

Network

Volume 12 Issue 5

May, 2011

Dates to Remember:

APRIL 30

Church Cleanup Day

MAY 1

Spring Congregational Mtg.

MAY 5 & 19

Community Kitchen Dates

MAY 15

Confirmation Sunday

MAY 22

Sew-A-Thon

JUNE 5

All-Church Picnic

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We Can Do More Together Than We Can Do Alone

Farming communities have a tradition called "barn-raising" - the whole community comes together to build a barn for one farm in a day or two. Everyone pitches in to get the project done.

On Sunday evening, May 22, the congregation is invited to come together for a barn-raising of sorts. We won't be building a barn, but the concept is the same. We'll be making a large quantity of privacy curtains for the emergency shelter at Cornerstone Community Outreach, a mission of Jesus People USA in Chicago. Cornerstone houses 400 people each night, and each person sleeps in a bunk bed. However, the bunk beds do not allow for privacy. We have the opportunity to provide privacy for the shelter guests by sewing simple flame-resistant curtains that fit around the bunks. We will use funds raised in the rummage sale to purchase the material needed.

If you have a sewing machine and are knowledgeable about sewing, WE NEED YOU! If you do not have a sewing machine and don't know the first thing about sewing, WE NEED YOU! This sewing project will be simple enough that you can learn from those who know how to sew. We invite people of all ages to come and join in. Those who sew can teach. Those who don't sew, come to learn and help. Everyone is needed. We hope you'll join us!

If you have a sewing machine you will bring, please contact the church office to let us know.

If you'd like to learn more about Cornerstone Community Outreach before Sunday, May 22, visit their website at <http://www.ccolife.org/about>.

Sew-A-Thon: Sunday, May 22, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Andrea Johnson

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:

May 1 - taught by Al Laser, "Worship for Everyone"

A look at selected movements and inspiration for individual expression of worship by common people in various places and circumstances: from slaves to monks and others. Hopefully this class will encourage us toward a more personalized, authentic, 'from the heart' approach with our worship of God; whether praise in joy or lament in suffering.

May 8, 15 & 22 - taught by Royce Eckhardt, "Musical Worship and Worshipful Music"

May 8 - Biblical Foundations for Music

The scriptures have a surprising amount of references to music, both Testaments, and how it functioned and shaped God's people, how it was the primary vehicle for praise, and how it was used to usher in the presence of God. A broad overview of what the Bible says about music, striving to bring understanding and meaning to this great gift from God, one that we can easily take for granted.

May 15 & 22 - Why We Worship and How We Worship

Worship: a religious program or divine encounter? What is worship? Examining our motivations for attending worship. What is "contemporary" worship? Or "traditional" worship? And why the conflict in so many churches? Understanding the rhythms of worship, the progression of the service, the dialogical character of worship. A biblical perspective on the centrality of worship in the Christian life and experience and how music and worship are inextricably linked in scripture and contemporary practice.

Ongoing intergenerational class: Pastors Erik & Andrea lead a time of experiential learning, storytelling, relationship-building and intergenerational fun. Room 203, for high school students and adults of any age.

FOR CHILDREN: Children's Sunday School Rotations

May: "Witnesses Today" - Do you have a story to tell? Telling stories is a traditional way of passing important information from person to person and from generation to generation. When we tell stories of our faith we are passing wisdom and our understanding of God to others.

Sunday School rotations in May are focused on the theme "Witnesses Today." WE NEED STORYTELLERS!! These are some types of stories you could tell:

- ◆ an experience you had at camp or on a mission trip or in youth group
- ◆ a time you felt close to God, Jesus and/or the Holy Spirit
- ◆ how you came to faith
- ◆ how you came to Winnetka Covenant
- ◆ a "God-sighting"
- ◆ a person that you feel exemplifies Christ-like living or who has had an influence on your life of faith
- ◆ a piece of art or music that has had spiritual significance to you
- ◆ explaining how you see or feel God
- ◆ a Bible verse that is special to you
- ◆ and many more stories that you might feel called to tell

Storytellers can be of any age (we'd love to have some high school kids!). Storytellers can tell their stories to all age groups (4's & 5's, 1st & 2nd grade, 3rd-5th grade) or just one of the groups. Stories can be short or long. Stories can be simply told or enhanced in any way you see fit. So, do you have a story to tell? Please let Polly McClellan, Andrea Johnson or Linda Johnson know if you do. We can't wait to hear them.

MUSIC NOTES

At this writing April is doing its best to reach its quota of showers! We too are preparing showers of musical blessings. This May we will feature Tom Fettke's new arrangement for choir with strings of Keith Getty's "The Risen Christ"; Royce Eckhardt's lovely new inspired arrangement of George Stebbings' classic "Take Time To Be Holy" for SATB and organ. I couldn't resist the beautiful cello obligato Thomas Grassi wrote for "Jesus, Savior Pilot Me". It will be our tribute to this year's confirmands as they take that memorable step to confirm their faith May 15. On May 22 Al Laser will reprise "Cornerstone", one of Michael Card's always stirring songs.



As we all anticipate the bursting of Spring blooms, we pray that our musical offerings this May will cause joy to blossom in your hearts.

Out of the joy He gives music to you, Dawn



2011 Vacation Bible School!

**Registration forms are available in the narthex or church office,
or call Pastor Andrea at 847-446-4300**

Strap on your sandals and get ready
To see what life was like when Jesus was a kid!
Play Bible-time games.

Visit the Marketplace and craft cool projects.
Meet Jesus' mom, Mary, and hear what it was like
To raise God's very own Son!

The adventure begins soon ...
So get ready to step back in time!

**June 20-24, 5:30-8:30 p.m.
Age 3 through Grade 5**

Supper for families is included!

Here are some ways you can be involved in making VBS great this summer:

Ways you can be involved:

Decorating

Publicity

Registration

Preschool Leader

Mini-Drama Participant

Fun & Games Leader

Contact Pastor Andrea to find out more!

Visit the "Rounding Up Supplies!" bulletin board in the narthex.

Each paper sheep on the board has an item listed on it that is needed for VBS.

Take a sheep from the board and donate or lend the requested item, with the sheep attached.

A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

It looks like spring is as reluctant to appear as our Chicago baseball teams have been. While I feel quite confident that warm weather will appear in May, I'm not so sure about the Cubs and Sox. I also know that the community kitchen of a Just Harvest can count on Winnetka Covenant to provide two of its daily meals to their patrons during the month of May.

We will do so with John Anderson as the contact for May 5 and Ted Garrison being the contact for the

19th. We get cooking in our kitchen at 1 p.m. and usually wrap up by 3:30-4 p.m.

We have a great group of regular cooks on our service days, but are always happy to share with newcomers. Please join us if you can!

John Anderson

NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Winnetka Covenant Church financial statements through March 2011 can be summarized as follows:

- ◆ Year to date general fund receipts are 13% greater than 2010 and 6% (\$18,000) below the 2011 budget.
- ◆ Expenses through March are slightly higher than both 2010 and the 2011 budget through three months.
- ◆ Year to date receipts are \$6,192 less than expenditures.
- ◆ Cash on hand, including all accounts (general fund, exchange funds, memorial funds, etc.) is \$201,449 at March 31, 2011

	<u>2011 Actual</u>	<u>2010 Actual</u>	<u>2011 Budget</u>
General Fund Receipts	\$265,868	\$235,953	\$283,824
Expenses	\$272,060	\$269,980	\$270,593
Receipts Over (Under) Expenses	\$(6,192)	\$(34,027)	\$13,231
Total Cash - March	\$201,449	\$153,458	

The WCC Board of Trustees develops monthly reports with further details. These can be referenced in the church office and will be summarized at the quarterly business meetings. Please contact Scott Hall, Treasurer or Roger Schmitt, Financial Secretary with any questions.

Capital Projects

Currently, there are no major capital projects in progress. The Board is considering updating the WCC bathrooms as the next major project. A few minor repair and maintenance projects will also be prioritized during the spring/summer months. Three members of the Trustee Board are also working with the Columbarium committee as plans continue to mature.

All-Church Cleaning Day - April 30, 8:30 a.m.

All are welcome to come and help with those deep cleaning projects that will keep the church looking its best. Bring any supplies you think will be helpful.

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On **Sunday, May 15** we celebrate confirmation with this year's 8th grade confirmation class. As a part of the confirmation weekend, the confirmands will be reading their papers at **7:00 Friday evening, May 13**. This time is open to the congregation and all are invited to attend.

This year's confirmands include:

Marshall Hales
Ellen Stenstrom
Sara Thomas
Ben Wiberg

MISSION NEWS & SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

A big thanks to all those who helped make this year's rummage sale another huge success! Over \$15,000 was raised! Thanks for the tireless help with set-up, day of sale help, and clean up. Also, thanks for all the wonderful donations.

The funds raised at the rummage sale will go towards 4 different projects: a project to be completed at Covenant Point during our Church's Family Camp in August; a project to be completed this fall at Covenant Harbor at an all-church work weekend; a project in the works at Jesus People USA (JPUSA) in Chicago at their Cornerstone Community Outreach for our church to volunteer and participate in (see front page article); and lastly a donation will be made to *A Glimmer of Hope* which is in the process of finishing a well project in Ethiopia at the Champro School where our church did a Mission Trip.

We hope you will be able to join us in these wonderful opportunities to serve over the next few months!

FAMILY PROMISE HOSTING WEEK - May 8-15

Beginning on May 8, we will be hosting the families of Family Promise for another week. Sign-up posters are available in the narthex or you can call or e-mail (wccjoan@juno.com) the church office to see what time slots are still available. We need around 50 volunteers throughout the week to provide a warm place to sleep, a healthy dinner, and breakfast for our friends in need. So that everyone will feel comfortable helping, Jed Bassett will lead a training session during the Sunday School hour on May 8 for any volunteers who would like to attend.

GREATER CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY - Saturday, May 14, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

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, with our service 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.

GLASSES, GLASSES, GLASSES

Many thanks to all who have donated their used glasses for missions. Two big boxes were packed up and delivered to Covenant Headquarters and still more have collected in the box on the mission display counter. They will go with missionaries out to the mission field, where they will be fitted on someone whose vision is impaired, thereby spreading the love of God in a practical, helpful way.

The collection of used glasses is ongoing, as is collection of used cell phones and chargers, which are used to benefit battered women.

VOLUNTEER WORK DAY AT COVENANT HARBOR - May 14 (or come for the weekend)

Many hands will help accomplish all the tasks needed to get the camp ready for the summer camping season. Three meals and snacks will be provided to workers on Saturday and the camp will be open for overnights both Friday and Saturday nights (no meals provided Friday or Sunday). Childcare provided as needed. Registration forms with more information are available in the kiosk in the narthex.

ALL-CHURCH FAMILY CAMP

Registration for our All-Church Family Camp is almost full! 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 to your homes, and there are extra forms available in the narthex. Space is limited, so sign up soon!

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 meet on **May 26th at Baker's 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 Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. This month's meeting will be **May 3**. We continue to use our own Covenant hymnal as a resource for the study. We always welcome new participants.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP - Thursday afternoon women's Bible study is on hiatus until early June, when they will begin a study of Philippians. Paul's letter to the Philippians aimed to inspire them how to find peace and contentment in a perilous world. We, too, can discover the secret of Paul's joy in Christ. We will be studying the book of Philippians using the Lifechange Series, available from amazon.com - Philippians, Lifechange Series paperback (Nov. 1, 1986) by Nav Press, for \$9.99. Please join us and bring a friend! Questions, contact Claire Macfarland, 847-446-7087.

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.

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship continues to meet the first three Saturdays of each month, 8:30 a.m. in the Upper Room. All men of the church are welcome. Contact Richard Spears with questions.

ATTENTION SENIORS!

The Leisure Class breakfasts, scheduled monthly on the second Thursdays, has begun meeting at the Bistro at Covenant Village of Northbrook. So for coffee, conversation and confection, come to our next meeting on Thursday, May 12 at 8:30 a.m. at the Bistro. For further information, contact Sam Paravonian.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, May 1, following the 10:45 worship service - Spring congregational business meeting. Childcare will be provided.

Saturday, May 7 & 21 at 3:00 - Volleyball in our church gym with Chinese students. All are welcome.

Looking ahead to summer, here are our summer plans:

Summer worship: 9:30 a.m., beginning June 5

Our summer worship schedule begins Sunday, June 5, when we will change to one worship service at 9:30 a.m. each Sunday. On June 5, the congregation is invited to stay after worship for the annual **All-Church picnic** on the front lawn. Bring blankets and chairs. Food is provided, and a free-will offering will be received to offset the cost.

Worship on the Beach

In addition to 9:30 worship in the sanctuary, on June 26, July 17 and August 21 we will also offer an 8:00 a.m. worship at Gillson Beach in Wilmette. The service on August 21 will include baptism for anyone who wishes to be baptized. Contact one of the pastors for more information.

WINNETKA MAILBOX

To the Winnetka Church Family,

We would like to express our thanks for all the prayers and support through the illness and passing of Ron's dad. It was truly overwhelming to feel all the love and concern from our extended family, Winnetka Covenant Church, and what a difference it can make at times like this. It was much appreciated and left a lasting imprint on our lives.

Ron, Debbie, Emily and Jennifer Peterson



A special note from Ingrid Papanek,

Last May Anika's grandmother from Vermont came to visit Anika in New York and they planted sunflower seeds. Anika placed her "planters" on the windowsill near her bed. Each day she watered them, and was delighted when the plants started to sprout. When they became too big her grandmother brought them to Vermont and placed them where Anika used to play.

On the morning of Anika's memorial service in New York last July, they put the sturdiest of the bunch on the stage for the service. None of them had yet opened. Several hours later when we all came to the service, a beautiful splash of yellow on Anika's sunflower greeted us. A single beautiful flower had opened, just in time.

The seeds were saved, and we would like to share with you Anika's sunflower seeds. You have all had such a big part in her life through all the prayers and love shown throughout her illness.

If you would like some sunflower seeds let the office know, or contact me. Thanks again for your love and concern.

Ingrid Papanek

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 are developing 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.

FAMILY NEWS

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to:

- ◆ Jennifer Peterson and David Gruner, who were recently engaged. They are planning a July, 2012 wedding.
- ◆ Rachel Allen and Matt Spooner (son of Harold and Cheryl Spooner), on their recent engagement. They plan to marry in her hometown of St. Louis, MO on April 28, 2012.

Blessings on both of these couples and their families.

We would like to acknowledge our graduates (high school, college, graduate school) in next month's Network. Parents, please e-mail information for your students to wccjoan@juno.com. Include the date of graduation, the school and plans for post-graduation.

On May 19 at 7:15, "Race to Nowhere" will be shown at Winnetka Congregational Church. This documentary features the stories of young people who have been pushed to the brink, educators who are burned out and worried that students aren't developing the skills they need, and parents who are trying to do what's best for their kids. Race to Nowhere is a call to mobilize families, educators, and policy makers to challenge current assumptions on how to best prepare the youth of America to become healthy, bright, contributing and leading citizens.

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.