



**Winnetka Covenant Church**  
1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

# The Network

January, 2013

Wednesday  
Evening Activi-  
ties Resume  
January 9

Marriage  
Course Begins  
January 11

WCC Annual  
Meeting  
January 30

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## Welcoming a New Year

Joyce Rupp

A new year stands on my doorstep  
ready to enter my life's journey.

Something in me welcomes this visitor:  
the hope of bountiful blessings  
the joy of a new beginning  
the freshness of unclaimed surprises

Something in me rebuffs this visitor:  
the swiftness of the coming  
the boldness of the entrance  
the challenge of a year's good-bye

Something in me fears this visitor:  
the unnamed events of future days  
the wisdom needed to walk love well  
the demands of giving away and growing

A new year stands on my doorstep.  
With fragile caution I move  
to open the door for its entrance.  
My heart leaps with surprise,  
joy jumps in my eyes,  
for there beside this brand-new year  
stands my God with outstretched hand!  
He smiles and gently asks of me:  
can we walk this year together?

And I, so overwhelmed with goodness,  
can barely whisper my reply:

Welcome in!

## Rotation Sunday School, January 13 - February 3



**The Good Samaritan:** The Good Samaritan story is a model story for us in our understanding of the Covenant (our focus for the year). Each one of us must consider what our response is to the victims of our world. Are we the self-righteous priests or the Samaritan who is living according to the rules of the Covenant that call us to help anyone in need, despite our differences? We must be aware that all people are our neighbors.

**Scripture:** Luke 10:25-37

**Memory Verse:** “Who is my neighbor? The one who showed mercy. Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:29, 37

### **The Workshops:**

**Kingdom Characters:** Kids will meet the Levite, the man who chose not to aid the victim because he believed that he would be breaking Jewish law. As the class shares food around the table, the Levite shares his personal conflict regarding the situation and asks the class to help him discover options.

**Bible Improv:** Kids will hear the story of the Good Samaritan and then ponder who might be the different characters in the story in today’s world. They will act out contemporary versions of this story as they understand it.

**Food:** Kids will hear the story of the Good Samaritan, learn about the many herbs that appear in the Bible and use herbs in a cooking or craft project. The project will help the class connect common herbs with Jesus’ command to show mercy to others.

**Faith Today:** Kids will hear the story of the Good Samaritan and work on providing blankets or teddy bears to children in crisis.

## Adult Christian Formation Options

***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.



***“The Wisdom of the Megilloth: Song of Songs, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and Esther”***

**January 13 - February 3**

**Taught by Paul Koptak**

The five scrolls (*Megilloth*) of Song of Songs, Ruth, Ecclesiastes, Lamentations, and Esther offer Old Testament wisdom in moving poetry and story. In each, a female character becomes our teacher, leading the way through common experiences of love and death, loyalty and despair. With their help, we learn to watch for God’s work in this world, even when God seems absent.

## Music Notes

I'm hanging on to 2012 - not because it was so great - but because I'm not ready for 2013. I still can't make sense of 2012. Oh well, 2013 won't wait. Ready or not, here it comes! So, in the spirit of optimism, I choose one bright spot: the GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING!

MUSIC - specifically, a MEMORIZED SONG IN YOUR HEART! A good song of truth and love is most precious. Take your pick. I hope you have a few stored up and, if not, just pick a Christmas carol - they are good year round!

*Hark, the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"  
Peace on earth and mercy mild,  
God and sinners reconciled.  
Joyful all ye nations rise,  
Join the triumph of the skies.  
With th'angelic hosts proclaim  
"Christ is born in Bethlehem!"  
Hark, the herald angels sing  
"Glory to the newborn King!"*

Or "Silent Night" or ...



Speaking of Christmas songs well-learned and still giving: the children prepared a beautiful program for December 9, then a few sang for the Friendly Towers residents December 20; some sang "Mary, Did You Know?" in worship December 23; and a few even sang again on Christmas Eve. We have one more use to come - January 6, they will reprise "Waiting for the Star" as we celebrate Epiphany, when the magi bring their tribute to the Christ child!

Let me know what YOUR favorite song-companion is for 2013.

Keep a song of love in your heart!

*Dawn Pegis*

## 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 at [petersonkw@gmail.com](mailto:petersonkw@gmail.com) or 312-218-5545 as soon as possible.

## Sankofa Journey

**February 28-March 3, 2013**

Sankofa is a West African word meaning "looking backward to move forward." A Sankofa journey is a cross-racial prayer experience that takes participants on a four-day bus trip to critical sites of past and present racial injustice in order to help disciples of Christ move toward a righteous response to the social ills related to racism. This interactive, relational experience explores sites from the Civil Rights movement and sites of oppression and inequality for people of color with the intent to heal the wounds of racial injustice.

A Sankofa journey increases one's awareness, understanding, and sensitivity of:

- Past struggles and victories, and continuing racist oppression in our country
- How far we've come
- And how far we have yet to go.

Sankofa journeys are organized through the Covenant Department of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice. For more information and registration forms, please go to the Covenant website ([www.covchurch.org](http://www.covchurch.org)) or contact Chrissy Palmerlee at [chrissy.palmerlee@covchurch.org](mailto:chrissy.palmerlee@covchurch.org).

## Mission News



### Family Promise - January 6-13

Family Promise is a ministry that Winnetka Covenant participates in, along with about fifteen other area congregations, serving families that are temporarily homeless as they get back on their feet and back into their own homes. For a week at a time, a church provides dinner, evening activity time, overnight accommodations and breakfast to families, who then spend the days either in school, at work, or at the Family Promise day center receiving services to help them in their goals of returning to employment and homes. We are now entering our third year of participation in this ministry and those of us who have been involved have met some wonderful people along the way and we know that we have been a small part of helping people during their times of need.

**Our next week of hosting Family Promise families is January 6-13.** This time we will have the biggest group of guests that we have had so far - four families, with children ranging in age from one year to 17 years old. We have had a great response to our requests for volunteers so far but still have spots to be filled. If you have not been a part of this ministry yet, this would be a great time to start. If you have been participating already, then you know how fulfilling it can be. To volunteer, you can sign up on the volunteer boards in the narthex or online through the church web site. Go to [www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://www.winnetkacovenant.org), then click on Reaching Out, then click on Local Missions and find the Family Promise section. There you will find a link to the sign-up forms. Thanks in advance for your help.

### Mission trip - 2013

The intergenerational mission trip for 2013 is set for July 13-20, when a group from WCC will travel to Montana to work at the Crow Nation Indian Reservation. Complete details and registration information will be coming soon. In the meantime, take a look at your calendars and set this time aside.

### A Just Harvest - January 3 & 17

At the beginning of a New Year, what better time to become involved in a new ministry. Winnetka Covenant Church has been providing meals for A Just Harvest Community Kitchen two times a month for many, many years now and there is a wonderful kitchen crew that works faithfully cooking together two Thursday afternoons a week. As they work, the wonderful aromas waft through the hallways, to the delight of all of us working here at church. If you were at the Wednesday night dinner this fall when the Community Kitchen crew provided dinner you know that the food that is prepared is very tasty and healthy. Not only does the crew prepare wonderful meals for people in need, but, as a bonus, they have fun together as they work.

Do you have time available on the first and third Thursdays of the month? In this New Year, why not join the Community Kitchen cooking crew in this important ministry? They begin working at 1:00 p.m. and work for a couple of hours to prepare dinner for the many children, women and men who need to use the services of the Just Harvest Community Kitchen. This month the dates are January 3 (Ted Garrison, contact person) & 17 (John Anderson, contact person). Just show up and you will be put to work and your presence will be very much appreciated.

## Youth News & Dates

### Junior High

#### Junior High Youth Ministry:

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

January 9, 16, 23, 30

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

**Merge:** Mondays, January 14, 28, 3:30-5:00 at church

**Jr. High Deep Freeze Retreat** - January 18-20

*Christy Bouris, Youth Pastor  
Winnetka Covenant Church  
847-446-4300*

### Senior High

#### Senior High League Ministry:

Sundays, 7-9p.m.

January 6, 13, & 27 - regular meetings

January 20 - North Side Youth Collision

**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, January 9, 16, 23, 30

**WCC& NPCC Night** - Friday, January 11th, details to come! Winnetka Covenant Church and North Park Covenant Church coming together for a good night! Mark your calendars!

## Parenting Solutions

For parents of children ages 2-18

**Saturday, February 9, 8:45 a.m.-12:00 noon, North Park Covenant Church**

#### Everyday Parents can Raise Extraordinary Kids!

Presented by Dr. Scott Turansky and Joanne Miller, RN, BSN.

This seminar aims to help parents teach their children how to be internally motivated using the God-given conscience resident in their hearts. The conscience prompts children to do what's right, deal with wrong, be honest, and care about others.

This parenting seminar offers hope and encouragement by helping them...

- Identify the four parts of the conscience
- Learn how to adjust the words they say to strengthen the conscience of a child
- Take home a script that helps their child process correction wisely and powerfully
- Know how to approach difficult problems like defiance, lying, rebellion, and meanness
- Teach their children to take initiative to show kindness, help out, and add energy to the family instead of draining it.
- Help their children listen to the voice of God in their own hearts.
- Work with kids ages 2-18 in ways that will prepare them for a strong future.
- Raise children who are internally-motivated and want to do what's right.

Bring the whole family! A children's program is provided for kids through age 12. Children will learn in fun and exciting ways how they can enhance family life.

#### Details -

Saturday, February 9, 8:45 a.m. - noon

North Park Covenant Church

5250 N. Christiana Ave.

Chicago, IL 60625

773-463-0055

#### Register:

online at [biblicalparenting.org/register](http://biblicalparenting.org/register) or call 609-771-8002

#### Suggested Donation:

\$15/adult or \$20/couple.

Registration is a must!

## 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 **January 24** 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 Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. The **January meeting will be on the 8th**. 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 will resume meeting on January 8, 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.

### *Thursday Afternoon Bible Study -*

Beginning Thursday, January 10th 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, Jan. 10 - 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.

Start the New Year with us and bring a friend! All are welcome! Any questions, contact Claire Macfarland.

### *Retreat, February 1-3, 2013*

The speaker for this year's retreat is Jane Hutchins-Peterson and her topic is "Finding the Sacred in Your Ordinary: Connecting your story to The Story." Limited registration still available - check with Joan in the office. Plan to join us - it's a great time to connect with other women.

## 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. During the month of January the topics will include another Brené Brown talk, and a further step or two on Jacob's Journey. 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.

### **Men's Singing Ensemble**

The group will be part of a worship service in January. 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. Thanks to members of this group who helped with Lucia. Answering the call for participation is purely voluntary and always for a good cause.

## Mailbox

My Dear Family at Winnetka Covenant Church,

You are so dear to me. God has helped me through these heavy times and I have felt deeply your love and prayers.

Thank you for the gorgeous poinsettia plant in a lovely arrangement which came just before my trip to the Cape Cod Hospital for a surgical procedure. Thank you for the amazing joy that you gave to me. I miss you and love you. God Bless the Winnetka Covenant Church family.

Gratefully, Marilyn Drotts

Dear Winnetka Covenant Church Community,

I wish to extend a heartfelt Thank You on behalf of Covenant Women to ALL who PARTICIPATED and HELPED in the preparations for Lucia. It was a lovely morning, the music, narrator, skit, children, and Sr. Lucia Court were a delight, the breakfast, raffle, and boutique a great time. It's beloved celebration that our church embraces and it couldn't happen without the many hands who contribute. So, Tak SÅ Mycke Once Again! Until next year ...

Sincere thanks,  
Inger Eiesland-Schultz

Dear Friends,

Now that 2012 is officially over, I look back on a year that held many health challenges for Dick and me. Although sometimes the journey was difficult, the road we were asked to travel was much easier because of the love and prayers of this wonderful congregation at Winnetka Covenant Church and especially the loving care we both received at the difficult times from Pastors Pete and Andrea.

Now as we stand at the doorway of 2013, we realize that none of us know what the coming year will hold, but I am reminded of a poem first published in 1908 that caught the public attention when then-Princess-Elizabeth handed a copy to her father, King George VI, who quoted it in his 1939 Christmas broadcast to the British Empire. The introduction to the longer poem rings as true today as when the words were first put on paper more than a hundred years ago.

### God Knows

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.

Dick & Karen Larsen

## Directory Changes and Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- Luke and Kat Knotts on the birth of Quinn Kathryn, born Wednesday, November 21. She weighed 8 lb., 8 oz. at birth.
- Sarah Johnson and Rodger White, who became engaged on December 6th. They are planning a fall, 2013 wedding.
- Erin Isaacson and Matt Lewitke, who recently became engaged. No wedding date has yet been set.

### Creative Cooking Classes for Young Chefs

Creative Kids Corner (CKC) will be offering several opportunities at WCC for children to learn the basic principles of cooking while preparing complete meals with fresh ingredients and unique flavors. The adventure includes several cooking methods, using a wide variety of kitchen tools and understanding why these foods promote good health. (Ages 4-13 yrs.) Single class options include cooking for Family Promise on January 8th and school holiday classes throughout the year. Winter Session classes begin January 15th.

Questions? Contact Linda at [linda@creativekidscorner.org](mailto:linda@creativekidscorner.org).

## **Winnetka Covenant Church Network**

1200 Hibbard Road  
Wilmette, Illinois, 60091

847-446-4300

[www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://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 Marriage Course is coming! Join us!**

**A fun, free and informative way to grow in your relationship!**

Hosted by Winnetka Covenant Church as a complimentary service to the community....Seven nights set in a fantastic atmosphere...Candlelight dinner at a table for two...Listening to practical talks that are informative and fun, played on DVD and facilitated by a couple...Time for just the two of you...Free childcare. Will you join us?

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!** All couples are invited. You don't have to be a Christian or a member of Winnetka Covenant. Any married or cohabiting couple is invited. Whether your relationship is strong or struggling, we welcome you with no preconceived notions – period! We're folks just like you, wanting a better life together.

**WHAT IT TAKES.** An openness to grow in your relationship. Seven nights that will require two-and-a-half hours – dinner included! You have time to eat, talk and reflect. Thousands of couples around the world have already participated. Seven sessions will include:

Building Strong Foundations, *The Art of Communication*, Resolving Conflict, *The Power of Forgiveness*, The Impact of Family - Past & Present, *Good Sex*, and Love in Action

When: Fridays, 6:30-9:00 p.m., January 11 - February 22

Where: Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Rd., Wilmette IL

Cost: \$25.00 per couple for the entire course: Includes dinner, child care, and materials.

How do we register? Go to [www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://www.winnetkacovenant.org). Register by December 16