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JUNETEENTH CONCERT TO HIGHLIGHT BLACK AMERICAN MUSICAL HERITAGE

by Jon Morgan

Govan's role as an important regional hub of racial justice and the arts is reflected in an all-star lineup being assembled for the second annual Juneteenth concert.

The show is again being assembled by our own Minister for Racial Justice, Lea Gilmore, herself an acclaimed vocalist and human rights advocate. She says it will include blues, jazz and folk selections.

"We want to show the multifaceted roots of African American music,"



Juneteenth Jubilee, 2023. photo by Justin Camejo

says Lea. "It's so significant that Juneteenth has become a federal holiday – it has been a long time coming," Lea says.

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SUPPORT OUR YOUTH IN FAITH

by Mike Field

Missy Smith has a clear idea of her role at Govans. "My approach is that kids and families are part of every congregation," she says. "It's all about making spaces." Each Sunday she leads the Children's Sermon, bringing the youth of the church for a sometimes-freewheeling discussion about the stories and meaning of that day's sermon. "I never know quite what they're going to say," she says with a laugh. "Part of the job is you have to be agile."

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May Calendar

- 4 - *Into the Woods*, 7:00 p.m.
- 5 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 5 - ROPAGOFA Picnic, 1:00 p.m.
- 5 - *Into the Woods*, 2:00 p.m.
- 5 - Soul Kitchen Meal pick-up, 4:30 p.m.
- 10 - Marie Herrington Concert, 7:00 p.m.
- 11 - *Into the Woods*, 7:00 p.m.
- 12 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 12 - *Into the Woods*, 2:00 p.m.
- 12 - Soul Kitchen Meal pick-up, 4:30 p.m.
- 17 - *Into the Woods*, 7:00 p.m.
- 19 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 19 - *Into the Woods*, 2:00 p.m.
- 19 - Soul Kitchen Meal pick-up, 4:30 p.m.
- 20 - Music Mondays, 7:00 p.m.
- 21 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 - Keith Snipes and Company, 7:00 p.m.
- 26 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 26 - Soul Kitchen Meal pick-up, 4:30 p.m.

May Birthdays

- 2 - Carol Frigo
- 5 - Hailey Gaede
- 6 - Andy Wilson
- 7 - Elena Storey
- 9 - Rena Hoisington and Lee Seabolt
- 10 - Sam Fuller and Stephen Gaede
- 13 - Madison Gaede
- 16 - Patreena Parsons
- 17 - Missy Smith and Chase Koehler
- 23 - Naomi Hairston
- 27 - Charley Burton
- 31 - Beth Bryant



June Calendar

- 2 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 2 - Soul Kitchen Meal pick-up, 4:30 p.m.
- 9 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 9 - Annual Church Picnic following worship
- 9 - Soul Kitchen Meal pick-up, 4:30 p.m.
- 10 - Juneteenth Jubilee, 7:00 p.m.
- 16 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 16 - Soul Kitchen Meal pick up, 4:30 p.m.
- 18 - Session Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- 23 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 23 - Soul Kitchen Meal pick-up, 4:30 p.m.
- 30 - Worship, 10:30 a.m.
- 30 - Soul Kitchen Meal pick-up, 4:30 p.m.



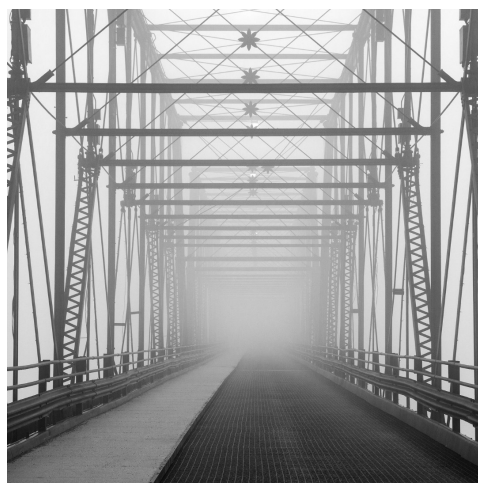
June Birthdays

- 2 - Beth Goldsby-Allen and Laura Kittel
- 3 - Barbara Kemp and Joan Riffert
- 5 - Joe Gover and Gavin Green
- 6 - Henry Peck
- 10 - Carl Brown
- 12 - Becky Dunlop
- 15 - Rowan Clay-Robison
- 19 - Carol Hamilton and Sita Smith
- 23 - Nick Mills and Kenneth Greene
- 24 - Doug Stouffer and Leslie Grant
- 26 - Kaye Gooch and Jean Isteero
- 29 - Kai Gibbons

LETTER FROM PASTOR SHANNON

Friends,

Since March, I've been serving as your Bridge Pastor here at Govans. A Bridge Pastor is a temporary designation to "bridge the gap" between the Permanent Pastor leaving and the Interim Pastor arriving. If you can believe it, we're about halfway through our time together.



I've been thinking about what it means to be a "bridge," that is, someone who helps lead the way to move from one place to another. Not literally, of course; I have no interest in being trampled on!

When I think of a bridge I think about connection, the connection of two different places, both in space and time, providing safe passage over terrain that would otherwise be difficult.

No metaphor is perfect, so forgive this one if it goes too far, but this bridge metaphor has expanded even more since the collapse of the Key Bridge. I admit I did not cross it regularly, but I have noticed a significant difference in traffic in and around the city since then. As a Bridge Pastor, my main job is to help "traffic" or make sure the church's work moves smoothly until you're back on solid ground.

However, the most important part of a bridge is ensuring it has a solid foundation. My main work now is with the staff on their leadership goals, helping the Session and committees take ownership of their work, and updating the church's bylaws and other governing documents. That last one doesn't sound very interesting, but as my husband says, "Paperwork saves lives." In this case, it clarifies, but you get the idea.

My job is also to help calm the anxieties of crossing the bridge. Change can be hard, and an unknown future can sometimes be a little scary. We mourn what we've left behind on the journey, but there is also opportunity on the other side of the bridge. One of the opportunities in a new interim and permanent pastor is taking the next step into who Govans is today, honoring the past but letting go of what no longer serves you. This will take time, and the process should not be rushed, but don't worry, this change isn't permanent, and you'll be back on solid ground soon enough.

Peace,
Pastor Shannon

Church Staff

Rev. Shannon Weston, Bridge Pastor
Lea Gilmore,
Minister for Racial Justice & Music
Director

Marie Herrington
Music Director

Missy Smith, Interim Christian
Education Coordinator

Rufus Ingram, Bookkeeper

Andy Wilson, Office Manager

Sylvia Usher, Sexton

Pam Ferguson,

Director of Preschool

Gwen Lloyd, Program Director, Senior
Network

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www.govanspres.org

*Submissions for the July/August
2024 newsletter are due by June
10. Please send to Andy Wilson
at wilson@govanspres.org*

SUNDAY MORNINGS AT GOVANS

9:00 a.m. - Adult

Options in Sharp Hall
and Zoom

9:45 a.m. - Sunday

School in the Youth
Room

10:30 a.m. - Worship in

the Sanctuary and
Zoom



WHAT'S GOING ON @ GOVANS?

GOVANS/KNOX BIBLE STUDY



Wednesdays at 12:00 noon on Zoom
Everyone is welcome!



Jesus Calls the First Disciples

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

Email missy@govanspres.org
for more information.

Sundays at 9:45 a.m. in the
Youth Room

ADULT OPTIONS

Sundays at 9:00 a.m. in Waverly Room and on Zoom

WHAT GOOD AM I?

The Songs of Bob Dylan



performed by

Andy Wilson

Monday, May 20 at

7:00 p.m. in the sanctuary



Music
Mondays

Email Lea Gilmore
(lea@govanspres.org) for more info.

WHAT'S GOING ON @ GOVANS?

MELODIC MOMENTUM:

A JOURNEY THROUGH IMPROVISATION

A concert of live, interactive piano improv with

MARIE HERRINGTON

FRIDAY

MAY 10

7:00PM

GOVANS PRES

5828 YORK RD

FREE ADMISSION

NO TICKETS

NEEDED!

DONATIONS

ADVISED

*part of the Govans Concert Series
run by Marie Herrington*

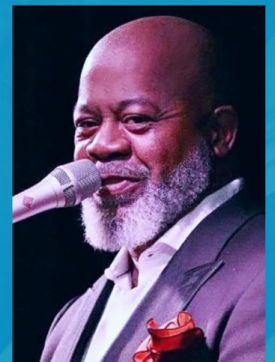


Govans Presbyterian Church

presents:

Keith Snipes & Company:

LET FREEDOM SING!



Keith Snipes, vocals

Thursday,
May 23 at
7:00 p.m.



Cyrus Chestnut, piano



Eric Kennedy, drums



Brent Birkhead, wind
instruments



Obasi Akoto, bass

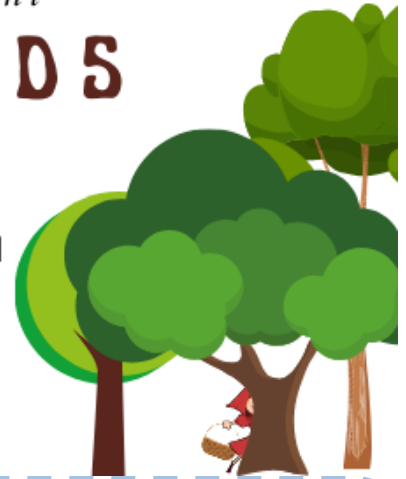
GOVANS 
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Woodbrook Players Present INTO THE WOODS

MUSIC AND LYRICS BY STEPHEN SONDHEIM
BOOK BY JAMES LAPINE

SATURDAYS, MAY 4 & 11 ~ 7:00 PM
SUNDAYS, MAY 5, 12, 19 ~ 2 PM
FRIDAY, MAY 17 ~ 7:00 PM

TICKETS: WOODBROOKPLAYERS.COM



GOVANS GARDEN GROUP NEEDS YOUR HELP!

We used all the compost prepping the garden! The veggies and our seedlings are off to a great start!

What is compost?

Composting is the natural process of recycling organic matter, such as leaves and food scraps, into a valuable fertilizer that can enrich soil and plants. Fondly referred to by farmers as “black gold,” compost is rich in nutrients and can be used for gardening, horticulture, and agriculture.

How can you help?

Bring in your compost to support the veggies/garden soil for months and years to come. We want folks to bring in veggie scraps, tea bags, coffee, and eggshells. Egg shells are ok!

No rubber bands, meat, plastics, aluminum, oils, or animal matter.

What happens next?

If you'd like to help with composting, **YOU MUST add your name to the list!** The gardeners turn the soil each week. Once we know you know how to do it (come hang with us for a little training), you are welcome to put the compost in the rotating container and give it some spins! Each individual/ family can support our compost black bins, behind the pre-school playground, near the garden plot. Rogue dumping will not be tolerated. Sylvia and Missy will find you!

The Govans Garden Group meets on (rain-free) Tuesdays at 4:30pm. If you have any questions about compost, the garden, or helping us pull weeds for spiritual meditation, e-mail Missy at missy@govanspres.org.

WHAT YOU CAN AND CAN'T COMPOST IN YOUR BACKYARD

CAN BE COMPOSTED



- Cardboard (uncoated, small pieces)
- Coffee grounds and filters
- Eggshells
- Fireplace ashes (from natural wood only)
- Fruits and vegetables
- Grass clippings
- Hair and fur
- Hay and straw
- Houseplants
- Leaves
- Newspaper (shredded)
- Nutshells
- Paper (uncoated, small pieces)
- Sawdust
- Tea bags
- Wood chips
- Yard trimmings

SHOULD NOT BE COMPOSTED



- Black walnut tree leaves or twigs (release substances that might be harmful to plants)
- Coal or charcoal ash (might contain substances harmful to plants)
- Dairy products and eggs* (create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies)
- Diseased or insect-ridden plants (diseases or insects might survive and be transferred to other plants)
- Fats, grease, lard, oils* (create odor problems and attract pests such as rodents and flies)
- Meat or fish bones and scraps* (create odor problems, attract pests such as rodents and flies, and might also carry pathogens)
- Pet feces or litter* (might contain parasites, bacteria, germs, pathogens, and viruses harmful to humans)
- Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides (might kill beneficial composting organisms)

*These materials should not be composted at home but may be accepted by your community curbside or drop-off composting program. Check with your local composting or recycling coordinator.

Sources: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, "Composting at Home," www2.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home.

YOUTH AND YOUNG FAMILIES NEWS

The Youth presence at Govans is small and mighty. While holidays like Easter and Christmas bring out the largest numbers and gatherings, there is something to be said for the folks that are lingering still, in the weeks between, and filling the pews with new energy. It took me a while to learn about the church and how things run. Now, with more understanding, I will continue to bring people together, talk more to the parents and the elders, and shape the next season of intergenerational events and programming.

Thank you Emerson Vosburg-Casey and Lizzy Franklin for your hard work! This Youth Servant Leader class has taught me so much about young minds in 2024. I applaud them for bringing their faith into activism and eco-justice, and I hope you'll be there to share on their big day. May 26 is Youth Servant Leader graduation, after church. The youth have spent the year learning about their faith and digging into deep conversations. Their final project places them in charge of throwing their own party and sharing their faith in a fun and creative way. They are working with a church elder and there will be a portion for the smallest worshippers. We hope you will attend.

Summer, due to the Window Wall renovations, will bring more changes to the entire campus. It will be crucial to keep the Youth Room organized. We will be auditing the children's books and organizing all the texts collected since my time here. We will have a new youth library soon, and even better, we can see what books and readings we might want to add for 21st-century Youth Christian Education.

This summer, I will be having more conversations with parents and formulating a supergroup of the most enthusiastic parents and congregants, the ones giving support behind the scenes, sending e-mails with ideas, and giving of their time and service. We will have our first in-person Christian Education Committee on June 23, 2024 (after church) and start planning for Fall.

Have an idea for an intergenerational event? Need youth support with a church project? Want to have a 1on1 with me, help with the summer library project or be on the Christian Education Committee? E-mail Missy at missy@govanspres.org to express your interest.

SUMMER 2024 EVENTS

May

May 5 - End of Year ROPAGOFA Picnic @ Faith - Govans youth bring your favorite sides!! 1-3pm

May 12 - Mother's Day - Into the Woods with Woodbrook Players

May 19 - No regular Sunday School and no ROPAGOFA Mixer

May 26 - Youth Servant Leader (YSL) Graduation. All are welcome to attend!

June

June 9 - Annual Church Picnic

June 10 - Juneteenth Concert at Govans

June 23 - Christian Education Committee (After Church)

July

July 14 - Pottery at Woodberry Crossing

August

August 5-9 - Woodberry Crossing Summer Camp
Summer Camp for Roland Park and Govans.
Details coming. Transportation support may be needed.

LOOKING AHEAD

Week of September 4 - Youth Servant Leader (YSL) returns for the Class of 2025

September 8 - Rally Day! Sunday School Kickoff!

September 15 - ROPAGOFA returns



JUNETEENTH JUBILEE...continued from cover page

The holiday commemorates the end of slavery in the U.S. and takes its name from the day in 1865 when enslaved Black Americans in Texas learned of emancipation. President Joe Biden made it a federal holiday in 2021.

The concert is free and will begin at 7 p.m. on June 10th in the sanctuary at 5828 York Road.

Lea says she views the Govan's concert as a celebration of African-American musical heritage.

Several members of The Baltimore Symphony Orchestra are on the playlist as part of the Baltimore Symphony Musicians Foundation outreach.

"There are so many young composers of color these days that we have a lot of music to choose from in the classical tradition, in addition to gospel, R&B, blues and other genres," says BSO bassist Jonathan Jensen, who will be performing. "Getting to work with Lea and members of the church makes this project especially rewarding."



Govans' soprano Jocelyn Taylor performs with the BSO's Jonathan Jensen at last year's Juneteenth Jubilee. Photo by Justin Camejo.

The program will include works by a number of important Black composers and performers. Among them: "Four Women," a tribute to the victims of the 1963 church bombing in Birmingham written by Nina Simone, a civil rights activist ranked by Rolling Stone as one of the greatest singers of all time, and "Brown Baby," written by Oscar Brown Jr. after the birth of his first son.

A contemporary selection, "Unified Prayer," was composed by B.E. Boykin, a Virginia native and graduate of Spellman College, the Westminster Choir College and Georgia State University.

Several of the performers are familiar to Govan's music programs, including Roderick Demmings Jr., an award-winning pianist and organist who, at the age of 12, performed a solo at Carnegie Hall. He later graduated from Hopkin's Peabody Conservatory and has appeared around the world, including a tour in South Africa and performances at the Vatican and the Kennedy Center.

Keith Snipes, a Baltimore actor, poet, vocalist, and songwriter, and has appeared at several Govan's events as well as performances at Baltimore's Keystone Korner and Washington's Takoma Station, among other venues. He'll sing "Brown Baby" and join with Lea in a rendition of Brook Benton's "Rockin Good Way."

Our own Andy Wilson will play songs by the late Delta bluesman Son House and influential folk singer Elizabeth Cotten.

EASTER SEASON MUSIC NEWS

by Marie Herrington

Sunday May 21 is a joyous celebration of music; the Govans Handbell Choir will be presenting a glorious theme on the hymn tune Hyfrydol, which is in the celebration of Easter.

There are seven Sundays in the Easter season, and with May 21 being the last of them, we are reigning in the joy of the season through this beautiful tune. We will also have the joy of hearing a beautiful handbell duet for eight bells, played by Maria Wong and Ashley Short.

Did I say two people will be ringing eight bells? Yes, I did! Typically, ringers ring with one bell in a hand at a time, and if they have to ring more than two bells in any given piece of music, they have to put down a bell (or bells) and pick up the new bell(s) in just enough time to come in with the notes. Both Maria and Ashley will be

playing a piece that requires two bells in each hand, known as “four in hand.”

Then in June, you get to look forward to the choir singing a very challenging piece in Russian. Bogoroditse Devo, or Rejoice, Mother of God, is a choral piece part of Rachmaninoff’s Vespers “All-Night-Vigil.”

Rachmaninoff composed this piece in 1915, after he had written another lengthy choral piece of similar vein, Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom, which he was not satisfied with. The All Night Vigil is a rich piece of choral music history, and is considered one of the biggest choral masterpieces of the early 1900’s. This movement of the piece is the most-performed movement out of the entire 15 movement piece. Join us on June 4 for this musical masterpiece!



Supporting our Youth in Faith...continued from cover page

Smith had been serving in a part time capacity as Interim Christian Education Coordinator since coming to Govans in September. At the March meeting of Session she was moved to a full-time position in recognition of the expanded duties and responsibilities her position has come to include. In addition to her Children’s Sermon duties in each service, Smith leads Sunday School classes for youth of all ages every Sunday in the Youth Room at 9:45. The classes use discussion, storytelling, art-making and other activities to encourage everyone present to think about scripture and faith in their daily lives. Her other responsibilities are extensive, ranging from coaching youth lay leaders, to organizing events such as September’s Sunday School Kick-Off and Waffle Bar to helping coordinate 3rd Sunday Youth Mixers done in conjunction with Roland Park Presbyterian and Faith Presbyterian.

Smith praises the sense of community she’s found since coming to Govans, and particularly appreciates finding through the Church a connection to Woodberry Crossing, where she now works one day a week helping care for the goats and sheep. “I’ve been working on events and helping gather people together all my life,” she says of her experiences at Govans to date. “One of the things I’ve gained in working with the youth is learning how to allow things to evolve. Even the Sunday sermon. Sometimes you lead and sometimes you have to allow yourself to be led. It’s really magical.”

EDUCATION BUILDING RENOVATIONS

Beginning Summer 2024



GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



EDUCATION BUILDING RENOVATIONS

The Education Building that houses the Govans Preschool and the Senior Network of North Baltimore (SNNB) was built in 1958 and features two window walls that are badly in need of replacement. This project will replace them with brick façades and new energy efficient windows including a canopy covering the entrance to the SNNB. Additionally, the project includes a complete regrading and resurfacing of the playground, and new exterior signage will be installed across our entire campus.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who is working with Govans on this project? The architect is Jerome Gray and the contractor is A.R. Marani. Members of Govans staff and volunteers from the Facilities committee have been working with them for over two years on the design and planning of the project. The Session has also been kept updated throughout this process.

How long will construction take? The project will be done in the 3 phases with a planned start in June 2024. Each phase is expected to last about 3 months. We will be replacing the west wall first, followed by the south wall and SNNB canopy and finally the playground. The brick façades and canopy are expected to be done by the end of 2024. Work on the playground is expected to be completed in February 2025 depending on weather.

Will the preschool and SNNB be able to operate during construction? Yes, maintaining preschool and SNNB operations is essential. In order for the preschool to remain operational and also have space for play, we are planning to have both Sharp Hall and the Multipurpose Room converted to classroom space during the first two phases. Due to state licensing requirements the classrooms need to remain in place, and as a result, other activities in those rooms will be severely limited between June and December 2024. The SNNB will be moving some of their programming to the Gallery, Waverly Room, and Youth Room. We know this is a great inconvenience to our building users. We ask for your patience and understanding.

Why are we regrading the playground? For many years the playground has been subject to flooding that impacts the Carriage House. The regrading will solve this issue.

Why are we getting new signs? Our campus can be confusing and unwelcoming to first time visitors. New and improved signage will help solve that problem and improve our curb appeal.

How much will this cost? Session has approved \$1.3 million for this project. To pay for the project, we have \$500,000 allocated in the preschool and major maintenance fund. For the remaining amount, we will borrow from our pooled endowment fund and repay this loan over 20 years. Eighty percent of the repayment will come from preschool revenue, and the remaining from the church operating budget.

If you have any questions, please contact Andy Wilson (wilson@govanspres.org).

GOVANS
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
5828 York Road
Baltimore, MD 21212
410-435-9188
www.govanspres.org

*"Govans Presbyterian Church is a theologically progressive community
empowering people to make the world better."*

**JUNETEENTH
JUBILEE**
Monday, June 10 @ 7pm

GOVANS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

*Building Bridges - Making a Difference