

Please Come join us!

The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir Program provides most of its own financial support outside of the church budget, primarily from two citrus fruit sales each year. Other fundraising activities include nights-out at local restaurants and bake sales.



If you haven't ordered fruit from us before, you don't know what you're missing!

The fruit is fresh, delicious, and delivered right to your door by members of our bell choirs. We take orders each year for December and March delivery. Send us an email and we'll contact you during our next sale: ringduets@optonline.net

The bell choir program extends its great appreciation to the congregation and community for the continued support of their fundraisers. This financial support is used to maintain and upgrade the bells and equipment, provide new music, and enable the bell choirs to attend local and national handbell festivals. It also makes it possible for the Walsh Memorial Bell Choir to extend their musical mission through concert tours to other parts of the country and overseas.



The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir Program is a great way to introduce your child to music and to church.

For more than forty years, we have shared God's gift of music with hundreds of people of all ages, and they have shared their talents and lives with us.

We would love to welcome you into this wonderful program.

Our choirs begin in September, and take a break during the summer months. Contact one of our program leaders to sign up:

Kathy Opsasnick: ringduets@optonline.net
Carl Loutzenheiser: carl.bells@mppresby.org

Or contact the church office to learn more about this and other music opportunities:
(973) 539-3481

Our Mission: To be whole and fully alive in Christ, we are committed to re-creation by growth in Christian Faith, through joyful adoration, intergenerational education, and local and global mission.



**The Presbyterian Church
of Morris Plains**

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973.539.3481 www.mppresby.org
office@mppresby.org



**The Presbyterian Church
of Morris Plains**

**We're looking
for Handbell
Ringers ...**

Come give it a try!



We have a bell just waiting for you.

June 2010

Our history



The Walsh Memorial Bell Choir Program was established in 1968 as a memorial to the Rev. Joseph E. Walsh, Pastor of our church for more than thirty years.

As they have for more than forty years, the bell choirs today bring the message of Christian love to others through ringing praise with joy.

Our Bell Choir Program is a wonderful way to introduce music to children as early as third grade. Ringers of all ages and backgrounds are welcome. It is not necessary to be a church member, or to have previous handbell or music experience.

We invite and encourage anyone and everyone in the community to join us and give handbells a try. It's fun, rewarding, and contagious – just ask the hundreds of people who have rung with us over the last four decades!

Our instruments include

- ♪ a six-octave set (73 bells) and a five-octave set (61 bells) of Schulmerich handbells
- ♪ two sets (a four-octave set and a three-octave set) of Malmark Choirchimes
- ♪ in the seventh octave, an aluminum F2 bell and C2, D2 and E^b2 Choirchimes.

Our choirs



We have graded handbell choirs, with ringers generally grouped by age and experience. Most choirs rehearse one evening a week and take part regularly in worship services. They also extend their musical mission to the local community, particularly during the Christmas season.

Beginners – whether or not you already know how to read music or “keep time,” our beginner bell choir is a welcoming place to start. You will learn the basics, and be ringing by the end of your first practice. People of all ages start here, and develop the skills and confidence to “graduate” to other choirs.

Teens – young ringers look forward to moving up to the Walsh Memorial Bell Choir, comprised of Junior High and High School students. This concert touring choir is renowned for its excellence. Through the years, they have participated in many American Guild of English Handbell Ringers (AGEHR) Area and National Handbell Festivals and have made numerous mission concert tours throughout the United States and in Canada, England, Scotland, Mexico, France and Germany.

Adults – with knowledge of the basics, anyone beyond high school age can join the Walsh Grazio Bell Choir. The men and women in this group play a wide range of music that gives novice *and* experienced ringers the chance to participate and develop their skills.

A special Appreciation Concert is held each Spring, bringing all the bell choirs together for a magnificent performance.

