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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Alpha 4 Duo Performing at Museums By Candlelight

GAITHERSBURG, MD – October 12, 2005 – The Alpha 4 Duo will be performing on December 10, 2005 from 2-4 p.m. for Museums by Candlelight in Frederick, MD. The event is an annual open house of the Historic Sites Consortium highlighting historic sites and museums throughout the county. The Alpha 4 Duo will be performing in the Key Memorial Chapel at the Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Alpha 4 is a Four-in-Hand Handbell Choir from Gaithersburg, Maryland that utilizes the interlocking handbell style of ringing. Interlocking the bells allows each member to play with two to three bells in each hand so that each person is holding and playing anywhere from four to six bells at once.

Established in August 2001, the members began ringing together in the First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg handbell choir. After attending a Christine Anderson workshop, the five ringers decided to form a four-in-handbell group

Alpha 4's repertoire includes classical, seasonal, patriotic, folk, hymns, wedding, sacred and secular music. Pam Ion also arranges music for hard to find pieces making the group's repertoire diverse and interesting. Alpha 4 has performed at weddings, senior-living facilities, nursing homes, shopping malls and worship services.

The 'Alpha' in the name refers to the group's status as the beginning of interlocking handbell ringing at the First Baptist Church of Gaithersburg. The '4' refers to the interlocking bell technique itself, which is also popularly known as "four-in-hand."

The Alpha 4 Duo is subgroup of Alpha 4 that consists of Pam Ion and Kristine Farrell. Their selections for the day will include Frosty the Snowman, Up on the Housetop, Over the River and Through the Woods, O Come, O Come Emmanuel, O Come All Ye Faithful and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

For more information go to www.alpha4handbells.org.

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