

The Dedication of THE STEARNS CARILLON

in honor of
GORDON W. STEARNS, Sr.



Sunday, September 29, 1985
The First Church of Christ Congregational
West Hartford, Connecticut

The Eleven o'clock Service in the Meeting House

CARILLON PRELUDE 10:45 a.m. (from the tower) Timothy Hurd

THE CALL TO WORSHIP Mr. Lovett

THE OPENING HYMN #246 "Come, Thou Almighty King"

PRAYER OF INVOCATION Mr. Blanning

RESPONSIVE READING #93, Page 530

SIGN OF PEACE AND UNITY

After being seated, please pass the fellowship pad to your neighbor.

THE GLORIA PATRI

DEDICATORY LITANY (congregation seated) Mr. Blanning

Minister: To the Eternal God, Maker of heaven and earth, Author and Giver of life, who in the person of Jesus Christ his Son has made known to us the patience and power of his redeeming love, and who by his gracious Spirit is ever seeking to bring light into our darkness,

Congregation: We dedicate this Carillon.

Minister: For the worship of God and the proclamation of faith in Him through the beauty of the sound of bells, and for the spirit of men and women,

Congregation: We dedicate this Carillon.

Minister: For the promotion of that Christian unity which sees beneath all formal differences a bond of fellowship and endeavors to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace,

Congregation: We dedicate this Carillon.

Minister: For the sacred remembrance of those dear to our hearts, for the perpetuating of their lives in our lives, for the joy of future generations,

Congregation: We dedicate this Carillon.

Minister: In gratitude for the labors of all who love and serve God, in loving remembrance of those who have finished their course, in the hope of a blessed immortality through Jesus Christ our Lord,

Congregation: We dedicate this Carillon.

Minister and
Congregation: Compassed about with a great cloud of witnesses, grateful for our heritage, sensible of the sacrifice of the fathers in the faith, confessing that apart from us their work cannot be made perfect, we now dedicate ourselves anew to the worship and service of Almighty God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION Mr. Blanning

DEDICATORY ANTHEM "Bell Blessings" Don McKeever

Cherub and Carol Choirs, Handbells,
Carillon and Piano

GREETINGS from Dr. Gordon W. Stearns, Sr.

MORNING PRAYERS Mr. Lovett

PRAYER RESPONSE

THE OFFERTORY "Carillon Bells" Adult Choir and Suzanne Gates
The Original Score by Don McKeever

THE DOXOLOGY

SCRIPTURE READINGS: Psalm 47; Isaiah 35:1-10; Colossians 3:1-3, 12, 17

SERMON FOR WHOM THE BELLS RING Mr. Lovett

CLOSING HYMN #453 "Ring Out Wild Bells"

BENEDICTION/RESPONSE:

"We have Worshipped Together" (sung in unison) Webster/McKeever
We have worshipped together in the presence of the Lord, shared His forgiveness and been fed by His word. We will always be together, though each is far from view; until we meet again, my friend, may God be with you.

CARILLON POSTLUDE Suzanne Gates

The Two o'clock Concert on the Church Lawn

TIMOTHY HURD, Carillonneur

Programme

- 1) BALLADE for carillon (1951) Jef Rottiers
- 2) Transcriptions from the Classical Period
 - a) MENUET (Symphony Nr. 101, "The Clock") Joseph Haydn
 - b) EIN MÄDCHEN ODER WEIBCHEN (A Sweetheart or a Wife)
from Die Zauberflöte, 1791) W. A. Mozart
- 3) a) FRENCH SERENADE (Lyric Pieces, Op.62) Edvard Grieg
b) LA FILLE AUX CHEVEUX DE LIN
(Preludes for piano, Bk. 1) Claude Debussy
- 4) a) SONATA A CIMBALO SOLO (1690) . . . Sybrandus van Noordt
b) SONATA for harpsichord, L.79 Domenico Scarlatti
- 5) IMAGE Nr.2 for carillon (1959) Emilien Allard
- 6) Transcriptions of Popular Film Music
 - a) ROMANCE (Jeux Interdits) Anon.
 - b) OVER THE RAINBOW (The Wizard of OZ) Harold Arlen
- 7) VARIATIONS on "AMERICA" Charles Ives

Arrangements for Carillon:

2a,3b-J. Rottiers; 2b-P. Price; 3a-R. Keldermans; 4a-T. Hurd; 4b-M. Myhre; 6a-N. Yezep; 6b-G. De Waardt; 7-Wm. De Turk/T. Hurd

THE CARILLONIST

Mr. Timothy Hurd, the designer and builder of the Stearns carillon, is a native of Ohio and now lives in Copenhagen, Denmark. He is a graduate of the College of Wooster and the Yale School of Music. Currently, he is the National Carillonneur of New Zealand and on the faculty of the Scandinavian Carillon School.

Notes for Eleven o'clock Service

During this day of dedication, members and friends are invited to climb the ladder and see the carillon firsthand. However, during the 11:00 a.m. service and the 2:00 p.m. concert, we shall not disturb the carillonneurs. Guides will be on hand in the narthex to direct you to the carillon.

Playing the carillon during the Offertory and the Postlude is Miss Suzanne Gates, a professional organist and carillonneur. Miss Gates is a member of First Church and as a student participated in the music programs directed by Dr. Stearns.

The woodcut on the cover is the same one used on the 1970 dedication program. It is entitled "Playing the Musical Scale" and is from Gafurius's "Theorica Musicae" (Milan - 1492). The drawing on the back cover was done by Melvin Bishop and is drawn from a photo taken at the Whitechapel Foundry of a craftsman working on the largest of our new bells.

Following the 11:00 a.m. service, members and guests are invited to greet Dr. and Mrs. Stearns on the church lawn. Refreshments will be served.

Notes About Carillons

Carillons have a long and noble history. The first real instrument was built in Belgium in 1510. Prior to that time, chimes were associated with clock towers that are in the center of many European public buildings and churches. As the clock chimes became more sophisticated, people began figuring that tunes could be played on those same chimes. Thus, the carillon concept was born.

America's first carillon was installed at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana, in 1856. There are

now over 125 carillons in North America, and Connecticut is the home of several of the larger ones. Trinity College in Hartford has a carillon with 49 bells and Yale University has a 53 bell instrument in the famed Harkness Tower. It is interesting to note that Florence Crofut, the member of First Church who gave us our lovely library, also provided the funds for the carillon at Yale. With 50 bells, the new Stearns carillon now ranks with the finest in the country.

The Stearns Carillon Committee, 1980-1985

The Rev. James Blanning, Project Director

The Rev. Sidney Lovett, Senior Minister

Mr. Don David McKeever, Minister of Music

Mrs. Carol Bennett, The Music Committee

Mr. Richard Gates and Mr. Kenneth Langler, The First Church Fund

Mr. Melvin Bishop, Art, Design, and Graphics

The Contributors

ORIGINAL CARILLON, 1970

Given by

In Loving Memory of

| | |
|--|---|
| LOTTIE M. CHAPIN | RALPH W. CHAPIN |
| Dr. MARTHA CLIFFORD | MY PARENTS |
| FAMILY & FRIENDS | BESSIE BABBITT |
| FAMILY & FRIENDS | HELEN EATON KELLY |
| Mr. & Mrs. DONALD M. HAZARD | FLORENCE & ARTHUR CHESLEY |
| Mr. & Mrs. KENNETH R. LANGLER | Mr. & Mrs. HARRY G. FAYETTE |
| Mr. & Mrs. LENDOL B. LEACH | LENDOL SLOAN LEACH |
| Miss GERTRUDE M. MELLER | Mr. & Mrs. OLE P. MELLER and Miss OLIVE MELLER |
| Mr. & Mrs. PHILIP J. MERRITT | Mr. & Mrs. JOSEPH MERRITT and Mr. & Mrs. WILFRED STRADLING SKEATS |
| DAVID SIBBALD & FAMILY | BEULAH M. SIBBALD |
| ELIZABETH TRAVIS SOLLENBERGER | FRANK MYERS TRAVIS and MARTHA HOERLE TRAVIS |
| Mr. & Mrs. WESLEY T. SORENSON | ARTHUR CARLING |
| THE SPAFARD FAMILY | HENRY P. SPAFARD |
| Mr. & Mrs. ROGER M. TARPY | HARRY A. LIVINGSTON and MAYNARD E. TARPY |
| JANICE B. WOODS | HOLLIS L. WOODS |
| Mr. & Mrs. DAVID G. PRUYNE and Miss LOUISE PRUYNE | In Appreciation of the SACRED MUSIC |

ADDITIONAL BELLS, 1985

Given by

In Loving Memory of

| | |
|--|---|
| ROBERT AMSTUTZ | LYNN DERRICK AUNE AMSTUTZ |
| FRED K. BAILEY | Mr. & Mrs. JESSE M. BAILEY, Sr. and JESSE M. BAILEY, Jr. and PHILIP H. BAILEY |
| GEORGE & JEAN BRIGHAM | MARILYN AMSTUTZ |
| RALPH & DOROTHY BROOKS | Mr. & Mrs. HOWARD BROOKS and Mr. & Mrs. CHARLES JOHNSON |
| FAMILY OF WILLIAM T. DAVIES, Sr. | WILLIAM T. DAVIES, Sr. |
| WILLIAM & GLADYS DAVIES | OUR PARENTS, Mr. & Mrs. ELMER COOMBS and Mr. & Mrs. JAMES DAVIES |
| BARBARA MORRIS DAVIS | ROBERT & HELEN MORRIS, MY PARENTS |
| S. M. DAVIS | LOUISE W. DAVIS |
| MARION DEXTER | HELEN OXLEY MICKLE and GLADYS MAY MICKLE |
| DICK & JODY GATES | OUR PARENTS |
| RICHARD & LORAIN HASTINGS | OUR PARENTS |
| FAMILY & FRIENDS OF ARTHUR T. HATTON | ARTHUR T. HATTON |
| ROBIN, WENDY & JOHN KELLY | JOHN A. KELLY, Sr. |
| RUTH HUSTON LARSON | ROGER J. HUSTON |
| Mrs. CARROLL LAWTON | CARROLL M. LAWTON |
| EUGENE MILLER | DOROTHY HELEN HOTCHKISS MILLER |
| THE TAMACCIO FAMILY HELEN, DAVID, MARK & JOAN TAMACCIO HAMMEAL | GEORGE TAMACCIO |

Given by

RICHARD B. & MARGARET COLE
DES KILBOURN
ORRIN & DES KILBOURN
NAN PRUYNE
NAN PRUYNE
NAN, DAVE & LOUISE PRUYNE
NAN & DAVE PRUYNE
THE ESTATE OF
STANLEY & ELSIE ROTH

In Honor of

NAN & DAVE PRUYNE
MY HUSBAND,
ORRIN KILBOURN
ORDINATION OF
ELIZABETH FISHER STAMP
RICHARD B. COLE & FAMILY
DAVE PRUYNE
Mr. & Mrs. L. SUMNER PRUYNE
THE GORDON STEARNS FAMILY
MARK A. ROTH

CONTRIBUTORS OF SHARES, 1985

Given by

A FRIEND
PETER & NANCY ANTONEZ
Mrs. CHARLES S. BERRY
JOHN & JEAN BEVAN
DEXTER & BETTY CLAFLIN
MARY JANE CONVERSE
THE DESTLER FAMILY
ELIZABETH H. EPSTEIN
HERBERT & BARBARA FERRIS
HARRY HULTGREN, Jr. and
MARJORIE HULTGREN BOLTON

In Loving Memory of

AIMEE A. BARBER
CHARLES S. BERRY
OUR FAMILIES
LINDA CLAFLIN CRESPI
and DOROTHY SPALDING
CHESTER M. DESTLER
HARRY and POLLY HULTGREN,
OUR PARENTS

DAN & YVONNE KYKER

KEN & SHIRLEY LANGLER

MARVIN & NANCY OSTERLING

MILDRED SHELLINGTON

NETTIE B. THORPE

JANE & GEORGE W. TULE

Dr. & Mrs. JOHN H. WOODRUFF

ESTHER SPAFARD

Mr. & Mrs. WILLIAM J. LANGLER

Mr. FREDERICK J. SHELLINGTON
and Mr. & Mrs. CLARENCE H.
GILLETTE

MY FAMILY

OUR FAMILIES

OUR PARENTS

In Honor of
RUTH SPAFARD

The History of the Stearns Carillon (1965-1985)

The romance with carillons began at First Church in 1965 when a group of choir members and musicians began the exploration of just what kind of instrument might be placed in the steeple. After extensive discussions with Robert Loomis, a structural engineer of Windsor, Connecticut, it was decided to proceed with plans for a 24-bell carillon that would be built by the Whitechapel Bell Foundry in Loughborough, England.

A fund was begun by a gift for several bells. When the Church's Minister of Music, Gordon W. Stearns, Sr., announced plans for retirement, it was decided to dedicate the Carillon in honor of Dr. Stearns' 30 years of ministry to the Church while receiving gifts of individual bells in memory or in honor of particular individuals.



The original Carillon was dedicated in June 1970 and consisted of 24 bells, covering the range of two octaves (less the lower C-sharp), ranging in size

from the largest which is 2-2/3 feet in diameter and weighs 700 pounds, to the smallest which is one foot in diameter and weighs 56 pounds.

The original Stearns Carillon has been played regularly at Sunday services and at special occasions during the year. A group of trained volunteers, mainly from the Church Choir, faithfully climb the ladder to the steeple and in the weather of all seasons provide the church and community with the pleasant sound of finely tuned bells.

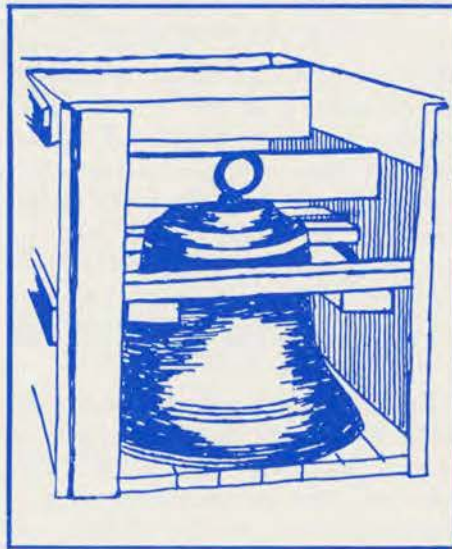
Also located in the steeple is a single bell, cast in America and purchased by the Church over 100 years ago for the congregation's third Meeting House. This bell was placed in the

fourth Meeting House (the "Grey-stone Church") which was destroyed by fire in 1942 and rehung in the present steeple as the building was completed in the late 1940s. This bell, the only one owned by the congregation until the Carillon arrived, is still used as a tolling bell on Sundays.

In 1968, Dr. and Mrs. Stearns retired to Burkehaven, New Hampshire, where Dr. Stearns has continued his lively interest in the creative process of worship and the contribution of sacred music for all ages. It is a fitting tribute to his long and dedicated service to First Church that both the original Carillon and the current 26-bell addition are named in his honor.

The Installation of the New Bells and Clavier - 1985

In the 1970s, Arthur Hatton, a longtime member of First Church and a carillonneur, suggested that it would be a good idea to add another 19 bells to the original instrument and give the Carillon a full 3½ octave range, and in 1980 the Music Committee of First Church voted to begin the project. When Arthur Hatton died in 1981, Rev. James Blanning inherited the Carillon mantle and continued to raise funds through memorial contributions of church members who were invited to contribute bells in memory or in honor of family members or friends. It was also decided that since the Carillon was to be expanded, it would be wise to add another five bells on the upper range along with two larger bells, B flat and C sharp, in the lower range. This would pro-



vide an additional two octaves, and the Carillon would now have four full octaves.



Because of the dramatic expansion of the Project, The First Church Fund, under the leadership of Richard Gates, voted to join the Music Committee as the sponsors, and the entire church family was invited to participate in the effort. Mr. Timothy Hurd, a Carillon designer and builder, was engaged as the consultant and he began the design portion of the rather complicated tower structure that would hold the new total of 50 bells.

It was also decided to commission the original bell founder, Whitechapel, to cast the 26 new bells so that there would be a continuity with the original bells. Upon completion, First Church would have the distinction of having the only complete Whitechapel Bell Carillon in this country. The contract for the building of the clavier, or playing console, was given to the John Taylor Company in Leicestershire, England.

During the summer of 1985, the new carillon was shipped from England and arrived in West Hartford in June. Mr. Hurd arrived from Copenhagen and began the arduous task of reconstructing the bell frame to hold the entire 50 bells. Using a crane, the bells and clavier were hoisted into the tower and placed in position by Mr. Hurd and a crew of riggers. By the end of August, the Carillon was playable and the fine tuning began. Fortunately, Mr. Hurd had sounded all the original bells and was on hand at the Whitechapel Foundry when the new bells were cast and was able to match all the new bells with the old. The Carillon you hear today is a perfectly matched instrument that should serve our church and community for many years to come.

Thanks go to Rev. James Blanning, who has headed this project, and to Mrs. Carol Bennett from the Music Committee and Mr. Kenneth Langler from the First Church Fund who have seen this project through to completion. Special recognition goes to Mr. Melvin Bishop who has chronicled the history of the bells from the beginning through his artistry and who is responsible for the design of this dedication brochure.

