

Network

Volume 12 Issue 9

October, 2011

Dates to remember:

OCTOBER 2

Hymn Celebration

OCTOBER 7-9

Junior High Retreat

OCTOBER 9

Family Promise week begins

OCTOBER 22-23

High League Retreat

OCTOBER 23

A Just Harvest Benefit Dinner

OCTOBER 30

Covenant Women Fall meeting

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FRIDAY EVENING SMALL GROUP OPPORTUNITIES!

Friday Night Faith Finders

Fridays, September 30-November 4
7-8:30 p.m.

Join with friends in the Upper Room as we enjoy potluck appetizers and dessert while we explore simple, everyday ways to share our faith, using the "Becoming A Contagious Christian" DVD/Discussion materials.

Child care is available.

Come and join the fun!
Sign up at www.winnetkacovenant.org
or
by calling the Church Office.



Parent Journey

Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you fulfill the law of Christ. (Galatians 6:2)

Friday, October 21, 7:30 p.m.
(and the third Friday evening of each month)
at the home of Pete and Melissa Nelson

A new group is forming. **Parent Journey** will meet the third Friday of each month. We gather for fellowship, sharing and listening, support and prayer. The goal is time set aside in safe and supportive relationship to share our journeys together as parents, and as people, and to pray for one another.

Space is limited, and participants are asked to make commitment to monthly gatherings through the school year.

Sign up at www.winnetkacovenant.org
or
by contacting the Church Office.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS & EVENTS

Adult Sunday school:

Option 1: *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. Quality coffee, hot chocolate and tasty treats are served every week.

Option 2: October 2 and 9: final two weeks of "*Genesis through 2 Kings*" with Paul Koptak
October 16-November 20: "*The Reformation*," taught by Kurt Peterson. This continues a series on church history and will cover precursors to the Protestant Reformation--Luther, Calvin, Zwingli, Anabaptists, and the Catholic Reformation.

Workshop Rotation Sunday School

We are now looking for adults with specific talents and interests to lead workshop rotations for January through May. Below are brief descriptions of the next two workshops. If any of these sound interesting to you, please contact Pastor Andrea or Linda Johnson. You may also indicate your interest on the church website in the member portal.

Handel's Messiah

Movement - In response to 3 sections of "The Messiah," students will use props to express themselves.

Music/History - Acting as Handel himself, the workshop leader will tell about his life and lead them in song.

Food - Using snack food as their medium, kids will express their emotions while listening to "The Messiah."

Art - Explore how Handel's Messiah was interpreted by Timothy Botts' calligraphy. Kids will create their own calligraphy expression of a musical passage of *Messiah*.

Jesus' Baptism

Art - Created by the Spirit: Create personal baptism banners with a dove motif.

Games - Mary & Martha's B&B: Meet Martha as she remembers Jesus' baptism and then play a matching game with scriptures and road signs that are appropriate to reveal the way that Jesus communicated the Kingdom.

Movement - by the Spirit: Use string figures to tell the story of Jesus Christ. Do a guided imagery to ponder the scripture, "You are my own Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." Create a giant ICHTHUS (Fish symbol of Jesus Christ).

Puppetry - Create a puppet show about John's message based on the song "Bugs for Lunch" by Brian Sirchio.

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS HAVE BEGUN! . The evening schedule is as follows:

5:30 Dinner for all

6:15 Singing and Skits in the Upper Room (for all!)

6:45 Explorers, Voyagers, Pathfinders, Trailblazers, Jr. High Youth Group,
Book Group, Adult Text Study, Choir

During the first four weeks of Wednesday nights, kids will focus on God's creation: forest, land, river, and wilderness. They have created a forest which is on display in the narthex, and they created their own composters to take home and use.

The **Book Group** is currently reading "The Hole in Our Gospel" by Richard Stearns. It is "the compelling true story of a corporate CEO who set aside worldly success for something far more significant, and discovered the full power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to change his own life." Complimentary copies are available. Anyone interested in attending is welcome to join the group in the prayer room.

NEWCOMERS AND MEMBERSHIP CLASS GATHERING.

Are you interested in learning more about Winnetka Covenant Church and the larger denomination to which we belong? Are you new to our fellowship, or someone may be interested in exploring the step of Church membership? Would you like to meet new friends, and better get to know the pastors? We hope you will join us for lunch and conversation. We will meet Sunday, October 9, from 12-2:30 pm. in Room 203, just across from the Prayer Room. You may register at www.winnetkacovenant.org, or by calling the Church office. Welcome!

MUSIC NOTES

We launch October with a wonderful joint venture:

Hymn Celebration for Worldwide Communion October 2—4:00 p.m.

This year we feature hymns from countries around the world with special accompaniments by organ (Joshua and Sharon Peterson of North Park), piano, strings, winds, harp (Brittany Smith), and percussion by Johse Holt. Choir will do just 4 anthems (2 with congregation—"As the Deer" and "One Bread, One Body"). This would be a great time for all you singers who can't participate in regular choir schedule to come and sing! Let me reserve a folder for you. Rehearsal will be 1:30-3:00 October 2.



Kids also have a feature this year, singing, "Awake, Arise" and "Go Now in Peace" from our hymnal and accompanied by Orff instruments. We will rehearse 15 minutes before dinner on Wednesday, after church Sunday, and at 3:00 October 2. The free will offering will be for minimal expenses and for future joint ventures. Plan to come and bring neighbors or friends to this musical celebration!

Also, we're very excited to finally be planning the major needed maintenance and register upgrade on our wonderful organ which is so vital in leading our worship together. Some worship styles feature amplified song leader, but the pipe organ provides the capacity to lead congregational singing with strong support, but so you can still HEAR each other. It is a treasure, as is our organist, Joshua, and all those who play it. Please prayerfully consider at whatever level you can be an "Organ Donor" in our fundraising drive to raise \$65,000. Thank you to Joshua, Royce and Richard Spears for heading up this mission. See Royce's most informative notice also in this Network.

For the praise of God, Dawn

MAKE A PIPE DREAM COME TRUE!

Our church's pipe organ has increasingly shown deterioration in several major mechanical systems, which has made playing the instrument unreliable and frustrating. Some long-standing tonal deficiencies also need to be addressed in order to bring the organ into its best musical potential.

Our church leadership has approved a major restoration and upgrading project that will begin this fall at a cost of approximately \$70,000. Several memorial gifts have been designated for this project, but the generous financial support of our entire church family is needed to bring this project to fruition.

A mailing describing the project in greater detail and a contribution card will be reaching you within the next week. Please give prayerful consideration to the support that you may be able to offer to restore and improve this instrument that so enriches our communal worship.

NEW CHURCH WEBSITE

Check out the totally redesigned and updated WCC website, www.winnetkacovenant.org. A very important feature of the new site is member access via ID and Password to the WCC Member Portal. Using the secure WCC Member Portal, members can from any PC with Internet access on a 24x7 basis:

- View an online WCC member directory
- View church calendars
- Give a one-time or recurring gift online via their checking account
- View their giving history vs. pledge amount
- View upcoming event descriptions and key contact information
- Register for upcoming events and make payments online
- View available service opportunities and sign up to help online
- More easily get and stay involved with small groups
- And much more...

Please call or email Roger Schmitt to obtain your WCC Member Portal ID and initial password—and for help Getting Started.

Roger is also available between services on Sundays. See him to obtain an ID, demo, training, questions, etc. Roger would appreciate any feedback, comments or suggestions for making the new website and member portal more useful for you.

MISSION NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

Fundraiser for Congo.

You are invited to a concert and silent auction on Sunday, November 13, 3-4:30 p.m. Feature soloist: Anastasia Cameron Black. Ms. Cameron-Black is a soprano soloist and Music Director at St. James the Less in Northfield. She performs with the Bach Week Festival Choir and the Chicago Symphony Chorus, with whom she toured to Carnegie Hall last spring.

Silent Auction items will include work from local artists, family photo shoots, babysitting and baked goods! If you are able to donate an auction item (for example: tickets to concerts or games, weekend getaways at a lake house, etc.) please contact Christine.

Come at 3 pm to enjoy appetizers and make your bids! Concert will begin at 3:30. All proceeds will support Christine Buettgen with Covenant World Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Read more about Democratic Republic of Congo at http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles/1076399.stm

Follow Christine's journey at: www.christinemerle.blogspot.com.

Looking forward to seeing you there!

Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Volunteer Saturday, November 5, 1:30-4:30 p.m. Our work supports 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 church website, on the bulletin board next to the kitchen, or call the church office. A group will carpool from the church parking lot at 12:15 p.m.

Children's Carnival.

In August, three of our church children, Anni Magnusson, Macallister and Cassidy Rescorl, hosted a neighborhood carnival in their front yard. Activities such as face painting, drawing contests, bozo buckets, water balloon toss, hula hoop contests, surprise booth and refreshments were provided. The proceeds from the carnival ticket sales were given to Christine Buettgen for her work to bring clean water to Africa. This is a wonderful example of the ways that our entire church can be supportive of mission and ministry.

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Our year is off to a great start! Junior and Senior High youth groups are in full swing and we have around 50 eager students to learn, laugh, and be a part of our community. We are enjoying getting to know the students and are looking forward to walking along side them this year in their journey. Check out the NEW website for the calendar and all important details!

Upcoming dates:

- October 3rd & 17th—**Merge for Jr. High**, 3:30-5:00 @ church.
- October 7-10—**Jr. High to Covenant Point** over the Columbus Day Weekend. We will meet at the church at 4pm Friday afternoon and return 5pm Monday.
- October 14th—**High League will be going to the North Park soccer** Homecoming game under the lights. We will leave the church at 5:30 and return around 10:00. Please bring \$5 for ticket and money for dinner.
- October 20th—**A Just Harvest serving** opportunity. Meet at church 4:15, return 7:15. All ages welcome!!
- October 22-23—**Sr. High camping** at the Warren Dunes leaving Saturday 8am, and returning Sunday evening.

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 9-12 grade in the 2011-2012 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.

Blessings, Jed Bassett, Tyler Krumland, & Rebecca Strobel

A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

There are some big dates in October concerning the community kitchen of A Just Harvest. October bring us the opportunity to join other partners in the kitchen for our 8th annual **awards banquet and benefit on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 5pm** at the Mid America Club of the Aon Center. It's a great event of good food, hope, and recognition of so many good works.

On the 26th, we will be preparing a typical meal that we would serve at the kitchen for our Wednesday night dinner. This is an easy way to share in and experience a little of what happens here twice a month. I think you will enjoy it!

Yet still the most important dates are those of our service

commitment to A Just Harvest. This month we will be preparing dinner for the patrons of the kitchen on the 6th with John Anderson as contact and the 20th with Ted Garrison as head chef. Please join us in our church kitchen from 1-3:30 pm on these dates. No experience necessary.

And finally, the date to remember is the 20th. WE NEED 10 SERVERS at A Just Harvest from 5-7pm. This is an extremely important part of our ministry, and one that is its own reward. Come see for yourself what glows in the hearts of our youth. A volunteer sign-up is posted outside our kitchen, and now online in our new web portal under "serving opportunities." *Thanks, John Anderson*

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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

- Year to date general fund receipts are 5% greater than 2010, however they are 13% (\$101,300) below the 2011 budget.
- Actual expenses through August are below both 2010 and the 2011 planned budget.
- Year-to-date receipts are \$39,000 less than actual expenditures.
- Cash on hand, including all accounts (general fund, exchange fund, memorial funds, etc.) is \$233,400 at Aug 31, 2011.

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget

	2011 YTD Actual	2010YTD Actual	%	2011 YTD Budget	%
General Fund Receipts-Aug.	\$655,198	\$625,995	105%	\$756,506	87%
Expenses-August	\$682,348	\$690,417	99%	\$721,582	95%
Cash—August	\$233,396	\$214,507	109%		

	<u>8/31/2011</u>	<u>8/31/2010</u>
General Fund Cash	\$ (71,402)	\$ (70,083)
Buiding Fund	3,050	2,375
Exchange Fund	164,687	147,041
Depreciation Set Aside	40,817	40,706
Memorial Fund	96,119	94,343
Petty cash	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>
Total	\$233,396	\$214,507

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 for any questions.

►Capital Plans and Budget

- ◇Currently \$26,000 in approved 2011 capital budget
- ◇This budget has been allocated to two projects: the front sidewalk repair and bathroom remodeling
 - The front sidewalk has been repaired
 - Bathroom remodeling is under final project planning. Additional funds for the remodeling will come from several special donations by church members.

►Technology

- ◇In August, the WCC office computer software application was upgraded and web enabled
- ◇Launched in September is the new and updated WCC website
- ◇Online giving is now an option, log in and check it out: <http://winnetkacovenant.org>

►Columbarium Update

- ◇The final phases of the landscaping are underway
- ◇The project is planned to be complete by end of September.

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 October 27 at Baker's Square. Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

STITCH AND STUDY - combining Bible Study, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, meets on the first Tuesday of each month at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. Our October meeting will be on the 4th. 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/FELLOWSHIP - A new study began on September 22 at 1:00 in the library, embarking on another Beth Moore study: "Believing God: Experience a Fresh Explosion of Faith." 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/ 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 this group. 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 questions.

UPCOMING EVENTS...

The Spice House from Evanston will be coming to speak to us on Sunday, October 30 from 2:30-4:30. The Spice House are merchants of the highest quality, hand-selected and hand prepared spices and herbs. Their presentation will be on pepper, cinnamon, ginger, nutmeg, vanilla and saffron. We hope you will be able to come and join us in learning about these spices. Treats will be served using the spices!

Lucia Breakfast and Pageant—December 3, 9 a.m. One of our favorite events of the year! If you would like to be involved in the preparation, please contact Inger Eiesland-Schultz. Also, please consider how you might contribute to the Raffle, something handmade or perhaps there's a K-Group who would like to go in on a larger purchase. Please contact Julie Bender regarding Raffle donations.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As part of our kickoff for 2012, the Stewardship Committee is asking members to reflect on what "giving" and "stewardship" really mean in their day-to-day walk with Christ. This month, we share the reflections of Mary Beth Kovacic, a WCC member for 23 years:

I see Stewardship as a celebration of the awesome gifts God has given us. Being in relationship with God means we are filled with joy. I like the way William Barclay describes that relationship: "*Those who walk with Christ walk in radiance of joy.*" If this is really true, how can we not share this joy with others? I see this joy being shared in so many ways in our church:

- I have seen it...**in the way we care for each other**, bringing meals, sending cards, making phone calls, and praying faithfully for each other.
- I have seen it...**through the generosity of teachers**, who each week share the joy of their walk with God with other children, young people and adults.
- I have seen it...**through the commitment of volunteers** who faithfully donate hours serving on church committees to support the church.

- I have seen it...**in the soup kitchen ministry**, where some members cook, some contribute food, and others serve much-needed meals.
- I have seen it...**in the many ministries we support** with our financial contributions.

Looking ahead to 2012, my personal challenge is to stay attuned to the power of joy in my life as I answer these questions: 1) Am I allowing Christ to fully live in my heart and fill me with the radiance and joy only His love can bring? 2) How am I extending that joy to others? 3) As I share my joy, am I fully using the gifts and talents God has given me?

Thank you to all of WCC for faithfully and joyfully showing what stewardship means over the years I have been a member of this church! The way we use our different gifts and talents is our joyful response to God's gracious love towards us.

A reminder from the Stewardship Committee that Sunday, November 20th is Stewardship Sunday, when members are asked to submit their pledge cards for 2012. Right now, slightly more than 50 percent of the families who regularly attend our church give on a regular basis. **Our goal this year is to expand that involvement to 75 percent.** Every church member is asked to prayerfully think about their role in supporting a church whose mission is to spiritually support you!

WINNETKA MAILBOX

To my friends at Winnetka:

It has been a sad but happy time in the Christensen family. We were so blessed to have Jack and fortunate God gave him 24 more years after a near fatal heart attack in 1987. But these last 8 months of enduring pulmonary fibrosis were too much for him to continue his fight for life. My children and I were there his last day, and the previous day he was able to say goodbye in person or over the phone to our grandchildren and extended family. We have been experiencing deep sadness but also feel strength from all your prayers which brings us happiness to know he is fully healed and has eternal life in heaven. Thank you for all your cards and for those who were present at his memorial service. In Christ's Love, Marion Christensen



Dear Winnetka Covenant Family,

Thank you for all the love expressed on my behalf in your prayers, cards, e-mails and calls during my six-month treatment for lymphoma in my bone marrow. I am so very grateful for our God's healing touch and His work through skilled medical personnel, and I am overwhelmed by the support that comes from His Church that makes getting through life's challenges possible with a peace that is beyond comprehension. May God continue to bless the caring community of Winnetka Covenant Church.

Cliff Nelson

Dear Winnetka Covenant Friends:

This is to express our heartfelt thanks for all the prayers, cards, e-mails, facebook messages, dinners and other expressions of friendship during the illness and death of our father, father in-law and grandfather. Elbert Newsome didn't leave near here but he enjoyed visiting us and Winnetka Covenant Church. You made him feel at home the way you have made us feel welcome over the years. His extended illness at a great distance made it even more important to us to have the love and support of friends and family

With much love in Christ, Mollie, Steve and Peter Sudhoff

Dear Friends at Winnetka Covenant Church:

Thank you for all the love and prayers that have supported Dick and me during Dick's recovery from complications from gall bladder surgery. Although he is still healing, he is better everyday. We feel quite blessed to be part of such a caring congregation and hope to be able to greet you in person before too long. This summer certainly has been one for the books as far as medical emergencies and the Larsens are concerned. Most amazing—or perhaps not—considering the gifted shepherd that he is—was Pastor Pete's arrival for a visit just as Dick was being whisked away for CAT scans and ultimately the ICU for two days. Just a routine laproscopic gallbladder surgery that went south, the whole experience turned out to be another good reminder that all the Lord ever gives us is just our next breath anyway. We continue to live every moment that God grants us in grateful appreciation of what C.S. Lewis calls "the unbounded now."

Blessings to all of you, Dick and Karen Larsen

FAMILY NEWS

Saturday, October 29, from 2:00-4:00, there will be an open house to celebrate Paul Nilsen's 80th birthday. It will be held in the VS Room at the Town Center of Covenant Village.

Congratulations to Samantha and Anders Johnson on the birth of Bjorn Carl Johnson, born on Tuesday, September 13. Marilynn and Cliff Nelson are the happy grandparents and Verna and Ollie Fogel the great grandparents.

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES

PROMISE PLACE EVENT. CER of Illinois is sponsoring an event to benefit all of its current and future properties, including Promise Place of Northbrook and Bjorklund House. Tickets are available for the Drury Lane Theatre (Oakbrook Terrace) production of "The Sound of Music" on Sunday, October 23 at 4 p.m. Tickets are available from Judy Yost, Board member.

COVENANT HARBOR VOLUNTEERS NEEDED October 15, Painting, building, fixing, etc. Come for the day or overnight accommodations available. Register at www.covenantharbor.org or contact Brad Augustson.

SANKOFA JOURNEY. The date has been set—February 3-6, 2012. For more information go to www.covchurch.org or contact Chrissy Palmerlee, (773 907-3301) in the office of Compassion, Mercy and Justice of the Evangelical Covenant church.

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 years, to prepare and enjoy a complete, healthy meal. Contact Director Linda Kusel or visit our Facebook page (Creative Kids Corner) for more information and to receive a 20% discount for WCC families.

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.