- 10:30 Break
- 10:45 Ringing the repertoire/Bell musicianship
- 12:00 Lunch
- 1:00 Bells in Liturgy/Worship

The Location

First United Methodist Church of Howell, Michigan
1230 Bower Street
Howell, Michigan
Phone: 517-546-2730

A confirmation will be mailed to all registrants giving directions to the church.

Registration Deadline: October 1, 1991

Special Event for the Evening!

A 7:00 p.m. concert at the church by the *Detroit Handbell Ensemble*, a professional bell choir directed by Susan Berry.

Handbell Workshop Registration

Registration deadline: October 1, 1991

Fee: \$20 – Includes instruction packet of music and workshop materials

Name: _____

Home Address: _____

City: _____

State/Zip: _____

Home Phone (____) _____

I have had _____ years of handbell experience.

I am willing to bring equipment: (will be contacted if needed)

Bells Foam Covers

Please make check payable to:
ACCM
3339 Burbank Drive
Ann Arbor, MI 48105
Questions?
(313) 662-8612



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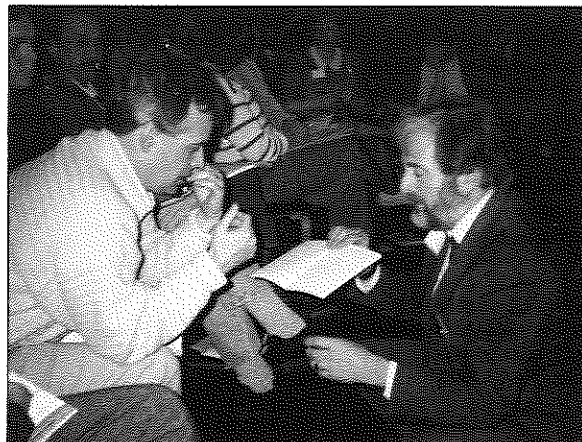
An Ann Arbor, Michigan
based non-profit organization
for the promotion of church
music and the enrichment
of church musicians

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**The Words We Sing—What
Do They Say?**



Brian Wren confers with composer Bill Rowan during the workshop

The ACCM's February workshop featured a day with Dr. Brian Wren, presented in collaboration with the Ann Arbor Chapter of the American Guild of Organists, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Lansing, and the Hymn Society in the United States and Canada. The day was hosted by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints in Ann Arbor. Participants included members of the various sponsoring groups some of whom came

from as far away as Ohio and Illinois.

The major issues covered in the workshop fell into two main categories: 1) hymns in congregational life—ways of using learning, and learning from hymns, how hymn poems get written, and hymns as sung theology; and 2) language—more than words—the challenge of moving toward inclusive language and how its effect on the worshipper. The day began with a worship service led by the Rev. Marjorie Menault of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church of Ann Arbor and continued with lectures, hymn-singing, small group discussions and was marked by a spirit of plain, old-fashioned fellowship as the 75-plus participants explored these timely topics. A special highlight of the day was the presence of composer Bill Rowan from the Diocese of Lansing who shared how these concerns impact the writing of his music. This was a truly inspiring day and participants went back to their various positions on a cloud of inspiration that, we hope, continues to enhance their daily work.