



## WELCOME!

Every year brings changes to our Fellowship Chapter, and we're always experiencing different seasons in our individual lives. We say goodbye to Danielle Rohrer, Mike Ebersohl, and Christopher Wise as board members. At the same time, we welcome new board members Melody Freeman, Isaac Gaff, and Todd Pettit. In this edition of our quarterly newsletter, we'll introduce you to these new board members, provide you with a recap of the 30th annual handbell festival, and share with you more information about our fall worship workshop.

### Fall Worship Workshop

We are looking forward to offering another diverse Worship Workshop this Fall. The worship workshop will be held at Nameoki United Methodist Church in Granite City, IL. The workshop will take place on September 29, 2018 from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm.

Registration will open August 1st on the Illinois Great Rivers Conference [website](#).

Fee (includes lunch):

- \* \$35 for Fellowship Members or those attending with a member
- \* \$45 for nonmembers
- \* \$10 late fee for registrations received after September 15.
- \* Click [here](#) to become a member of The Fellowship and receive a discount for all of your attendees.

Workshops and plenaries (details will be provided in the next newsletter) will include:

- \* Writing Liturgy and Prayers
- \* Adapting Music for the Worship Experience
- \* Sound Boards and Mixing
- \* Visual Arts in Worship
- \* Best Practices in Worship

## UPCOMING FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

**June 24-29, 2018 - Music and Worship Arts Week**  
Lake Junaluska, NC

**September 29, 2018 - Fall Worship Workshop**  
Nameoki UMC - Granite City, IL

**March 9, 2019 - 31st Annual Handbell Festival**  
Location TBD  
Kathy Moglebust, clinician

**July 15-18, 2019 - National Convocation**  
Kansas City, MO



What do you know about *The Fellowship*? We are Christians embracing God's artistic gifts to create world-transforming worship. *The Fellowship* exists at both national and chapter levels. You can find out more about the national level by visiting their [website](#), and find out more about our chapter on our [website](#).

---

## 30th ANNUAL HANDBELL FESTIVAL



The 30th Annual Handbell Festival was another great success with David Harris from the Raleigh Ringers encouraging us to be better musicians while keeping us ringing and laughing at the same time. Eighty-five ringers participated from 16 different handbell ensembles. The closest ensemble came from our host church, FUMC Peoria, and the ensemble traveling the greatest distance came from FUMC in Poplar Bluff, MO! (As a side note, in the future, if the bell festival isn't in your backyard, I encourage you to take your group and make it an overnight experience. The festival is a great team building event!)

If you were unable to attend, and are interested in the music, contact our wonderful music sponsor, Kidder Music (309-692-4040), and ask about the FUMMWA Handbell Festival.

Dave provided great selections that ranged from music for two octave choirs up to six octave choirs. The music addressed groups with varying abilities and covered the liturgical year.

Also, if you didn't get enough of Dave Harris, don't forget he, and the Raleigh Ringers, will be performing in Chillicothe, Illinois on June 17 at 4:30pm. Contact Pam Turner at 309-645-1752 or email her at [pamelajturner1947@gmail.com](mailto:pamelajturner1947@gmail.com) to purchase tickets.

Thank you to all the participants and to Dave Harris for a wonderful festival!



## Chapter Officers

Your chapter officers are here to serve you by developing events to better equip you for worship arts ministry. We are always looking for more people to join our coordinating team, which conducts its business in quarterly 1 1/2 hour conference calls. Please contact one of the following people if you have questions, suggestions, or would like to get involved:

Chair: Doug Grogan  
[dgrogan@fumcpeoria.org](mailto:dgrogan@fumcpeoria.org)

Chair Elect: Aaron Schultz  
[aaron Schultz.1215@gmail.com](mailto:aaron Schultz.1215@gmail.com)

Secretary: Carol McPherson  
[cmcpherson@fumcpeoria.org](mailto:cmcpherson@fumcpeoria.org)

Treasurer: Jeffrey Neufeld  
[JRN0074@yahoo.com](mailto:JRN0074@yahoo.com)

At-large board members:

Melody Freeman  
[melodyfreeman@sbcglobal.net](mailto:melodyfreeman@sbcglobal.net)

Isaac Gaff  
[isaac.gaff@connectwithcalvary.org](mailto:isaac.gaff@connectwithcalvary.org)

Todd Pettit  
[tallen70@me.com](mailto:tallen70@me.com)

Jay Regennitter  
[revjaynr@gmail.com](mailto:revjaynr@gmail.com)

## Officer Elections

It has been Doug's privilege to serve as the chair of the IGRC Fellowship Board over the past four years, but it is his turn to rotate off and usher in the new, highly qualified leadership of Aaron Schultz. Aaron has been serving as chair-elect and will assume the leadership role of chair starting August 1st. All other officer positions (Chair-Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer) are open for nominations. We will have immediate vacancies for the positions of secretary and chair-elect.

Nominations open April 20, and close May 31st. To learn more about the officer positions on the board, please read our [by-laws](#) and how the team is structured. If you would like to nominate someone to serve, please email the name of the person you are nominating, and his/her contact information (email and phone) to [Douglas Grogan](#) by May 31st. The board is always looking for people who are willing to help lead, so that we can continue events such as the bell festival, worship workshops, and the unchartered events we have yet to offer. Get involved! Make a difference!

## Meet Isaac!



Isaac Gaff is the Managing Director of Worship and Creative Arts at Calvary United Methodist Church in Normal, IL. Isaac holds a Doctor of Worship Studies degree from the Robert E. Webber Institute of Worship Studies as well as graduate and undergraduate degrees from Indiana University and Lincoln Christian University. Isaac loves to combine art, liturgy, theology, technology, and spiritual formation in the context of worship to nurture, equip, and grow the Body of Christ for service in the world.

## Meet Todd!



Dr. Todd A. Pettit is a native of Quincy, IL. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education with a minor in piano performance from Quincy University, (Quincy, IL) a Masters Degree in Education – School Administration from Indiana University (Bloomington, IN). and a Doctorate of Education – School Leadership from Saint Louis University (St. Louis, MO).

Todd has taught and worked in church music in Quincy and Indianapolis. Most recently Todd served as Director of Music Ministries & Organist at St. John Evangelical United Church of Christ (Collinsville, IL) for nearly 10 years.. He directed the Sanctuary Choir, Bells of St. John Handbell Choir, High School Witness Choir & Elementary Spirit Choir. During his tenure with St. John Todd revived the St. John Brass and created the St. John Sunday Music Concert Series and Spring Cabaret Fundraiser.

While leading church music ministries, Todd has held positions in education serving as Elementary Music Specialist, Middle School Assistant Principal, and is currently beginning his 6<sup>th</sup> year as Principal of Kreitner Elementary School, all in the Collinsville Unit School District #10 (Collinsville, IL).

Todd resides in St. Louis with his domestic partner, Paul Sager and their dogs, Icicle & Annabelle.

## Meet Melody!



Melody Staff Freeman started playing music when she was only four years old. At the age of five, her parents Floyd and Edythe Staff, now deceased, began taking her to the Illinois Old Time Fiddler's Association. Mr. Staff never missed a meeting, and his wife and Melody only missed a few. Melody, a 1983 graduate of Greenville University, plays a total of twelve instruments and has played in various fiddle contests in the past. She was the Illinois Old-Time State Fiddle champion in 1982.

Melody had different job offers in Branson and Nashville, but she turned those down, as her family always came first. Melody's husband, Phil, plays the guitar and drums. Their children are all grown and live in Morton, Illinois and Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Melody used to give over 50 music lessons a week, but is not doing much of that now. She started playing the pipe organ at First United Methodist Church in Vandalia in 1995. She is now the director of music - choral director, handbell director, contemporary music worship leader, and organist. She also plays in various bands as a pick-up musician, and she is currently working at the Piano and Organ Network in Effingham on Thursdays.