

Network

Volume 13 Issue 7

July, August,
2012

Dates to Remember:

JULY 5 & 19

AUGUST 2 & 16

A Just Harvest Dates

JULY 14-20

CHIC

AUGUST 6-10

Family Camp at
Covenant Point

SEPTEMBER 9

Resume Winter
Hours

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Our Most Important Work

*Be a faithful steward - of time, energy, and money. The church represents Christ and the gospel. **It is the most important work in the world.** It requires the best and the most we can give it. Our time and energy in worship and in work are needed. God has given us talents to use. "There are varieties of working, but it is the same God who inspires them all. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12:6-7)*

— Paul P. Fryhling, 1912-1973, Covenant Pastor

Good words from two giants of our spiritual heritage. Both named Paul, both saints who were pastors. From glory now they preach to us, calling us to be reminded again, to recognize the importance of our common work in the Church. Here are the questions that come for me, which I offer also to you:

Do I view the work of the Church as my life's most important work?

Am I a faithful steward of my time, and energy, and money? Is the work of the Church at the center of these practical realities of my life?

Am I giving the best and the most that I can of myself to the Body of Christ?

The questions are both convicting and inviting, not in the end meant to punish or induce guilt, but to help us grow into the people and into the Church that Christ is calling us to be. At the heart of the questions and the call to Christ is the lavish generosity of God, which finds language in the good news of the gospel. The hope with which we now live, the joy that shapes life, and the grace that has set us free are gifts of God's most important work, which we experience in the coming of Jesus Christ. So it follows that the Church, we who follow Christ, who are indeed the Body of Christ, We would bear this lavish generosity of God, we witness to joy and hope and peace! **It is the most important work in the world!** And we share it together, and we have been given Spirit and gifts, and much to steward for God.

How am I doing? How about you? And how as the Church, are we doing, with this most central work in our lives? Are we willing to invest our lives more than ever we have for the Church in these opportune days, NOT because it's a burden, but because the Church is the central work of our Christian life? And what might happen if we do?

Reflect. Pray. Dream! Let go of what isn't central to God's Kingdom, and invest in the Church of Jesus Christ. Recalibrate your stewardship priorities and see if you don't experience more joy. May our Church be renewed into new days of ministry, because we who are the people of Christ are getting focused on this most important work of ours!

Peter Hawkinson

CHRISTIAN FORMATION NEWS & EVENTS

CHRISTIAN FORMATION:
**Our continuing journey of being transformed by the Holy Spirit into Christ's likeness,
experiencing and expressing love for God and others.**

Sunday School has concluded for the summer. Classes for children and adults will resume after Labor Day.

The CF Board invites you to get to know the children in our church, the ones you see sitting on the floor at the front of the sanctuary during the children's sermon, by taking 3 Sundays during one month to lead a Sunday School rotation. This one-time opportunity is priceless. If you have an interest in cooking, gardening, exercise, sports, mountain climbing, hiking, camping, art, crafts, music, dance, drama, golf, tennis, world cultures, cinema, Bible study, shopping, etc. ... we would like you to share that with our young ones. We supply everything you need and the curriculum is written for you, all you have to do is add your personal touch. Don't miss out on this wonderful opportunity!

Be watching the bulletin and website for your opportunity as we plan next year's curriculum. If you find something that interests you or have questions, please talk to a member of the Christian Formation Board: Robin Magnusson, Linda Johnson, Jan Braun, Krissy Heintzelman, Joan Johnson, John Wallgren, Jon Heintzelman, John Lindahl, Sue Kelly, Gretchen Hall, Linnea Johnson, or Pastor Andrea. Our youth could really benefit from your leadership. Everyone should try it once!

CHIC, 2012 - On July 14 our young people and counselors will leave for Knoxville, Tennessee and will return on July 20. They will be attending CHIC, the triennial gathering of thousands of Covenant high school students from around the country for a week of celebration, adventure, learning, worship, giving, and fun. We ask for your prayers for our students as they embark on what can, for some of them, be a life-changing week. The students and counselors from Winnetka Covenant are:

Allegra Bartlett, Jed Bassett, Christy Bouris, Erik Brandel-Tanis, Anna George, Hannah Hawkinson, Shannon Hogan, Chris Kelly, Tyler Krumland, Jake Laser, John Lindahl, Kari Lindahl, Chloe Madvig, Sam Madvig, Eliza Magill, Henry Magnuson, Liesel Magnusson, Charlotte Manning, Elisabeth Mayer, Georgie Nastos, Ben Reeber, Sam Rivi, Ellen Stenstrom, Rebekah Strobel, Peter Westerfield, Ben Wiberg, and Samantha Yang.

Covenant Point Staffers - Last month we listed all of the youth from WCC who are attending one of our Covenant camps this summer as campers. There also are a number of our high school and college students who will be working at Covenant Point this summer, some for just a couple of weeks, to fill in as many of the summer staff will be going to CHIC, some for a five-week session helping on the kitchen or grounds crew, and some for the entire summer as counselors. We ask also for prayers for these youth, for a good summer of service and leadership. They are:

Eliza Magill, Erik Brandel-Tanis, Annelise Brandel-Tanis, Chad Nelson, Alison Rivi, Sarah Westerfield, Chloe Madvig, Sam Rivi, Billy Rivi, Keir Quackenbush, Kajsa Nelson, Evan Magill and Rachel Kovacic.

Concert-on-the-Steps for children and families/New Playground - A committee has been hard at work planning for a new playground to replace the aging structure that we now have. Please be watching your bulletins and the website for information about a possible Concert-on-the-Steps fundraiser in August or September. The concert will be geared towards children and will be a fun evening for the whole family.

We praise God that we will be welcoming our new Youth Pastor, Christy Bouris, as she joins us on July 1. Keep her in your prayers as she prepares for this new chapter in her life.

MUSIC NOTES

Thank you, God, for the needed rain! Summer is here! As the rain blesses our earth, so too does music wash over our soul with refreshing.



The choir is taking a break, but we get to enjoy lots of special volunteers and guest musicians. Thanks to Eliza Magill, Samantha and Carissa Yang, Art Nelson, Abbey Schmitt and her cousin Thomas Reith for lovely singing and piano in June.

July features pianist Donna Kuhel, and her student Caedon, as well as Bell ensemble and Carolyn Carlson's family ensemble.

August 9 at 7:30 p.m., oboist Jennifer Stucki, who has played with us several times in Christmas concerts, will present a recital in our sanctuary. We welcome you to come and enjoy her one-hour program. She will also play with our Women's ensemble on August 19. On August 12, Joan Wallgren and Lois Olson will sing with their sisters, Marcia Erickson and Evie Gill.

Plans continue for summer music, so let me know if you are able to contribute.

Mark your calendar for September 23, morning AND afternoon, when we will dedicate the renovation of our Wicks organ. We are already enjoying some of its new sounds, but that morning our Worship service will be a music-filled Dedication to God and an afternoon recital will showcase the new features.

*Keep a song in your heart this summer wherever you are,
Dawn*

SUMMER SCHEDULE ITEMS

The first of our three **summer Worship services at the beach at Gillson Park** took place on June 17, with about 50 people in attendance. There will be two more during the summer, on **July 22** and on **August 26 at 8:00 a.m.** The August service will include baptism in the lake. Please talk to Pastor Hawkinson if you are interested in being baptized.

CHICAGO COVENANT SOFTBALL LEAGUE - Winnetka Covenant Church is once again participating in the Chicago Covenant Softball League, with a co-ed team consisting of players from age 14 through 60's. The games are 16-inch softball and provide not only a healthy competition with members of other Covenant churches, but also a time of fun and fellowship together. Talk to Jon Fogel if you'd like to play. Or if playing softball isn't for you, consider coming out on a beautiful summer evening to cheer your team to victory. Games are played at Winemac Park in the city, at Foster and Damen, behind Amundsen High School. The scheduled games are:

- 7:15 - Tuesday, July 3, against Ravenswood Covenant Damens
- 6:00 - Thursday, July 5, against North Park Covenant Church
- 7:15 - Tuesday, July 10, against Christ for Life
- 7:15 - Thursday, July 12, against Sojourner Covenant
- 7:15 - Tuesday, July 24, against Immunity
- 7:15 - Tuesday, July 31, against Ravenswood Covenant Ainslies
- 7:15 - Thursday, August 2, against Edgebrook Covenant

Playoff games will begin on Tuesday, August 21. Please watch the weekly bulletins and the website for news about our participation in the playoffs.

FIFTH ANNUAL WCC FAMILY CAMP AT COVENANT POINT - August 6-11. Deadline for registration for Family Camp will be July 15. Registration can be done easily on the web (www.winnetkacovenant.org). Please ask Pastor Andrea if you have any questions.

A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

As we head into the months of July and August, with beautiful summer days ahead of us, many of us are able to carve out a couple of weeks to head out of town on vacation. Please remember that the work of the Just Harvest Community Kitchen goes on every single day, with no vacation days.

During the summer months we may be missing some of our regular workers due to travel plans, so if you have been thinking that this is a ministry for you to become involved with, summer may be the ideal time to start. We will be working in our kitchen, preparing a healthy meal for about 150 people, from 1:00 to about

3:30 p.m. Come for whatever part of that time that you are able.

Our dates for the next two months are July 5 and August 2, with John Anderson as the contact person and July 19 and August 16 with Ted Garrison as the contact person.

Also, on July 19 and August 16 we will need up to 8 people to serve the meal at A Just Harvest. There is a signup sheet outside the church kitchen.

We thank you for your support.

NEWS FROM THE OUTREACH COMMITTEE – S.O.S.

S.O.S.!!! S.O.S.!!!

The Outreach Committee is putting out an S.O.S. to make this summer a Summer of Service. Here's the idea: perform an act of service (or more) for someone else. That's all there is to it. There's no homework, nothing to purchase, no event to reserve time for, no money to be raised -- just YOU, doing something for someone else. The beauty of this is that you can perform acts of service for others whether you're at home, at work, on vacation, at camp - wherever you find yourself in the presence of another person! When you perform an act of service you can:

- ♦ fill out a post card and deposit it in the S.O.S. box in the narthex, or
- ♦ send an e-mail to the church office, and we'll put it in the box for you, or
- ♦ fill out a form online, on the website (www.winnetkacovenant.org).

Tell us 1) what you did and 2) how it made you feel. We'll post some of our acts of service on the website as they come in. We're excited to see how many acts of service we can perform over the summer. And at the end of the summer we'll celebrate all that God has done through us, for others.

Have a great Summer of Service!

On **July 14** we have an opportunity to perform an act of service by helping to package food at the **Greater Chicago Food Depository**. From 1:30-4:30 we will work together at the Food Depository, providing hours of service that will benefit the North Park Friendship Center. Minimum age for helping is 13, and long pants and closed-toe shoes are required. You can sign up on the sheet outside the kitchen door or on the website.

STRAIGHT TALK ABOUT FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

As of May 31, we have continued to fall behind in our General Fund receipts. We are \$50K behind our budget and summer is just starting!

Please Help. Before you leave for your summer holidays, consider increasing your giving to WCC and/or front load your giving while you are absent. Most of our 2012 pledged members have maintained their commitments, so far. Thank you for this!

We also have many church members who have not pledged and we have been seeing these general fund receipts especially running short.

Now's the time to give to your Church!

Thanks for your ongoing support and generosity at Winnetka Covenant Church.

NEWS FROM THE TRUSTEES

The Winnetka Covenant Church financial summary through May 2012:

Thanks for your ongoing support and generosity at WCC.

► YTD Financials

°General Fund Giving for 2012 - is \$420,811, which is almost 7% below 2011 at this time.

°Expenses are slightly below last year and 8% below the 2012 budget

°Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2012 Actual	2011 Actual	%	2012 Budget	%
General Fund Receipts	\$420,812	\$450,016	93.5%	\$471,008	89%
Expenses	\$433,289	\$444,926	97%	\$469,010	92%
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	(\$12,477)	\$5,090			
Debt Payments	\$13,934	\$13,159			
Net Excess/(Deficit)	(\$26,411)	(\$8,069)			

	<u>5/31/2012</u>	<u>5/31/2011</u>
General Fund Cash	\$(28,306)	(\$37,394)
Building Fund	3,050	3,050
Exchange Fund	88,919	192,293
Depreciation Set Aside	40,850	40,792
Memorial Fund	55,643	95,999
Petty Cash	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>
Total	\$160,281	\$294,318

► Capital Projects

°Projects in plan: Replacement of Sanctuary and Choir room air conditioners and completion of the Organ refurbishing.

°These funds have come from primarily the Exchange and Memorial Fund accounts.

°As anticipated, our cash position has been reduced significantly, putting even more emphasis on timely general fund giving (pledge and non-pledge giving)

The WCC Board of Trustees develops monthly financial reports and meeting minutes 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.

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 July 26 and August 23 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 summer schedule will be a little altered, so please watch your bulletins for the dates of the summer meetings. We are now using the texts for the coming Sunday, along with 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, TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY -

These two Bible studies are on hiatus until after Labor Day.

GLASS LUNCHEON PLATES -

Some months ago we asked for donations of glass luncheon plates, the kind with a little indentation for a coffee cup. We had a nice response to the request and were able to use the dishes for the first time at one of the showers that was held this spring. We would love to have enough to be able to use them for slightly larger showers and events. So, we are putting out a renewed request for donations of those plates and cups. You may have some tucked away in an attic or basement, not having been used for years. They also show up at flea markets, thrift stores and yard sales. We are happy to mix and match patterns, so whatever is donated will be welcome. Thanks in advance.

SANKOFA JOURNEY - August 2-5, 2012

Sankofa Journey - A Journey Toward Racial Righteousness

The Covenant Department of Compassion, Mercy and Justice sponsors Sankofa Journeys two or three times a year, in an effort to help people come to a better understanding of our racial history and the events of the Civil Rights movement. It also strives to help people better understand each other, across racial divides. The journey involves a bus trip to the deep south, visiting the important sites of the Civil Rights movement. Our own Maria and Dave Moreno went on a recent Sankofa Journey if you would like to ask questions. For more information about what Sankofa is or to register for the August trip you can go to the Covenant website (www.covchurch.org).

Following are quotes from participants:

"In the bus/ crucible of forced proximity in cramped quarters, layers of political correctness were stripped away. What was revealed in our group was painful but moved me to deeper understanding of racial injustice and my own prejudices. The pain served as a catalyst to action; without it, I may never have addressed my prejudices nor become engaged in racial justice."

"I have a lot to learn but this journey awakened me to things I didn't know about myself. I pray that as I share my experience with others, they too, will come to see that privilege is widespread and that little by little, with God's help we can bring about racial righteousness."

WINNETKA MAILBOX

Dear Friends,

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you the mission to Taiwan that I am a part of from June 26-July 14. Your prayers and the support that I received on Sunday, June 17, were extremely meaningful to me, the Team I am serving with, and to Marilyn at home. I would request that you continue to pray for us as we minister in Taiwan. Pray for the open minds of children and youth. Pray for the Taiwanese leaders, and pray that all of our team will remain healthy and have the stamina necessary in the hot and humid weather. Again I say thank you. It is so encouraging to have your support!

Thanks to God for our loving and caring church! God bless you all.

Bob Poor



FAMILY NEWS

We offer our congratulations to:

♦ Tori and Manuel Horta on the birth of Nikolas Axel, born June 9. Nikolas was 8 lb., 5 oz. and measured 21-1/2 inches. Jim and Patsy Carlson are the happy grandparents.

Best wishes to the Horta and Carlson families.

Winnetka Covenant Preschool News -

Registration is now open for the 2012/13 school year and there are still openings for both the younger and older classes. 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.

Winnetka Covenant Church Message Line - The pastors regularly send out a Message Line with prayers requests and other important church-related information. You can get this by e-mail or by calling the Message Line number (847-501-4158). If you would like to receive this by e-mail, please contact the church office.

Network by E-Mail - Some of us are happy to receive correspondence by mail and eagerly read our Network each month as soon as it comes (or set it aside to pick up and read when we have time to sit down with it). Others of us love to read as much as possible on our computers, blackberries, phones, etc. If you fall into the latter group and are not receiving your Network by e-mail, please let the church office know at wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com and I will switch you to the Network-by-e-mail list. Don't worry if one half of a couple reads electronically and the other prefers paper. We can do both. Our aim is to get the monthly Network to you in the format that you are most likely to read so that everyone in the congregation is getting all of the pertinent information in a timely manner

IN NEED: A newly divorced friend of Val Hausman and Polly McClellan (Russian and in her late 50's) is being forced out of her apartment. She is a lovely, helpful, caring woman who loves children. Right now she has very little disposable income and is looking for a room to rent (does not need to be furnished). If you can help or know anyone who can, please call (or e-mail) Val or Polly or contact Pastor Andrea.

THANK YOU!

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.