



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

February, 2014

Inter-Faith

January 31-
February 2
Women's Retreat

February 5
Annual Meeting
& Celebration

February 14-17
Senior High
Retreat

March 7
North Park Choir
Concert

Inside this issue:

Christian Formation	2
Music Notes, Worship Guide	3
Navigate Conf., Annual Meeting	3
Women's & Men's Ministries	4
Youth Ministry	4
Mailbox	5
Parenting & Marriage Courses	6

Now, as always, and more than ever, we must learn to live as people of diverse faith traditions in community with one another. History tells us this has always been excruciatingly difficult; wars driven by religious convictions have been and still are a reality. Over the millennia we have exchanged terror. And as Americans, we feel this acutely, because we live (literally instead of figuratively) as neighbors. It's the heart of the American dream, that Christians, and Jews, and Muslims, and all others can live out their faith with exuberant freedom while also living in peace with those whose faith is different. It's a gift to be treasured! Respect must hallow our common life, if we will continue to have a common life at all.

Winnetka Covenant Church is a founding member of the *Winnetka Interfaith Council* (www.winnetkainterfaith.org), which since 1967 has existed to foster interfaith understanding and sensitivity by providing a forum for interfaith dialogue and developing programs that provide service to the community at large. The major yearly project is a community thanksgiving service, and in recent years programs have been organized to dialogue on community issues such as AIDS, grief and bereavement, and many issues affecting our youth such as bullying and depression.

The committee meets five times a year to

work on understanding the teachings and theologies of our different traditions. I have always appreciated the invitation of the committee, that we can be fully ourselves, while also respecting and learning from each other. In this sense, to be committed to interfaith relationships does not diminish my Christian faith, but instead allows me to help others understand my faith while also inviting others to help me understand how they know and experience God. I thank God for our Church representatives, Vernelle Bristol, Nancy Carroll, and Denise Johnson.

Here's an opportunity you must consider! A potential trip late this year to Israel as an interfaith community, visiting Jewish, Christian, Baha'i, and Muslim Holy sites, learning each other's stories, growing as friends, and witnessing in our own small way to the possibility of peace in our time. Please contact me if you might be interested.

Jesus sits at Jacob's well in the heat of the day, befriending a Samaritan woman! There's one of countless examples of the call we are given by Jesus to relationship with others from outside of our own religious, ethnic, and cultural tradition. In this way, we pursue the peace God has in mind for his human creation.

Peter Hawkinson

Potential itinerary for a late fall, 2014 or early spring, 2015 Interfaith trip to Israel -

- Day 1: Tour Tel Aviv
- Day 2: Jaffa, Caesarea and Haifa
- Day 3: Akko: Tomb of Baha'u'llah, El Jazaar Mosque, Crusader Vaults, and kibbutz Nof Ginosar
- Day 4: Sea of Galilee: Bethsaida, Capernaum, Mt. of Beatitudes, Tabgha, Migdal, Jordan River
- Day 5: Safed, Nazareth, Megiddo, then to Jerusalem
- Day 6: Old City (all 4 quarters), Rabbinic Tunnel, Temple Mount, visit a mosque
- Day 7: Mount of Olives: Garden of Gethsemane, Garden Tomb, Bethlehem
- Day 9: Masada, Qumran, Dead Sea

Children's Rotation Sunday School

What is it?

We're now in another great year of Rotation Sunday School. What is Rotation Sunday School? 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, games, audio-visual, and woodworking. Children learn the same Bible story four consecutive weeks, rotating to a different workshop each week. Personal connection, familiarity and continuity are provided by a volunteer called a "shepherd." These individuals accompany the children each week and focus on building relationships.



Consider leading a rotation Sunday School workshop!

It's a great way to share your gifts, interests and faith with our children. Workshop leaders are needed for this unit and for future units. Contact Pastor Andrea to learn more.

2013-2014 Theme: THE WORD OF GOD

The Word of God, as passed on to us through the Bible and the lives of the faithful, is a multifaceted jewel providing for us many different ways to enter into the story of faith. It is from these words that we receive guidance and support as we travel on the journey of faith. From the ancient text of Genesis to the power of Revelation God's word continues to be relevant to our lives.

Connection to this year's theme, "The Word of God": The Beatitudes are Jesus' initial instructions for how to live in right relationship with God and each other. Through miracles, parables, and encounters, Jesus showed us how to "walk the talk".

February 9, 16, 23 and March 2 "The Beatitudes"

Scripture: Matthew 5:3-9

Workshops:

Thou Art: While shaping clay in their hands, kids will hear the Beatitudes, then look at various famous sculptures and create their own sculptures of one of the Beatitudes.

Faith Today: Kids will meet people from our own congregation who are doing small things to make the world a better place and which of the Beatitudes they consider motivation for their work. Kids will learn about a young poet, Mattie Stepanek, and respond writing a litany, poem or web page or drawing a poster about their heroes.

Kingdom Characters: Kids will do a balloon exercise to memorize the Beatitudes, learn about Jesus' encounter with Jairus and the woman who touched his robe, make cards of sympathy and condolence to those in the congregation who need them, and share joys and concerns, creating a prayer chain within the group.

Puppetry: After studying the Beatitudes, kids will learn about the "lost" parables: the lost coin, the lost sheep, and the prodigal Son. They'll prepare skits to portray each of these parables within the context of the Sermon on the Mount.

Adult Sunday School A Conversation about Vitality at WCC

February 2, Final session of "Outlive Your Life"
9:30 - 10:30 in the Upper Room

Everyone wants to know that their time on earth has some significance. We all want to make a difference.

February 9 & 16: A Conversation about Vitality at WCC
9:30 - 10:30 in the Upper Room

Led by Peter Sjoblom, the Director of Congregational Vitality for the Central Conference of our denomination.

Peter Sjoblom will lead us in an in-depth look at the results of the PULSE survey we took last summer. The conversation will focus on the strengths we found and the areas where im-

provement is needed. Demographics will also be emphasized. Change is difficult for stable churches like ours. Come and risk entering into the conversation about it.

February 23: Christine Buettgen will share about her work and experience as a short-term missionary in Congo.



Music Notes



We begin February with a Men's group singing "The Old Rugged Cross" on February 2nd while the women go on retreat. Men, if you like to sing but can't on a regular basis, please come join us either at the Wednesday rehearsal January 29 at 7:45 p.m. or Sunday, February 2 at 10:15.

On February 9 the choir will reprise the delightfully energetic "Let There Be Light."

March 7 we look forward to hosting the North Park University Choir as they begin their Spring Break tour. They will present a 7 p.m. concert and we will provide dinner and overnight housing. Please let me know if you would be able to help with any of these hosting opportunities.

What a joy it is to sing praises to our God.

Dawn Pegis

Understanding and Appreciating Worship

A Guide to Worship at Winnetka Covenant Church is a new booklet appearing in our pews and in the narthex that provides background and explains what we do in worship. Created by Royce Eckhardt with graphic design and photography by David Westerfield, the booklet gives brief descriptions of the various elements of the worship service and their historic and biblical origins and purposes.

Among the items covered: a concise statement of what Christian worship is, clerical robes and vestments, the importance of corporate gathering for worship in contrast to private devotion, the significance of hymn singing and the role of choral music, the importance of confession, the centrality of Word and sacrament, and the progression of worship from communal gathering to personal response.

Designed for visitors, new members and confirmation classes, this guide can also be especially helpful to the long-time worshiper who may not have pondered or understood the meaning and significance of the various acts of worship. A recent comment from a parishioner illustrates this point: "For me personally, it is a wonderful reminder of the meaning and significance of what I too often take for granted. Those of us who have been sitting in the pews for years will benefit."

It is the author's hope that this brief commentary on the nature and the elements of Christian worship may provide understanding and insight that will bring about a deeper and more profound worship experience for the family of faith.

Veritas - Vitality - Navigate Regional Conference

For the past year we have been on a journey of reflection for our church, beginning with the Veritas Workshop, where we reflected on where WCC falls on the vitality spectrum with the goal of being "healthy and missional". This led to the PULSE survey we took as a congregation, with both the Veritas Workshop and PULSE survey showing us to be a stable church. Last fall a part of the Vitality team went to the Navigate Conference, where they had the opportunity to meet with representatives of other churches engaging in the same process and consider the next steps to be taken as a church.

The next step in the process is one to which any of us is invited. On Saturday, February 22 there will be a Navigate Regional Conference held at First Covenant Church in Rockford, along with three other Central Conference churches. This conference will help us see how to manage change in a stable church, helping us reach our goal of moving up the spectrum to becoming healthy and missional. Details of the conference can be found on the church website (www.winnetkacovenant.org).

Annual Meeting and Celebration

Wednesday, February 5, 2014

Come at 5:30 for dinner and at 6:00 the annual meeting and celebration will begin.

This is an important time for us to come together to consider our budget for 2014, elect board and committee members, and celebrate our year of ministry just past as we look forward to a new year of ministry together.

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 27** at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

Stitch and Study -

Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, prayer, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the home of Marilyn Nelson (656 Astor Ln., Wheeling) at 7 p.m. 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. The **February meeting will be on the 18th.**

Thursday Bible Study -

Thursday afternoon Bible Study will resume meeting soon with a new course of study. Please be watching your bulletins for an announcement of the new topic and schedule.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study -

Tuesday morning Bible Study class has resumed our study in Isaiah. As always, study begins at 9:30 but you are welcome to come early for coffee and conversation. Contact Joann Larson with any questions.

Central Conference Spring Celebration - Nourish to Flourish

Spring Celebration is an annual spring mini-retreat, sponsored by Women Ministries of the Central Conference. Held this year March 14-15 at the Evangelical Covenant Church of Princeton, all women of the conference are invited to attend. The featured speakers are Jessica Boggs and Tracy Harvey. More information about the retreat and registration forms are available on the bulletin board in the main hallway of the church. Information and online registration is also available on the Central Conference Women Ministries website, wmcc2gether.com.

Men's Ministries News

Opportunities for service and fellowship occur throughout the year, some on a regular schedule, others 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. All men are invited to participate. Start the New Year by joining. It's worth getting up for!

Men's Work Crew - Painting parties, carpentry projects, and service projects are a regular part of the Men's Ministries.

Workers will be recruited as the needs arise.

Men's Share and Support - If you're expecting a medical procedure, test, treatment, or new medication, get connected to someone who's been there and done that. Pastor Hawkinson will try to link you to someone with experiences to share and who can help turn anxiety into anticipation. Men who are willing to share and support can also contact Pastor Hawkinson.

Men's Retreat - Please save March 14-16, 2014 for the annual Men's Retreat at Covenant Harbor.

Youth Ministry Dates for February

- Sr. High League - February 2, Super Bowl Party - details still to come
February 9, North Side Youth Collision at Edgebrook Covenant Church
February 23, regular meeting, 6:30 at church
 - Junior High Youth Group - February 5, 12, 19, 26, during Wednesday night activities
 - Coffee (High School) - February 5, 12, 19, 26
 - Senior High One Life retreat at Covenant Point - February 14-17
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Details, Details, Details

- Would you like to provide flowers on a Sunday morning? A sign-up chart is on the bulletin board across from the office. Arrangements are \$50 and you are welcome to take them home following the service.
- Would you prefer to receive your Network by e-mail? Just let Joan Wallgren (wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com) know.
- WCC participates in the every-family subscription plan for the Covenant Companion. We welcome reimbursement for the cost of your subscription - \$18.00, can be paid by check in the Sunday offering (Covenant Companion on the memo line) or through the website (www.winnetkacovenant.org)

Mailbox

Thank you to the pastors and everyone in the congregation who has prayed for me, sent cards, and called me during this latest health challenge, which appears to be ongoing.

Although we are well on our way into the New Year, as I reflect on the journey that God has called me to take I am reminded of the poem by Minnie Louise Haskins popularly known as "God Knows." Its words have held me in good stead through the ups and downs of life since encountering it many years ago when I was still in my invincible 30s (or so I thought) and I will continue to cling to its promise in 2014 and beyond:

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."

So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East.

So heart be still: What need our little life

Our human life to know,

If God hath comprehension?

In all the dizzy strife

Of things both high and low,

God hideth His intention.

God knows. His will is best. The stretch of years

Which wind ahead, so dim

To our imperfect vision,

Are clear to God. Our fears

Are premature; In Him,

All time hath full provision.

Then rest: until God moves to lift the veil

From our impatient eyes,

When, as the sweeter features

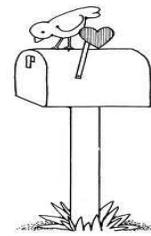
Of Life's stern face we hail,

Fair beyond all surmise

God's thought around His creatures

Our mind shall fill.

Gratefully, Karen Larsen



Dear Peter, Andrea, and Friends,

Again this year, 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, your generous budgetary support, and your Christmas Eve offering all 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, Joey Ekberg

From Gladys Johnson:

Thanks to all of you who made it possible to bring the Christmas gifts to our senior friends at Friendly Towers. It is a miracle to see the gifts come in, and a wonderful sight to see the seniors receive them. I call it a "Christmas Miracle." Thanks to all of you who gave so generously.

The following is a thank you letter we received:

Dear Gladys and all at Winnetka Covenant,

Thank you so much for the many weeks of planning, shopping, wrapping, gifting, and praying. The residents of Friendly Towers are still talking with such fondness about the party. They loved the food, the music, and the gifts. To be able to go to a dress-up dinner party without needing to put on a coat was a real treat - to have such a party in their own home. Please thank the whole church.

Fondly,

Debra, Staff, NFT and Jesus People USA CC

Be sure to see the pictures and thank you notes on the bulletin board.

It has been several years since our last photo directory was made and we are badly in need of a new one. We are looking for several people who would be willing to form a committee and oversee the production of a new photo directory. This is a short-term commitment but a very important one. If you like to organize, then this is the opportunity for you!

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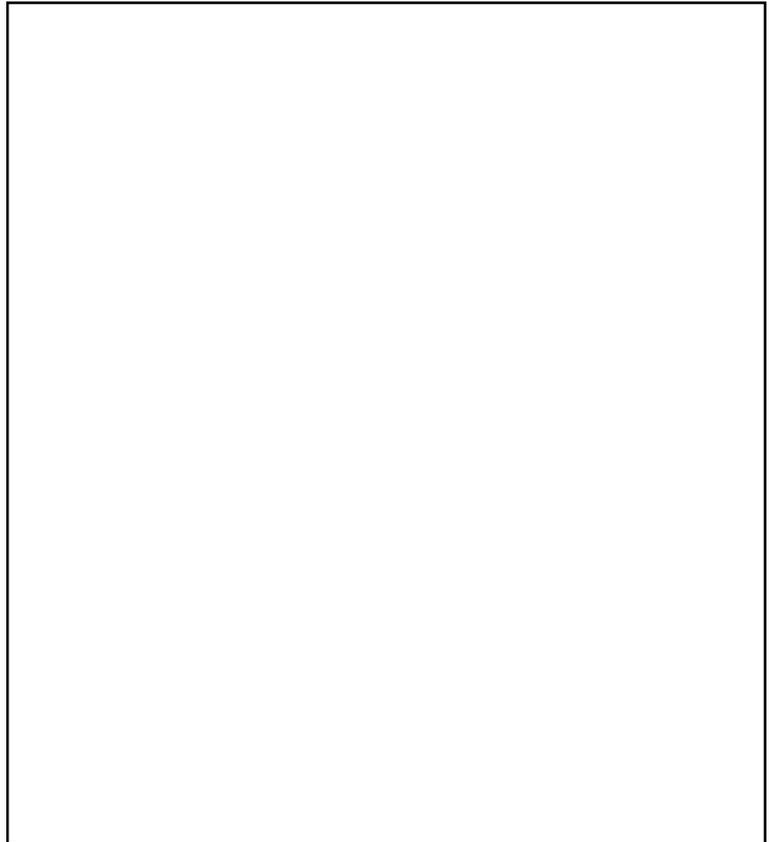
847-446-4300
www.winnetkacovenant.org

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.



The Parenting Children Course

A ten-week course on Wednesday nights,
began January 15, 6:45 - 7:45 p.m.

Family life is under great pressure today and parents face bewildering choices about how to parent effectively. Children do not arrive with an instruction manual! And no role we undertake is more important than parenting. Discovering we are not alone in the challenges we face and picking up ideas from other parents can make a huge difference. We can all learn how to make even the happiest family better.

The Parenting Children Course is for parents, step-parents, prospective parents, or care-givers of children aged 0-10 years. Each week participants view a short DVD segment and engage in small group discussion. Cost: \$10 per person for the whole course, includes guest manual. Register on-line at www.winnetkacovenant.org

Help make Parenting Course possible for interested parents! Volunteers are needed to help with our Wednesday night children's programs during these 10 weeks to make it possible for some parents to attend the Parenting Course. 2-3 adults are needed for child care in the 2's & 3's room and nursery. 2 adults are needed to serve as "Guides" in grades 3-5. If you'd like to help, please contact Pastor Andrea.

The Marriage Course

Eight couples are participating in the Marriage Course, which began Friday, January 10 and ends February 21. If you'd like to help make this outreach a success, here's where help is still needed:

January 31: Child care, set-up, clean-up, meal preparation
February 14: Child care, set-up, clean-up
February 21: Child care, set-up, clean-up, meal preparation

Expenses for providing the meal will be reimbursed to you. Contact Pastor Andrea if you're interested in helping on any of these evenings.

Service Opportunity

A Just Harvest Community Kitchen

Food Preparation in our kitchen,
1:00 p.m. until completion (about 3:00):
February 6, Norm Johnson and Dick Johnson contact people;
February 20, John Anderson contact person

Serving at the kitchen:
February 20, at 4:30 (meet at church at 4:15)