

Network

Volume 12 Issue 7

July, August,
2011

Dates to Remember:

JULY 7 & 21

AUGUST 4 & 18

Community Kitchen Dates

JULY 10

Congregational Meeting

High Coffee Celebration

JULY 17, AUGUST 21

Beach Services

JULY 31 - AUGUST 14

Family Promise

AUGUST 8 - 13

Family Camp at Cov. Point

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The Gift of Contemplation

"Be still and know that I am God!

I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth.

The LORD of hosts is with us:

The God of Jacob is our refuge."

(Psalm 46:10-11)

This is the bit of scripture that comes calling on my spirit along with summer. Is it an invitation, or a command? A risk, or a promise? The startling truth is that the LORD of hosts, the God of Jacob, the Living God, shall be found and known in stillness; silence, should it be pursued, will lead you and I to a deeper understanding that God is with us, that God is our refuge.

The challenge, of course, is our life's activity and noise. Everything environmentally around us seems to conspire against stillness and silence, because time and space are awfully hard to come by. Because we are exhausted most of the time, it is impossible to be still or silent without falling asleep! And important as sleep is, the psalmist has in mind a more active, alert, intentional and focused stillness, a stillness in which we allow God to come and be present with our journey.

The invitation from this ancient scribe is into a life that nurtures stillness, which finds regular space for silence. The promise is that if we will seek after these things and structure them into our daily grind, we will be more fully alive to God's presence and promises.

So what will it take for you and me to make time each day to be still, to be fully awake, yet enter into a time of prolonged silence, to develop through intentional planning more comfort with a contemplative life? Something else will likely need to go, some other activity, or task, or demand.

Try sitting with Psalm 46 for an hour in the stillness. Find a verse or a phrase and let your spirit settle into it. There are many, just choose one:

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble ...

God is in the midst of the city ...

Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should change ...

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God ...

Behold the works of the LORD ...

Be still and know that I am God!

The LORD of hosts is with us.

The God of Jacob is our refuge.

Embrace the gift of a contemplative life. Listen to the quiet. Be still and know.

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.

Hometown Nazareth--Where Jesus Was a Kid!

Vacation Bible School was a great success, thanks to the participation of over 50 volunteers, and the attendance of 60 children. Heartfelt thanks to all of you who gave your time and talents before and during the week. And thanks to all in the congregation who also donated supplies. We had a great week exploring the town where Jesus was a kid--and learning that although Jesus was the kid next door, he was also the Son of the one true God who gave his life for us.

Save the date! Kickoff Sunday: September 11

Adult Sunday School highlights for 2011-2012

September/October: The Old Testament, Genesis to 2nd Kings - Paul Koptak, facilitator

October/November: The Reformation - Kurt Peterson, facilitator

December: ADVENTure

January: C.S. Lewis - Karen Larsen and Walter Gast, facilitators

February: Galatians - Max Lee, facilitator

Lent: The Stations of the Cross

ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL 2011-2012

Rotation Sunday School went wonderfully last year, thanks to the giftedness of many volunteers. We're getting geared up for another great year! Our theme for the year is THE MESSIAH. Would you consider being part of Rotation Sunday School this coming fall? How it works:

- ◆ Volunteer to lead a workshop during one or more rotations during the year.
- ◆ Each rotation is four weeks long. You are asked to lead three out of those four weeks - a very manageable commitment!
- ◆ You use the same material each week and teach the same lesson, but you adapt it slightly for different age groups.
- ◆ Straightforward curriculum and support is provided for each workshop.
- ◆ All supplies are collected for you.
- ◆ A Shepherd accompanies each group of children and helps you with the workshop.

Here's what's coming up this year! Give some thought as to how you might use your gifts with our children in one or more of these rotation workshops this fall. Contact Pastor Andrea or Linda Johnson if you have questions, would like to know more, or want to say, "Yes! I'd love to be a workshop leader!"

Unit 1: The Anointing of David

Dates: September 18 & 25, October 2 & 9

Workshops:

Art: Create a self-portrait

Puppet: Tell the story of the choosing and anointing of David

Games: Kingdom of David games

Cooking: Pizza

Unit 2: The 23rd Psalm

Dates: October 16, 23 & 30, Nov. 6

Workshops:

Food: Food is used as metaphor and memory aid as kids learn the 23rd Psalm.

Movement: With the psalm written on paper footsteps, kids walk the psalm.

Games: The psalm in Olympic game format.

Drama: While a narrator reads the psalm, reporters and people react.

Coming up after Christmas: Handel's Messiah

MUSIC NOTES



Thank you to all who have responded to share in music this summer. While wishing you each a blessed Summer of special refreshment and enjoyment, I found this hymn text offering a message which seems to suit Summers 'doings'. Hope it blesses you. Let me know what tunes and texts are blessing you this Summer.

Lord of All Hopefulness

Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy, whose trust, ever childlike, no cares could destroy, be there at our waking, and give us we pray, your bliss in our hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.

Lord of all eagerness, Lord of all faith, whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the lathe, be there at our labors, and give us, we pray, your strength in our hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.

Lord of all kindness, Lord of all grace, your hands swift to welcome, your arms to embrace, be there at our homing, and give us, we pray, your love in our hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.

Lord of all gentleness, Lord of all calm, whose voice is contentment, whose presence is balm, be there at our sleeping, and give us, we pray, your peace in our hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

With song in my heart, Dawn

SUMMER WORSHIP

Our summer worship schedule includes 9:30 worship in the sanctuary each week.

Worship at the Beach

In addition to the 9:30 worship service in the sanctuary, on July 17 & August 21 we will also offer an 8:00 worship service 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.

FAREWELL TO ERIK AND COURTNEY

Following the service on July 10, there will be a high coffee reception honoring and celebrating the ministry of Erik Strom. Erik's last Sunday with us will be the following week, July 17, when he will preach. He will officially begin his ministry at Covenant Point on August 15, following our Winnetka Covenant Family Camp week.

While we are very sorry to see Erik, Courtney and their family leave us, we are excited for this new opportunity and wish them well as they begin in August.

Before the reception, there will be a BRIEF congregational business meeting in the sanctuary on July 10.

The nominating committee is developing a search committee to begin the process of finding a new Youth Minister. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact Bob Braun or Tom Rivi.

A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

We are now in the midst of summer and with it, many of us have the opportunity to get away on vacations. We all appreciate getting out of our normal routines and having the chance to get away, do something fun and different and relax. However, we are aware that hunger and need do not take vacations so our food preparations continue through the summer.

We will do so with Ted Garrison as the contact person for July 7 and August 4 and John Anderson

being the contact for July 21 and August 18. We begin cooking in our kitchen at 1 p.m. and usually wrap up around 3:30-4 p.m.

Newcomers are always welcome to join us in the kitchen, especially during the summer months when some of our regulars may be away. Please join us if you can!

John Anderson

REMEMBER OUR CAMPERS THIS SUMMER

As always, we have many children and some adults spending one of their weeks this summer at Covenant Harbor and Covenant Point. We ask that you remember them in your prayers, asking for a week of safety and fun, as well as a week of first time or deepening spiritual commitment.

Covenant Harbor Campers: Carly Anderson, Hannah Bender, Grace Brunzell, Emma Brunzell, Artemis Delancey, Kendall Drimalla, Nick Drimalla, Greta Eanes, Annabelle Fogel, Madison Heintzeman, Isabelle Jensen, Alex Jensen, Kaley Mulhern and Liam O'Donovan.

Covenant Point Campers: Brinn Anderson, Micah Bowe, Chase Breidenbach, Graham Breidenbach, Spencer Eanes, Jimmie Hall, Nathan Hall, Sarah Hawkinson, Stina Hawkinson, Kari Hoglund, Linda Johnson, Hannah Kelly, Robbie Kelly, Zach Lee, Chloe Madvig, Eliza Magill, Anni Magnusson, Liesel Magnusson, Allen Moy, Chad Nelson, Emmett Peterson, Haydon Peterson, Ben Reeber, Allie Rivi, Sam Rivi, IngMarie Schultz, Leif Schultz, Courtney Strom, Sarah Westerfield, Ben Wiberg, Katie Wiberg, and Soren Wiberg.

Covenant Point Crew and Staff Members: Annelise Brandel-Tanis, Hannah Hawkinson, Rachel Kovacic, Sam Madvig, Evan Magill, Kajsa Nelson, Meagan Schade, and Rob Thomas.

In addition to these, about 85 of our church members and friends will be participating in our Family Camp week at Covenant Point the first week of August. We are thankful that so many of our church members and their children choose to spend a week of their summer at camp.

COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

Excellent progress is being made on the development of the Memorial Garden and Columbarium. Preparations for the replacement of old and the installing of new plantings are well on the way. Be sure to take a look out the rose garden window to see the progress being made.

If you have not as yet applied for either garden or niche space, or reserved a place for a marker for the memorial wall, materials are available each Sunday and throughout the week on a table in the narthex to expedite your decision. Any member of the columbarium committee will be happy to answer questions. The committee members are John Breidenbach, Mer Crow, Peter Hawkinson, Denise Johnson, Mary Johnson, Chris Lyngso, Art Nelson and George Tzanetopoulos.

MISSION NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

Following is an article that appeared on the Covenant Newswire on May 11, 2011. It's good to get occasional updates and news about how well the money that we all contribute to Covenant World Relief is being used and what a difference it makes in the lives of people around the world.

Kitengala, Kenya - Kenyans walked as far as nine miles to receive food and clothing distributed by the Evangelical Covenant Church of Kenya (ECCK) that purchased the goods with funds from Covenant World Relief. Kenyans are suffering through a severe drought that has forced the roughly 340,000 people living in the northwest region of the country to slaughter much of their livestock. Now the loss of cattle, goats and camels is threatening their economic stability and increasing their vulnerability to future disasters.

"We were able to reduce the drought suffering by helping with food supplies," Simon Njoroge, president of ECCK wrote. "We also clothed some community members which included children who desperately needed the support." Funds also paid for community development experts to provide training for residents to develop skills for generating alternative income. The church will monitor their progress and provide additional assistance as needed. The church also committed to helping educate children. "School teachers who were present got assured that the most vulnerable children who had dropped out of school would rejoin school," Njoroge wrote. He added that more funds will be needed to provide water because the only source is a rainwater catchment dam. Animals, as well as the villagers, drink from it.

When the relief team arrived, they assumed people who were sitting under the shade of a tree had come to meet them. Instead, they discovered it was a church, consisting of benches and thorn branches that marked the outline of the meeting space. The number of people coming to church swelled. Gospel music and the message were presented in the local language.

SEW-A-THON

A huge thank you to all who participated in the Sew-a-thon on May 22. The fellowship hall was filled with people measuring and cutting fabric to make 35 sets of bed curtains that will provide a measure of privacy to the people who are staying at the Cornerstone Shelter of Jesus People USA. The cut fabric then went up to the Upper Room, which was filled with sewing machines and seamstresses, turning the cut fabric into finished bed curtains. All in all, it was quite an operation!! There are still about 7 sets of cut fabric that need to be sewn. If interested, please contact Joan Wallgren.

FAMILY PROMISE

Winnetka Covenant Church will be hosting the families of Family Promise in back-to-back weeks this summer, beginning July 31 - August 14. For those who haven't yet participated and are unfamiliar with it, Family Promise is a ministry shared by twelve congregations in the area, providing overnight housing and meals for temporarily homeless families. The churches take turns throughout the year, with opportunities for congregation members to provide supper, supervision, snacks and conversation in the evening, and stay overnight with the guests, then providing breakfast in the morning before they leave for the day. Sign-up sheets will be in the narthex beginning next week or you can check with the office throughout the week to find out which spots are still open and in need of being filled.

SANKOFA

The Covenant Department of Compassion, Mercy and Justice has announced that the dates for the next Sankofa Journey are August 4-7, 2011. Sankofa is a short trip through the deep South, visiting sites and sharing experiences of the Civil Rights Movement. A quote from a former participant - "I have a lot to learn but this journey awakened me to things I didn't know about myself. I pray that as I share my experience with others, they too will come to see that privilege is widespread and that little by little with God's help we can bring about racial righteousness." For more information or to register, please check out the Covenant website (www.covchurch.org).

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. For the remainder of the summer we meet on July 28 and August 25 **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 Marilynn Nelson at 7 p.m. Our next meetings are July 12 and August 2 (note that the July meeting is the 2nd Tuesday of the month). 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 now doing 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 will use 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.

SAVE THE DATE - TASTE OF WINNETKA

Winnetka Covenant Women will sponsor another Taste of Winnetka evening on Saturday, September 17. This will be an informal evening of dinner and fellowship, with food provided by different koinonia groups. Taste of Winnetka in past years was held as a fundraiser for our kitchen renovation project. This year, focusing outside of our own church needs, the event will be a fundraiser for Promise Place, a new Covenant Enabling Residence to be built in Northbrook, adjacent to Covenant Village. Please put the date on your calendars and watch the bulletins and September Network for further information.

LOOKING FOR DISHES

We are in the process of building a collection of special dishes for use by shower committees and other serving committees through the years. Specifically, we would like glass snack dishes - the kind with a little indent for a matching coffee cup. If you have some, you will know exactly what we are looking for. These were a staple for serving luncheons and teas in years past but aren't used much anymore. If you have any tucked away in storage, never being used, and you would be willing to donate them for use here at church, please contact the church office or just bring them in.

ATTENTION SENIORS!

The Leisure Class breakfasts, scheduled monthly on the second Thursdays, now meet at the Bistro at Covenant Village of Northbrook. So for coffee, conversation and confection, come to our next meeting on Thursday, July 14 at 8:30 a.m. at the Bistro. For further information, contact Sam Paravonian.

WINNETKA MAILBOX

To our Friends at Winnetka Covenant Church,

On behalf of our entire family, I want to express my deep thanks for your love and concern for us during these past difficult weeks. Your cards and notes during Jim's illness, and the flowers and cards and generous memorial gifts received since his passing - all of it has been overwhelming, and we send our gratitude. Thank you, also, for the loving way in which you released Peter as he struggled with the need to be with his Dad and also to be there with you.



Jim and I loved our months of ministry there at Winnetka, and I will continue to feel at home with you as I visit in the future. God's blessing be with you all.

Alyce Hawkinson

Dear Winnetka Church Family,

We are so blessed to have had the love and support of our church family during these past few months. It has been a long road from Tom's surgery in late December, but now the finish line is in sight. Chemotherapy will be completed in June, and one outpatient procedure will be needed to resolve a complication, and then Tom will set his sights on returning to work part-time.

Your many calls, cards, visit, and especially your prayers have been such a blessing to us during these past 6 months. We are truly grateful to each of you, and thankful for your continued love and concern.

With Love, Tom and Jeanette Zobus

Just a reminder that if you are interested in receiving your Network and occasional other church mailings by e-mail instead of the paper version, please e-mail Joan Wallgren, wccjoan@juno.com, to be put on that list.

FAMILY NEWS

We offer our congratulations and best wishes to Peter and Colleen Johnson, on the birth of Chloe Rose Johnson on May 24. Susan and Sven Johnson are the grandparents. Best wishes to the Johnson family.

Following is a letter we received from a woman who bought a number of stuffed animals and toys at our Rummage Sale in April. This letter was accompanied by a handful of thank you notes written by children who received the toys. It shows us that we never know whose lives we are touching through any aspect of our ministry here at Winnetka Covenant Church.

Dear Erik,

I am writing to you because you were so kind in allowing us to purchase the plush toys at your recent Church sale. As you can see from the thank-yous we received, they are delighted to be able to pick something special from our daughter's Treasure Box. Many of these children arrived from other countries and could not read or write. They are thriving in our daughter Lauren's class, all having passed their tests to promote to the third grade.

Please inform your Church members that all the plush toys donated to your sale and purchased by us could not have gone to more deserving children ... It is difficult to know and to understand that there is so much poverty in our Country.

Know that Karl and I are so appreciative of your kindness, but can you imagine what joy it brings to worthy children. God love you for everything.

Eleanore S. Tripam

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.