

Notes from RHODE ISLAND



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Happy Fall!

It's very hard to believe that it is October! Like many of you, I feel this year has been surreal. Like many of you I have, sadly, had to cancel many events planned for this year and work together with the Area 1 Board to "plan" events for the next year. Trying to see the positive in things, I'm a hopeless dreamer at heart; I think events like these force us to think out of the box (about many things) and some folks have done just that! YAY!

Lorrie Simons , Music Director at Woodbury Union Presbyterian Church reports:

We're having church outdoors and on Zoom. We're ringing 12 bell and 8 bell music every Sunday, so we have live music even though choir's not singing. I gave those who wanted to participate 2 bells, music, stands, etc. They are the only ones touching their stuff, except for one set of bells I have to keep rotating to make this work. I made click tracks of the music on Sibelius for them to practice with at home (a lot of work, but I'm getting so fast at it!!) I assigned the key of C white bells to one group, and the C sharp scale bells to another group, so they can practice their songs for more than a week. That's why I have to keep rotating the C6 bell. It's going pretty well, I think, and everybody's glad to be playing.

We are just rehearsing for a little while before church – they are on their own, with the click track, to learn the music.

There is nothing else to report. it was necessary to cancel or postpone our **5th Annual RI Holiday Handbell Spectacular**. This has been a very successful event. Last year we had a total of 8 ensembles, 5 ex RI groups joined the 3 RI ensembles for a great time with an awesome audience in attendance. I am hopeful that we will be able to reschedule this event for November 2021.

On a personal note, I am happy to be back at the table, albeit in MA. Diane Burke invited me to 'guest in' with one of her groups, for the moment. I felt very welcomed by her group and am happy to be ringing. I have been working throughout this pandemic and have pursued a couple of other interests – one of them is my photography. What have you been doing? Music or non music related. What are your plans for the next few months?

Please contact me with your news or news of your RI group so it can be included in the December issue of the *Fundamental Tone*.

Thank you and be safe!