

## Notes from MAINE



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Hello Maine Bell Ringers,

I have just a few words to share with you as I write my *Fundamental Tone* article. It has been a challenge for many of us to deal with the isolation that has been caused by this pandemic. We have missed seeing each other and performing beautiful music together. Some of us have made use of the quiet time to polish all our bells, and work on our music libraries. And some of us have caught up on reruns of “The Golden Girls” and all 13 seasons of “Heartland.”

The good news is that Maine Bell Choirs have found ways to safely return to rehearsals and performance. I know that the Cumberland Bell Choir, Penobscot Bay Ringers and Falmouth Foreside Ringers have returned to rehearsing and I am imagining that other bell choirs are also beginning the process of figuring out how to follow the CCD guidelines to stay safe.

It is true that many choirs have still not rung together because they have lost members, churches have remained closed and bell equipment has remained locked up. Those who have begun to return to ringing have experienced what it feels like to get comfortable with face masks and stand 6 ft apart from neighboring ringers.

Some good news happened this summer in Ocean Park. The Bell Choir was gifted with \$1250 to purchase five lower chimes with case. The family who donated, did so in memory of a relative who loved playing bells. It is so nice to have that bottom sound and to be given this gift, unsolicited.

There must be more bell activities going on in Maine that we would all like to hear about. So if you would be willing to share, let us know what you are doing, so that others may benefit.

My best,  
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