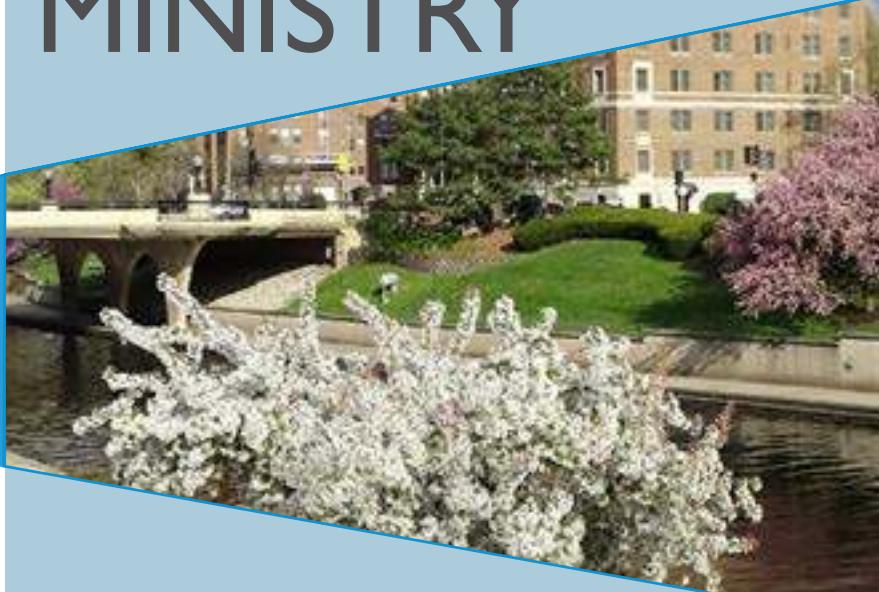




MISSIONS & MINISTRY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:



FEATURE

Two Churches Merge for Greater Kingdom Impact

Page 1



CHURCH SPOTLIGHT

The Church in Waldo Launches Inner City Youth Ministry

Page 2



PARTNER MINISTRY

Campus Ministry Update

Page 3



ASSOCIATION NEWS

Grant Report & Rentals

Page 4

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www.blueriverkansacity.org

Two Churches Merge for Greater Kingdom Impact

Written by Pastor Chris Hicks and Pastor Gary Jones

GRANDVIEW, MO - Greater Kingdom advancement is what is happening here in the Midwest. On Easter Sunday on April 1, **The U Church** merged with **Belvidere Heights Baptist Church**. The U Church, an African-American congregation led by **Pastor Gary Jones** and Belvidere Heights, led by **Pastor Chris Hicks**, have joined together to form one church that will soon re-launch under a new name.

Pastor Chris has been leading BHBC to be a multi-ethnic congregation, "a little bit of heaven on earth." Upon running into Pastor Gary at a convention meeting last year, Pastor Chris asked what is going on with The U Church.

Pastor Gary replied, "We are looking to merge with another congregation." From that point, the two pastors began to meet each week in prayer and conversation.



Continued on Page 2

Two Churches, cont. from Page 1

Soon after, the church leadership became involved in praying and discussion. The churches met together, worshipped together, ate together, and had Q&A times. God brought together two pastors with the same heart and two churches with the same vision, and we are poised for "greater Kingdom advancement!"

Pastor Chris is a gifted administrator and Pastor Jones loves missions and outreach. Already the church has hosted the staff and teachers of the local elementary school for a catered dinner and teamed up with the Before and After School Linc Program to feed children.

Together, we are poised for “greater Kingdom advancement”.

This spring and summer the leadership is envisioning the future, writing a new constitution, changing the structure of the church, changing the name of the church, and becoming laser-focused on fulfilling the Great Commission. The facilities are being updated inside and out. A fall launch is planned.

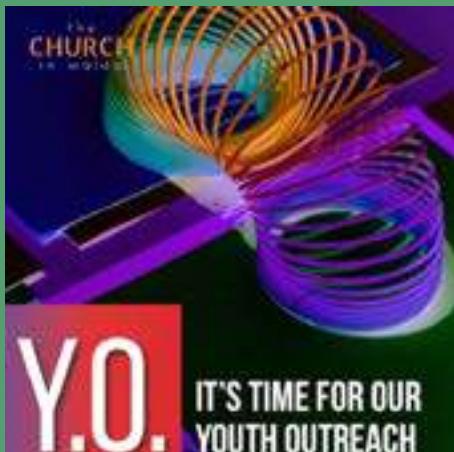
"We are excited about God's answer to prayer, for more laborers for the harvest, for a nucleus of people that see what God can do and will do with people in line with His vision and plan for the Church," says Pastor Chris.

Interested in learning more? Contact Pastor Chris Hicks at
hickschris6@gmail.com



The Church in Waldo Launches Inner City Youth Outreach

by Eli Akins (eli@thechurchinwaldo.org)



KANSAS CITY, MO - Many of Kansas City's young kids have been lost to the streets. Without intervention that helps break down the barriers they face at a young age, the cycle perpetuates. We long to see this change, to prevent youth from becoming involved with the streets and to inspire them to reach their God-given purpose in life.

On May 9, 2018, [The Church](#)

in Waldo launched a Youth Outreach (Y.O.) for inner city teens with the intent of showing them another path forward in life. The weekly Wednesday evening outreach, held in our newly redone church basement, will provide youth with a meal, mentorship, Bible teaching, and relationship-building fun. We will also discuss issues they are dealing with and provide practical assistance with everything from reading to setting goals to applying for jobs. We will follow up with all the kids during the week and provide a point of contact if they need any support.

Many of these kids face hunger, homelessness, lack of guidance, and low school attendance. Y.O. is determined to bring out the good in every young person we meet. We want each youth to know they are loved by God no matter their race, gender or background.

We want to provide a stable way of thinking in an unstable world and help them work toward their goals and dreams. In short, we want to help develop our kids into who God intended them to be.

In order to accomplish these things and make a positive impact in these kids' lives, we ask that you pray for us. We also need several items:

- Van (to pick kids up and drop them off back home)
- Lightly used furniture/ tables with chairs
- Games
- Basketball Hoop (2)
- Kids Bibles (60-100, ESV preferred)
- TVs/game systems
- Laptops (to teach them how to do resumes, etc.)

To learn more, donate an item, or get involved, contact Eli Akins at eli@thechurchinwaldo.org.

Partner Ministry Update

College Ministry, Daniel Graham and Travis Hamm, K.C. Collegiate Impact

Jesus says "the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and though it is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree."

This is exactly what ministry at [Park University](#) and [Maple Woods](#) has been like this semester. God has brought me (Daniel) in contact with several students who are on fire for Him and who are eager to reach others with the Gospel. These divinely orchestrated meetings are answers to prayers and evidence of God moving on the campuses.

One such student is David, a Junior at Park who plays on the baseball team. God recently reached into David's life and brought him to salvation while he was at a conference in Oklahoma. After trusting Jesus, David started reaching out to those around him to passionately share about the Savior who has transformed his life. I have had the opportunity to meet David and get coffee with him; and we have now started meeting weekly. As we meet, we talk about

issues we are struggling with and the things God has been teaching us.

It is so cool to see how God is taking the mustard seed of David's life and continuing to grow the tree of the kingdom through David's teammates and roommates. Be praying for David as he spends this summer at an intentional discipleship camp in California. Pray that God would continue to grab hold of David's life and that He would equip David for a lifetime of walking with Jesus.

UMKC Student in Need

We have been ministering to a UMKC student who is going through a difficult time. While we are seeking to provide emotional and spiritual support, he also has some immediate practical needs, including:

- A place to live, preferably close to UMKC or along the bus route.
- A job within bus route access.
- Temporary financial resources until he gets on his feet.

If you have any leads or resources to offer, please email travis@impactumkc.com.

JUNE

June 7 - [Pastor's Prayer Luncheon](#)
Noon @ Southview Baptist

June 8 - [Revitalization Cohort](#) with
Dan Southerland
10a @ Church at Three Trails

June 11 -13 - Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting Dallas, TX
www.sbcannualmeeting.net

JOBS

Missouri Baptist Children's Home is hiring a part-time registered nurse for their Byrne Campus in Peculiar.
Apply at www.mbach.org

Longview Baptist is looking for a part-time Youth/Children's Ministry Leader (1st-12th grade).
Email longviewbaptist@att.net or call 816-524-3341.

Save the Date!

Fall Semi-Annual Meeting

October 7, 2018

Details TBA

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Fall 2018 Grant Schedule

Periodical

- 8/3 Grant applications due
8/22 Grant checks written

Read the guidelines and apply at:
www.blueriver-kansascity.org/grant

Spring 2018 Grant Report

Gospel Outreach	Sterling Acres Grace and Truth Summit Point (Blue Summit) Christian Challenge K.C. Collegiate Impact Belvidere Heights Mt. Washington	\$ 1,000.00 \$ 1,000.00 \$ 500.00 \$ 2,000.00 \$ 2,000.00 \$ 900.00 \$ 1,000.00	Resourcing Churches Assisting Community Transformation	Belvidere Heights Bales Avenue Restoration House Grace Church	\$ 1,500.00 \$ 3,208.78 \$ 3,208.78 \$ 1,574.27
Equipping Leaders	Olive Branch Missionary Seminary Scholarship Seminary Scholarship	\$ 500.00 \$ 1,500.00 \$ 1,500.00	Church Planting		



EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR YOUR CHURCH PARTY OR BAPTISM SERVICE

We have two party trailers, a BBQ smoker, and a portable baptistry available for rent. Reservations are made online and require a deposit to confirm spot. Rentals are available to churches and ministries that cooperate with BR-KC.

RESERVE TODAY

<https://blueriverkansascity.org/rentals/>

BRKC