

# Network

Volume 13 Issue 1

January, 2012

Dates to Remember:

DECEMBER 31

New Year's Eve Service

JANUARY 4

Wed. Night Activities  
Resume

JANUARY 5 & 19

A Just Harvest Dates

JAN 29- FEB 5

Family Promise

FEBRUARY 8

Annual Meeting

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## Another Year, God With Us!

*It is both terrible and comforting  
to dwell in the inconceivable nearness of God,  
and so to be loved by God that the first and last gift  
is infinity and inconceivability itself.*

*But we have no choice.*

*God is with us.*

*-- Karl Rahner*

A new year comes yet again,  
and the news of Emmanuel, "God With Us"  
tags along, recent of  
Christmas eve, day, and tide.

God's nearness a mystery, closer than  
breath, thought, feeling,  
love the Holy sign.

How can I embrace  
what I can't understand?  
And how is mystery a gift?  
It must be...

that I am drawn into a much grander cosmos,  
an infinite kind of day  
attached to a love that  
I experience, even on this passing, time-ticking day.

Christ is born!  
News from Bethlehem and Lockerbie Lane  
and wherever your home is  
for this new year growing old:  
God is with us!

Ponder the mystery.  
Light a candle.  
Dwell ... live, stop, and  
linger in

the inconceivable nearness of God,  
Who stirs up love into  
infinity.

*Peter Hawkinson*

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## CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS & EVENTS

<p><b>CHRISTIAN FORMATION MISSION STATEMENT of WINNETKA COVENANT CHURCH</b> 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.</p>
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**Sunday School for all ages at 9:45 each week.**

### ***Adult Sunday School choices:***

- 1) **C.S. Lewis Class.** Come and get to know Jack Lewis from a couple of Jackophiles, Walter Gast and Karen Larsen, Sundays from 9:45 to 10:30 a.m., January 8, 15, and 22. For people who aren't acquainted with C.S. Lewis and want to find out why we call him Jack when his given name was Clive Staples, the class may open the wardrobe through which they travel to meet the Professor of Narnia and get to know him - and his writings better. Those who already know and love him like we do can grab a cup of tea (or coffee) and say hello again. Classes will survey his writings for both children and adults.
- 2) **Intergenerational Class.** 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.

### ***Rotation Sunday School, Age 4 through Grade 5***

January 8, 15 and 22:

Children will explore Handel's "**The Messiah**" through Movement, Music/History, and Art.

Many of the children have now learned some of this music for the Children's Christmas program. This rotation will build on that as they further explore the Biblical texts used in the music, express themselves regarding music and faith, understand why "The Messiah" is sung in churches throughout the world, and why it is related to Christmas and Easter.

January 29 and February 5: Special large-group Sunday School - details will follow.

February 12, 19, 26, and March 4: **Jesus' Baptism**

We are looking for workshop leaders for puppetry, food, art, and video. Please contact Pastor Andrea for more details, or if you are interested in volunteering.

### ***Journey With Jonah, Journey With God: Wrestling With the God Who Calls***

***Wednesday Evenings, 6:45 p.m., Church Library  
January 4 - February 8  
Peter Hawkinson, Facilitator***

We will gather in winter's darkness to read the short story of Jonah's journey with God, and reflect on the journeys that we are on. We will explore the grand themes of biblical revelation and Christian faith:

God's Call, Grace, Faithfulness, and Mercy.

We will also reflect on the ways these things are challenging for us,  
as we seek to respond to the God who comes to us.

In this season of Epiphany Light, come and read this fascinating Jonah story with us.

Come with your questions, your stories, and join the conversation.

We will grow together and learn from one another.

Childcare is available. If desired, please contact Peter.

Welcome!

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## MUSIC NOTES



Thank you! Thank you! Your contribution to all the music programs has again been so gratifying. Whether you sang, played an instrument, rang bells or participated in spirit and appreciation, the combined efforts made a gracious, joyful witness to our Lord and our community at Winnetka Covenant.

We will have a CD of the December 11 concert by mid-January. Thank you, Roger, for posting on the web.

Also, thank you to all who were able to raise the necessary funds to update our organ. We are now ready to proceed; the major work will take place in the summer when we will have a week or so without being able to use it.

Looking ahead in the New Year:

\*On February 12 I will be doing a recital of songs & arias with Janet Eckhardt accompanying.

\*We will offer a variety of 'Musics for Meditation' on the Fridays of Lent in conjunction with the Stations of the Cross project.

Just as many traditionally sing "Auld Lang Syne" to close the year, may you mostly have a song of praise to God in your heart.

*May the Lord bless you and keep you, Dawn*

## MISSION NEWS & OPPORTUNITIES

On January 7th, 1:30 - 4:30 p.m., we have an opportunity to help at the **Greater Chicago Food Depository** to benefit the North Park Friendship Center food bank. This is a fun opportunity for adults and teens to serve, open to anyone age 13 and older. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required. Sign up outside the church kitchen or online.

### **Ongoing collections include:**

#### **WORLD RELIEF CHICAGO -**

Winter Coat and Boot Drive - There is a box in the Narthex for donations of the following:

- ◆ Winter boots for children, men and women
- ◆ Winter coats - small sizes for men especially, also women and children
- ◆ Winter gloves and hats for children, men and women

#### **NORTH PARK FRIENDSHIP CENTER -**

Nonperishable food items are collected for the North Park Friendship Center. A box sits in the mission area of the Narthex for your donations. A suggestion: when you are at the grocery store and see a buy one/get one free sale, why not take the second item to use as a donation.

#### **EYEGASSES AND PHONES -**

Glasses that you can't use anymore are refurbished by missionaries and brought to the mission field to be fitted on people who otherwise would be unable to see clearly. Cell phones that you aren't using anymore are used to help women escaping situations of domestic violence. Boxes for both of these items are on the missions display counter.

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## 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 January 26 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. This month's meeting is January 3rd. We continue to use our own Covenant Hymnal as a resource for the study. New participants are always welcome to come for the study and conversation, with or without a project.

**THURSDAY AFTERNOON BIBLE STUDY AND FELLOWSHIP** - Looking to the New Year, we will be embarking on a new 8-week study done by Beth Moore, "James: Mercy Triumphs". This study examines concepts such as joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for the rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, and many more.

Start date will be Thursday, January 12th (at 1:00 - 2:45 p.m. in the library) through Thursday, March 1st. The format is similar to past studies with 5 days of homework, meeting for discussion and then viewing the DVD presentation by Beth Moore. We hope your schedules will allow you to join us! We welcome any new attendees and hope those who've been unable to meet with us can join us once again for fellowship and spiritual enrichment.

Please RSVP if you are planning to join us. We are compiling a list and then Lisa Eiesland will send a follow-up e-mail with specifics for purchasing member books, etc. We're hoping you can commit early which will help us in the ordering of supplies. Contact Clare Macfarland with questions.

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** - Paul begins his letter by encouraging the Corinthians to be a community of comfort to one another in the midst of suffering. What a fantastic message for us today! Yet this message might be even more significant when we glimpse into the reality of life for the church community of Corinth back in Paul's day. It was a time when church and culture seemed to clash so significantly that the people lost their grasp of God's vision for them. In this letter Paul clarifies his message of faith. The letter will enrich our faith also. Please join us on January 10 at 9:30. Come at 9:15 for coffee! Call Sue Abram with questions

**2012 WOMEN'S RETREAT - February 3-5, at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.** "**Grace Happens at the Table**" Confessions of a foodie who believes that God meets us in profound ways as we share food around the table. This is the theme of the 2012 Women's retreat, centering around the verse "For He satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things." (Psalm 107:9) Our speaker is Bonnie Sparrman. There is still limited opportunity to register - please call the church office and speak with Joan.

**REFOCUS! REFRESH! REJOICE! Women Ministries of the Central Conference invites you to Spring Celebration 2012. March 16, 5:00 p.m. - March 17, 3:30 p.m. at Hillcrest Covenant Church in DeKalb, IL.**

The keynote speaker on Saturday will be Meagan Gillian, new Executive Minister for Women Ministries of the Covenant Church. Her keynote address is entitled The Secret to Real Refreshment. Details of the entire event, including an interesting array of seminar sessions on Saturday afternoon, are posted on the bulletin board in the hallway or can be found on the WMCC website ([www.centralconferencewomenministries.com](http://www.centralconferencewomenministries.com)).

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## WINNETKA MAILBOX

*Covenant Women and I send out a heartfelt thank you to all who helped in the preparations for Lucia. It was a fun and beautiful morning and it would not have been so without all of you!*

*Many thanks, Inger Eiesland-Schultz*



### **WINNETKA COVENANT PRESCHOOL NEWS**

Registration is now open for the 2012/13 school year. We are now offering more program choices, including extended day options for the 2012-2013 school year. We very much appreciate if you can tell friends and relatives about our program, as they are making choices for their children. See our link on the church website for more information or contact Linnea Johnson.

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#### **Some quick reminders -**

- ◆ If you go away for any extended period of time over the winter, if you let the church office know your address we would be happy to send you the weekly bulletins so you can keep up. You are also reminded that our 10:45 worship services are now available on the web site so you can watch each week while you are away.
- ◆ If you would prefer to receive your Network by e-mail, please let Joan know at [wccjoan@juno.com](mailto:wccjoan@juno.com)
- ◆ The current directory is available on the church website if you are registered through the member portals.

## A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Please join us on the 5th and 19th of January here in our kitchen to help prepare healthy and heart-warming meals to be served at A Just Harvest's community kitchen, located in Rogers Park. We'll be preparing trays of fruit and green salads, potatoes and sausage, and vegetables from 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on both Thursdays and also serving this meal on the 19th to the kitchen's 170+ patrons.

We need about 10 people to serve on the third

Thursday of each month. You may sign up on the sheet next to the kitchen or on the web site ([www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://www.winnetkacovenant.org)).

Feel free to contact John Anderson at for the 5th, or Ted Garrison at for the 19th, with any questions you may have. Thank you all for your continued support of this loving mission.

*Peace in the new year, John Anderson*

## YOUTH NEWS

We are all set for Deep Freeze at Covenant Harbor the weekend of January 20-22 for the Jr. High. We will depart at 4:30 from church on Friday night and return by noon on Sunday.

Sr. High OneLife weekend is February 17-20. We will be departing at 4:30 on Friday night and return on Monday at 4 p.m. We are really looking forward to this formative weekend! There are a few spots left, so register ASAP!

CHIC information meeting for Sr. High parents will be held on January 18th at 6:45 in the Upper Room. This will be a very important meeting to learn about our upcoming week in Knoxville, TN, July 15-20. We will answer questions and begin preparations for fundraising. Please plan to attend if your child is planning on going to CHIC!

Merge dates for Jr. High are January 9th and 23rd and February 6th and 27th (note change of date).

*Jed Bassett*

## FAMILY PROMISE

Our next date to host our Family Promise guests will be January 29 - February 5. Think about when you are available during that time to help out.

## 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.