



# THE AGAPE RINGERS NEWSROOM

FALL 2013

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER KIM AHLGRIM-HEINE

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Greetings! For the first time in several years, we have had no tour events over the summer so we've had a prolonged period to "recharge our batteries." Several of us have either visited far-flung places, packed and unpacked into a new home, or gotten married in this brief interlude of time. The next time you see us, ask and I'm sure you'll get some great stories!

We are, of course, quite excited to get back into the music this fall and reconnect with our wonderful supporters and audience members. One of the great ways to connect is electronically. In that regard, our most anticipated immediate news is our sparkling new website, which is up and running as of early August. Give yourself a couple minutes to check us out at [www.agaperingers.org](http://www.agaperingers.org) sometime. You can e-mail any of us through our website as well.

We're offering some new opportunities for giving and "being a part of the Agape experience." Check out the SOS article below, as well as the "Supporting Agape" article for some of these intriguing new options.

And, last but not least, we're on the road again this season, briefly in October 2013 and for an extended period next summer, 2014. The summer tour will include concerts in Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, and Tennessee...several new states for our "touring bucket list."

We continue to receive invitations for exciting, intriguing events at which to perform. We maintain our balancing act between availability and our "other lives" of homes, jobs, and families. Having a passion for ringing is a driving force in what we do and who we are.

Here's to your passions and to seeing you at an upcoming Agape event!

### AGAPE SUMMER FUN SARAH WARD

If you want to see and hear more about the summer fun of Agape members, please sign up for our electronic newsletter. You can visit our new website <http://www.agaperingers.org/> and register in the Newsletter section.



Kim and Rick enjoy a summer vacation in China



Carolyn vacationing in Iceland



KK and Joe enjoying life with 4-month-old twin girls!



Congrats to Andrew and Stephanie



Congrats to Andrew and Stephanie

## THANK YOU FOR 20 YEARS...

LINDA LUNT

This past April, The Agape Ringers celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a special free concert and reception.

The concert featured guest artist Embellish Handbell Ensemble from Grand Rapids, Michigan, and a world premiere of an original composition by Joel Raney commissioned especially for this event. In addition to music, David took several moments throughout the concert to reminisce about many of our past accomplishments and events. Several past Agape members were present in the audience and were recognized, as were Friends of Agape donor members and members of our Board of Directors. Six original members are still ringing with the group since its founding and they were also recognized.

David was presented with a special gift from the group; a scrapbook of photos along with reminiscences from members.

We had a packed house for the concert, which took place at First Presbyterian Church in River Forest, IL, with nearly four hundred people attending. It was VERY gratifying to see so many people turn out for this special day! The concert consisted of some of our usual repertoire, solo pieces performed by Embellish, and some joint pieces, as well as the new Joel Raney composition, *Expedition*. Our final piece was a rousing performance of *Firework* by Katy Perry, arranged by Michael Glasgow, and featuring guitar, bass, and drums.

*Expedition* is the first original handbell composition that Joel Raney has written. As The Agape Ringers have a long history working with Joel, it was fitting to commission a piece from him for this special anniversary. Collaborating with the composer as he “tweaks” his work is a treat for the entire group. If you missed it, you can hear us play this piece at upcoming concerts the rest of this year.

Following the concert, there was a reception with finger foods and displays of memorabilia. It was a fun few hours mingling with so many friends from over the years. There were photo displays along with some Agape ‘dolls’ created by former member Debbie Robey as a Secret Santa gift, along with other memorabilia. The food, catered by church member Connie Jordan, was outstanding and creatively presented.

We look forward to many more years of making music, inspiring audiences through the art of handbell ringing, encouraging ringers and directors through our teaching activities, and making many new friends through our concertizing. Thank you to all who attended our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, and to all who have supported us in many ways throughout these twenty years.

## OCTOBER 2013 MICHIGAN MINI-TOUR

SHARON SCHMIDT

Have you heard of Michael Glasgow? We’ve featured several of his compositions in concert, including *Anthornis*. Or, you might know that he arranged Katy Perry’s *Firework* for handbells. A YouTube video of us recording that selection for a Hope Publishing promotional CD has over 5,200 views! Michael hails from Michigan, and his parents live in Boyne City, MI. As avid handbell supporters, they are hosting our October 18 concert at 7 p.m. at the Boyne City Public School Performing Arts Center. Of course, we’ll be playing some of Michael’s music.

Richard Newman from Woodside Church in Flint, MI, has seen us perform here in Illinois, and just happened to call Dave Weck regarding a concert shortly after our conversations with Valerie & Larry Glasgow began. And that’s how a mini-tour comes together! Our Flint concert is at 4 p.m. on October 19.

If you have friends or family near Boyne City or Flint, please let them know about our upcoming road trip – we’d love to meet them. Just give them our website address ([www.agaperingers.org](http://www.agaperingers.org)) and they can find all the information they need to join us.



KC has her bunny slippers ready for tour!

## SOUNDS OF THE SEASON

KC CONGDON

While everyone is enjoying their last few moments of summery vacation, our *Sounds of the Season* (SOS) committee is already hard at work planning our annual December concert. We are excited to announce that we will be performing with Pan Go Steel Trio, a steel drum band from the Chicago area. The band's exciting blend of Caribbean and American rhythms will move young and old alike. We can't wait to hear the combination of bells with their unique sound.

There are a lot of steps that go into our *Sounds of the Season* concert each year. Our guest artist was booked in February, yes February; press releases are already being drafted and sent to online subscriptions, newsletters, and the "old fashioned" newspapers. We are hitting the Internet hard with free online radio calendars for "things to do in the Chicago area" and posters are being designed by our graphic designer.

But did you know that this annual performance event costs Agape almost 20% of our operating budget each year?



*Sounds of the Season 2012*

We continue to receive very positive feedback from SOS attendees each year and it is a highlight of the holiday season for each of us as members of Agape. However, we need to find a way to continue providing high-quality entertainment. As a result of this need, we would like to offer a new opportunity for giving this year. Here are the details:

Donors providing \$75 - \$499 specifically toward underwriting our *Sounds of the Season* 2013 show will be given recognition in a special section of the SOS program, and the donors will receive a small thank you gift. Donors underwriting at \$500 and above for SOS 2013 expenses will be given that same recognition, plus they will receive a special Agape gift after the SOS show.

For further information or to make a donation, please contact Kim Ahlgrim-Heine at [kim.ahlgrimheine@agaperingers.org](mailto:kim.ahlgrimheine@agaperingers.org).

## HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT AGAPE?

KIRSTEN HENDRICKSON

Like many organizations, we rely on you, our supporters, year after year for your monetary contributions. We understand there are many great organizations out there that need support as well. But did you know that there are two ways you can support The Agape Ringers without any cost to you?

First, as you may know, The Agape Ringers is recognized as a Non-Profit organization. As such, it is possible to donate to The Agape Ringers through The United Way. Many employers have an annual drive for donations to The United Way. You are given the option to direct your donation to the organization of your choice. Should you wish your donation to come to The Agape Ringers, please include the following information with your donation:

The Agape Ringers  
380 South Main Place  
Carol Stream, IL 60188

United Way of Illinois is a statewide association of 53 local organizations that create long-lasting community change by helping children and youth achieve their potential, promoting financial stability and family independence, and improving people's health.

The second way of support is through GoodShop. You may have received an e-mail previously from a member reminding you about GoodShop on "Black Friday / Cyber Monday," but maybe you do online purchases throughout the year. By going through the shopping portion of a website called GoodSearch, you can generate donations for The Agape Ringers. All you do is go to the site: <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx> and type in "Agape Ringers" where it asks "Who Do You Support?". By accessing the site you want to shop from through GoodSearch, Agape gets a donation! For example, ordering from Amazon donates 1.5% of your order to Agape.

So, please consider helping us out when you shop online (Amazon, Barnes & Noble, eBay, Nordstrom, Target, and TONS more). You have already helped us raise over \$300.

Remember, it is NO COST to you! Please forward this to other friends and family to get them in on it as well! As always, we thank you for your contributions and support!

**We are on the web! [www.agaperingers.org](http://www.agaperingers.org)**

**Follow us on [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)**

## THE AGAPE RINGERS



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Go **GREEN!** If you prefer to receive your newsletter electronically in the future, please send an e-mail to [carolynbells@hotmail.com](mailto:carolynbells@hotmail.com) with your name and e-mail address. Thank you for doing your part to save our natural resources!

### UPCOMING CONCERTS

DATE	TIME	EVENT/LOCATION/ADDRESS	TICKET INFORMATION
9/22/13	4:00 PM	LaGrange Bible Church 850 S 7th Avenue LaGrange, IL	Free Will Offering
10/18/13	7:00 PM	Boyne Public School Performing Arts Center 1025 Boyne Ave Boyne City, MI	Tickets Required \$16 Reserved; \$12 General, \$16 at door
10/19/13	4:00 PM	Woodside Church 1509 E Court St Flint, MI	Tickets Required
11/17/13	3:00 PM	Guests Artists with Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church 149 W Brush Hill Road Elmhurst, IL	Tickets Required
12/14/13	4:00 PM	Sounds of the Season Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church 149 W Brush Hill Road Elmhurst, IL	Tickets Required
2/23/14	4:00 PM	St Mary's Lutheran Church 2001 80th Street Kenosha, WI	Tickets Required; \$10 Adults, \$5 Youth