

Vienna Presbyterian Church

Youth Worship Ministries Handbook

2009 – 2010

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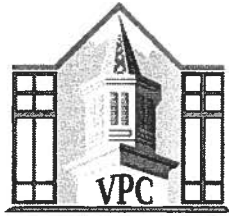
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Built by Faith...Called to Serve
Vienna Presbyterian Church (PCUSA)
124 Park Street, NE
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Dear Friends,

Welcome to all!



VPC Worship Ministries

Once again, to those of you who are returning this year, I am delighted that you have accepted God's call to continue our journey together in worship ministry. To those of you who are checking us out and/or thinking of joining us, we are all delighted that you have taken this first step.

The youth worship ministry at Vienna Presbyterian Church is a vibrant, growing ministry. The direction and mission of the youth worship program is largely defined by you, the skills that you bring to this ministry and your willingness to share your gifts. It is a rare opportunity that you have in this church to be able to provide worship leadership to a congregation on a weekly basis. Your presence is a blessing to all who see and hear you.

One of the frequent questions students ask me is 'What's so important about coming to church?' That's a fair question which the apostle Paul addresses well in Romans 12:4-5:

"Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others."

Coming to church every week is our way of connecting with each other to connect with God. Sure, individual Bible study and prayer are important for personal growth and renewal but equally important is the nurturing and encouragement that can only come through fellowship with other Christians.

Enclosed you will find our schedule for the year. The most important thing you can do to participate in the worship ministry at Vienna Presbyterian Church is to simply show up. When you give the gift of your presence you are offering the greatest gift that God has given you.

We have another exciting year lined up, including a trip to Meadowkirk on Columbus Day in October 2009, a tour through the Shenandoah Valley over President's Day weekend in February 2010 and of course Glorious Sounds of Christmas (December 20, 2009) and Youth Sunday (April 25, 2010)! Please take time to look over the schedule and mark your calendars with all the special events in the life of our ministry.

Remember, your presence will be a blessing to others.

Grace & peace,

Kerry Wilkerson
Assistant Director of Music Ministries

Vienna Presbyterian Church

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE'RE ALL ABOUT

Built by Faith

Our Core Beliefs

- We believe in one God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and that Jesus Christ is the way to salvation.
- God seeks to enter an intimate relationship with all by calling people to faith in Jesus Christ.
- God speaks to us and directs us through the Bible.
- We are called to serve God.
- We trust in the power of prayer.

Our Core Values

- Worship is central to the life of this church.
- We seek to honor God by yielding ourselves for Christ to accomplish his purposes in and through us.
- We respect each other and value everyone's contribution.
- We seek to accomplish God's mission through an orderly process that holds us accountable to God and to each other.
- We seek to be responsive to new opportunities while remaining faithful to our traditions.
- We expect all church members to be growing spiritually and to be engaged actively in the ministry and mission of the church.
- We seek to respond to the needs of others with the love of Jesus Christ.

Called to Serve

Our Mission

We believe God is calling us to:

- Proclaim the gospel through our words and actions.
- Teach people of all ages about Christ
- Assist those in need
- Serve our community in Christ's name.
- Encourage small group discipleship and fellowship
- Provide a welcoming place for Christian growth and worship

Our Vision

We believe that God wants us to:

- Reach more people for Christ.
- Provide Christian training for our members and for church leaders.
- Use of technology to proclaim the Gospel.
- Facilitate the start up and support of new congregations.

Traits of a Positive Youth Music Culture

- Musicians are a part of the ensemble because they want to be.
- Parents, director, accompanist and musicians all believe that the work of the ensemble is extremely important.
- When someone visits a rehearsal, they sense dedication, commitment and excitement.
- Parents, director, accompanist and musicians all share the same high standards and commitment to excellence. (Discipline = discipleship)
- Parents, director, accompanist and musicians are all encouraging and supportive of one another.
- Rehearsals are energetic, timely, positive and productive.
- Musicians care deeply for one another and are kind to each other.
- Freedom from fear; you should never be afraid to fail.
- Everyone is free to make a mistake.
- Mistakes are forgiven and we all learn from them.
- Everyone gets a second chance.
- Musicians know the history of the program and its heroes.
- The ensemble has clear goals and reviews them at least twice a year.
- Never miss an opportunity to celebrate— not only successes but also mistakes.
- Musicians exude an air of optimism.
- Parents, director, accompanist and musicians are all fiercely loyal to the church and its music ministry.
- The ensemble operates on a few rules but those few rules are sacred.
- Positives are stressed over negatives.
- Collaboration is stressed over competition.
- Musicians show pride in their ensemble.
- Honesty is a top priority.
- Musicians, accompanist and director have fun making music.
- Musicians don't have to be alike to be liked.
- Individuality and creativity are celebrated and valued.
- Taking risks is allowed and encouraged.

Rules for an Excellent Youth Music Ensemble

- Take care of yourself first, then take care of each other.
- Be good at what we do; it's more fun that way.
- Make rehearsals a priority.
- Make worship services a priority.
- Show up– make a concerted effort to be on time.
 - 15 minutes early is on time.
 - On time is late.
 - Better late than never.
- Know your music.
- If you don't know your music; pretend that you do.
- Smile when you sing– you're supposed to be having fun.
- Be kind to one another; support each other.
- Always exhibit proper posture.
 - sit or stand up straight
 - both feet should always be on the floor
 - shoulder width apart
 - weight distributed equally among both feet
 - chest high, shoulders back
- Make music with your whole body.
- Watch the conductor.
- Make music from memory whenever possible.
- Stretch yourself– spiritually, mentally & musically.
- Treat every opportunity to make music as if it were your last.
- Respect and appreciate your director and accompanists.
- Be committed to excellence in all that you do.
- Strive to participate in as many ensemble events as possible.
- Communicate to the director/manager when you **cannot** be at an ensemble event.
- Reciprocate: when someone contacts you, return their message.
- Put your music back where you found it.
- Keep your music folder clean and presentable.
- Always have a pencil at rehearsals.
- Don't chew gum or eat candy when you're making music or about to make music.

Criteria for an Excellent Musician

Leadership/Conduct

- Positive role model for others
- Committed
- Disciplined and hard-working
- Attentive and respectful in rehearsal
- Compliant when expectations are clearly communicated

Teamwork

- Positive and optimistic
- Willing to accept direction
- Supportive
- Loyal

Performance

- Excellent attendance
- Responsible and accountable
- Punctual
- Prepared

Singing Ability

- Musicianship
- Tone quality
- Pitch accuracy
- Sight reading

Youth Worship Ministry Goals

- To grow as disciples of Jesus Christ
- Draw ourselves and others closer to God through the arts (music, dance, drama...)
- Be positive role models for our:
 - church
 - presbytery
 - denomination
 - faith
- Love one another as Christ loves each one of us
- Constantly pursue excellence in our art; striving for perfection through our art will draw us closer to God
- Rejoice in our fellowship as members of the body of Christ
- Recruit more people to join our ensembles

Dress Code

- Dress & appearance should be tasteful and complimentary to the individual
- Members of the ministry team should acknowledge that they are in front of the congregation at all times
- We strive to help the congregants focus on worshiping God and not on what we, the worship leaders, are wearing.
- Keep dress & appearance professional.

Guys: Consider wearing shirts with collars (polo or dress) as opposed to a t-shirt, pants (preferably dress or khakis) as opposed to jeans/shorts and shoes (with socks) instead of sneakers or sandals.

Girls: Consider hem lines & necklines when choosing clothing for Sunday morning.

Vienna Presbyterian Church

Youth Worship Ministry

Attendance Philosophy

*In order to develop and maintain
an unwavering commitment to our ministry,
an unparalleled level of performance,
and to create an outstanding tradition of unity and camaraderie,
our members are expected to be at all
rehearsals, services & concerts, ready to make music.*

The practical implications of this philosophy:

If you must miss any part of a rehearsal, you must notify your manager (Katelyn Corridon, choir or Katherine DeFazio, orchestra) by phone **at least 24 hours** before the rehearsal is scheduled to begin; if you cannot speak directly to the manager, leave a message explaining why you must miss the rehearsal.

If you are sick, but not bedridden, please **come to rehearsal anyway**. If you do not feel well enough to sit with the ensemble, please observe the rehearsal quietly, listen, and take notes. Having no voice is not an excuse to miss a choir rehearsal.

The director differentiates between "*communicated*" and "*non-communicated*" absences. Regardless of the reason, when someone misses rehearsal, it hurts that person and the entire group. "*Non-communicated*" absences are particularly difficult as they can severely damage our ability to function as an ensemble.

There are of course legitimate reasons for missing rehearsals. In the event that habitual absences have a negative impact on our ability to perform our ministry, the director will speak with the individual to try and reach an arrangement that will benefit not only the individual but also the ensemble.

The director and manager will be available immediately after rehearsals. If you have any questions about attendance, or if you foresee conflicts in the future, please come and tell us about them in advance.

You are always invited to provide input and feedback about any aspect of the VPC Youth Worship Ministry.

Information Sheet for Youth Worship Ministry

Frequently Asked Questions:

Why should I come to church? For Christians, going to church is just like eating dinner with your family. Sunday mornings are the time we set aside to gather with our Christian family for the purpose of sharing our gifts with each other to glorify God as a community. This process ideally should help us feel more connected to one another by drawing us closer to God through His Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ. The apostle Paul says it best in Romans 12:4-6 (The Message):

"In this way we are like the various parts of a human body. Each part gets its meaning from the body as a whole, not the other way around. The body we're talking about is Christ's body of chosen people. Each of us finds our meaning and function as a part of his body. But as a chopped-off finger or cut-off toe we wouldn't amount to much, would we? So since we find ourselves fashioned into all these excellently formed and marvelously functioning parts in Christ's body, let's just go ahead and be what we were made to be, without enviously or pridefully comparing ourselves with each other, or trying to be something we aren't."

Why are we always at the 8am service? It is the responsibility of the Youth Worship Ministry to ensure worship leadership is always provided at the 8am service throughout the year. Occasionally, elements from our ministry (singers, choir, instrumentalists, dancers, etc..) are asked to lead at the 9:30 & 11 services. Twice a year the Youth Worship Ministry leads worship at all three services; Youth Sunday and the Sunday after the workshop in August.

If I'm leading worship in the choir or orchestra for the 8am Sunday service what time should I plan to get to church? 7:20am is our standard call time. That means orchestra members should be in their seat with instruments in hand and music on the stand and choir members should be in their seats with music, folder and a bulletin by 7:20am. We encourage members of the youth worship ministry to adhere to the golden rule of time management; 15 minutes early is on time and on time is late.

When do we rehearse? The Youth Choir rehearses weekly from 10:45am-12:15pm in the Choir room on Sunday mornings. The Youth Orchestra rehearses monthly; usually from 6:30-7:30pm the Saturday evening before the Sunday they are scheduled to lead worship. Celebration Ringers (Jeanne Bingham, Director) rehearses on Sundays, 3:30-4:30pm. Liturgical Dance Company of NVA rehearses as needed in various locations (contact Margaret Cundiff, (703)533-2293, liturgicaldance.nova@gmail.com).

How often does the Youth Orchestra lead worship? Once a month at least. We're trying to schedule the Youth Orchestra more than that but this is very difficult to do given the logistical needs of the later two services each week.

How often does the Youth Choir lead worship? Every week.

Where can I get a copy of the schedule for the Youth Orchestra? There is an up to date schedule available on the website 24/7. Go to www.viennapres.org/music. Click on 'Youth Music Ministries Schedule'.

What's the best way to stay updated with information on the Youth Worship Ministry program? Our primary method of communication is a weekly email sent out through the Student Ministry database, Constant Contact. If you would like to remain updated make sure you are on this email distribution list. To get your email address on this distribution list, email melissa.jensen@viennapres.org. You may also check the website for regular updates (www.viennapres.org/music; click on 'Youth Worship Ministries Schedule'). We also have a group on facebook.com: 'VPC Youth Worship Ministries'. If you're on facebook and want to join let Kerry or Katelyn know and we will invite you into the group.

Where are we going on tour this year? Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands in Wytheville VA, First Presbyterian Church of Staunton VA and First Presbyterian Church of Monroe NC have all invited us to provide their communities with a worship experience. We're in the process of finalizing plans. More to follow...

Do you need any parental help with the Youth Worship Ministry program? We're so glad when parents ask this question! Parents provide snacks for the youth worship ministry every Sunday morning before the 8am service. Tammy Workman organizes the snack sign up list. Please email her at if you can help out with that. Other opportunities range from being a chaperone on trips to filing music and everything in between. We are always looking for volunteers to do something so please let Kerry know if you're available.

If I join the choir do I have to come every week? Yes... and no. As stated, we are responsible for providing musical leadership at 8am every week. Given the very busy lives that we all live it is difficult for anyone to be at the 8am service every single week of the year. Those of us dedicated to the youth worship ministry strive to be here every week but everyone has times of the year where they just can't make it. In other words, come as often as you can and be realistic with yourself about the time commitment you're prepared to make to the ministry.

If I join the orchestra do I have to come every time they play? Yes... and no. Read the response to the question above. Same concept applies. Of course we want you more often than not but we certainly understand when people can't make it.

This has been helpful but I still have a lot of questions. Who do I contact?

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