



TO RUSSIA WITH LOVE # 6

A Pilgrimage to Remember

June 27—July 11, 2012



Sponsored by:

**The Miami Valley Episcopal Russian Network
(MVERN)**

Greetings!

Thank you for your interest in this exciting ministry opportunity! Hopefully, this brochure will help answer many of the questions that you might have about what you potentially are getting yourself into. But, while this brochure deals with the facts of the trip, I'd like to share a little about what I hope you will do on this mission trip.

You will be sharing gifts. Of course, you will experience the history and culture of ancient and modern Russia, and learn how history and culture make the Russian people who they are today. But most importantly, you will be sharing gifts.

The gift of friendship as you forge new relationships among the youth of Sablino. The gift of yourself as you share in the leadership of a day camp. The gift of faith as you share the love of Jesus in a small town. The gift of a future as you share your sweat to improve the Sablino Youth Center, a safe place from the lure of gangs and drugs.

And, if you will receive it, the gift of change for yourself. For if you participate fully in all that this mission trip offers, you will never be the same. You will find that the world looks different, that your faith has increased, and that you are more excited to be involved in the ministry of your church and your diocese. Are you ready to share these gifts? I hope that you are and we look forward to making this trip with you.

Trip at a glance . . .

- Spend 8 days with Russian teens from St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church in Sablino, Russia, MVERN's partner parish.
- Discover the common language of love and service that connects Christians around the world.
- Help lead a summer camp at the Sablino Youth Center.
- Work with Russian youth during service days at Sablino.
- Worship with the congregation of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church.
- Explore St. Petersburg and ancient Novgorod
- Learn about Russian culture, faith and daily life.
- See first-hand the revival of Christianity in Russia after 70 years of persecution.

"The trip to Russia was powerful, both personally and spiritually." —Previous traveler

ITINERARY—To Russia with Love #6

June 28-30 - St. Petersburg & Novgorod (July 6-7)

After a trans-Atlantic flight from Dayton, arrive in ST. PETERSBURG, founded by Peter the Great in 1703 and often called *The Venice of the North*. Baroque palaces, tinted in delicate pastels, line the banks of dozens of canals. Experience the amazing Russian “White Nights” and see the sun shining at midnight!

Begin your visit to Russia with an ORIENTATION TOUR of St. Petersburg, stopping at the PETER AND PAUL FORTRESS, constructed in 1703, and ST. ISAAC’S CATHEDRAL, the fourth largest domed cathedral in the world. Worship at St. Andrew’s Cathedral before wandering through the halls of the great HERMITAGE STATE MUSEUM, originally the Czars’ Winter Palace and now one of the largest art museums in the world.



NOVGOROD, founded in 859 and one of the oldest cities in Russia, once was the rich and influential capital of old Russia and the ancient center of Christianity. See the NOVGOROD KREMLIN, a fortress in early days, and ST. SOPHIA CATHEDRAL, Russia’s oldest stone church. The OPEN-AIR MUSEUM OF WOODEN



ARCHITECTURE is filled with churches, houses and peasants’ huts, all built in the traditional Russian wooden architectural style and moved in from throughout the Novgorod region. Watch local artisans demonstrate the activities of daily life in ancient Russia.

During these excursions you will discover the deep Christian faith that survived 70 years of persecution, as well as the cultural wealth of Russia and its rich and heroic history.

July 1-10 – SABLINO

Spend 8 days in Sablino, a rural village in northern Russia at the SABLINO YOUTH CENTER, sponsored by St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, MVERN's partner parish. Here Russian youth, ages 7-17, gather after school, on Saturdays, and at a summer camp. The youth center is open to children from throughout the region and has become a model for similar programs in other villages.

For many of these days you will be building. By helping lead a half-day youth camp for local students you will be building positive relationships through music, art, drama, sports, English language classes, or whatever else you are gifted in.

You also will be building a permanent reminder of your pilgrimage as each afternoon you join your Russian peers in a common work project to build and/or improve the facilities of the Sablino Youth Center.



July 11—Homeward Bound

After an early morning flight from St. Petersburg, you will return to the Dayton Airport by early evening.

You will have made many new friends during two weeks in Russia. You will have learned how much alike you are but also will be saddened by the many hardships that they endure. You will have learned that the Russians are an intelligent, cultured and deeply spiritual people, with a great sense of humor, facing hardships with dignity, ingenuity and respect.

Above all, you will have learned that who you are is more important than what you have. - Previous traveler

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE TRIP

To learn more about this trip, interested teens and their parents are invited to attend a "RUSSIAN QUEST FEST" at 5:30 PM on Sunday, October 9 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (33 W. Dixon Ave., Dayton). Enjoy pizza and soda while you watch a multi-media presentation of past trips and talk to former travelers and chaperones. For more information contact Mary Kay Allen (937-339-7049, or marycraig2@frontier.com).

PRICE AND DEADLINES

Price of Tour: \$2995* (double occupancy)

Single Supplement: \$325 (adults only, subject to availability)

* This trip has been subsidized by generous grants from MVERN. In addition, students may apply for partial scholarships from the Diocese of Southern Ohio, and each church community is encouraged to further subsidize these fees through fund-raising events, scholarships, donations, etc.

Applications: This student exchange is open to youth from throughout the Diocese of Southern Ohio, ages 14 to 18. Students are asked to include a paragraph explaining why they want to go on this mission trip, what they would like to help with during the camp, and the effect that it may have on their Christian ministry. Because registration will be limited to 15 students, applications will be judged on the quality of the essay, the date of application and distribution by age.

Deadlines: Applications must be received by November 15, 2011 and full payment is due by April 15, 2012. Airline or tour penalties may be charged if a cancellation is made after March 31, 2012

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

The Rev. David Halt (309/ 660-8515, fr.halt@gmail.com)

Mary Kay Allen (937/ 339-7049, marycraig2@frontier.com)



Search for MVERN on Facebook

or check out our website—www.MVERN.org

“Traveling to Russia was truly the trip of a lifetime, one that I will always treasure.”—Previous traveler

THINGS YOU'LL NEED

- An eager heart
- An open mind
- A willing spirit to try new things
- Enthusiastic hands for working
- Your spiritual gifts
- Parent's permission
- Passport
- Spending money for gifts

LEADERSHIP

THE REV. DAVID HALT is a native of Napoleon, Michigan. He received a Bachelor of Arts in History, Religion, and Philosophy from Spring Arbor University in 1995. He completed a Master of Arts in Theological Studies at United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, before attending Bexley Hall Seminary where he received his Master of Divinity. Dave currently serves as Rector of St. Matthew's Episcopal Church in Bloomington, IL. He will be making his third trip to Russia.

DR. IGOR TOLOCHIN has been a frequent visitor to the Miami Valley during the last fourteen years. He first accompanied Fr. Nikolai, Rector of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church, to Dayton during Holy Week, 1997. Additionally, he has led five Youth Exchanges to Russia and has served as chaperone and interpreter for teenagers from St. Nicholas Church on four visits to southern Ohio. He received his Ph.D. in English from the University of St. Petersburg where he now is a professor in the Department of English.



MIAMI VALLEY EPISCOPAL RUSSIAN NETWORK

To Russia with Love #6 is sponsored by the Miami Valley Episcopal Russian Network (MVERN), a unique outreach project of 13 Miami Valley Churches (11 Episcopal and 2 Orthodox) and a pioneering Russian Orthodox Church located in Sablino, Russia, a village 30 miles south of St. Petersburg. During the last 14 years 100 Southern Ohio youth have traveled to Russia with MVERN on five Youth Exchanges. Approximately 25 Russian youth also have come to the US in alternating years.

THINGS THAT ARE INCLUDED

- Round-trip air transportation (Dayton/St. Petersburg)
- Motorcoach transportation within Russia
- Hotel accommodations in St. Petersburg (4 nights) and Novgorod (1 night). Sleeping accommodations at Sablino Youth Center (8 nights)
- Comprehensive program of sightseeing and special excursions in Russia
- English-speaking guides & interpreters
- All meals, entrance fees, transfers, and taxes
- Visa fees and travel/medical insurance
- Gratuities for drivers and other service personnel
- Pre-trip preparation
- Services of Tour Leaders: The Rev. David Halt, Dr. Igor Tolochin, Mary Kay Allen and other carefully selected adult chaperones

Not Included:

- Passport Fees (**Passports should be applied for immediately.**)
- Items of a personal nature (laundry, telephone, etc.)



“The Russians we met . . . have shown me that who we are is more important than what we have.” —Previous traveler

“I was inspired to become more involved and active in community service, knowing first-hand what a difference it makes.”—Previous traveler



THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Documents: Travelers must have both a passport valid for at least six months after scheduled departure from Russia and a Russian visa. **Travelers are strongly advised to apply for passports immediately.** Visa fees are included in the cost of the trip, and MVERN will provide and process visa applications.

Deviations from the group schedule may result in airfare surcharges.

Pricing is based on prices in effect in July 2011 and are subject to change.

Itinerary: Although every effort will be made to carry out the program as planned, the itinerary is subject to change and modification.

Management and Responsibility: The responsibility of THE MIAMI VALLEY EPISCOPAL RUSSIAN NETWORK (MVERN), the DIOCESE OF SOUTHERN OHIO, or any of the sponsoring churches is limited. MVERN, the tour operator or travel consultants act only as agents for the passengers in regard to travel, whether by railroad, motorcoach, private car, boat, aircraft or any other conveyances, and assume no liability for injury, damage, loss, accident, delay or irregularity which may be occasioned either by reason of defect in any vehicle or through the acts or default of any company or persons engaged in conveying the passengers or in carrying out the arrangements of the tour. MVERN, the Diocese of Southern Ohio, the churches and/or their agents can accept no responsibility for loss or additional expenses due to delay or changes in schedule or other causes. The right is reserved to decline to accept or retain any person as a member of the tour or to change or withdraw the tour as circumstances demand.



Miami Valley Episcopal Russian Network

APPLICATION FORM

To Russia with Love #6 June 27-July 11, 2012

Name as it appears on passport: _____

Preferred name or nickname: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: () _____ E-mail: _____

Age: ____ Birthday: _____ School: _____

Church Affiliation: _____

Parent's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Please enclose a paragraph explaining why you want to go on this trip, what you would like to help with during the camp, and the effect that it may have on your personal ministry.

Enclosed is a deposit of \$ _____ (\$500 per person payable to MVERN)
for _____ reservations for the MVERN Youth Ministry Trip to Russia.

Single Supplement \$ _____ (\$325—Adults only, subject to availability)

(Reservations are due by November 15, 2011 and the balance of the fees are payable by April 15, 2012. If applicant is not accepted on this trip the deposit will be returned.)

Make checks payable and mail to:
Miami Valley Episcopal Russian Network
c/o Mary Kay Allen
230 Grant St.
Troy, OH 45373



Trip Covenant

(to be signed by trip participant)

I will participate fully in all planned activities. (There will be free time.)

I will follow the directions of the adult leaders.

I will be respectful of our hosts – Fr. Nikolai Aksenov, the parishioners of St. Nicholas Russian Orthodox Church and Dr. Igor Tolochin.

I will be respectful of those whom we are serving.

I will be respectful of each other.

I will show the love of Jesus Christ in action.

With my signature below, I enter into this covenant with MVERN's trip to Russia and I agree to all of the above conditions.

Youth traveler

Date