

# Network

Volume 13 Issue 5

May, 2012

Dates to Remember:

APRIL 29–MAY 6

Family Promise

MAY 3 & 17

A Just Harvest Dates

MAY 20

Confirmation Sunday

MAY 20–27

Youth Pastor Candidate  
Week

JUNE 3

Begin Summer Hours

JUNE 18–22

Vacation Bible School

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## "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

When I was a teenager, I read Romans 8:31 for the very first time and decided then that it was my favorite Bible verse. It comes after Paul's writing about hope, about the Spirit's help for us in our weakness, and about knowing that "God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." And it precedes the wonderful verses that reassure us that nothing can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ - verses that I never tire of reading.

But Romans 8:31 summed all of that up for me in a way that was short enough for me to remember and say to myself whenever I wanted, which was important for me as a person who isn't all that great at memorizing words, unless they are set to music. Second, those words gave me such assurance. God IS for us. I know that to be true, and I need to be constantly reminded of it. I especially needed that assurance when I was a teenager, because I sometimes felt that most of the world was against me, or at least the world within the perilous hallways of my junior high where I struggled to find my place among the groups of jocks, nerds, geeks, goths, preppies, etc., etc., etc. I clung to my favorite verse in those days.

"If God is for us, who can be against us?" Well, the truth is that all kind of people and forces can be against us. But the other truth in this verse is that anything that threatens to undo us (whether real or perceived, from without or within ourselves) is no match for the power of God, who is for us. Anyone or anything that might be against us is dwarfed by the presence of our strong and loving God. Even when we ourselves are our own worst enemies, even then, God is for us, leading us toward wholeness and healing.

As well as giving me comfort and assurance, the truth of this verse gives me confidence and courage. God is *for* me, therefore I have nothing to fear. I can share my faith without fear. I can face the uncertainties and struggles and pain of life without fear. I can stand up to injustice and evil in the world without fear. I can even confront my own sin without fear, because God is for me and not against me. Knowing that God is for me creates in me a desire to be wholly for God.

I am sustained by so many wonderful verses and passages in the Bible. Romans 8:31 remains my favorite. What's your favorite Bible verse?

*Andrea Johnson*

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## 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) **"Telling Our Stories"**, led by Pastor Andrea and Walter Gast, in the Upper Room, May 6 - 20

This class will be **for all adults and High School students.**

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. There is power in sharing our stories with one another, for in sharing our stories - in the shaping of them, in the telling and in the listening - we have the opportunity to encounter the living God and to build relationships with others.

In this three-week series we will spend time reflecting on the significance of our own stories and how we shape them, we will explore how the story of God's people is expressed in the Bible, we will practice sharing parts of our stories with one another in smaller groups, and we will hear several individuals share their faith stories with the larger group.

- 2) **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.

### **MAY ROTATION SUNDAY SCHOOL: Prince of Peace, May 6, 13, 20**

It's our final unit of rotation workshops in our year-long theme, "The Messiah." The scriptures tell us that Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is the Prince of Peace. Our actions must reflect this knowledge and promote peace in our selves, homes, schools, communities, and the world. We are looking for workshop leaders for all three of the following workshops. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Andrea.

- ◆ **Faith Today:** Read/hear scriptures about peace, learn about Nobel Peace Prize winners, and build bridges of peace with simple materials.
- ◆ **Bible Improv:** Explore conflicts that happen in our everyday lives and learn some techniques for conflict resolution using role play.
- ◆ **Moved by the Spirit:** Explore the dynamics of creating peace through cooperative vs. competitive games, exploring scripture about the Body of Christ, and spelling PEACE with their bodies for a group picture.

**May 27, 9:45 a.m.**

### **A Joyful Celebration**

**Sunday School of all ages come together!**

**What have you learned this year about your faith and spirituality?**

**What has been most meaningful or memorable to you?**

We ask you to think on those questions over the next few weeks, so that when we come together on May 27, you will have something to share. You will have the opportunity to share (in small groups) with other adults, youth, and children. The point is the reflecting and the remembering, not the explaining, so don't feel that you need to share more than a sentence or two. And don't feel as if it needs to be understandable to a child either. The idea is that we are a community of learners growing together in faith. Children will learn from you and you will learn from children.

**Refreshments and singing will also be a part of our Joyful Celebration!**

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## MUSIC NOTES



I've always loved May. I grew up celebrating both my Grandmas' birthdays, the 3rd and 5th. Their love for God and his creation always seemed to usher in Spring and all its newness. My first-born arrived in May. This year he starts a new business. The sunshine and flowers are especially beautiful this year. It's been a privilege lately to celebrate the lives of loved ones from our fellowship now departed.

This May we bring lovely music to worship in praise of our Risen Lord and Savior. From the new anthem May 6 - "He hath made all things beautiful in His time" - to one that has been my top pick since it came out 2 years ago - "When Speaking Has Ceased", a wonderful Craig Courtney setting of the Johanna Anderson text describing the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives.

May 6 - "Beautiful In His Time" adding flute and cello

May 13 - "There Is No Greater Love"

May 20 - "Sing Joyful Praise" with trumpet and handbells

May 27 - "When Speaking Has Ceased"

When speaking has ceased and the room has grown still,  
When solitude creeps over valley and hill,  
The Spirit of God finds a place to alight,  
And puts our vain fears and our trembling to flight.

O, Spirit of God fill the earth with your joy,  
Give voice to our song that our praise may employ  
Your wellspring of peace to fill ev'ry bare space  
With sweet notes of gladness and fair tones of grace.

When clamor and noise fill the world with their sounds  
When harmony flees and loud tumult abounds,  
The Spirit of God is not driven away;  
He quiets our heart and forever will stay.

O Spirit of God, rising lighter than air,  
Lift high to the Lord all the weight of our prayer,  
No burden we carry is ever unknown;  
No friend of the Spirit is ever alone, alone, never alone.

Looking forward to joining YOU in worship. May your heart be filled to overflowing with the love and grace of God.

*With a song in my heart, Dawn*

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY, May 20

On Sunday, May 20 we will celebrate with eleven of our young people as they are confirmed. As a part of the confirmation process, all are invited to come on Friday, May 18 at 7:00 p.m. to hear the confirmands present their faith papers.

The students are:

- Eric Anderson
- Grace Brunzell
- Spencer Eanes
- Sarah Hawkinson
- Zachary Lee
- Chad Nelson
- Liam O'Donovan
- Haydon Peterson
- Allie Rivi
- Ethan Schmitt
- Sarah Westerfield

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## A JUST HARVEST COMMUNITY KITCHEN

In the month of May we will be whipping up delicious meals for the patrons of A Just Harvest's community kitchen on the 3rd with John Anderson and the 17th with Ted Garrison. Come join us in our kitchen between 1 and 4 p.m. on one or both days if you can. No experience necessary! We would love to share the enjoyment of this simple service work with you.

On the 17th, we will need a group of 8 people to serve our meal at A Just Harvest. There is a sign up sheet

for this outside our church kitchen. If you have any further interest, or questions, please feel free to contact Ted or John, or the church office, or the church website ([www.winnetkacov.org](http://www.winnetkacov.org)).

*Thanks for your support,  
John Anderson*

## UPCOMING EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

### Stanley Golder Interfaith Lecture Series at Temple Jeremiah - May 5, 8:00 p.m.

#### **"Religion and Politics: An Impolite Conversation"**

Mara Liasson, the national political correspondent for NPR and a regular panelist on Special Report with Brit Hume and Fox News Sunday on the Fox News Channel, will be the featured speaker at the annual Golder Interfaith Lecture Series. This year's program will focus on politics and religion - a complex relationship that has greatly influenced the tone of this election year. Do politics play a role in religion? Should religious viewpoints have any role in our political debate?

The mission of this lecture series is to promote understanding among every faith and embrace the unifying spirituality of all religions. The lecture is free and open to the public. Temple Jeremiah is located at 937 Happ Rd., Northfield.

### Vacation Bible School - June 18-22

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

In just a few weeks we're taking a journey back to ancient Babylon where you'll get to talk to Daniel and find out what it was like to be a captive in a strange country.

Explore the Marketplace shops, play games, visit Daniel, dance to lively Bible songs, and sample some tasty tidbits as you discover more about Daniel's adventures in Babylon. These experiences make God's Word come alive for kids!

The adventure begins soon, so get ready to step back in time!

June 18-22, 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Age 3 through Grade 5

Supper for families is included!

Register on-line at [www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://www.winnetkacovenant.org)

### 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 or Andrea Johnson.

**On May 27 we will have just one service at 10:45 (no 8:30 service).  
We move to summer hours, with worship at 9:30, on June 3.**

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## YOUTH PASTOR CANDIDATE ANNOUNCEMENT AND PLANS

With great excitement the Youth Pastor Search Committee has announced their candidate for Youth Pastor here at Winnetka Covenant Church. The candidate is Christina Bouris, who will graduate from North Park Seminary this month with a Master of Divinity Degree. She grew up near Boston and prior to coming to seminary served as a youth pastor for several years, and has extensive youth ministry experience.

Christy will be with us throughout the week of May 20-27 to meet with various groups in the church.

Sunday, May 20, 7:00 p.m. - Christy will meet with the senior high.

Wednesday, May 23, 5:30 p.m. - Christy will join us in our Wednesday night activities and meet with the junior high.

Saturday, May 26, 6:00 p.m. - All-church potluck dinner in the fellowship hall. Every family should bring a dish to share. The search committee will provide drinks and desserts. Following dinner, at around 7, we will gather in the sanctuary for a time of conversation.

Sunday, May 27, 10:45 a.m. - Please join us as we worship along with Christy, who will preach. After the worship service, we will hold a congregational meeting and vote.

The Search Committee thanks the congregation for your trust and continued prayers throughout the process. The congregation thanks the committee for the many hours they spent on this project. The committee is:

Jen Brunzell	Nadia Jimenez (chair)	Peter Hawkinson (ex officio)
Cam Johnson	Kat Knotts	Rachel Kovacic
Sam Madvig	Liesel Magnusson	Cathy Norman Peterson
Melissa Schmidt	George Tzanetopoulos (ex officio)	

## COLUMBARIUM UPDATE

### **New life abounds in the Columbarium Garden:**

Everything in Spring '12 is blooming earlier than normal due to our mild winter. Japanese Kerria and Karens' Azaleas finished early, Croziers of Cinnamon, Leather Wood, and Christmas Fern are forming solid crowns. Blue flowers of Ajuga 'Catlin's Giant' line the base of the columbarium wall. Soon, 'Blushing Bride' Hydrangea blooms will begin to bud. Bleeding Hearts and Perennial Forget-me-nots cluster together near the 'Shasta' Doublefile Viburnum, a standard graduation season bloomer. An elegant white 'Winchester Cathedral' David Austin rose presides over the Courtyard and graceful variegated Solomon's Seal's double white bellflowers can be seen beneath the arching stems and white-edged paths of leaves. A new treat, three re-blooming 'Bloomerang' Korean Lilacs in the trough planter will be supplying us with Lilac fragrance at 4-5 week internals all season!

Daily, the edible berries of the two 'Cumulus' Amelanchiers are swelling and ripening. We've hidden some Alpine Strawberry plants among the shrubs and flowers - if you're lucky enough to be meditating in the garden and come across a ripe one, please enjoy it before the rabbits do!

The theme verse for the Columbarium Garden, this first abundant Spring of its existence is from John 10:10: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full."

*Chris Lyngso*

Many thanks to Chris Lyngso for the plantings that have now brought such beauty to our Columbarium and Memorial Garden. We encourage you to walk outside, meditate, and enjoy this sacred space. Soon, on a warm and sunny Sunday, we will move the coffee hour outside for all to enjoy and appreciate this place that is quickly becoming so important in the life of the congregation.

We remind you that the contracts and information about making reservations in the Columbarium are available most Sundays in the narthex and also on the church website. In addition, there are a few landscaping elements that are available to be sponsored by individuals/families of the congregation. These include the planted trough (\$595), 2 benches (\$1144 each), a serviceberry tree (\$450), and 2 evergreen Norwegian spruce trees (\$600 each). Contact Mary Johnson with your interest in any of these. These may be designated in memory or in honor of someone or may be donated with no designation.

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## 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 May 24th 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 May 1. 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 - The Book of REVELATION:**

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

Continuing through Thursday, May 17th, at 1:00 p.m. in the church library, the Women's afternoon Bible Study is using 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.

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, but the final meeting for the spring is May 8. With questions please call Sue Abram.

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

There are two bridal showers on the calendar in May. All women of the church are invited and encouraged to attend.

- ♦ Tuesday, May 15, 7:00 p.m. - Megan Braun, engaged to Steve Orlandino. Megan is the daughter of Bob & Jan Braun.
- ♦ Thursday, May 31, 7:00 p.m. - Jenny Peterson, engaged to David Gruner. Jenny is the daughter of Ron & Deb Peterson.

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Men's Fellowship continues to meet the first three Saturdays of each month, at 8:00 a.m. in the Upper Room. Contact Paul Christmas with any questions.

## CHICAGO FOOD DEPOSITORY - May 12, 1:30-4:30 p.m.

Every other month a group of about 20 from our congregation go to the Greater Chicago Food Depository to spend the afternoon packaging food to be distributed to food shelters around the Chicago area. The work that our group does benefits the North Park Friendship Center, a recipient of the food. Our participants must be 13 and older, must wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. You may sign up on the sheet on the bulletin board next to the kitchen or online on the church website, [www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://www.winnetkacovenant.org). Questions can be directed to Andrea Johnson.

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In a related note, we remind you that we have an ongoing collection of non-perishable foods for the North Park Friendship Center in our church narthex, near the mission display. The other ongoing collections in the mission area are used glasses, to be distributed on the mission fields and used cell phones, for the benefit of abused women.

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## WINNETKA MAILBOX

*We would like to thank all of our friends at Winnetka Covenant for their prayers, cards, and good wishes during Art's surgery and recuperation. We are thankful that he has been doing so well since his surgery.*

*With grateful hearts, Art and Ruth Schmid*



*We are so grateful for the wonderful pastors and congregation at Winnetka Covenant Church. Thank you all for proving just how powerful prayer can be. May God continue to bless those who serve and those being served at WCC.*

*Alice and Frank Kassen*

## FAMILY NEWS

We extend our congratulations to **Britta Olson and Eddie Niziolek** on their recent engagement. They are tentatively planning a May, 2013 wedding.

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### **Winnetka Covenant Preschool News -**

**NEW THIS SUMMER!** Need something fun for your 3-5 year-old preschooler to do after school is done for the summer and before older siblings are out of school? Come to **Nuts About Nature Camp** at Winnetka Covenant Preschool! For five mornings, your child will enjoy a variety of activities celebrating the wonder and beauty of nature and all it has to offer. Their time will be spent mostly outside doing projects, reading, gardening, observing, exploring, playing, digging, having fun with their friends, and much more! Offered May 30th, June 1st, 4th, 6th, and 8th, 9:00-11:15 a.m. \$30/class or \$140 for five days. Your choice of just one day up to all five. Tell your friends, we're going to have some fun! For registration information call Linnea Johnson at 847-446-4300x19 or go to <http://www.winnetkacovenant.org/#/preschool>. Open to all, even if your child has not been a part of our preschool during the school year.

Registration is now open for the 2012/13 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.

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**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.

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**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](mailto: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

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**Graduates in your family?** - In the June edition of the Network we acknowledge the graduates in our congregation. If your family has a high school, college, or grad school graduate this spring, please let us know ([wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com](mailto:wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com)). We would like to know the date of graduation, the school, the college attending in the fall for high school graduates or, for college graduates, the major/degree and future plans if they are known.

## 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.