

# Network

Volume 13 Issue 3

March, 2012

Dates to Remember:

FEBRUARY 24

Stations of the Cross  
Begins

March 1 & 15th

A Just Harvest Dates

MARCH 11

HarborPoint Event

APRIL 1-8

Holy Week, Easter

APRIL 28

Rummage Sale

Inside this issue:

CF News 2

Music Notes 3

Stations of the  
Cross 3

Comm. Kitchen,  
Missions 4

Upcoming  
Events 5

Women's News, 6  
Men's News

Mailbox, Family 7  
News

## The Passion of Christ

*Then he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, knelt down, and prayed, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done." Then an angel from heaven appeared to him, and gave him strength. In his anguish he prayed more earnestly, and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down on the ground. (Luke 22:41-44)*

Here is a beautiful expression, one of so many that reveals the loving passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, who's relentless focus is on doing the will of his Father, even though it shall lead him through suffering to the experience of death. He is strengthened to do Love's redeeming work. Here is lent again, here is God offering himself up for you and for me.

With the beautiful glow of a Thursday's setting sun, I am engrossed in a little book my father gave me 5 years ago. It is *The Fallow Land* by the Argentinean *Constancio Vigil*. As I consider the waning life of Jesus, here's what's holding me:

*"The great suffering which saddens the world, and this your life which can alleviate it: these are the two realities, the two great truths which you must ponder. Spread abroad the reality of the other life; raise the soul above the lower passions, as if every day were the only day you had; as if every word were your last; as if you were now showing yourself for the last time on the human horizon."*

Jesus prays in a garden, in the dark of night, with a focus above the lower passions, and it is for we who bear his name to grab onto these days and our lives likewise. One more gem:

*"Love can accomplish all things, and love must better life. For what do you wait? Others are waiting for you."*

These are the days set out for us to travel the road with Jesus into Jerusalem. Let's not be detached from the urgency, from the fervency of what he does, and all because of love for the redemption of others, so many others. We are challenged to live with His own passion for the suffering world around us, a passion that becomes a loving, focused, merciful activity.

You and I, we must hold onto the great suffering that saddens the world, and also this life now full of the Christ who comes to redeem it. In so doing we live with hope, we spread abroad the reality of this God we have come to know, God who has come to save us.

Praise to God - for what God has done, for what God is doing, and for what God still will accomplish through the Church of Jesus Christ. May his passion become our own.

*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 for all ages at 9:45 each week.**

***Adult Sunday School choices:***

- 1) **Stations of the Cross.** Taught by Mary Veeneman, Assistant Professor of Biblical and Theological Studies at North Park University. Join us as we examine the Stations of the Cross together during Lent. During the six weeks that we are meeting, we will examine the spirituality surrounding the passion as a whole from the early church through the contemporary period. We will also look specifically at the history of the Stations of the Cross, considering their origin in the medieval period and their modern day interpretation. We will also examine a set of stations of the cross put forth in the 20th century that are more closely tied to the biblical text. We will finally examine modern renderings of the Stations of the Cross in non-Western contexts. Each week one of the artists who has created one of the Stations of the Cross for the narthex will speak briefly about their own work. February 26-April 1, in the Upper Room.
- 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.
- 3) **20's & 30's Small Groups.** New small groups for people in their 20's and 30's are now meeting on Sunday mornings from 9:30-10:30 a.m. Couples' groups meet every other week, and men's and women's groups meet on the alternative weeks. If there is interest, groups will also be formed that may meet on other days/times of the week. The groups meet for care, support, prayer, and engaging each other around topics that are pertinent to their faith and life. Please contact Pastor Andrea if you're interested in joining or would like more information.

***March Rotation Sunday School: Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet, March 11, 18, 25, and April 1***

We are in need of workshop leaders for all four of the following workshops. Workshop leaders lead on three out of the four Sundays in the rotation:

**Puppetry** - We'll learn about Holy Week and enact a puppet show/play to illustrate the book "Little Rose of Sharon" by Nan Gurley.

**Faith Today** - We'll learn the story of footwashing in the context of Holy Week, hear a contemporary story of footwashing, hear from members of the congregation about their experiences with missions, and brainstorm ways we can serve those who need attention.

**Art** - Hear "The Queen's Foot Washing" and learn how Maundy Thursday is celebrated in England. We'll make Soap On A Stick.

**Science** - We'll take off our socks and shoes and go on a Sensory Walk. What can you feel with your feet? We'll also make Epsom salts for a foot soak.

Please contact Pastor Andrea if you are interested in being involved in these great workshops with our great kids!

## MUSIC NOTES

Thank you! I actually got feedback from last month's music notes. So glad to know you read it. So, I found something else good to think on: from Riccardo Muti, Chicago Symphony's Music Director, in the January program guide -

*"Musicians train by rehearsing and understanding music together, and this is a fundamental aspect of society - I recognize our differences, and I understand who I am, thanks to you. This acceptance of others creates the concept of beauty and harmony which improves our society."*



Reminds me of all the 'one another'-s in the New Testament: love one another, be tender-hearted to one another, forgive one another. What a blessed concept. We experience this so profoundly in choir. And so good to KNOW this in our fellowship at Winnetka Covenant!

By 'popular demand' (I'm told the kids STILL are singing it!) we will have a short reprise of Messiah for Young Voices (Easter - like our children did so well at Christmas). Beginning in March, we will rehearse 5-5:30 on Wednesdays in the choir room, ages 4 to 5th grade. Also, in the 'release' time during the 10:45 hour on Sundays. Please pick up a CD of this music for your child(ren). They will sing one of these selections in the Easter service.

Thanks again for your generous contributions for organ refurbishing. The work has begun. We'll miss it for the next few weeks, but should have plenty of time to be all done by Holy Week! Meanwhile, Brittany Smith will play harp with us on March 4, so, that will be a treat.

*May this Lent bring you new joy in following Christ,  
Dawn*

### Winnetka Covenant Church

invites you to experience

## The Stations of the Cross

Friday evenings during Lent

6:00—8:00 p.m.

Works of art depicting the 14 Stations of the Cross are displayed in the church narthex.

A printed guidebook is available to accompany your journey.

You may conduct this experience alone or with others.

Contemplative music is offered in the church sanctuary:

February 24th, Winnetka Covenant Church Choir; Joshua Smith, piano

March 2nd, Donna Kuhel, piano

March 9th, The Edens Brass Trio

March 16th, The Chicago Horn Consort

March 23rd, Royce Eckhardt, piano; John Eckhardt, violin

March 30th, The Winnetka Covenant Church Bell Choir

April 6th, Jonathan Pegis

All are welcome.

---

## A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

Please join us on March 1st and the 15th in our church kitchen from 1-3:30 in the afternoon as we prepare a tasty meal for our neighbors, the patrons of A Just Harvest's Community Kitchen. We have a great deal of fun in good company!

Questions? John Anderson is the contact person

for the 1st and Ted Garrison is the contact person for the 15th. They'd be happy to talk to you.

Thanks for your love and support of this mission.

*John Anderson*

## MISSION NEWS AND SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Our next opportunity to help at the **Greater Chicago Food Depository** will be **Saturday, March 24**, from 1:30-4:30 p.m. Volunteer to support the North Park Friendship Center food bank. This is a fun opportunity for adults and teens (minimum age 13) to serve together. Long pants and closed-toe shoes required. Sign up on the sheet next to the kitchen or online at [www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://www.winnetkacovenant.org). We need 20 volunteers.

On **Thursday, March 15** we serve at the **Just Harvest Community Kitchen**. We need 8 volunteers to serve the food which has been prepared in our church kitchen that day. For this opportunity you can also sign up on the sheet next to the kitchen or online at [www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://www.winnetkacovenant.org). Meet at church at 4:15.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Zumbathon, Saturday, March 3, 2012**, at Winnetka Congregational Church, from 1:30-3:00. Proceeds to support **Family Promise Chicago North Shore**.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **HARBORPOINT MINISTRIES DINNER EVENT - PRAISE PARTY**

On Sunday, March 11, at 5:00 p.m. HarborPoint Ministries will hold a family event here at Winnetka Covenant Church. It will include conversation, food, information about the camps and an opportunity to support the camps. Childcare will be provided for preschool children and a mini-camp experience will be provided for elementary school children. Anyone who has attended in the last couple of years will remember that it was a fun evening with good food and a good chance to visit with friends from other Covenant churches. Please put this on your calendars and plan to attend.

## COVENANT WORLD RELIEF OFFERING

A couple of years ago we decided to move our collection of the offering for Covenant World Relief to Lent, away from November which is so busy with other financial commitments for the church. Covenant World Relief is a wonderful ministry of care through our larger Covenant Church for those in greatest need around the world. Covenant World Relief is in a position to respond immediately to crisis situations, such as earthquakes, tsunamis, etc., wherever they occur. Materials will be forthcoming in the next few weeks, and all are asked to contribute during the Lenten season.

## Words of Life? Good News? The Difficult Words of Jesus

A Lenten Inquiry

Wednesday Evenings, 6:45, Church Library

*Jesus came not to bring peace, but a sword?*

*If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off?*

*Did Jesus say that there's an unforgivable sin?*

*Turn the other cheek?*

*Is it true? Can faith really move mountains?*

Each week we will grapple with one of the difficult sayings of Jesus.

Suggestions from group members are most welcome.

We will seek to understand, and grow together.

Welcome.

---

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Rummage Sale - April 28

We are fast approaching Rummage Sale time, with the sale scheduled for Saturday, April 28. Now is the time to begin going through your stuff and deciding what you have to donate. Dropoff of donated items will begin Monday, April 16. Proceeds of this year's Rummage Sale will benefit our high school students who will be attending CHIC this summer. As always, this is such a win/win/win/win event: 1) it helps you clear out the unwanted and unneeded things from your house; 2) it benefits the many people who depend on low-cost clothing and household goods as a part of their daily reality; 3) it benefits our high school students as they experience a life-changing event; and 4) it gives many from our congregation a chance to work together and get to know each other better during the preparation time.

As you are thinking about items to donate, please also make a plan to help during the setup period the week before the sale. From April 23rd to the 27th you can come to church at any time, day or evening, and help sort, fold, stack and price items.

### Vacation Bible School - June 18-22

#### **BABYLON: DANIEL'S COURAGE IN CAPTIVITY**

Join Daniel - torn from his home and forced into a foreign king's service. Immerse yourself in the exotic sights and smells of Daniel's new Babylonian world. Imagine the **pressures** of learning a new language and culture ... and the **shock** of discovering your best friends have been tossed into a **fiery furnace** - just because they follow God.

The Christian Formation board is currently forming the VBS planning team. Consider joining us for this great endeavor! We're looking for people interested in:

- ◆ Recruiting volunteers
- ◆ Coordinating the Marketplace Shops
- ◆ Decorating (planning, set-up & take-down)
- ◆ Publicizing VBS in the church and the community
- ◆ Registering participants

Contact Robin Magnusson if you're interested in serving in one of these roles on the planning team, or if you'd like to hear more about what's involved.

### Family Camp - August 6-11, 2012

Consider creating space in your schedule this summer for our annual All-Church Family Camp at Covenant Point in Michigan's Upper Peninsula! From August 6th through the 11th we'll enjoy the best of camp life together - great food, the lake, chapel, ropes course, the Island, staff, games and free time - and have a chance each day to contribute to the ministry of Covenant Point through various age-appropriate work projects. The week has drawn nearly 60 participants each year and has become a much-loved time to rest, share our faith, and introduce new people to the camp's ministry. Brochures are available and information is posted on the web site, [www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://www.winnetkacovenant.org). Registration forms are in the brochure or can be done online. Questions? Ask Jed Bassett.

---

## 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 March 22 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. This month's meeting is March 6. We will begin 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 - The Book of REVELATION:**

Are you intrigued by it, interested in learning about it?

Starting Thursday, March 8th through May 17th, at 1:00 p.m. in the church library, Women's afternoon Bible Study will embark on a lecture series on the book of Revelation.

This 11-week study, "**Here and Now...There and Then**", by Beth Moore, presents many points of view, allowing individuals to decide for themselves when the interpretation varies among scholars. She teaches that God is as specific about what He does reveal as He is about what He does not reveal.

Lecture DVD sessions are 1 hour 15 minutes each. An optional listening guide includes one homework assignment for each week, guided highlights of fill-in-the-blanks, as well as room for note-taking of personal insights.

Please join us as we roll up our sleeves to explore God's word. For information please contact Claire Macfarland.

**TUESDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY** - The Tuesday Women's Bible Study is currently studying 2 Corinthians. Newcomers will benefit by joining at any time. With questions please call Sue Abram.

### **SAVE THE DATES FOR BRIDAL SHOWERS -**

There are three bridal showers on the calendar for the coming few months. All women of the church are invited.

- ◆ Saturday, April 21 - Jill Eskra, engaged to Adam Geake. Adam is the son of Howard & Judi Geake.
- ◆ Tuesday, May 15 - Megan Braun, engaged to Steve Orlandino. Megan is the daughter of Bob & Jan Braun.
- ◆ Thursday, May 31 - Jenny Peterson, engaged to David Gruner. Jenny is the daughter of Ron & Deb Peterson.

Please contact the church office if you would like to be a hostess for any of these showers.

## MEN'S NEWS

Men's Retreat, March 16-18 at Covenant Harbor in Lake Geneva, WI. This year we will use the Disciple Peter to help us talk about our lives. In many ways Peter is a man's man, but the one called "The Rock" was also a fragile stone. His fears, betrayals, and questions also sound familiar to us in 2012. We look forward to being together, and hope you will join us. You may register at [www.lumunos.org](http://www.lumunos.org). Please contact Pastor Hawkinson if you are in need of financial assistance. Welcome!

# WINNETKA MAILBOX



Dear WCC Friends and Family,

*Bonjour from Angers, France! I am in my second month of language school and am both enjoying and benefiting from this experience. Right now there are 18 nationalities represented at the school, and all the students have a common heart for service to the marginalized in all corners of the earth (well, particularly the corners that speak French!). I am eating plenty of interesting French pates, breads, and cheeses and enjoying this international and European community.*

*I wanted to say a big **thank you** to everyone who has donated to this mission, shared a word of encouragement or lifted up a prayer for me. I certainly would not be here without the support of my WCC family! Even though I am a continent away I hold you all close to my heart as I prepare for life and ministry in the Congo.*

*I miss you, and pray you are well and enjoying life together while braving the winter!*

*With love,  
Christine Buettgen  
(blog: [christinemerle.blogspot.com](http://christinemerle.blogspot.com))*

Dear friends,

*Thank you so much for all your prayers and kind cards, visits, rides, and thoughts after my shoulder surgery. I am healing slowly, but surely. I appreciate your care.*

*Dawn*

\*\*\*\*\*

(Correction from last month's Network - Julia Clausen recently graduated from University of Arizona, not Texas.)

\*\*\*\*\*

We extend our congratulations to:

- ◆ **Andrew Olson**, who graduated in December from Illinois State University, with a major in English. Andrew is currently living in Springfield.
- ◆ **Mary Miller**, who recently became the Chaplain at the Covenant Village of Cromwell, CT. She had been serving as interim pastor at Bethany Covenant Church in Berlin, CT.

Best wishes to both Andrew and Mary as they begin new chapters of their lives.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Search Committee News** - The Youth Pastor search committee is excited to announce that the position is now posted on both the Covenant and our church websites, and applications have been coming in. Our deadline for applications is February 29. Please direct any referrals or suggestions to [wccsearchcommittee@gmail.com](mailto:wccsearchcommittee@gmail.com), and join with us in seeking God's wisdom and direction in our search. We deeply appreciate your prayers and support, and we welcome your input.

Jen Brunzell, Peter Hawkinson, Hal Jenkins, Nadia Jimenez, Cam Johnson, Kat Knotts, Rachel Kovacic, Sam Madvig, Liesel Magnusson, Cathy Norman Peterson, Melissa Schmidt, and George Tzanetopoulos.

\*\*\*\*\*

**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.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Lost and Found** - there are two dolls that were left in the toddler room around the time of Lucia. If you know of someone who might have lost them, they are sitting up on the rack outside the nursery.

## 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.