Meet Accelerando

Wendy Baldwin

Wendy, member of Accelerando, began ringing with St. Paul’s UCC twelve years ago and has rung with Belle Grove Legato and Rainbow Ringers. Wendy considers ringing handbells a family experience. She rang with three of her children, Karleigh, Brady and Riece, her sister Tessa Starr, and three nephews and her neice. Her daughter, Karleigh, rings with her in Accelerando. When she’s not playing music, she teaches kindergarten at Piney Ridge Elementary School in Carroll County.

Debbie Campbell

Debbie, member of Accelerando & 4-tissimo, has been ringing handbells for over 20 years. She has rung in several church choirs prior to a community choir. Debbie enjoys bowling, reading, and traveling. Since her retirement, she has lots of time to spend with her four grandchildren.

Karleigh Conaway

Karleigh Conaway, member of Accelerando, has been playing handbells for 9 years. She recently returned from an 18 month mission with her church where she loved serving the people, but man did she miss ringing! Now that she’s back, she is excited to be ringing with her mom, Wendy, in Accelerando again. Karleigh got her biology degree from Stevenson University in 2019, and now works as a lab technician at the University of Maryland’s School of Medicine. In her free time she enjoys doing outdoor activities and spending time with family and with her new husband!

Michelle Dohm

Michelle, a member of Accelerando, began ringing with the Frederick Presbyterian Church Bell Choir in 2012. When she is not attending one of her son's musical theater performances, Michelle can often be found camping or watching sports with her husband. She loves to read and work out - especially in the nearby mountains and national parks.

Debbie Henning

Debbie, Music Director of Accelerando and member of Westminster Ringers, has been involved with handbells for over 50 years as both a ringer and a director. Besides ringing & directing with Westminster Ringer, Inc., she is the Director of Music at Grace UMC in Gaithersburg, MD and co-Handbell Director at the Westminster Church of the Brethren in Westminster, MD. In addition to her musical activities, Debbie loves to quilt, sew and cross stitch. Debbie serves as Managing Director and Treasurer for the Westminster Ringers, Inc. Debbie and her husband Larry are the founding members of the Westminster Ringers, Inc. and have three grown children & three grandchildren.

Sarah Hurd

Sarah, a member of Accelerando, began ringing handbells at St. Andrew by the Bay as a teenager. Today, she directs the handbell choir at that church as well as playing in the handbell choir at St. John the Evangelist and directing the handbell quartet there. Sarah works in the Baltimore region renovating and staging houses for sale. Whenever she can find a spare moment, she enjoys roller skating and roller coasters.

Pam Leader

Pam, member of Accelerando and Westminster Ringers, began ringing with her church choir in 2003. She is an engineer and works for the federal government. Pam is the Bookkeeper with Westminster Ringers, Inc. She loves to spend time with her family (especially her two grandchildren) and travel in her spare time.

Louisa Rettew

Louisa Rettew first played handbells for one year at Cockeysville Junior High School. She didn’t see them again until St. John’s Lutheran Church, Sweet Air, purchased a set in 1996, and she’s been playing ever since. In 2002, she began solo ringing and also became RingLeader for the Handbell Choir at St. John’s. She plays the piano - BADLY - and is learning how to play the lever harp. Bells are in her blood, as her great- and great-great-grandfathers were both bellmakers in Baltimore, working for the Henry McShane Bell Foundry. In her “real” life, she is a mechanical engineer working for Baltimore County, a licensed Professional Engineer, and a “green” building design and construction Accredited Professional under LEED® (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design).

Barb Roeper

Barb, member of Accelerando, enjoys making music by playing instruments and singing. She has been part of the music ministry at her church for many years, and she has been ringing handbells with Accelerando since 2012. She works full-time as an environmental engineer. When not working or making music, Barb enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her husband and three active college-age children.

Ashley Simms

Ashley, a member of Accelerando, has been ringing handbells with church choirs since the fifth grade and currently enjoys playing with the Frederick Presbyterian Church Bell Choir. Ashley is the Director of Youth Ministries at Frederick Presbyterian Church and also a trombone player, who performs often at church and in local pit orchestras. Ashley loves crochet, bike riding, wine tasting, and fantasy football.

Bev Spicknall

Bev, a member of Accelerando, has enjoyed music since early childhood. As a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Taneytown, MD, she is involved with their vocal choir and joined their bell choir when the church started a bell program a few years ago. Bev loves this method of sharing music with others.

Amy Varner

Amy, member of Accelerando, began ringing in church bell choirs when she was in third grade. She currently rings at Frederick Presbyterian Church. Amy has a K-12 Music Education degree with a vocal concentration and collegiate experiences with bassoon and piccolo. She currently teaches elementary general music at Spring Ridge Elementary School and Sabillasville Environmental School in Frederick county. Outside of music Amy enjoys reading, baking, and spending time with family and friends.

Nancy Wortman

Nancy, member of Westminster Ringers, began ringing in 2001 with the Bell's Bells Handbell Choir of Timonium United Methodist Church. She works in the front office of Cockeysville Middle School. When not playing handbells, she enjoys learning to knit and spending time with her family in Maryland and Minnesota.