

Workshops to build choirs and congregational singing in small churches

Three workshops to address the needs of choirs and congregational singing in small congregations will be held from 10 a.m. –2 p.m., on Saturdays, Aug. 15, Aug. 29 and Sept. 12 at Pencader Presbyterian Church. The workshops are free and open to anyone who is a member of a small church choir, anyone who would like to be a member of a small church choir, church organists, other musicians, pastors, choir director and anyone interested in music and congregational singing.

The workshops will culminate in a Massed Presbyterian Small Church Choir Celebration, also scheduled at Pencader, at 5 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 13, followed by a pot luck supper. In addition to songs by those who have taken the workshops, the concert will feature the West Choir and other special guests.

Dee Fell, former director of music at the recently closed West Presbyterian Church in Wilmington, will lead the workshops. While at West, Fell was able to overcome many of the unique challenges facing music ministry in a small church and formed a first rate volunteer choir that is still singing together.

Fell will share tips for growing choirs in small churches and for improving congregational singing when the numbers are small.

“It’s all about the joy of singing and the joy of relationships,” Fell said. “We’re not looking for opera singers.”

The workshops are free and lunch is included. They are being organized by The Rev. Bob Undercuffler from Pencader and representatives of the Christiana, Chesapeake City, Delaware City, Forest and Port Penn churches. It is supported by a grant from the Leadership Development Unit. For more information, contact Undercuffler at 368-4565 or send e-mail to rmu4@verison.net.