

Network

Volume 12 Issue 3

March, 2011

Dates to Remember:

MARCH 3 & 17

Community Kitchen Dates

MARCH 5

Volleyball

MARCH 9

Ash Wednesday

MARCH 13

Horn Concert

MARCH 20

HarborPoint Ministries
Dinner

APRIL 16

Rummage Sale

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Welcome Class

First of Lent

Matthew 4:1-11, Psalm 32, Romans 5:12-19, Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

***"Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and was famished."
(Matthew 4:1-2)***

They were not just conversations,
these evil encounters,
not moments, short, few and far between.

No! He was led into days and nights
and to a being, a tempter,
led into a life of temptation.

The Son of God
embraces a wilderness alone.
It's yours and it is mine.

Led by Holy Spirit
into evil's unending "opportune time."
Behold the Man, witness this Love!

In wilderness, mountain and temple top
mercy finds us
in His own suffering triumph.

His Holy NO!
Again, and again, and again.
This is for us, Holy and Eternal Yes!

He fasts to heal humanity.
God's Son is famished.
It is indeed an "opportune time!"

"Therefore!" says Saul/Paul.
Sin is put to death, grace abounds.
And this, through the one man, Jesus Christ!

Happy are those whose sin is forgiven,
whose sin is covered. Happy are those
to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity.

Peter Hawkinson

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:

March 13 - April 17: Max Lee (Assoc. Professor of New Testament at North Park Seminary) teaches a class entitled "Faith and Discipleship in the Gospel of John". The Bible study series will focus on the various memorable characters of John's gospel, and what real faith looks like. It explores why faith is so difficult at times, and we find in the characters of John's gospel warnings, assurances and the exhortation to genuinely trust God and live out our calling as true believers.

1st Sunday: The Incarnation as the Place for Grace and Truth: Introduction and the Prologue of John (John 1:1-18)

2nd Sunday: The Paralytic and the Man Born Blind (John 5:9)

3rd Sunday: The Dawning of Nicodemus' Faith (John 3:7, 19)

4th Sunday: The Samaritan Woman and the Mission of the Church (John 4)

5th Sunday: Grace and Truth for Peter (John 18:21)

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: Children's Sunday School Rotations

March: "The Last Supper"

Workshops:

- 1) Table Talk with Pastor Pete: We'll explore together the story of the Last Supper from the Bible, and what communion means for us. **Parents are strongly encouraged to attend this workshop along with their children**, especially if you are seeking ways to discern your child's readiness to receive communion, or ways to encourage them to continue growing in their understanding of communion. (Grades 1-2 attend this workshop March 13; grades 3-5 attend March 20; 4&5-yr-olds attend March 27.)
- 2) Drama - Reader's Theater of the Last Supper account in the Gospel of Mark. Workshop leader: Rachel Rescorl.
- 3) Music/Movement - learn and listen to hymns about communion and use props/movement/choreography. Workshop leader: Linda Johnson
- 4) Art - "stained glass" windows with symbols of the story/communion. **An art workshop leader is still needed.**

April: "Paul on the Road to Damascus"

Workshops will include Games, Art, Drama and Science.

May: "Witnesses Today"

Workshops will include:

- 1) Writing, journaling, poems, murals, etc., in a review of "what have you learned this year?"
- 2) Video and discussion about famous witnesses - C.S. Lewis, William Wilberforce or Fanny Crosby, for example.
- 3) Storytelling of our members - let us know if you'd like to share your story of faith with the children!
- 4) Drama - role plays, etc., based on lessons and stories of the year.

We are currently seeking workshop leaders for all April and May workshops. Contact Linda Johnson or Pastor Andrea for more details.

MUSIC NOTES



Amidst all the world upheaval and the economic uncertainty, it is so refreshing to see the hints of upcoming Spring. So also, we enter the season of Lent when we can prepare to enter into the experience of the mighty acts of God: tracing Christ's steps leading to Jerusalem; contemplate the acts leading to the sacrifice of the cross. The gift of music will enable us to move through these steps in heart, mind and body. Handel's great chorus, "Since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection ...", John Stainer's ever-meaningful "God So Loved the World", and a new Tom Fettke arrangement incorporating Londonderry tune "What Grace Is Mine", will direct our worship together to the mercy seat of God. May you walk each day not only in the mundane and often hectic 'everyday', but simultaneously in the knowledge of Christ and his Kingdom among us.

On March 13 at 3:00 p.m. in our sanctuary we are excited to host a one-hour concert by the new Chicago Horn Consort. Birthed right in our own church under the leadership of Dan and Mary Gingrich, CHC is an ensemble of professional horn players whose members arrange their repertoire. This promises to be a very special treat. Please come and bring your friends and neighbors. An inviting WCC reception will follow.

Bringing forth the Kingdom of God through music, Dawn

LOOKING AHEAD TO LENT

Ash Wednesday - March 9

6:00 - simple soup supper and 7:00 - service of communion and ashes as we move into the season of Lent. (Note that the time is different from the usual Wednesday night supper.)

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.

(Christian Formation news continued)

Announcing VBS 2011: Hometown Nazareth - Where Jesus Was a Kid!

June 20-24, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Go b-a-a-a-ck in time! Bring the whole flock to Hometown Nazareth: Where Jesus Was a Kid! You'll travel back into Bible times - without setting foot outside our community. Experience this fun, hands-on Bibletimes village at Winnetka Covenant Church.

Each day, participants can become part of history as they see, hear, touch and even taste what it was like to live in Jesus' hometown! You'll explore authentic marketplace shops, visit Jesus' mom, Mary, take part in games, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample tasty tidbits as you discover more about Jesus' childhood. These experiences make God's Word come alive with new meaning for all who participate!

We're getting ready to set up shop in the marketplace, but we are in need of some shopkeepers. As a shopkeeper you'll welcome a different group of kids each day to your shop, show them how to make something special, and visit with them about Jesus, and what life was like in Nazareth. You'll be given historical background to shape your character, as well as conversation starters. We're looking for keepers for these shops: Carpentry Shop, Bead Bazaar, Synagogue School, Olive Oil Shop, Farmer's Field, Dye Shop, Wool Shop, Rock Quarry and Barnyard Food Market. If you'd like to apply for any of these coveted marketplace positions, contact Pastor Andrea!

More information will be coming soon about Hometown Nazareth - Where Jesus Was a Kid!

A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Recently I have been making far too many car trips up and down 294. I seem to be traveling at similar times with at least one other car. It is easily recognized from behind, which is where I found myself again today. What distinguishes this vehicle from others is what the owner proudly communicates in bold lettering across the tailgate: LOVE ALL SERVE ALL. Simple enough.

Whenever I see the message I want to get a look at the driver and by now I've come to recognize the same man driving. I begin to wonder what his story is, what's in his heart. (Though he seems to have made that clear to me on his tailgate.) For a moment I feel a part of something bigger, connected somehow, more willing and less willful.

I am thankful for his understanding and reminder of God's will for us.

I am also thankful for the willing hearts that come together on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month in our kitchen to prepare, cook and deliver a meal to our neighbors at the community kitchen of A Just Harvest. Like our church, they always make me feel a part of something greater. Thank you.

In March, Ted Garrison is the contact for the 3rd and John Anderson is the contact for the 17th. We often need servers on the 3rd Thursday. There is a sign up sheet outside the kitchen. Please join us if you can.

Thanks, John Anderson

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 during the program. 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.

ALL-CHURCH FAMILY CAMP 2011

Registration for our All-Church Family Camp is now open! This August, we are excited to be continuing our 4th annual week of camp together as a church-family. Covenant Point Bible Camp in Michigan's Upper Peninsula will become our home during the week of August 8th-13th. During these five days we'll enjoy the best of camp life together: singing, the lake, the ropes course, the Island, interaction with the summer staff, really great food, games, naps, conversations, work projects and boating. If you haven't participated before, talk with those who have or direct questions to Pastor Erik. Registration information was mailed out last week, and there are extra forms available in the narthex. Space is limited, so sign up early!

Previous WCC Campers Liked Best ...

"Stressless quality time with family." "Fabulous free time, games and swimming." "Chapel and being comfortable enough within the group to tell my story." "The service/giving back to the camp aspect." "Awesome setting and beautiful weather." "Giving my grandkids a chance to experience camp." "The counselors and their enthusiasm!" "Being the church community outside of and away from the church building."

Returning the Blessing

The ministries of our camps - Covenant Point and Covenant Harbor - (as well as the numerous other Covenant camps across the country) have blessed many of us over the years. This week also represents an opportunity to return some of that blessing to CPBC through daily service projects. Working alongside one another for a few hours each day could help the camp to fill a particular need and aid the staff in transitioning from the summer to the fall ministry season. Additionally, this year we're hopeful that WCC will be able to pull together a team (or several) or individuals to participate in CPBC's annual Triathlon, taking place on August 7th. All proceeds from the event go directly to benefiting wonderful special needs ministries of the camp, which make life-changing experiences at camp possible for an increasing number of children and families. Go to cpbc.com for more details, get a team together and start training now!

We hope you might consider joining us this August!

MISSION NEWS

SPECIAL EVENTS 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.

Saturday, March 5 from 1-3:00, a Zumba-thon to benefit Family Promise at Winnetka Congregational Church. Zumba is an exercise form, using Latin music as a background (check www.zumbawithcandus.com). Beginners are welcome and there is a \$15 minimum donation.

COMPASSION INTERNATIONAL CHILD

Since 2009 we have sponsored a 9-year-old boy from Ethiopia, Samuel Tsegaw, through Compassion International. We ask for volunteers to help cover the cost for each month, at \$32 a month. Would you consider taking on a month again or for the first time? You just need to write a check to Winnetka Covenant Church and put Compassion International on the memo line. You can find the signup sheet located on the missions board in the narthex, along with a couple of letters we have received from Samuel. **There are five more open spots on the current sign-up list, including a couple of months that have already passed.**

GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY - 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, especially benefiting the North Park Friendship Center. We have committed to sending 20 volunteers each time we serve. 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.

YOUTH NEWS - -Life Together Experiment

During March 6-9, our high school ministry will be sharing in what we're calling a "life together experiment": a few days where we will try to share life and faith in Christ in a more intentional way.

At High League over these past months, we've been talking about how the values our world lifts up often seem to collide with the values that Jesus was teaching about when it came to the Kingdom of God. Our high school students have been challenging one another to think about how we can become a community of sabbath and grace rather than one focused on success or performance, a community of hospitality rather than one of hostility, a community of stewardship rather than one of consumption, and an interdependent community rather than simply a collection of individuals leading individual lives. So we started asking the question: what if we chose to share life together for a few days and try to live intentionally as this kind of community, centered on Christ and Christ's values? What might happen? How might we grow?

We've decided to begin the experience by having High League on March 6th held not at church, but rather in smaller groups at the homes of several families from our congregation. The goal for that evening is to create space where our students can build relationships with other adults and hear their stories. Between the 6th and the 9th of March, our experience will continue through making meals together, carpooling to school, worshiping together regularly and sharing common everyday tasks. Guided by Colossians 3:17 as a theme verse, ("And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus ..."), we hope not to create lots of activities or a big event, but rather to actually *slow down* simply share life in Christ together. So, if you happen to be around the church between March 6-9th, feel free to drop in and see how things are going! But, don't expect pizza and video games all night; we hope to create space for conversation, worship, meals, storytelling and (YES) homework and sleep, too. We'll conclude by joining the whole congregation for our Ash Wednesday soup dinner and worship on March 9th. I invite you to join us in praying for our time together!

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 March 24 at Bakers Square. 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 March 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.

BRIDAL SHOWERS

Women of the church are invited to two upcoming bridal showers:

- ◆ March 26th at 10:00 a.m. - for Ashley Balsam
- ◆ April 7th at 7:00 p.m. - for Kat Magnuson

If you are interested to serve as a hostess for either of these showers, please contact the church office.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

March 4, 5 and 6 will be the annual 2011 Chicago Men's Retreat at Covenant Harbor. All men, whether they attend WCC Men's Fellowship or not are invited to participate. Sign up online at www.lumunos.org. The next regular Saturday morning meeting at WCC will be on March 12, 2011 when Brian Madvig will lead a discussion on the topic of the Divinity of Christ. Contact Richard Spears with questions.

ATTENTION SENIORS!

The Leisure Class breakfasts, scheduled monthly on the second Thursdays, will begin meeting at the Bistro at Covenant Village of Northbrook. So for coffee, conversation and confection, come to our next meeting on Thursday, March 10 at 8:30 a.m. at the Bistro. For further information, contact Sam Paravonian.

WINNETKA MAILBOX

Dear Friends,

The flowers from church arrived yesterday, a beautiful spring arrangement. I am so grateful for your prayer support, cards, flowers, "goodies", phone calls and visits. God is so great to provide such faithful friends who have walked this journey with me.

The surgery has left me with two legs of the same length and no pain. I thank God for His direction in all that was done. His love and support were evidenced daily. Thank you, dear ones, for your love and care. "To God be the glory, great things he has done."

Love, Eleanor Milbratz



FAMILY NEWS

We offer our congratulations to families who have welcomed new babies:

- ◆ On January 29 Annelise Taylor Nordlund was born to Samuel & Caroline Nordlund. She was 7 lbs., 11 oz. at birth.
- ◆ Ethan Carl Fogel was born January 30 to Eric & Angie Fogel. He was 7 lb., 12 oz. and joins his big sisters, Annabelle and Hailey at home. His grandparents are Steve & Karla Fogel and his great-grandparents are Ollie & Verna Fogel.

Best wishes to these families at these exciting times.

Recently we have been getting inquiries about the possibility of receiving the Network by e-mail instead of the paper version sent in the mail. Already about 60 members and friends who live at a distance from the church are receiving theirs by e-mail and we could expand that list to include local folks. We would like to develop a list of people who would prefer to receive not only the Network but other church mailings by e-mail. If you are interested, please e-mail Joan at wccjoan@juno.com.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, March 5 at 3:00 - Volleyball in our church gym with Chinese students. All are welcome.

Coming up before we know it - on **Saturday, April 16, the annual Rummage Sale!!** Now is the time to start going through your homes to clear out and set things aside for donation to the Rummage Sale. Drop-off of your donations will begin Monday, April 4.

Winnetka Interfaith Council event - **Sunday, March 13, 2-3:30 - "Grief and Loss: A Common Experience"** with Dr. Ron Miller. Held at First Church of Christ, Scientist in Winnetka. See the poster for details.

From Covenant Kids - you are invited to join us on a **Vision Trip to India, June 1-10**, to visit Covenant Kids ministry sites. Scholarships are available. Contact Kim Crawford for info (kim.crawford@covchurch.org).

WELCOME CLASS! Sunday, March 20, 12-2:30 p.m., Upper Room

Are you new to Winnetka Covenant Church, and interested in finding out more about our mission and Ministry? Would you like to get to know more about the Covenant Church, our denominational home? How about the chance to get to know others who are new to the Church? Come and join us for lunch and conversation. Childcare is available upon request. RSVP to the Church office at 847-446-4300.

Welcome!

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.