

Network

Volume 12 Issue 2

February, 2011

Dates to Remember:

FEBRUARY 3 & 17

Community Kitchen Dates

FEBRUARY 9

Annual Meeting

FEBRUARY 12

Chinese New Year

FEBRUARY 20-27

Family Promise Week

FEBRUARY 4-6,

FEBRUARY 18-21,

FEBRUARY 25-27

Retreats

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"Growing Deeper, Reaching Further"

The Executive Board of Winnetka Covenant Church invites all members and friends to join together on Wednesday, February 9th at 6 p.m. for our Annual Meeting, where we will celebrate God's faithfulness to us in 2010 and look forward to how we plan to expand our mission to grow deeper in faith and reach further into the world with the gospel in 2011.

- On **Sunday, January 30**, our worship services will serve as "part one" of our annual meeting, as we remember and celebrate God's goodness in the past year and look to God's future for us in the context of worship. **There will be an opportunity for individuals to verbalize their specific memories of God's goodness in the past year.**
- **Following the 10:45 a.m. service on January 30**, members of the Executive Board will gather in the sanctuary for a pre-annual meeting question and answer session for all who have specific questions about the work of any board or committee, or the budget. This will provide an opportunity for those who would prefer a more informal setting to get information about issues of interest. Voting will not take place during this time.
- Then, on **Wednesday evening, February 9th**, we will host **dinner** and our **Annual Meeting**. The meal will be provided, starting at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will **begin at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary** and will run until 8:00. The regular Wednesday night children's activities will be provided by North Park students and recent graduates, so that parents and leaders may attend the Annual Meeting. Transportation to and from the meeting for members at Covenant Village of Northbrook will be provided. Contact the church office.

We look forward to these times together--please come as we join in conversation and prayer about our future and celebrate God's goodness at Winnetka Covenant!

*Our mission is to be a Christian community and to proclaim the gospel,
worshiping together in love,
nurturing people in faith,
serving others as Christian disciples,
and building a world of justice and hope
in the name of Christ.*

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS & EVENTS

CHRISTIAN FORMATION MISSION STATEMENT of WINNETKA COVENANT CHURCH
To teach the Christian faith and develop disciples growing in Jesus Christ
through the Word of God, through the witness of teachers, through the family of faith,
by the power of the Holy Spirit.

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ALL AGES: 9:45 a.m.

FOR ADULTS:

January 30 - March 6: Kurt Peterson leads a class entitled “The Established Church: From Nicea through the Middle Ages”. We will pick up the history of the church from the Council of Nicea (325AD) and go through the High Middle Ages, ending with St. Thomas Aquinas and his proofs for the existence of God. Along the way we will talk about St. Augustine, the rise of the Papacy, the growing breach between Eastern and Western Christendom, and the relationship between church and state. The lessons won't be too “heady,” but are designed to discuss, in the present, lessons from the past.

Ongoing intergenerational class: Pastors Erik & Andrea lead a time of experiential learning, storytelling, relationship-building and intergenerational fun. Please consider joining them in room 203 (high school and adults of any age).

FOR CHILDREN:

We have just completed a rotation of workshops about Jesus feeding the 5,000. The kids made fish print t-shirts with Rich and Polly McClellan, did a service project with Val Hausman, made fish-shaped pretzels with Maria Moreno and Doris Laser, and created a newscast with Dwight and Sue Samuelson.

Our rotation unit for February will be The Lord's Prayer. Workshops include drama, art, music and sign language.

Our March rotation unit will be “The Last Supper”.

One workshop will be led by Pastor Hawkinson and will include parents for an exploration of The Lord's Supper.

We are in need of leaders for the following workshops:

- ◆ Drama - Reader's Theater of the Last Supper account in the Gospel of Mark
- ◆ Art - “stained glass” windows with symbols of the story/communion
- ◆ Music/Movement - listen (or learn) hymns about communion and use props/movement/choreography

Upcoming units: April - “The Apostle Paul”, and May - “Witnesses Today” (we'll be looking for people who would like to tell their faith story to the kids).

If you are interested or would like more information about being a workshop leader, please contact Linda Johnson or Pastor Andrea.

The 2's & 3's class is in need of one additional teacher. If this is something you can consider, please contact Robin Magnusson or Andrea Johnson for more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Vacation Bible School will be June 20-24 in the evenings this year. If you are interested in helping plan, please contact Pastor Andrea.

MUSIC NOTES

Already, my favorite month of February has arrived. In January we sampled everything from Handel's Messiah to contemporary choruses. We are grateful for all the instrumental and vocal solo participation. Now, Choir is VERY busy learning new pieces to add to our worship every week. Feb. 6 the Men sing an arrangement in Barbershop harmony and we're aiming to close Feb. 27 with Randall Thompson's "Garment of Praise" for double choir. Lots more in between!



IF you haven't yet had a chance to read your Annual Report, please take time to do so. I made a specific plea to redevelop our music offering program for our kids - for our future! We welcome your feedback. With a joyful song in our hearts ...

Meet you in church, Dawn

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

Ash Wednesday - March 9

Plan to join us at 6:00 for a soup supper and at 7:00 for a worship service of communion and ashes as we move into the season of Lent.

Covenant World Relief Offering

We have moved our collection of the offering for Covenant World Relief to Lent. This is a wonderful ministry of care through our larger Covenant Church for those in greatest need around the world. Covenant World Relief is in a position to respond immediately to crisis situations, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, etc., wherever they occur. Materials will be forthcoming, and all are asked to contribute during the Lenten season.

Music Event for Missions

On Sunday, March 13th at 3:00 p.m. the Chicago Horn Consort, a choir of professional French hornists, will present an hour-long concert in the sanctuary. A free will offering will be taken to benefit Family Promise, a program that provides temporary housing for homeless families through an interfaith hospitality program, which includes Winnetka Covenant Church. The offering will also pay expenses for the horn choir. This is the same group of hornists that has participated in recent services. For more information about the ministry of Family Promise, please visit their web site, fpcnorthshore.org.

HarborPoint Ministries Dinner Event

On March 20, at 5:00 p.m. HarborPoint Ministries will hold a family event here at Winnetka Covenant Church. It will include conversation, food, information about the camps and opportunity to support the camps. Childcare will be provided for preschool children and a mini-camp experience will be provided for elementary school children. Anyone who attended last year will remember that it was a fun evening with wonderful food and a good chance to visit with friends from other Covenant churches. Please put this on your calendars and watch for details in weeks to come.

A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

This is the time of year when some of our regular cooks take a well-deserved break for some "R&R", hopefully in a nicer climate! If you have some time on a Thursday afternoon, stop on by our Winnetka Covenant kitchen and see what happens on the 1st and 3rd Thursday afternoons of each month. We'll be putting together and delivering a delicious meal for our friends at A Just Harvest's community kitchen.

We'll be cooking from 1-4 p.m. on the 3rd and 17th of February, delivering the meal, and as always, serving

our meal on the 17th. Contact for the 3rd is John Anderson and for the 17th the contact is Ted Garrison. Your help is always welcome and appreciated. You may just become a regular yourself!

Thanks, John Anderson

OUTREACH NEWS

Saturday, February 12: Happy Chinese New Year!

Come and celebrate Chinese New Year with some Chinese students who are studying in the Chicago area. At 3:00 p.m. we will be playing volleyball in the gym, followed by dinner at 5:30 in the Upper Room. Anyone from the congregation who would like to join us in reaching out to these students is invited to come for any part of the event - volleyball, dinner, or both. Join us for the celebration!

RETREATS!!

We are in the midst of retreat season, with retreats scheduled for all ages.

- ♦ Junior High students just had their retreat January 21-23 at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp.
- ♦ The Women's Retreat will be February 4-6 at Geneva Bay Center at Covenant Harbor.
- ♦ Senior High students will head up to Covenant Point Bible Camp in Iron River, MI for a retreat February 18-21.
- ♦ On February 25-27, the Trailblazers will have their retreat at Covenant Harbor.
- ♦ The annual Lumunos Men's Retreat at Geneva Bay Center, Lake Geneva, will be March 4-6. For more information about this retreat or to register, go to lumunos.org or contact Peter Nelson with questions.

Each of these retreats provides a time for fun, relaxation, fellowship and Christian growth. We ask for your prayers for each group for safety as they travel out of town.

FAMILY NEWS

We offer our congratulations to:

- ♦ Adam Geake and Jill Eskra, who were engaged recently and are planning a 2012 wedding.
- ♦ Christopher Johnson and Katrina Webb, on the birth of a son, Emmons Christopher. He was born on Wednesday, January 26, weighing 8-1/2 pounds and measuring 20-1/2 inches. Joan Johnson is his grandmother.

Best wishes to them as they celebrate these exciting events in their lives.

Bridal Showers -

The women of the church are invited to two upcoming bridal showers. A shower for Ashley Balsam will be on the morning of Saturday, March 26. A shower for Kat Magnuson will be in the evening on April 7. Please put the dates on your calendars and watch the weekly bulletins for more information.

MISSION NEWS

FAMILY PROMISE - February 20-27

Our next hosting week for Family Promise occurs the week of February 20-27. Signup sheets will be in the narthex giving you the opportunity to sign up for a shift that works best for you. We need right around 50 volunteers throughout the week to provide a warm place to sleep, a healthy dinner and breakfast for our friends in need. If you don't have a chance to sign up on a Sunday morning, please call the church office to find out what time slots are still open.

WORLD RELIEF CHICAGO

Thanks to all who have contributed warm winter clothing throughout the past few months. Due to your generosity and others in the area, we are all set with our winter clothing needs for now. We continue to need furniture and other items for our Good Neighbor Kits. The lists of items we are collecting for the Good Neighbor Kits are posted at the mission display and on the bulletin board across from the office. Please contact Matt Johnson to arrange for a drop-off or for us to pick up donations. World Relief Chicago, 3507 W. Lawrence, Chicago, IL, 60625; 773-681-9191.

Matt Johnson - Donations Coordinator. 773-681-8586 or mjohnson@wr.org

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL CHILD

In 2009 we began sponsoring a child through Compassion International. His name is Samuel Tsegaw, a 9-year-old boy from Ethiopia. He wrote to us in August and says, *"Dear sponsors, how have you been doing? I am doing very well and I have been following my education. I love you very much and please write me. Thank you and God bless you! I learned about creation from the Bible."*

When we first started sponsoring Samuel we put up a monthly signup sheet for anyone who felt moved to pay for one of our monthly obligations. **We have come to the end of our list and are in need of new supporters for the coming year.** Would you consider taking on a month again or for the first time? It is \$32 a month and for your month you just need to write a check to Winnetka Covenant Church and put Compassion International on the memo line. You can find the new signup sheet located on the missions board in the narthex, along with a couple of letters we have received from Samuel. We would like to have all of the months covered by donors, including the months that have already passed.

GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY - Local Service Opportunity

Saturday, March 12, 1:30-4:30 p.m. (Note time change)

Every other month our congregation volunteers at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, packaging food that is then distributed to area food pantries for those in need. Our service specifically benefits the North Park Friendship Center, a food pantry located on the north side of Chicago. We have committed to sending 20 volunteers each time we serve. The Food Depository is an amazing operation to experience, and working alongside others to benefit those in need in this way is both rewarding and fun! Many who volunteer continue to come back again and again. However, we are always in need of more volunteers. If you are interested, sign up on the bulletin board near the kitchen, or call the church office. Age 13 and up are welcome. Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes.

USED GLASSES COLLECTION

Are you hiding USED GLASSES that you could bring to the designated box on the Missions Counter? Then the Medical Mission Team could take them on their next trip to fit them on needy eyes.

WCC BUSINESS DIRECTORY - Would you be interested in having your business information in a directory of Winnetka Covenant members? The purpose of this directory would be to let fellow congregation members know what people are in what professions so that when they need work done they might be able to direct their business to our own congregation members. If there is enough interest, we will develop such a directory over the next few months. Please e-mail Joan at wccjoan@juno.com if interested.

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

QUILTERS, KNITTERS, ETC. - Join us on the **second Thursday of each month** for fellowship and service. Watch the bulletins each month for details and location of the meeting.

SHARING GROUP - We cordially invite all WCC women to join us on the **fourth Thursday of each month at 12:00 noon** for lunch and fellowship. This month we will meet on February 24. Please watch the bulletins for the location each month. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions. New participants are always welcome.

STITCH AND STUDY - Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, conversation and craft/needlework projects, generally meets the **first Tuesday of each month** at the home of Marilynn Nelson at 7 p.m. This month's meeting will be February 1. We continue to use our own Covenant hymnal as a resource for the study. We always welcome new participants.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP - Thursday afternoon women's Bible study is currently studying "Daniel, Lives of Integrity, Words of Prophecy", a 12-week study by Beth Moore. The 1st six chapters of Daniel model how to develop integrity in an enticing world. Chapters 7-12 explore the thrilling prophecies from the time of Daniel through the 2nd coming of Christ. Member workbooks can be ordered from LifeWay.com or Amazon.com for \$14.95. New participants always welcome. Questions, contact Claire Macfarland.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY - Tuesday morning Women's Bible Study is currently studying Hebrews. The study begins at 9:30 a.m. - come at 9:15 for coffee and conversation. New students are welcome to the class at any time. Please call Sue Abram for details.

CENTRAL CONFERENCE WOMEN MINISTRIES

Spring Celebration 2011 - Refresh, Refocus, Rejoice

Friday, April 8, 5:00 p.m. through Saturday, April 9, 3:00 p.m. at the Evangelical Covenant Church in Lafayette, IN. Rev. Ruth Hill will be the keynote speaker and Jillian Yu is the worship leader. Saturday will include breakout sessions where women can learn about various Covenant Women opportunities and ministries. Registration may be made online (WMCCares2010@yahoo.com) or by mail, by April 4th. You can download registration forms from the Central Conference website (www.centralconf.org - click on Women Ministries). Read more about this event on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the church.

WOMEN MINISTRIES, NATIONAL - The National Department of Women Ministries of the Evangelical Covenant Church has sent us information regarding the search for a new Executive Minister for Women Ministries. The position description has been posted on the bulletin board opposite the church office.

WINNETKA COVENANT WOMEN GIVING - a big thank you to all who have contributed dues, participated in Lucia (either helping or attending), helped with the kitchen remodeling project and any other fundraising efforts. The dues which are sent in generally cover the amounts that we contribute to the National and Central Conference Covenant Women Ministries each year. Beyond that, some of the ministries that our local Covenant Women supported in 2010 included: HarborPoint Ministries, A Just Harvest Community Kitchen, Leland House, Breaking the Chains (National CWM Project), North Park Friendship Center, North Park University, our Special Interest Missionary, our Kitchen Fund and the Winnetka Covenant Church General Fund.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship continues to meet at 8:00 a.m. on the first three Saturdays of each month. Questions about the meetings should be directed to Richard Spears. All men are welcome.

WINNETKA MAILBOX

Dear Winnetka Covenant Church Family,

The staff wishes to thank the congregation for the generous Christmas gift given to us. We appreciate this special outpouring of your love for us at Christmas and we also appreciate the support and encouragement which is shown to us throughout the year.

WCC Staff



I am sending another big thank you to you, my church family, for your well wishes and prayers for my recent surgery. The prayers were so evident on the AM of the surgery as I was at great peace (after several stressful weeks), and my surgeon found my shoulder muscle so relaxed that the surgery went more quickly than anticipated. Recovery is going well, and now I need much patience with my therapy. Thank you for the beautiful plant, the visits, the food, and the wonderful cards.

With gratefulness, Judy Ebright

I have been blessed and I am thankful to the WCC church members for their prayers, cards and notes after my recent throat surgery. I also wanted to say a special thank you to pastors Peter, Andrea and Art for their visits and prayers at the hospital and Brandel.

With appreciation, Ken Pearson

A big "Thank you!!" for your prayers, cards, visits and flowers following my ankle surgery. I continue to experience the support of WCC during this time of physical therapy and recovery.

With gratitude and thankfulness, Wyllis Paravonian

Dear Mission Committee and all my friends at Winnetka Covenant,

I just want to thank you for the Christmas gift I received from you. Thank you for the obedience to the prompting of the Holy Spirit which has led you to support me the last couple of years. You are truly an encouragement to me.

I am on home assignment indefinitely now as I am caring for my elderly father. I will be continuing my ministry in Honduras from my base here in the Chicago area. Ongoing projects include evangelization, medical brigades and a daycare center in poor squatter communities. My plan is to make several trips a year to Honduras. If anyone would like to join me, please let me know!

Yours in Christ, Pamela Hanson

Dear Friends & Partners in the Gospel at Winnetka Covenant Church,

Thank you so much for the thoughtful Christmas gift to our family. With our twin girls starting college this year we praise God for your thoughtfulness to us. Don will be visiting you in a few weeks to update you on the wonderful things God has been doing in Taiwan in our work with Filipino factory workers and with students at the Missionary School.

Thank you again for your thoughtfulness to us and your prayers and support that make it possible for us to reach others for Christ.

Much Love, Don & Lillian Dwight

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your continual prayer and financial support. We so much appreciate your Christmas love offering. Thank you - ¡gracias!

Love from us here in Colombia, Mary Lou & Gary Sander

OUR MISSION

*To be a Christian community and to proclaim the gospel,
Worshiping together in love,
Nurturing people in faith,
And serving others as Christian disciples,
Building a world of justice and hope in the name of Christ.*

GUIDELINES FOR LOVING RELATIONSHIPS

We hold grace as our highest value.
We practice honest, open, direct communication.
We speak the truth in love and listen in love.
We believe the best about each other, valuing others above ourselves, as Christ does.
We allow room for mistakes, acknowledging that mistakes are part of the growth process.