I’m not sure it is possible to be Christian without being a hypocrite. Christians are always a mixture of “I believe, help my unbelief.” In church we are reminded that even when we are not particularly good Christians, being Christian is still a particularly good thing. If you want to be like Jesus, then you need to be in church—because in church we say out loud who God believes we can be.
GOD’S PEOPLE GATHER

Prelude

*Intermezzo from “Cavalleria rusticana”*
by Pietri Mascagni

Choral Introit (11 a.m.)

*Joy, Joy, Joy*
by Lynn Shaw Bailey; Kindergarten-2nd grade Morning Stars Choir

Call to Worship

In mystery and grandeur,
**we see the face of God.**
In earthiness and the ordinary,
**we know the love of Christ.**
In heights and depths, in life and death,
**the Spirit is moving among us.**
Let us worship the God who is with us always.

*Hymn, No. 679

Let the Whole Creation Cry
SALZBURG

*Prayer of Confession

Merciful God,
We confess that we have sinned against you
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done,
and by what we have left undone.
We have not loved you
with our whole heart and mind and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

In your mercy forgive what we have been,
help us amend what we are,
and direct what we shall be,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. (Silent prayer)
*Response


*Assurance of God’s Grace

*Passing of the Peace

Words of Welcome

Why Village Matters: Presbyterian Women’s Retreat

Kristen Schotte

PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Call to Prayer

Lord, listen to your children praying. Lord, send your

Spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children

praying. Send us love; send us power; send us grace.
Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.**

*Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.*

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

*and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors;*

*and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.*

**For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

**Anthem**

*Credo*

music: Jane Marshall; words: Mark 9:24 (see note*)

*I believe in the sun, even when it is not shining.*

*I believe in love, even when not feeling it.*

*Lord, I believe. Help thou my unbelief.*

*I believe in God, even when God is silent.*

* The poetic part of this anthem’s text was an inscription, found written on the wall of a cellar in Cologne, Germany, where Jews hid during the Second World War.

**Prayer for Illumination**

Laura Hewitt (8 a.m.)

George Beaumont (9:30 a.m.)

Pam Hanson (11 a.m.)

**Scripture Reading**

Mark 9:14-29 (pg. 919)

**Sermon**

*I Believe, Help My Unbelief* 

Rev. Tom Are, Jr.

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD**

*Hymn, No. 691* 

*Lord, When I Came into This Life* 

*LAND OF REST*

**Offertory**

*Just As I Am* (8, 9:30 a.m.)

words: Charlotte Elliott (see hymn no. 442); music: Richard De Long; The Village Choir

*Wade In the Water* (11 a.m.)

music: Brad Printz; Village Voices
Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow
OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.

*Response

Prayer of Dedication

Commissioning of the Youth Mission Team (11 a.m.)
Rev. Zach Walker

*Hymn, No. 547
Go, My Children, with My Blessing
AR HYD Y NOS

*Benediction

*Choral Amen

*Postlude
March from “Aida”
by Guiseppi Verdi

*All who are able may stand
© A-705103 for all hymns
Monday, March 7
Colossians 1:1-2
All of the epistle writings begin with an opening salutation. It was typical in ancient letters to end with the word “Greetings.” But Paul seems to alter this expectation by offering a blessing, as well as a greeting. The Greek word chairein is “greetings,” and he changes it to the word charis, which means grace. Grace and peace to you!

Tuesday, March 8
Colossians 1:3-8
We have seen it before in the writings of Paul. He loves to link faith, hope and love together. But in this letter to Colossae it is hope that is the anchor of faith and love. Hope will be the overarching theme of this letter. After all, it is a central message of the gospel. The gospel draws us into faith in Jesus Christ, and calls us to love one another; because of the hope we have in God’s promised new day.

Wednesday, March 9
Colossians 1:9-14
Our prayer is that God will continue to lead us from darkness into the light. It was also the prayer of this writer to the church. The author writes about a cosmic power of darkness that God is saving us from. And God must first act in order for us to have the knowledge of divine grace. The result of this knowledge is that we will bear fruits of the Spirit and respond by living out the Christian life through love.

Thursday, March 10
Colossians 1:15-20
This text is perhaps one of the oldest hymns in the Christian church. It gives us great imagery of the cosmos, and how Christ is the agent and the bond of creation. It says, “He is the image of the invisible God.” But this image is not a copy or photograph of God, but the true manifestation of God’s being. This hymn becomes the theological anchor for the entire letter with Christ at the center of all in all.

Friday, March 11
Colossians 1:21-23
We were once estranged from God, and now reconciled. This is the hope promised in the gospel that we are to stay steadfast in our faith. Right after the great cosmic hymn of Christ at the center of all things, we are reminded how we must live out this truth. What is hoped for on a cosmic level must be actualized in the ordinary reality of mundane life.

Saturday, March 12
Colossians 1:24-2:5
Great is the mystery of faith. We say this when praying the great prayer of thanksgiving at the Lord’s Table. Mystery has long been explained as some kind of divine secret story. But through the gospel of Christ this mystery can be learned and known. But this knowledge is not of things, but of a transforming touch of divine love of that all of us are a part.
Welcome Center Opens Next Sunday, March 13

About the Design from Brian Rathsam and David Evans, Mantel Teter Architects

The Welcome Center materials and motif had to be carefully considered and blended, making the new addition appear that it had always been there.

A real sense of ‘entry’ and identification was absent from the north and west façade at Village Church. This addition provided an opportunity to create an “Art of Arrival” experience. The introduction of several large glass windows along Mission Road allows the building to be ‘open’ and outstretched to the community. This openness and transparency allows those passing by to see in and notice activity within the church, a feature that didn’t previously exist.

Various spaces are available for people to have community together, have conversations, and most importantly, simply connect in relationship.

New Amenities for People with Limited Mobility

Those needing extra care and assistance will now be able to drive their car under a canopy that covers the entire drive for unloading at the new north entry. Folks will be able to immediately enter the building and then have access to the large elevator that serves all floor levels. The elevator cab has access doors on each end.

They can come right in the entrance on the ground floor and take the elevator up to the Sanctuary level and enter through west side doors to the Sanctuary, or they can enjoy the Welcome Center and enter the Sanctuary through the Narthex. There are no stairs to impede them doing that.

Welcome Center Traffic Advisory

On Sunday mornings and days when we have heavy traffic events, the north Mission Road entrance will be blocked off. This is a request of Prairie Village police for safety and traffic reasons. To enter the north parking lot, you will need to turn onto 66th Street and enter the lot from the 66th Street entrance. During normal business hours, unless we have a big memorial service or a big community event, the north parking lot Mission Road entrance will be open.

New Location for the Village Cup

The new café bistro location is flooded with natural light and allows views to both the outdoor courtyard and Mission Road. Adjacent to the new Welcome Center, this space has seating of all types and is just one of the many spaces that encourage conversation and connection. The outdoor courtyard provided separation from the existing building and allowed us to preserve the windows into the existing Sanctuary.

The Cup will continue to provide the same coffee and espresso drinks, smoothies and frappes, hot and iced teas. They are expanding the pastry selection, including gluten-free options.

The Village Cup’s current location will close at the end of business today. The Cup will be closed all next week and will reopen in its new location in the Welcome Center next Sunday, March 13. Come enjoy the NEW Cup experience!
TODAY AT VILLAGE

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH! Please join us every week. Refreshments are available in Friendship Hall following the worship service.

THE FLOWERS IN THE CHANCEL TODAY are given to the Glory of God in loving memory of Van Cooper by Bonny Cooper-Hull & family.

WORSHIP BAGS are available for children to use as tools in worship. At the end of the worship service, please return the bags to the baskets located in the narthex.

TODAY, VILLAGE COMMITMENT IS COLLECTING DONATIONS IN SUPPORT OF MISSION SEWING - Please bring your items to the Village Commitment table in Friendship Hall. If you forgot your donation, you may drop off your item at Molly Sirridge’s office (Room 117) anytime during office hours. Monetary donations are also accepted.

CONCEALED CARRY ON KANSAS COLLEGE CAMPUSES – WHAT DOES IT MEAN? - Join us at 6:30 p.m. tonight in Rooms 126/127. Loren Stanton, president of the NE Kansas Chapter of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence, is our speaker. He will provide information regarding the Kansas law allowing concealed carry of guns in all Kansas state and municipal buildings. College campuses have an exemption, which ends July 2017, when the concealed carry of handguns will be allowed inside state university buildings. Free and open to the community. Contact Trevor Fletcher at 913-530-3864 or tfletcher32@hotmail.com for more information.

CHILDREN AND FAMILY MINISTRY

PRESCHOOL CHURCH SCHOOL - Parents may check in their preschool-age child on the first floor in the Preschool wing. Church school classes are available 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

KIDS’ KINGDOM CHURCH SCHOOL - Parents may check in their elementary (K-5) aged students on the 3rd floor. 9:30-10:30 a.m.

CLUB V6 (6TH GRADE) - Fun and relevant discussions for today’s ‘tweens. 9:30-10:30 a.m. in Room 302.

ADULT EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

PARIS JOURNEYS - “NOT YOUR ORDINARY TRAVELOGUE!” - Village Forum Sunday morning class welcomes Elizabeth and Jay McKell who recently returned from Paris where Jay served as the visiting pastor at The American Church in Paris. The focus of his ministry was on Marriage Blessing Services but they experienced much more: a diverse and unique congregation, French cooking, art galleries and museums, shopping and the terrorist attacks on Nov. 13. Week one we will talk about marriage here and here and the worshipping community that is now misnamed The American Church. Week two we will tour the city and talk about the November attacks as well as the Middle Eastern refugee crisis. 9:30 a.m. March 13 and 20 in Rooms 126/127.

UPCOMING VILLAGE U CLASSES:

A Practical Guide to Gardens and Gardening in the Kansas City Area - This course will provide ideas on how to improve – not redo – your current ornamental gardens. Learn how to deal with shade, Kansas City soil and weather, those pesky bunnies, and suggest plants based on these factors. 6:30-8:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 8, in Room 232.

Village Talk - Rev. Brian Ellison, will speak with Rev. Dr. Wallace Hartsfield II, pastor of Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, a leader in the Harmony organization for a number of years and on staff at Central Baptist Theological Seminary. Join us from 6:30-8 p.m. Wednesday, March 9, in the Chapel.

Interior Design Pro Tips - Learn tips that you can use to improve the function of your space and make it feel more like home. Topics to be covered include: space planning, elements and principles of design, color theory, fabrics, furniture and measurement rules. Join us to find out how to bring more WOW to your home.” 9:30-11:30 a.m. Tuesday, March 29, in Room 127. Taught by Sean Margaret Droessler.
CONNECTIONAL MINISTRIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHT DINNER MARCH 9 - Chicken teriyaki, fried rice, steamed broccoli, salad bar, dessert. Price is $7 for full buffet, $6 for salad bar, dessert & drink, $3-children ages 3-10, ages 2 & under are free. Reservations no later than this evening. Call 913-671-2359 or email liz.middleton@villagepres.org or go to villagepres.org under Connect>Adult>Wednesday Dinners to make a reservation.

AGE SPECIFIC DINNER FOR 40s/50s - Village is offering a fun dinner opportunity for people in their 40s & 50s (couples and singles)! We have reservations at Red Snapper Bistro at 8430 Ward Parkway, at 6 p.m. Friday, March 11. Each person is responsible for their own tab. The reservation is under “Village Church Group.” Space is limited. RSVP to cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org or call 913-671-2331.

DINNER AT STROUD’S IN FAIRWAY FOR AGE 70s & UP - You are invited to meet at the famous Stroud’s Restaurant in Fairway, to enjoy a home-style dinner menu of American Classics with other Village Church friends. We’ll gather at the restaurant, located on the corner of Shawnee Mission Parkway and 55th St., for an early dinner at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, March 17. We’ll go “Dutch” (each person pays for their meal). Space is limited, so RSVP to Cindy Wilcox at 913-671-2331 or cindy.wilcox@villagepres.org.

MISSION

THE FOOD PANTRY - We at the Food Pantry are always grateful for your generous support to keep this mission successful. We continue to request pasta. Our clients love all types and shapes of pasta - whole wheat or white. The Clothes Closet still needs household items including cooking utensils, pans, dishes, glasses, decorative items and kitchen linens. Thank you again for your many wonderful donations!

VILLAGE CHURCH COOKS A MEAL AT CROSS-LINES - Friday, March 11, Village will for cook and serve a meal at the Cross-Lines kitchen in Kansas City, Kan. We need two to three people from 9:30-11 a.m. for prep and six to seven volunteers to serve and clean up from 11:15 a.m.-1:30 p.m. We also need cookie donations, and they can be dropped off at the church reception desk from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on Thursday, March 10. If you can help, contact Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.

COMMUNITY GARDEN - If you are interested in joining or are already on the Village Community Garden team, you are invited to a free spring kick off breakfast and social from 7:30 to 9 a.m. on Friday, April 1. A representative from Cultivate KC will provide a brief talk on urban food production. We’ll also share future plans for the garden, start scheduling volunteer slots and offer time for you to visit with fellow gardeners. If you plan to attend, RSVP to Deborah White, director of mission, at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org by Thursday, March 24.

HELP FILL HILLCREST’S LINEN CLOSET - Village Church Presbyterian Women are sponsoring a linen drive for Hillcrest Transitional Housing. Hillcrest provides temporary housing for homeless families, helping them become self-supporting and self-reliant in just 90 days. Hillcrest needs new or gently used: bathroom linens, kitchen washcloths and towels, bed linens (queen, full & twin). Drop off your donations at the receptionist desk. The Linen Drive ends April 12. Call Deborah White in the Mission Office at 913-671-2369 or deborah.white@villagepres.org for more information.

MUSIC MINISTRY

THE KANSAS CITY WIND SYMPHONY is presenting a free concert at 7 p.m. Sunday, March 13, in the Village Church Sanctuary. Entitled “From Russia with Love,” the program features guest pianist Kairy Koshoeva performing Rachmaninoff’s Piano Concerto No. 2. The second part of the program features Mussorgsky’s Pictures at an Exhibition with an art exhibit and projected artworks by Village Church artists. The Kansas City Wind Symphony is a member of the Village Arts Alliance. Call 816-781-1132 for more information.
SECOND THURSDAY RECITAL - Classical saxophonist, Megan Sebastian, and pianist, Amy (Ludwig) Pennington, will perform Vivaldi’s Concerto in F Major for Oboe and Piano, Rachmaninoff’s Vocalise, Op. 34, No. 4, Maurice’s Tableaux de Provence, Suite for Saxophone and Piano and excerpts from The Carnival of Venice. The 30-minute recital is at 12:15 p.m. Thursday, March 10, in the Village Sanctuary. Admission is free.

PASTORAL CARE AND COUNSELING

DELIVER AN EASTER LILY - Taking an Easter lily to members who are unable to attend church during Lent or Easter is a tradition at Village Church. If you are interested in delivering a lily or two after the last service, contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

NEW FAITH AND GRIEF LUNCH SERIES STARTS TUESDAY, APRIL 5 - From noon-1 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month, in Friendship Hall. Participants receive a free lunch and benefit from a short program and conversation around tables led by a trained facilitator. Registration will soon be available online at www.faithandgrief.org. Contact Rev. Jenny McDevitt at 913-671-2367 or jenny.mcdevitt@villagepres.org for more information.

IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR PARTNER – A new couples’ communication class will be from 6-8 p.m. in Room 230, Tuesday, April 5 and be held for four Tuesdays, ending on April 26. Dinner is provided and childcare is available. Registration is limited and due by March 22. Class fee is $50. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org.

GROWING THROUGH GRIEF BEGINS SOON – If you are grieving the loss of a loved one, consider attending Growing Through Grief. This five-week class is designed to help discover God's healing presence during a difficult time of life. There is no cost but registration is required. The next series of classes will be April 6-May 4 every Wednesday from 6:30-7:45 p.m. in Room 124. Contact Linda Alley at 913-671-2327 or linda.alley@villagepres.org to register.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN SPRING RETREAT – Tickets now on sale for the April 22–23 PW Spring Retreat at Heartland Presbyterian Retreat Center. We welcome Rev. Meg Peery McLaughlin and her mother, Rev. Margaret Peery, as our guest speakers. You may purchase tickets in Friendship Hall between services today. Online registration is also available on the Presbyterian Women web page at villagepres.org.

WOW LUNCH AT HOULiHAN’S - Ladies, wear your St. Patrick’s green and join WOW (Women of Wisdom) for a spring lunch at noon on Thursday, March 17. We’ll gather at Houlihan’s, Town Center, 4900 W. 119th. A casual restaurant, Houlihan’s specializes in American food, including homemade soups, salads, sandwiches and lunch entrees. All ladies are invited. RSVP by March 16 to Marvie Sneegas, sneegi@kc.rr.com, 913-209-9608, or to Diane Lee, dianelee@att.net, 913-432-4321.

SPRING SESSION-OPERATION BREAKTHROUGH READING PROGRAM - Partner with a preschool reading buddy from 9:30-11 a.m. Wednesdays, March 23 -April 27. No experience necessary-just a love for children! We need 35 volunteers (men and women) and 70 preschool level books per week for the Operation Breakthrough Reading Program. Contact Cindy Whitham at ciwhitham@aol.com or 913-262-3062 for info. Need child care? Call Pam at 913-671-2352 to make a reservation by the Wednesday prior to the day you plan to volunteer.

SOCIAL WITNESS & ADVOCACY

WALK IN SOLIDARITY WITH ADVOCATES FOR IMMIGRANT RIGHTS & RECONCILIATION (AIRRKC)- Join us together with Colonial Church to walk a mile with AIRRKC carrying banners and signs to make a plea for immigration reform. It will begin from the Village south parking lot at 5 p.m. Friday, March 11, and end at Colonial Church. Each month AIRR is walking one mile in the KC area in remembrance of 100 women who walked 100 miles from an immigration jail to Washington, DC in September, 2015, carrying stories of human suffering. Contact Jim Galliher at 816-536-0400 for more information.
**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY**

**MEET UP @ THE MOOSE** - Come and connect with Rev. Hallie Hottle from 6-8 p.m. on Thursdays, March 10 and 17 at the Blue Moose (4160 W. 71st St., Prairie Village). Come and help Hallie put names to faces, and begin to conspire for this new ministry at Village. Food is on us. All 20s and 30s welcome!

**YOUTH MINISTRY**

**HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES** – 9:30 a.m. Meet in the Balcony for Worship.

**CHEER H.S. YOUTH GROUP** - Meets tonight from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft.

**ODD MONDAYS BIBLE STUDY** – This is a new high school girls’ bible study that meets on odd dated Mondays (e.g., March 7, March 21) from 3-4 p.m. in the Upper Room. Join us for this great time together!

**TWOSDAYS** - Middle schoolers join us Tuesdays after school from 4-5:30 p.m. in the Youth Loft, Room 333.

**GPS M.S. YOUTH GROUP** – Meets this Wednesday evening from 6:30-8 p.m. In the Youth Loft.

**DOMINICAN REP. MISSION TRIp** – Our annual mission trip to the Dominican Republic leaves this coming Saturday for an amazing week of service to others! Please send prayers for our travels and time in the DR.

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**EASTER LILY MEMORIALS** - You may purchase a potted lily in memory or honor of a loved one by sending a check for $10 payable to Village Church (please include the memorial/honoree name with the check). Send your check to the church, Attn: Janice, with “Easter Memorial” referenced on both the envelope and the check. Your information must be received by noon on Friday, March 18, to be included in the April 5 Good News listing of donors.

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**THOUGHTS FROM VILLAGE COMMITMENT**

If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.  
— 1 Corinthians 13:3

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**SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR 2017 VILLAGE CHURCH OFFICERS** - The Village Church Nominating Committee needs your help in matching abilities with responsibilities. They are seeking recommendations for elders, elder trustees and deacons for 2017. Submit the form on our website: www.villagepres.org under the “About” section and “Officers” page. The link will be at the top of the Officers page. Printed forms are also available at the Receptionist Desk. Forms must be received by Sunday, March 20, 2016.

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**Young Family Estate Planning Workshop**

Child care is available with advanced reservation.

All young adults are invited to a seminar on the basics of estate planning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 7, in Room 126. This seminar will review the importance of estate planning documents for young families such as Last Will and Testaments; a Testamentary or a Living Trust for the support of the family; and an explanation of Probate, Guardianship and Conservatorship. Sponsored by Village Presbyterian Church Endowment Trust and presented by Stacey Janssen. RSVP to Marianne Weber at 913-671-2333 or marianne.weber@villagepres.org.
SERMON SERIES

Treasure in Clay Jars
The Apostle Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth that the Gospel Ministry is a “treasure we hold in clay jars.” This is a metaphor that resonates because we all know how fragile faith can be. We know how fragile Christians can be. One of the wonders of grace is that God continues to be found among the weak and fragile of faith. God’s treasure is carried in clay jars, meaning God’s beauty can show up in our brokenness. It’s good news. We hope you will join us to hear it.

Feb. 14  All Are Ministers
Feb. 21  When the Church Gets it Wrong
Feb. 28  Some Things Never Change . . . Until They Do
March 6  I Believe, Help My Unbelief
March 13  The Brokenness of Jesus
March 20  When the Nation is Broken
March 27  Easter Isn’t Over

Holy Week Services
Maundy Thursday, 7 p.m. March 24; Good Friday, 7 p.m. March 25; Easter Sunday, 8, 9:30 and 11:15 a.m. March 27.

MINISTERS
All members of the congregation

MINISTRY TEAM
Rev. Thomas L. Are, Jr., senior pastor  Mark Ball, director of music
Dr. Elisa Bickers, principal organist  Rev. Len Carrell, pastor of pastoral care
Cheryl Couch-Thomas, director of children and family ministry  Rev. Hallie Hottle, pastor of young adult ministry
Marjean Lindquist, director of child care  Kathy Lueckert, director of finance and administration
Rev. Jenny McDevitt, pastor of pastoral care  Matthew C. Shepard, associate director of music
Rev. Diane Quaintance, interim director of adult educational ministry
Molly Sirridge, director of stewardship & endowments  Rev. Zach Walker, pastor of youth ministries
Deborah White, director of mission  Cindy A. Wilcox, director of connectional ministries
Rev. Dr. Robert H. Meneilly, pastor emeritus

The 8 a.m. service is broadcast live on 1660 AM KMBZ, The Business Channel.
Streaming video of all the Sunday morning Sanctuary services is available at villagepres.org. Click the Quick Link “Live Service Broadcasts.”
We kindly request that cell phones be turned off during worship.
Large-print Bibles and hymnals are available for worship. Ask an usher if you need these items.
Please note that additional parking is available across Mission Road in the Prairie School parking lots.
If you are not taking your bulletin with you, please hand it to an usher so it may be recycled.