

The DISCIPLE

Mid-October 2021





Some of you know that I serve as a faculty member for the CREDO program, which is run by the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and offers clergy an opportunity to focus on the many aspects of their health and wellbeing in the midst of the challenges of ministry. At the end of a CREDO conference, the faculty members conclude by inviting people to think about how they will re-enter their lives after a week away to care for themselves. We encourage the participants, before sharing what happened to them at CREDO, to first ask those at home, "What has happened while I was away?" It's a way to let those who have "held down the fort" have a chance to share their experiences and hear that you value what they did to allow you time away. CREDO wants ministers to re-enter life and ministry well, a practice I've been using in my own re-entry process with my life and our ministry.

What has happened while I was away? The short answer is, "A lot!" The longer answer is more complex. First and foremost, I've learned that our staff has led our church through the summer. They have picked up a variety of tasks in the office while Tami and I were away. They have made it possible for us to have in-person Sunday school. They have invited you all to sing. They have prepared for worship. They have worked on the building. And, they have fielded a variety of issues with grace and patience. I cannot say often enough how grateful I am to Lisa, Stephanie, Garrett, Jim, and John for their work and leadership to continue our ministry and projects. I hope you will take a moment to thank them before you ask them for any further help or support.

I have also learned that many of you have carried this ministry as well. Weekly worship services continued online thanks to the efforts of a team of people committed to preaching, being liturgists, running the livestream, running the camera, and singing. Our commitment to Food Justice continued because people believe we are called to feed the hungry through our pantry distribution, Noontime meal, JanPeek, Garden of Hope. Our commitment to developing a Mental Health Ministry has grown

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because a group of people planned and implemented a training to make us more aware of the mental health we all need. Our commitment to the faith formation of all ages made a way for people to stay connected in intentional fellowship and study over the summer and prepare us for Sunday School and Faith4Life groups this fall. These are just some of the ways that you did ministry this summer and set us up as well as possible in the midst of a pandemic to make an impact in people's lives.

I also learned what's happened in many of your lives while I was gone. Joys and concerns abound in your lives. Delayed grief finding expression. Reunions with family after two years apart. Adults and youth are getting vaccinated and receiving booster shots to help them feel safer. Anxiety and frustration are still high for many. Connections to nature have become life-giving in new ways. I've appreciated phone calls, emails, and texts with people to catch up and share our lives with one another and offer support.

Finally, I have learned that our fall focus on the three goals – remember, reconnect, and recommit – and our six ministry priorities (RADICAL HOSPITALITY, COMPELLING WORSHIP, LIFELONG FAITH FORMATION, INTENTIONAL FELLOWSHIP, INSPIRATIONAL STEWARDSHIP, and TRANSFORMATIONAL MISSION) are exactly where we need to be focusing right now. We are having to learn again how to be a community. We are having to learn how to be guided by our faith rather than the catastrophic thinking and anxiety that has shaped our perspectives over the last 18 months. We are having to learn what it means to be formed by shared priorities of ministry rather than personal preferences or agendas. It's no surprise that we would need to remember, reconnect, and recommit to a life together.

Even in the midst of the challenges and what we must learn anew, however you have been faithful – faithful in your service and support, your generous giving, committed ministry, and the sharing of God's good news in our lives and through us to many more. We can look back like Moses did with the Israelites and see that through the ups and downs, God has provided, God has taught us along the way, and God has brought us to this present moment to continue to be the body of Christ. We are still here, and we are learning how to be the community of people who love God, love our neighbors, and love creation the way God intends. I'm grateful for all that has happened while I was away and for the church we are becoming as we remember, reconnect, and recommit to God's purposes for our life and ministry together.





Staying Connected

⇒ **ONLINE WORSHIP** — For those not yet ready to join us in-person, we will continue our online worship service, but at 10:30am. Find the livestream (and services you missed) on our Facebook page:

https://www.facebook.com/fpcyorktown/live_videos/.

- ⇒ **VIRTUAL COFFEE HOUR** we will continue to offer an opportunity of online fellowship for our members viewing from home. Look for an email on Sunday morning with log-in information.
- ⇒ **EMAIL** Make sure you're getting our weekly emails. Sign-up if you're not on the list: http://tinyurl.com/FPCYemail
- ⇒ **CONTINUE YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT** During these trying times filled with so much uncertainty, FPCY has taken creative measures to stay connected and care for its congregants, friends, and neighbors. It is through our collective generosity that we can sustain and further the work of Christ in our community and beyond. The chart on the next page shows 4 methods of giving to make it convenient for you to participate in this important part of worship. If you need any technology assistance, please contact Chip, Tami or Lisa.

FPCY Covid Protocols

After much prayerful consideration and evaluation of where we are in our community with regards to the constantly evolving COVID-19 situation, the Session decided that we would continue with our plans to open our church to in-person Worship and Faith Formation classes in September. Over these last 18 months, we have learned that being flexible and ready to shift with little notice to adhere to the many protocol changes will be key as your health, both physical and spiritual, is our utmost concern. The pandemic is not over and likely won't be for some time, but we will continue to trust the advice of our scientists and doctors and to make common sense decisions to offer in-person, hybrid and remote opportunities for spiritual growth as we are able. Below are our current Covid protocols with the caveat that they may need to change. We thank you for the many ways you have stayed connected with your FPCY family in this most challenging season. We look forward to seeing you in-person as soon as you are comfortable

- 1) Prescreening—Please DO NOT come to the church if:
 - you have been in close contact with someone confirmed or suspected of having Covid-19.
 - you have any of the following symptoms: cold or cough, fever, sore throat, nausea or diarrhea, tiredness, difficulty breathing, etc.

 Please join us via livestream or hybrid options until it is safe to return.
- 2) Mask Policy—Until further notice, masks are required for everyone over age 2 inside the building at all times regardless of vaccination status. Masks should cover both your nose and mouth. While we hope all attendees are vaccinated, some of our youngest members are not yet eligible, and we want to provide as safe an environment as possible for all folks in our faith family.
- 3) Worship
 - Everyone must sign in with name and contact information upon entering the Sanctuary.
 - Masks must be worn during worship services.
 - The balcony will be available for unvaccinated members & visitors.
- 4) Choir and Music Policies—Musicians will practice the same mask and social distancing practices as the congregation.
- 5) Faith Formation Classes
 - Masks are required at all in-person faith formation activities.
 - Children (4th grade & younger) will meet outside under the tent as weather permits.
 - Hybrid options will be available for indoor classes/groups.
 - For all activities involving children and youth, we will follow NYS Department of Education guidelines.

4 Ways to Give To IN-PERSON QR CODE MAIL TEXT ONLINE via the send checks to: text set-up one time or recurring gifts offering plate MYFPCY visit: www.tinyurl.com/FPCYgive on Sundays, **FPCY** to 73256, or drop it in or scan the QR code 2880 Crompond Rd followed by the locked Yorktown Heights NY, mailbox near your gift or set it up through your online banking 10589 amount the office entrance

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Operations & Campaign Project Management Team (CPMT)

Since the beginning of January, the Operations Commission has been busy helping to implement various projects as set forth by the CPMT. **Volunteers Needed:** We would to take this opportunity to welcome all who might be interested to consider joining the Operations Commission. No special talents are required, just a keen interest in maintaining the integrity and beauty of our structures and premises. We normally meet on the third Tuesday of every month at 7:30 PM with a few exceptions (July, August and this month). We hope to see you at our next meeting, October 26th.

Our latest & pending projects:

- New Tech table for the various equipment necessary to provide a compelling worship experience, in-person or streaming.
- Reworking the closet/coatroom to create storage space for the nursery & worship
- Continue working towards kitchen renovation

As ever, we are so grateful for the support of the congregation and the faithful fulfillment of pledges, to enable us to do this work. If you haven't yet made a commitment, please prayerfully consider participating in this campaign for the present (and future) of our Ministries of Faith. Pledges can be made via myFPCY.org. If you have made a pledge, but haven't yet made a gift, or if you wish to make a one-time gift, you can do so at your convenience here: http://tinyurl.com/FPCYCapital









The Great Musical Migration

Whether you've studied music at the collegiate level or have taken lessons with someone who did (yes, even me) you've likely been exposed to the principles of a Western Music Education. You might have heard a Western Education be referred to as a "Classical Education", "European Education", or as a "Colonial Education" and before I go any further, I'd like to say I'm grateful for my education. I'm privileged to have received the instruction from leading pedagogues in the nation and have formed meaningful relationships with these people, with myself, and with others through the medium of music. Colonial education works, but we must relearn and reset our parameters of the classist society that music exists in.

We are very good at teaching and learning a new skill to honor ourselves: There is an end goal with results for all to see. It is the result of performance-based teaching and assessment. We must practice the piece a school tells us to practice for our application to be considered and we must hand in the assignment to keep our A in the class so we can receive an invitation to join a society that looks good on our college application of choice so we can do what we want to do. This rat race of climbing the performance tower leaves unanswered questions, disconnect from artistry, and hands us a shiny, metaphorical key to keep the gate closed from the inside. After all, we've gone through the certifications, why shouldn't we act with authority on who we let in?

It's the reason I hear so many people say "You don't want me in choir", "I only sing in the shower", or "You are so talented". These are statements of safety; word-scars of an old self-esteem injury. What happened to the maintained curiosity we had as children? The drive to learn something new is a badge of honor we wear rather than just something we do because we're curious. These structures go far beyond music, but (I feel) it's music that can tear down these walls with love, compassion, and artistry. How can we honor music instead of ourselves through it? How can we find the communal good and our role in the community?

Our church is studying the book "The Great Spiritual Migration" by Brian D. McLaren. The first spiritual migration is moving "From a System of Beliefs to a Way of Life." Instead of being rooted in unchanging beliefs, it makes much more sense to focus on how we practice love.

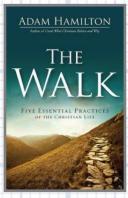
I Corinthians 13: 1-12

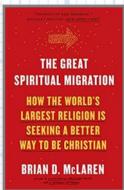
"If I speak in the tongues of people or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears. When I was a child, I talked like a child, I thought like a child, I reasoned like a child. When I became a man, I put the ways of childhood behind me. For now we see only a reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known."

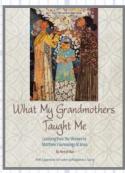
For me, music is synonymous with love.

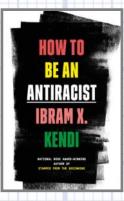
Choir and Music Policies—Musicians will practice the same mask and social distancing practices as the congregation.

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Faith4Life in October

Sessions are underway!

We began our Sunday morning sessions on Sunday, September 26, 2021, at 9:15 AM for an hour between services in the library. Masks are required. You can also join us on Zoom if you prefer. You can join for one session, all of them or something in between. We're reading Adam Hamilton's *The Walk: Five Essential Practices of the Christian Life* and viewing videos each week. The sessions will be facilitated by members of the Faith4Life planning team. You can read Adam Hamilton's blog post about the book here: https://tinyurl.com/F4L-walkbook and indicate "First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown" as your charity of choice. The sessions will run from September 26 through October 31.

The Women's Circle will begin on Wednesday, October 6 and November 3 at 10:30 AM in the library until noon. Masks will be required. You can also join us on Zoom if you prefer. Tami will be facilitating our discussion of the curriculum of Presbyterian Women: What my Grandmothers Taught Me: Learning from the Women of Matthew's Genealogy of Jesus https://tinyurl.com/F4L-WC2021 Books will be available in the office for \$10 donation.

The Thursday morning groups will meet to watch The Call with Adam Hamilton, a video series on the journeys of Paul. You can watch the trailer here https://youtu.be/WA2NYgdojl4 We'll meet every Thursday starting on October 7 from 10:00 AM until 11:30 AM. You can join us in person, masked, or on Zoom. You are welcome to join us as you can, for all sessions or just one or a few.

Join us on Sunday evenings at 7 PM or Wednesday evenings at 7:30 PM to discuss *The Great Spiritual Migration* by Brian McLaren. Books are available for a \$13 donation. These discussions will be led by Chip and Tami.

From the Church Library

How to be an Anti-Racist by Ibram X. Kendi (305.8 K) review by Connie Knapp

A group of us read this book during our Tuesday morning Faith4Life sessions as we continue the journey to learn about systemic racism and ways we can combat it. Ibram X. Kendi is a professor of history and the founding director of the Antiracist Research and Policy Center at American University. He is also a best-selling author and frequent public speaker.

Many of us found the book challenging; Kendi challenges our assumptions about, and in some cases our previous definitions of, racism. He does this in an engaging way as he shares his own story with us. We learn alongside him as he learns.

The book is divided into 18 chapters, beginning with a chapter entitled "Definitions." Each of the remaining chapters covers one specific area (for example, Gender, Color, Behavior). For each topic there is a "racist" definition and an "anti-racist" definition.

The book has caused some controversy in communities of Color. Some people find Kendi's approach too binary—you are either an anti-racist or a racist—while others find his approach too simplistic. I think it is important to remember that he is using his story to help us understand racism and antiracism. Someone else's story might give us a different perspective with a different sense about racism and antiracism.

The book is well researched, with many endnotes. Afua Hirsh, reviewing the book for The Guardian (https://www.theguardian.com/books/2019/oct/11/how-to-be-an-antiracist-by-ibram-x-kendi-review) said "How to Be an Antiracist is more like a textbook than I would like, but then there is much schooling to be done." You could learn a lot by visiting the sources in the endnotes.

I would recommend this book to anyone who wants to get a better understanding of what it might mean to truly be an "antiracist." It's a great place to start on the journey!





Sunday School Has Resumed In-Person Sundays at 9:15am

Children pre-K and up - Shine, Connect, FaithX, Confirmation

Register your child(ren) using this link: tinyurl.com/FPCY-SundaySchool-2021-22

For the beginning of the new year, will be following these protocols:

- Younger children 4th grade and younger will have classes outdoors as the weather permits.
- Older students will meet indoors, observing distancing and proper safety protocols.
- Masks are required at all in person faith formation activities for teachers and students (3 years & older), regardless of vaccination status.
- Hybrid (at home) options will be available for the classes that meet indoors.
- We will not be serving snacks in our Sunday School classes for the time being.
- We will be paying attention to the New York State Department of Education health and safety guidelines throughout the year for all activities involving children and youth.













Attention

Middle School and High School Youth Groups

As you all are settling into the new normal in your schools, exciting things are being planned here at church Have ideas or concerns? Talk to Steph!

Stay Tuned for more information in the coming weeks...

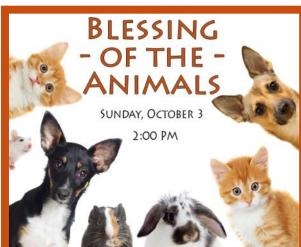


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Stewardship Thanksgiving Blessing For FPCY: Welcome Back!

Thank you all for sharing not only your treasure, but also your time and talents. Over the past two years, the Stewardship commission has sent thank you notes to the many who not only have supported our church through pledging, but also, those who have served our church in various ways.

We thanked those who addressed the maintenance and vision for returning to a beautiful, safe, accommodating place of worship. Though much of our



country unfortunately closed down, we were bustling with upgrades and capital campaign construction. Stewardship has been grateful to all those "busy bees" who used their time and talents. We also recognized the many creative "techies," who rose to the task of live streaming our services, preparing our sanctuary for simultaneous live streaming and face-to-face church attendance, as well as designing our website with a contemporary, heavenly view of our church grounds via drone.

Through all the COVID shutdowns, our church continued its outreach and fellowship calling. The Prayer Shawl and Knit Together groups kept knitting! Congregational Life continued Coffee Hours and Game Nights. The summer was filled with Hiking, Labyrinth Walks, Sing a Longs, etc. Our Food Pantry stayed operational and open! Stewardship is so grateful to our church leaders: our pastors, Session members, Deacons, liturgists, testimonial speakers, and talented musicians (young or old, in-house or guest, vocal or instrumental). They kept our church fellowship and hospitality available and alive throughout the pandemic and our Sabbatical Summer. Thanks to the many involved in the Reopening of our church, including the Usher Team, Faith Formation, and Sunday School. So many stewards sharing their time and talents for a smooth transition into a new year.

Finally, after thanking all the many active members of the church, Stewardship would like to express gratitude for those who worship with us, either by live streaming, or in the pew! As the pandemic has stretched our congregation beyond the walls of our church, we have explored new ways to be inclusive and welcome visitors to join with us. Thank you to all who visit with us, sing with us, worship with us, and pray with us: for those whom we pray for, and those who pray for us.

Whether you are a "busy bee" or a "techie", a knitter or an usher, a leader or a participant in any of our many mission opportunities, a quiet fellow worshipper or a welcomed visitor, each of you are a Blessing! We invite you to engage with us on an unfinished pilgrimage: where we'll 'Reconnect, Remember and Recommit.' and be "Led By Love, Forward in Faith." And THANK YOU for sharing not only your treasure, but also your time and talents.

Jane Amato, for the Stewardship Commission











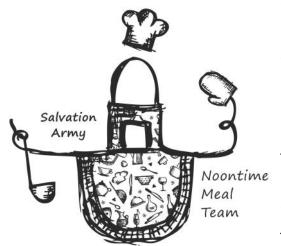


As fall is upon us and the church once

again opens its doors wide, the Personnel Commission would like to take a moment to say a huge THANK YOU to the church staff – Garrett Artman, Lisa Flanagan, Jim Gerth, Stephanie Hare, and John Harrigan – for going above and beyond in their care of the church and in preparing for the reopening and getting back to "normal" activities. Over the summer, they worked tirelessly to respond to any number of daily demands while our co-pastors were away. From construction to communication to curriculum, they did anything and everything necessary to maintain our church's presence as a welcoming beacon in our community. Their hard work and dedication have not gone unnoticed. We are blessed to have such a wonderful staff!

The Personnel Commission

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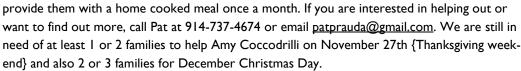


From the Mission Commission

Noon Time Meal Clients at the Salvation Army in Peekskill are still enjoying their lunch once a month thanks to the Nino's Pizza delivery. The need is still strong as their numbers went up to 40 this month. If you would like to have more information on Noon Time Meal, please call me 737-4674 or email patprauda@gmail.com

Jan Peek Meal

Thank you to Christine Lazarus and Pam Darreff for preparing and delivering the meal to the Jan Peek Clients on September 25th. Jan Peek is a Shelter in Peekskill for those experiencing homelessness, and one of the Mission projects of our church is to





Prayer Shawl

It is so wonderful to have our Prayer Shawl meeting in person after so long apart. For those that weren't able to join us, we missed you and hope you are well.

Our next in-person meetings will be Oct 20, Nov 3 and 17. If you need yarn or project guidance contact Marianna Sherman at 914-737-8294



Knit Togethers

Please knit hats and scarves for the Deacon's Gift Table at the December 4 Food Pantry. Thanks to all of you who continue to knit baby and lap blankets. We will meet in person on Mondays: October 25, November 8, and November 22 in the church library.

For information call Norean Radke (914-962-4370 (or email <u>radke30@msn.com</u>).

Bottle & Cans



Please remember to bring your returnable bottles & cans to the church. They can be left by the back door near the food donations.

All proceeds support our Mission Projects & Trips.

Attention BJ's members:



Another way to help our Pantry — when you're done with your coupon books, please leave them in the mailbox by the outside office door so that we can clip and utilize BJ's diaper coupons & anything else the church needs.

Thank you!

Pantry News

As we look forward to colder weather and the holidays, we are gearing up for continuing the outdoor drive-by distribution model through the end of the year at least, depending on public health and building use guidance. We are so grateful for our hardy volunteers, and for the support we receive from the congregation and the community. We receive support from many community groups; the picture at right is from the September 23 donation by the Knights of Columbus at St. Patrick's (350 items!).

We don't have all the holiday plans nailed down yet but will communicate them as soon as we can.

One way you can help us is with the "item of the month". Every month we highlight a food item that it is hard for us to source affordably. For many months that



item has been canned fruit, and it continues to be our most urgent need. The local gardens (Garden of Hope, Hilltop Hanover, the Green Thumb program) have been great for supplying fresh vegetables all through the summer, but fruit is more difficult. Feeding Westchester's supply lines still aren't fully back to operation (did you know the lumber shortage affected the supply of shipping pallets, so some suppliers had products but couldn't ship them?), and they have difficulty sourcing anything except dried fruit – imagine if the fruit in your kitchen was raisins or figs (and nothing else). Low sugar canned fruit would be particularly welcome.

Item-of-the-Month: CANNED FRUIT

The majority of the food we offer at our Pantry comes to us from Feeding Westchester. Some items we like to distribute are in short supply. Your contribution of the item-of-the-month can help fill the gap!

A donation bin is by the back doors.

Next Pantry Dates:
October 23 and November 6 & 20
8 to 11am





Substitute Drivers Needed—Beaver Ridge Friends are a side ministry of the FPCY Pantry. We deliver groceries to 20-24 residents of Beaver Ridge low income housing the 2nd and 4th Saturdays every month. The whole process from pick up to delivery takes 45 minutes with help in loading and unloading on both ends. Many of the residents are in wheelchairs or have no transportation. Substitutes are only needed in case of emergencies or vacation. Please call Louise Fang at (914) 962-4515 or e-mail Frankfang@optonline.net

October 2021 www.FPCYorktown.org 914-245-2186 office@fpcyorktown.org

The DISCIPLE

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Office Hours: Mon-Wed, Fri 9-4, Thu 9-2 Co-Pastors: Rev. Chip Low and Rev. Tami Seidel



Current Resident or:

October/November						
17 8:00am Worship 9:15am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Deacons/Youth Bells 7:00pm F4L-Great Spiritual Migration	18	7:30pm Mission	20 12pm Virtual Lunch Bunch 7:00pm F4L-Great Spiritual Migration	21 10:00am F4L Study 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	3:00pm Pantry+ Set-Up	23 8am Pantry Distribution 6pm Jan Peek Meal Served
24 8:00am Worship 9:15am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Youth Bells 12:15pm Congregation Life 7:00pm F4L-Great Spiritual Migration	25 10:00am Knit Togethers	26 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Faith Formation, Operations & Communications	27 7:00pm F4L-Great Spiritual Migration	28 10:00am F4L Study 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	29	30
31 Covenant Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Personnel Youth Bells 7:00pm F4L-Great Spiritual Migration	November I	2 Election Polling Site 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Session	3 9:30am Prayer Shawl 10:30am Women's Circle 7:00pm F4L-Great Spiritual Migration	4 10:00am F4L Study 6:45pm Adult Bells 7:30pm Stewardship 8:00pm Choir	5 3:00pm Pantry+ Set-Up	6 8am Pantry Distribution
7 All Saints' Sunday 8:00am Worship 9:15am Faith Formation Hour 10:30am Worship 12:00pm Youth Bells 7:00pm F4L-Great Spiritual Migration	8 10:00am Knit Togethers	9 10:00am F4L Study 7:30pm Worship	7:00pm F4L-Great Spiritual Migration	II I0:00am F4L Study 6:45pm Adult Bells 8:00pm Choir	12	13