

Network

Volume 12 Issue 8

September, 2011

Dates to Remember:

SEPTEMBER 9

Rotation Workshop Event

SEPTEMBER 11

Kickoff Sunday

9:45 Sunday School

10:45 Worship

SEPTEMBER 14

Wednesday Nights Begin

SEPTEMBER 17

Taste of Winnetka

SEPTEMBER 18

8:30 Worship Begins

Inside this issue:

CF News 2

Music Notes, Wed. Night 3

A Just Harvest, Youth News 4

Mission News, SS Event 5

Women's Ministries 6

Events 6

Mailbox & Family News 7

Saying Yes and Saying No

Writing this article, I'm having a moment of de ja vu. Have I written this before? I looked back at old Network issues and found that yes, I have touched on this subject before, and surprise, surprise--it was in the Fall of a previous year. It's clear that each Fall I find myself in a similar place again--needing to make decisions about when, how, to what, and to whom I should say yes, or no. If I said yes to everything, I'd end up in the hospital in no time!

Sometimes when I talk with others and they tell me how busy they are, I get the impression that they would rather not be so busy, but that they don't feel a sense of control over their busyness. I sometimes feel this way, too. There are things we just have to do, and there's no choice.

Or is there? Perhaps we have more control over this than we think we do. M. Shawn Copeland writes in *Practicing Our Faith*, "Learning when and how, to what, and to whom to give our yes or our no is a lifelong project. It is learning to live not merely in dull balance or tedious moderation but in passionate, disciplined choice and action. It is learning to find support and challenge, courage and correction, as we live out our choices. Sustaining and realizing our yes from day to day is only possible when negative and destructive behaviors are supplanted by positive and generative ones, when we redeem the routines of our daily lives, when we choose to carry out commitments that give and support life."

I don't know about you, but I would prefer not to live in "dull balance or tedious moderation." Nor do I prefer to live in the exhaustion and stress of overcommitment. Saying yes and no is hard work. But I suspect that it's worth it because it can lead to a wholesome, holy life. That's what I want! That's what I believe God wants for all of us.

The good news is that we are not alone--we are not alone in what we're going through, and we don't have to do the work of discernment alone, either. This church is a place where we can find mutually supportive relationships with other faithful people. We can help one another in discerning which commitments we can choose that give and support life, and when and to what we ought to say "no." In the specific decisions we face, together we can wrestle with important questions that will help us discern: What is most necessary in our lives? For what are we living? What does it mean to be a human person? Which of the commitments I'm faced with will help me to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness?" We can support and encourage one another when it's difficult to choose one thing over another.

Small groups or one-to-one mentoring relationships are avenues for growing supportive relationships. Stephen Ministers can also provide help in this way. If you're interested in any of these, let us know.

If you want to make a commitment to something life-giving and faith-building, consider the many opportunities present in our church's ministries. "We must learn the practice of saying no to that which crowds God out and yes to a way of life that makes space for God" (Copeland). I have a sense that this is indeed a "must" for me. How about you?

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.

Kickoff Sunday!

September 11, 9:45 a.m. All ages in the Upper Room for refreshments, singing, and celebrating the beginning of a new season of Sunday school. Sunday school classes for all ages begin Sunday, September 18, 9:45-10:30 a.m.

Opportunities for youth and adults:

Junior High Sunday School, led by Steve Fogel and Eric Fogel in the Youth Room

Intergenerational Sunday School: A time of experiential learning, storytelling, relationship-building and intergenerational fun in Room 203. For high school students and adults of any age.

Adult Sunday School: We have planned a year of significant subjects, quality content and gifted facilitators to help you grow in your faith.

September 18-October 9: Old Testament Story: Genesis through 2 Kings - Paul Koptak, teacher

This course will present an overall view of the story of God's people, Israel, in Genesis to 2 Kings, and it will look at selected texts in depth. Along the way, we'll learn some Bible study skills and discuss questions like, why would anyone want to read the book of Leviticus, and what do we learn about God in all those accounts of bloody warfare? Most importantly, we'll look at the ways the Old Testament leads us to Jesus.

Rotation Sunday School

We're looking forward to another great year of Rotation Sunday School. What is Rotation Sunday School? Here's a little refresher:

The Rotation Model for the Sunday School hour has been piloted this year in the 4's & 5's class. Adult leaders, volunteers and children are enjoying this new format and the Christian Formation Board will add the 1st & 2nd grade classes and possibly the 3rd-5th grade classes next year.

This curriculum style focuses on teaching major Bible stories and concepts through kid-friendly, multi-media workshops, such as: art, drama, music, cooking, puppets, storytelling, audio-visual and woodworking. Children learn the same Bible story four consecutive weeks, rotating to a different workshop each week. The personal connection, familiarity and continuity is provided by a volunteer called a "shepherd". These individuals accompany the children each week and focus on building relationships.

Benefits of this format:

- ◆ Repetition aids in developing a lasting memory & understanding of content
- ◆ Improved Bible literacy
- ◆ Multi-media takes advantage of both students and volunteers' God-given abilities
- ◆ Less preparation for workshop leaders and volunteers
- ◆ Children and leaders have contact with a larger cross-section of our church family

What gifts have you been given?

Please consider using your gifts to serve in one of the following ways:

Sunday School 2nd Hour (during worship)

- ◆ 1 teacher to team teach with Phyllis Morris for the 1st and 2nd grade class
- ◆ 1 team of two teachers for the 1st and 2nd grade class

Contact Pastor Andrea for more information, or if you're interested and see page 5 about a Workshop Event.

MUSIC NOTES

While I'm still cramming in some long-awaited vacationing, the Fall is suddenly here. Buckle your seat belt for Kickoff Sunday! We will be treated to the special leadership of Jerry Hoover, retired director of Evansville, IN High School vocal music (Paul Christmas' mentor) and director at the Methodist church there. Jerry will lead the choir in a choral workshop Saturday, Sept. 10 from 9:00 - 12:00. Then, our 10:45 service September 11 will be packed full of anthems! What an inspiring way for all of us to reconvene for our Fall ministry together.

I call your attention to Royce Eckhardt's bulletin inserts and further information with special news and announcement about our plans for organ improvement. We are blessed with a tremendous instrument which really sets the tone and scope for leading our worship. The organ has lumped along relative well while we have tended to many other capital improvements in recent years. I hope you will consider your participation, whether large or small, to bring our instrument up to par for the next 40+ years.

As we resume our full schedule, I look forward to seeing YOU in worship. Welcome 'home'!!

Joyfully yours, Dawn

WHAT'S NEW ON WEDNESDAY NIGHTS?

We are pleased that Dominic German, our music intern for the year, will lead our Wednesday night music in the Upper Room. Dominic is a music student at Moody Bible Institute. Dominic has broad experience in music styles. He will be assisting with adult choir leadership during the year. He also plays the guitar and has experience leading contemporary worship. We look forward to having him join us!

We're excited about a few changes to our children's program. We'll be dividing the Adventure Club group into two groups: Age 4-Kindergarten and Grades 1-2. We'll also use new names to identify the groups:

- ◆ Ages 2-3: Explorers
- ◆ Age 4-Kindergarten: Voyagers
- ◆ Grades 1-2: Pathfinders
- ◆ Grades 3-5: Trailblazers

After Sing Time, the Explorers will go to the 2's & 3's room. The Voyagers, Pathfinder and Trailblazers will rotate through three 20-minute stations: Bible Time, Games, and Art. An adult leader (or leaders) will facilitate each station. Each group will be accompanied by one or more "Guides."

The following helpers are still needed:

- ◆ 2 Guides to work with age 4-Kindergarten (Voyagers)
- ◆ 1 Guide to work with Grades 1-2 (Pathfinders), along with Erika Eiesland
- ◆ 1 Bible Time leader to work with Rachel Rescorl
- ◆ 2 Games Leaders

Guide: an adult who accompanies the kids each Wednesday night with the purpose of building relationships with the kids, making them feel welcome, and interacting with the group as they engage in Bible Time, Games and Art. Guides also participate in intergenerational Sing Time in the Upper Room after dinner. Bob Clausen, Reed Brunzell and Greta Bailey will return as Guides for the Trailblazers.

Bible Time Leader: Leads a 20-minute Bible Time with each of the three groups of kids. An easy-to-use curriculum is supplied and support is available from Pastor Andrea. You will need about 1 hour of preparation per week prior to Wednesday night.

Games Leader: Lead age appropriate games in the gym for the Pathfinders & Trailblazers. Games for the Voyagers will take place in room 203/205. This is a great role for someone who doesn't like to teach, but really loves to play games and help kids have fun playing games! We can help with ideas for games. Games can be related to the theme of the night, or they can be standard favorites. We'll work with you to come up with games if you would like assistance.

If you are interested in having one of these roles on Wednesday nights, or if you would like to recommend someone in whom you see gifts for these roles, please contact Pastor Andrea.

A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

As the new school year begins, there are many demands on our time; schedules to create and adhere to, work commitments, family, friends, and homes to care for, and every parent's taxi/shuttle service. We have busy lives. Thank God most of us are not scrambling to find shelter or food for our loved ones on a daily basis as are the patrons of A Just Harvest, but we are scrambling to provide for ourselves and loved ones just as anyone does. We're all in need.

Every third Thursday of the month we, as a church, have an opportunity to serve the dinner to patrons of A Just Harvest's community kitchen. The kitchen is open every day of the year, so if these times do not work, there are others. The amount of meals served every day have been steadily increasing, and the need for serving volunteers has as well. If you have the time

(approx. 2 hours) to serve some evening, I believe you'll be glad you did.

For whatever reason, if you cannot serve at A Just Harvest, we always welcome cooks of any age to our church kitchen on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month to prepare the meal that we provide for the community kitchen. Please join us in the month of September on the 1st with Ted Garrison as contact, and on the 15th with John Anderson as contact.

The sign-up to serve is outside our kitchen. Our help is needed.
Thanks, John Anderson

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Jed Bassett, Tyler Krumland and Rebekah Strobel will be working this year as the youth staff here at Winnetka Covenant. Jed will be working at the church 25 hours a week in an administrative, planning, and parent/church liaison role. Tyler and Rebekah will be working at the church 15 hours a week with both Senior and Junior High, leading youth group, as well as helping in the planning and pastoral care. Tyler and Rebekah are both second year seminary students from the west coast who are very excited to be a part of the youth ministry program and get to know all of you here at WCC.

UPCOMING DATES:

- ♦ Jr. High League starts officially on September 7, 6-7:45 p.m. and will meet Wednesday nights throughout the school year.
- ♦ September 11 - Fall Kickoff at church. Come for the Sunday School hour at 9:45 for activities for all ages followed by a sandwich lunch after church for our first CHIC fundraiser.
- ♦ Senior High League starts officially September 11, 7-9 p.m. and will meet Sunday nights throughout the school year.

THE FALL RETREAT SCHEDULE:

- ♦ Jr. High will be going to Covenant Point over Columbus Day Weekend, October 7-10
- ♦ Sr. High has a retreat weekend planned October 21-23 (location TBD)

THE WINTER RETREAT SCHEDULE

- ♦ Jr. High Deep Freeze at Covenant Harbor will be January 20-22 (President's Day Weekend)
- ♦ Sr. High One Life Retreat will be February 17-20 at Covenant Point

CHIC 2012 - July 15-20, Knoxville, TN

Open to high school students completing grades 9-12 in the 2011-12 school year. More info and fundraising opportunities to come! Check out the CHIC 2012 website @chic2012.org.

The youth staff and counselors are all really excited to get to know and work with the students, parents, and staff this year! God has blessed us with much! Please feel free to be in touch with any questions, concerns, and comments you may have about our ministry, and please be a bit patient as we figure out all the little details. A full and complete calendar will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

Blessings, Jed Bassett

CONFIRMATION

Looking for a new way to serve the Lord? Would you like to get involved in the lives of our Junior High students? Are you willing to invest one hour per week in Youth Ministry? Get involved in **Confirmation Class! Small group leaders are needed for our two large classes.** Contact Peter Hawkinson for more information.

MISSION NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY - September 10, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. is our next opportunity to volunteer at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, with our work supporting the North Park Friendship Center food bank. This is a fun opportunity for adults and teens (age 13 and up) to serve. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required. Sign up on the list next to the kitchen or call the church office for details.

Workshop Rotation Sunday School Event

Friday, September 9 in the Upper Room

6:00 p.m., Supper and 6:30-8:50 p.m., Program - Child care is provided

Who's invited?

- ◆ Parents of children age 4 through 5th grade
- ◆ Shepherds
- ◆ Workshop Leaders
- ◆ Potential Workshop Leaders*
- ◆ Anyone from the congregation who is interested in supporting our children in their faith formation

*If you have a particular gift, ability, hobby, or interest, chances are that you can use it to connect with the kids through a workshop this year. Come and see how!

Top 10 reasons why you should come to the Workshop Rotation Sunday School Event

1. A free dinner that you don't have to cook
2. Child care is provided
3. To learn the purpose and benefits of Rotation Sunday School and how it works
4. To get a picture of what our kids will be learning and experiencing, and to support them in their learning
5. To find a place to serve in a way that makes a positive impact on our kids
6. You have gifts that you would like to use for God's purposes
7. You are interested in growing in your relationships with God and others
8. It will be interactive, informative, and fun!
9. You care about the kids of our church
10. A free dinner that you don't have to cook

The evening will be led by Pam Riedy of Cornerstone Publishing. Pam has been a Christian Educator since 1982 and specializes in helping congregations with the Workshop Rotation Model. She is warm, enthusiastic and energetic. I first had the privilege of getting to know Pam through our mutual work with A Just Harvest Community Kitchen. She resides in Glenview.

We'd appreciate knowing if you'll be joining us so that we can plan for dinner and child care. Please RSVP to Pastor Andrea, andreamariejohnson@comcast.net, or 847-446-4300.

On **Sunday, September 11** we will return to our Sunday morning winter hours.

Sunday School at 9:45

Worship Service at 10:45

Early Worship Service, at 8:30, will start on September 18

On **Wednesday night, September 14** we resume our Wednesday night Family Night Activities

5:30 Dinner for all

6:15 Singing and Skits in the Upper Room

6:45 Explorers, Voyagers, Pathfinders, Trailblazers, Jr. High Youth Group

6:45 Adult Text Study, Adult Book Group, Choir Rehearsal

WOMEN'S MINISTRIES NEWS

Following are ongoing groups for the women of the church. They all welcome new participants at any time.

QUILTERS, KNITTERS, ETC. - Meet on the **second Thursday of each month** for fellowship and service. Watch the weekly bulletins 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. We will meet on September 22 at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

STITCH AND STUDY - Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, **meets on the first Tuesday of each month** at the home of Marilynn Nelson at 7 p.m. Our September meeting will be on the 6th. We continue to use our own Covenant Hymnal as a resource for the study. Participants are welcome to come for the study and conversation, with or without a project.

THURSDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP - Thursday afternoon women's Bible study **begins again on September 22 at 1:00 in the library.** We will be embarking on another Beth Moore study: "Believing God: Experience a Fresh Explosion of Faith." This is a 10-week study with Member Workbook & DVD sessions weekly. The study draws from "Heroes of Faith", Hebrews 11, and examines the lives of Abraham, Moses and others who believed God. The study's goal is to lead a more active, living faith. Member workbooks can be ordered from LifeWay.com. Please contact Claire Macfarland for more information or with any questions.

TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY - The Book of Nehemiah will be the fall lessons for the Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study. Nehemiah was a faithful follower of God who learned to recognize and handle God's enemies. These lessons will teach us to use Nehemiah's tools of prayer and persistence to improve our relationships with our faithful Lord. A study of 2nd Corinthians will begin in January. Please call Sue Abram with any questions.

Do you have experience in marketing, advertising, running a small business, graphic design, early childhood education, or an interest in helping a wonderful ministry of the church to thrive? Then we can use your help! The Pre-school is now forming an advisory board of creative and interested people to brainstorm ideas and help grow our programs. This would not likely require a great commitment of time, perhaps only a few meetings a year. If you have any of these or other related skills and an interest in serving this ministry of our church, please contact Linnea Johnson or Robin Magnusson.

CREATIVE KIDS CORNER, offering professional hands-on culinary education for kids and a Family Promise contributor, is registering now for Monday & Tuesday fall classes at the church. Each class teaches Cooking for Life participants, ages 5-13 yrs., to prepare and enjoy a complete, healthy meal. Contact Director Linda Kusel at singswkids@me.com or visit our Facebook page (Creative Kids Corner) for more information and to receive a 20% discount for WCC families.

THIRD (ALMOST) ANNUAL TASTE OF WINNETKA - Saturday, September 17

All members and friends of Winnetka Covenant are invited to join us on **September 17 from 6:30 - 9:00** for dinner. Come and enjoy the best of what our own Winnetka Covenant Cooks have to offer in an evening of fun, wonderful food, and fellowship. After a summer of travels and time away from church, plan to come that evening and reconnect with your friends and fellow church members while enjoying a good dinner.

This is a fundraising event, with the proceeds going to benefit Promise Place, the new Covenant Enabling Residence which is being planned for Northbrook. Tickets are \$30 per person. We are requesting reservations so we know how much food to plan. Please let the church office know if you plan to come. This would be a great event to invite friends to and introduce them to the church.

WINNETKA MAILBOX

Dear Friends at Winnetka Covenant Church,

Thank you for all the love and prayers that supported Dick and me during my latest health challenge. Surgery was successful, the cancer is gone and the chemo treatment promises to keep it from coming back so fast the next time. As Dick said when I was diagnosed the first time, it's like having a tiger in a cage in your house. As long as you get the tiger out of your house while it's still in the cage - and keep watch for any new tigers to get them out immediately - you're in no danger. It was another good reminder that all the Lord ever gives us is just our next breath anyway. Let's live every moment that God has given each of us in what C.S. Lewis calls "the unbounded now."

Blessings on all of you, Karen Larsen



Bonnie and I would like to express our sincere appreciation to all of our friends in the WCC family for your interest, prayers, and many cheerful cards that have carried us successfully through my Kidney Transplant surgery. You have been wonderful and have blessed us more than we can express.

With much gratitude, Don & Bonnie Pollard

Dear Church,

I did it! I spent 3 weeks in Guatemala serving and learning and it would not have occurred if it weren't for your help. Thanks for allowing me the opportunity to witness some truth of the human condition and the struggle for betterment and healing. Thank you for being part of a tremendous support. That brings me great joy! Thanks for helping me to participate in the growing Kingdom.

Keir Quackenbush

Dear Friends,

We thank everyone for all their prayers for Jeff Berg. It is with great joy that we report he is recovered and no longer needs to be on the prayer list.

In Christ, Frank and Alice Kassen

Dear Friends,

I am so very grateful to our WCC friends for praying with us during my sister Julie's cancer journey. Your prayers, cards, and words of encouragement have been so meaningful to us in these long months of repeated surgeries, tests, treatments, and uncertainty. And now my sister is hopeful in returning to good health. Thank you for being with us at a distance - yet close to our hearts.

Phil & Nancy Prange

Dear Winnetka Church Family,

We are grateful for the support of the church this past year. It sustained us. So many of you have helped in innumerable ways - Santa, computer, meals, camp, piano, childcare, cards, prayers. Most meaningful was the Christian fellowship you offered. Thank you for the warm welcome into the community. May God's blessings be with you all.

Niccol Graf and Artemis Graf DeLancey

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- ◆ Andrew & Michelle Hotchkiss, on the birth of Isabella Grace on July 12, in Raleigh, NC. She was 7 lb, 5 oz. at birth and joins her big brother, Noah in the family. John & Sandi Hotchkiss are the happy grandparents and Isabella has the distinction of being the first girl in five generations of Hotchkiss babies!
- ◆ Aaron & Aimee Balsam, on the birth of Junia Lynn, born on August 5. She weighed 10 lb., 2 oz and was 22 inches long and joins big brother Andrew at home. Carl & Barb Balsam are the grandparents.
- ◆ Megan Braun and Steve Orlandino, on their engagement on August 6. The wedding will be in the late spring of 2012.

Other family news - Evan Hunt is serving with Heartline Ministries (heartlineministries.org) in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, and Nolan & Elizabeth Hunt are serving with Eden Reforestation (edenprojects.org) in Madagascar.

A new directory will be printed in September. If there are any updates the church office doesn't have, or if you would like to include your cell phone number this time, please e-mail to wccjoan@juno.com

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.