

Meet Accelerando

Wendy Baldwin

Wendy, member of Accelerando, began ringing with St. Paul's UCC thirteen 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 niece. 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.

Teri Burtis

Teri, a member of Accelerando, began ringing with her local handbell choir (formally Bells at the Run, currently Bells by the Bay) in 2012. After attending several performances by Accelerando and Westminster Ringers, she joined Accelerando in 2014. When not practicing, she enjoys reading junior fiction, looking through travel brochures (in hopes of traveling someday), and doing crafty projects.

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 over 10 years. She loves getting to play with her mom, Wendy, in Accelerando. 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 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.

Jan Eisenbarth

Jan, member of Accelerando, was introduced to handbells in college, and has been ringing regularly since 2000. She rang with the Sine Nomine ringers at Grace Episcopal and the Reformation Ringers at St. Luke Lutheran, both in Silver Spring. She is a retired music teacher (Fairfax and Montgomery Counties) and has also served as interim choir director at a couple of churches in the DMV. She and her husband, Ron, live in Westminster, and have two young grandsons in Columbia, MD. She enjoys doing needlework, especially crochet, and Sudoku puzzles.

Ron Eisenbarth

Ron, member of Accelerando, is a retired television news cameraman who recently moved to the Westminster area along with his wife, Janet. He's been ringing for over 20 years starting with the Sine Nomine ringers at Grace Episcopal Church and the Reformation Ringers of St. Luke Lutheran Church, Silver Spring, MD. He enjoys model railroading, pin collecting, photography and occasionally plays the trumpet.

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 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/Treasurer for the Westminster Ringers, Inc. and has served Handbell Musicians of America Area 3 in many capacities –

currently as the Chair-Elect. 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.

Diane Rehling

Diane, a member of Accelerando, first began ringing handbells at Fallston United Methodist Church where she played for 13 years. She's a member of the bell choir at Hiss United Methodist Church. Diane works in the Student Counseling Center at Goucher College. When she finds time to cross stitch, there's an unfinished piece always waiting!

Barb Roeper

Barb, member of Accelerando since 2012, is a lifelong music lover, including playing instruments and singing. She has been part of the music ministry at her church for many years. She works full-time as an environmental engineer. When not working or making music, Barb enjoys reading, traveling, and spending time with her family and friends.

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 Middletown Elementary 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.