



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

February, 2013

WCC Annual Meeting Celebration, January 30

Ash Wednesday, February 13

Stations of the Cross begins, February 15

Inside this issue:

Kids & Adults Sunday School	2
Music Notes, WR, Veritas	3
Mission Trip News	4
Youth News, A Just Harvest	5
Women's & Men's Ministries	6
Mailbox, Family News	7
Ash Wednesday	8

Lent, and the Season of the Cross

On Wednesday, February 13, with ashes and confessions and a more sober gathering for worship and the sacrament at the holy table, we will enter the season when suffering and sorrow is the touchstone of our deepest gratitude to God. It signals the winter of our souls out of which resurrection comes to full bloom, relentless and eternally wondrous. I give you two prayers upon which to reflect during this season of redemption's glory:

Winter Into Spring

God of love's eternal flavor and joy, sometimes when we observe the reluctance of one season to yield to the next, we see a parallel in our own behaviors. Often we feel like winter hangs on too long for spring to come full bore, and rainy spells hang around or heat waves keep exhausting our energy. When the sun rises and the frozen ponds yield, we remember the faithfulness of the cycles that are both dependable and challenging.

At our best moments we live in hope that our hearts will flourish green like spring and that we will remember the times when you, O Lord, came at the right time and freshened the weather of our lives.

We saw you when the unexpected came our way and you stepped in to give strength where we were reluctant; we saw you when we wanted to say a word of power and reconciliation where nerves were raw and feelings between persons were ragged and abrasive, and you jogged our minds and moved our lips and somehow used us to help someone else; we saw you when we were unnecessarily harsh with our children and impatient with our mothers and fathers, and you made room in our hearts to live and love and overcome our sour dispositions; we saw you when we were so anxious about our health, or doubtful that tomorrow would bring a better shake, and you softened the blow and reminded us of our little faith.

Keep in touch, Lord, keep in touch, showing us how you keep us growing in all the seasons of our lives.

Lent

Holy God, hear our prayers this Lenten season when we acknowledge your patience with our rebellions and ask that you would know and feel our repentance. For we acknowledge ourselves for what we are and you for who you are, and we now yearn to follow closely Jesus Christ. It is in his last work and his last days that we face again our failure and the magnitude of your plan for our salvation.

We confess that knowing Jesus suffered, making it clear that nothing would stop him from loving the whole world, makes us conscious of our failure to do the same. You have shown us that the life that empties itself is the life to be prized, that in the long run the pain of self-indulgence is harder to bear than the pain of death.

Now in the season of the cross, we know that you would not have us know it as the unveiling of a horror story. Rather, you have shown it to be a place and time of high praise that the love that shook Eden's morning reigned on the tree and is shed abroad in all our hearts.

These prayers and many others are found in *A BOOK OF PRAYERS: A Guide to Public and Personal Intercession*, IVP books, 2013, by Arthur A.R. Nelson, available through IVP and Amazon.

Rotation Sunday School, February 10 - March 3



Join us as we explore the parable of
“The Prodigal Son”

Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

Memory Verse: But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come back to life; he was lost and has been found.

The Workshops:

Art: Kids will hear the story of the Prodigal Son and make wire sculptures to interpret the emotions and interactions of the father, the Prodigal Son and the elder son.

Food: Kids will become the servants to the Prodigal Son’s family, preparing the feast. As they cook or bake, they will be encouraged to voice the opinions of the various family members about this event.

Games:

Kids will hear the parable of the Prodigal Son, enacting it using spatial metaphors. They’ll build a wall and a bridge to symbolize our relationship with God.

Puppetry: Kids will learn the story of the Prodigal Son and create a puppet show using a contemporary parable of God’s love, The Runaway Bunny by Margaret Wise Brown.

Please encourage your kids to continue bringing their offering each week for our giving project, The North Park Friendship Center food pantry. We are making steady progress toward our goal of raising \$700 by the end of May.

Adult Christian Formation Options

Sunday mornings, 9:30 in the Upper Room

“Sharing our Faith Stories”

February 10

We all have stories that shape the defining narrative of our lives. As Christians, our personal stories are both shaped by and woven with the Biblical story - the story of God and God’s people. Come and grow in your faith as you hear the faith stories of others in our congregation.

“Losers in the Bible:

Recognizing ourselves within the stories”

February 17, 24 & March 3 - Brian Madvig, teacher

The Bible is filled with them. People who struggle and fret and don’t always act in the ways they want to act. While there are many to choose from, this class will explore the stories of three losers: losers used by God for God’s purposes just as they were; losers who have come to be quite revered despite their foibles; losers who look a lot like you and me.

The Story continues on Sunday mornings at 9:30 or Wednesday evenings at 6:45 in Room 203

The Story is scripture condensed into 31 accessible chapters. It allows the stories, poems, and teachings of the Bible to read like a novel. Each week we read a brief chapter, then gather to watch a brief video presentation and have a chance to reflect on our story and God’s story. Join us in room 203 on Sunday mornings at 9:30, or on Wednesday evenings, 6:45-7:45.



Music Notes

Jesus has come. His earthly ministry begun. Still in the wake of celebrations just past and those throughout January, in February, we move into Lent.

Please take note of several musical events in February:

- As promised, music for kids age 4 - 3rd grade. Wednesdays 5:00-5:30 on weeks we have regular Wednesday activities with dinner. So, February 6, 20 and 27.
- Moody Chorale, a 38-voice Chorale directed by Robert Singley, will present a concert in our sanctuary Sunday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. A freewill offering will be taken.
- Stations of the Cross will be offered again this Lent. New writings, art pieces, and musical meditations are being created. Display begins Ash Wednesday. Lenten Fridays, February 15 - March 22 will allow time for viewing, listening, reflecting at your leisure from 6:00-8:00 p.m.



- March 29, Good Friday, our choir with Chamber orchestra will offer Theodore duBois' Seven Last Words of Christ. We've had several requests to reprise this dramatic musical depiction of Christ's words from the cross.

Do mark your calendars and make sure to participate in one or more of these Lenten Fridays. In Feb. ...

Feb. 15 - WCC choir sings anthems and hymns. This year we invite you to join singing the hymns.

Feb. 22 - Jon Pegis, cello

Dawn Pegis

Veritas Is Coming!

The Executive Board is in the process of planning for an all-Congregation workshop March 8-9 - the Veritas workshop. This Friday evening into Saturday morning working session, facilitated by Peter Sjoblom from the Conference office, will help us chart a new vitality and excitement in our work and path ahead. Everyone has a voice and we encourage you to come and share yours. It will help give us a common language for the issues we may face as a church and chart a healthy momentum ahead. Participate and provide input into this very important endeavor. Please put the dates on your calendar now and stay tuned for further details and a sign-up.

Veritas is Coming!

Worship Resource Committee

The Worship Committee is excited about displaying the Stations of the Cross once again this Lenten season. We will be working again with artists and authors to produce new works of religious art and written reflections. If you are interested in creating art, writing a reflection, or participating in meditative music, please contact Kurt Peterson as soon as possible.

The Stations of the Cross will be available for viewing on Friday evenings, 6:00-8:00 throughout Lent.

Annual Meeting Celebration

Wednesday, January 30

Dinner, 5:30 - Meeting, 6:00

Join us on this most important night as we:
celebrate as a church the year we have just completed and
plan for the year to come.

Mission News



Summer Mission Trip 2013

Who:

Anyone! Senior High Students, Individuals, Families and Friends

When:

July 13-19, 2013

Where:

Covenant Mountain Mission Bible Camp (CMMBC)
Jonesville, VA

Cost:

This is the exciting part... the cost is minimal! *
Food during the week and supplies for work projects will be covered by money raised at the Rummage Sale and Mission Committee funds.

*Students will be responsible for the cost of food during travel as well as a minimal amount for extra activities. Families and individuals will be responsible for the same plus their own travel expenses. Car-pooling and traveling together will be coordinated and the estimated driving time to CMMBC is 9 hours.

What:

Work projects will be determined based on the number of participants and their specific skills. Possible projects may include light construction, landscaping, maintenance, cleaning, plumbing, electrical, and painting. There will also be an opportunity for relaxation and exploration of the local area. Places of interest include Cumberland Gap National Park, several state parks as well as a pool and bowling in nearby Pennington Gap.



Why CMMBC and Appalachia?

There has been a history of support to this area by Winnetka Covenant through several mission trips to the camp in the early 1990's and trips through Appalachian Service Project in the 1980's.

CMMBC offers affordable summer camp opportunities for the young people of Lee County, VA and the surrounding area. They rely largely on volunteers to staff the camps and to improve and maintain their facilities. We have the opportunity to come alongside them and help carry out their mission which is:

**To worship God and enjoy Christian fellowship and discipleship in the midst of his beautiful creation.*

**To present the gospel of Jesus Christ to youth, adults and families through the outreach and community involvement of our camp.*

Interested?

An informational meeting will be held after church on **Sunday, February 24th** for anyone interested in finding out more. Save the date and look for details about the meeting in the bulletin. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Jed Bassett, Linnea Johnson, Jeff Johnson or Pastor Christy Bouris.

Youth News & Dates

Junior High

Junior High Youth Ministry:

Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:45p.m.

February 6, 20, 27

All 6th-8th graders (and friends!) are welcome!

Merge: Mondays, February 11 & 25, 3:30-5:00 at church

*Christy Bouris, Youth Pastor
Winnetka Covenant Church
christy.bouris@gmail.com
847-446-4300*

Senior High

Senior High League Ministry:

Sundays, 7-9p.m.

February 3, 24 - regular meetings

February 10 - North Side Youth Collision, at Immanuel Covenant Church (details coming)

High School Sunday School offering: book group during the Sunday School hour for all high school students in Christy's office. Come join Pastor Christy on Sunday mornings and immerse yourself in some good words, and discussion together. Hope to see you there!

Coffee: Wednesdays, February 13, 20, 27 after school

One-Life Retreat - February 15-18 at Covenant Point Bible Camp

A Just Harvest

This note was received recently from the staff at A Just Harvest:

Thank you, Winnetka Covenant Church, for your faithful service at A Just Harvest's Community Kitchen in 2012! We are so grateful for your donation of time and food on the first and third Thursdays of every month.

Many hands make light work, and Winnetka Covenant Church's contribution - along with 35 other partners - made it possible for us to serve 54,339 meals in our dining room in 2012. This is an increase of 1.3% over 2011.

Although the number of meals we served in our dining room reached a plateau in 2012 following three consecutive years of increases, it seems people's need for emergency food has not leveled off. The amount of bread, produce, and non-perishable food A Just Harvest distributed to people in need rose sharply in 2012. We received so many calls from people seeking emergency food that David Crawford, our Director of Food Services, began encouraging people to pick up food Wednesday, Saturday, and Sunday nights - even if they weren't staying for dinner.

In 2012 A Just Harvest distributed 128,863 pounds of food during the dinner hour - up 134% from 2011. A Just Harvest also passed on 66,900 pounds of food - up 150% from 2011 - to other organizations in Rogers Park and Edge-

water. Much of this food was donated by the Hunger Resource Network, the Jewel in Edgewater and the Whole Foods in south Evanston. A Just Harvest also distributed 100,250 pounds of food via the ProduceMobile, in partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

Kristi Sanford
Director of Communications, A Just Harvest

Besides what A Just Harvest receives from resources around the city, the Starbucks at Edens Plaza and Caribou Coffee in Winnetka contribute their unsold, but still good, baked goods. As part of a national program to make use of food rather than throwing it out, we were contacted a couple of years ago and invited to participate. We make regular pickups at both Starbucks and Caribou and freeze whatever they have to give us. Every two weeks when we cook for A Just Harvest we send all of those pastries and goodies along and they are given to the patrons of the Community Kitchen. We also receive bagels from Einstein Bagels in Glenview to bring along. If you patronize either establishment, be sure to thank them for their participation.

We will be cooking in our kitchen for A Just Harvest on February 7 and 21, with John Anderson being the contact person both times. Cooking begins at 1:00 and continues until the food is ready to go, about 2 hours. The crew welcomes new participants at any time.

Women's Ministries Notes

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 **February 28** 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, is now meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. The **February meeting will be on the 19th**. We are using the texts for the coming Sunday as a resource for the study. New participants are always welcome to come for the study and conversation, with or without a project.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study -

The Tuesday morning Bible Study is studying the book of Genesis. The study begins at 9:30 a.m. but come at 9:15 for coffee and conversation. Meetings are in the Trailblazer Room and books are available in the church office. Joann Larson leads this study.

Bridal Shower:

Women of the church are invited to a bridal shower for Lindsay Macfarland. The shower will be on Saturday, March 2, at 9:30. Plan to join us for this fun time of celebration.

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study -

On Thursdays, at 1:00 in the church Library, the Thursday afternoon Women's Bible Study gathers to study, "Jonah, Navigating a Life Interrupted", by Priscilla Shirer. "What do we do when God interrupts our lives? Many times, like Jonah, we run. In this Bible study, Priscilla redefines interruption, showing that it can be God's invitation to do something beyond our wildest dreams".

Please join us for this 7-week study, which concludes Feb. 21.

Our time will be spent discussing the lessons, viewing a DVD teaching of 35-45 minutes, sharing prayer requests, and enjoying fellowship. There is a companion workbook with 5 days of homework that includes reading scripture, responding to questions, reflecting on passages and concepts, and drawing personal applications for our lives. The workbook can be ordered from Life-way.com, Christianbooks.com, or Amazon. Approximate cost is \$15 - shipping & tax vary.

All are welcome! Any questions, contact Claire Macfarland.

Men's Ministry News

Opportunities for service and fellowship occur throughout the year. Some activities occur on a regular schedule and others arise periodically.

Men's Fellowship

The group usually meets on the first three Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m., in either the Upper Room or the Prayer Room. The men's fellowship is primarily a discussion group and has been a rewarding way for men to probe and share their spiritual lives. It is definitely worth the effort it takes to rise a little early in order to participate. Questions should be addressed to Richard Spears (Richard@Spears.net).

Men's Singing Ensemble

The group will be part of a worship service on February 3, when the women are on retreat. Tenors, basses and baritones of **all ages** are welcome. Our communication is by e-mail. Please e-mail Gary Stenstrom to express an interest in participating.

Men's Work Crew Call

Painting parties, carpentry projects, and service projects are a regular part of the Men's Ministries. Workers will be recruited as the needs arise. Answering the call for participation is purely voluntary and always for a good cause.

Mailbox

Dear Church Family,

With humility and gratitude, we write to say "thank you!" for your generous Christmas gifts to us. Serving alongside you at this church is a joy. For all that God continues to do in and through the ministry of Winnetka Covenant, we give thanks - and at this time, we give thanks for the gift it is to do ministry among friends. Thank you for the privilege of serving among you.

With thanksgiving,
Winnetka Covenant Church staff

Dear members & friends of Winnetka Covenant Church,

I want to thank you for the beautiful poinsettia plant. It has certainly brightened my apartment over the holidays! Your thoughtfulness is gratefully appreciated.

Sincerely, Elsie Anderson

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your love, concern, and most of all your prayers for our daughter Kristen as she underwent spinal cord surgery prior to Christmas. The experience was lightened by the fact that friends were praying for her, the medical team, and her family. With this knowledge, she experienced God's love, grace, and omnipotence. God is faithful.

With gratitude and love,
Peter and Eleanor

Thank you to my wonderful church family for your support during the passing of my niece's five-month-old son, Roman. I rejoice in the communion of prayers sent up in the family's behalf. The comfort was powerfully felt. It was truly awesome to see so many joining in the prayer. Though the outcome wasn't our choice, God is good and my niece, Jennifer, and her husband, Roman are at peace. And, joyfully expecting their second child! Praise God.

Kitti Steiner

Dear Winnetka Covenant Church Community,

Many thanks to all who helped make our Christmas Party at Friendly Towers a wonderful event for the residents who live there. It is so special for them. It is a miracle when everyone there receives their gift. Your generosity is much appreciated.

Gladys Johnson

Dear Peter, Andrea and Winnetka Covenant Church,

Once again, I'd like to express my deepest gratitude to you and your wonderful congregants for another year of support of the North Park Friendship Center. Your work days at the Greater Chicago Food Depository, the unending stream of food donations, and your generous budgetary support allowed us to continue to serve the needy in this community. As these dark economic times continue, more and more people are seeking the food, clothing, and comfort the Friendship Center provides. May God bless our common work in the new year ahead.

Sincerely,
Joanne Ekberg

Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- Jenny and Kevin Evenhouse on the birth of their second son, Carson Wayne Evenhouse. Carson was born on January 10, and he joins his big brother, Nolan at home. Ray and Fran Wallgren are their great-grandparents.

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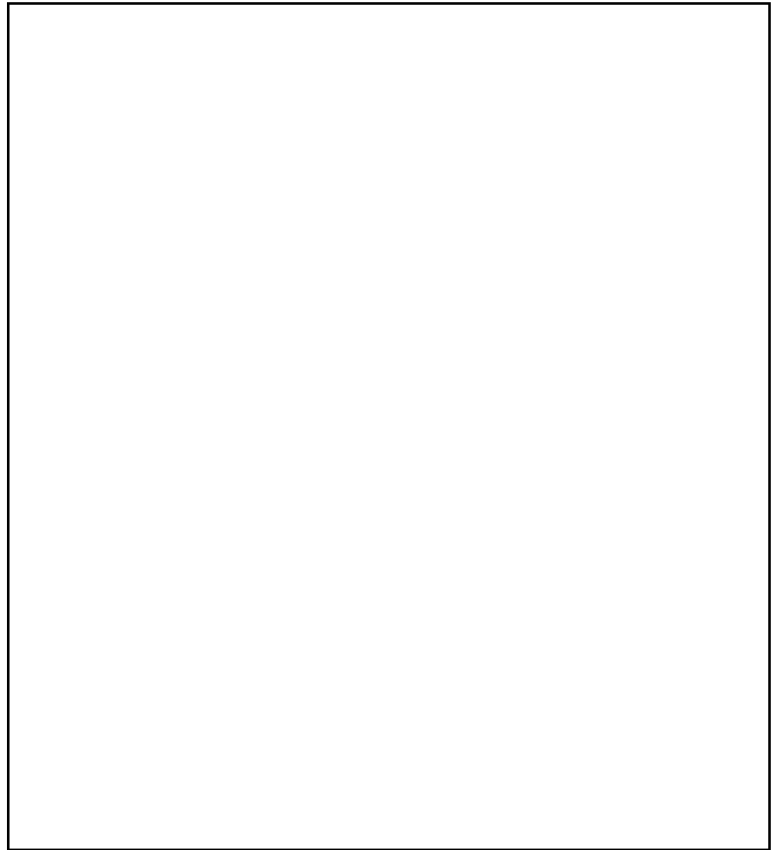
847-446-4300
www.winnetkacovenant.org

Our Mission

To be a Christian community and to proclaim
the gospel, Worshiping together in love,
Nurturing people in faith,
serving others as Christian disciples,
And 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.



Ash Wednesday

February 13

Join us for worship, including a soup supper together.

Supper, 6:00

Worship Service, 7:00