



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

May, 2013

**Confirmation
Sunday,
May 19**

**Coming in June
Summer
Night Live
Wednesdays,
5, 12, 19, 26**

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Wake Up Call

This morning I found myself at a breakfast for pastors and Church leaders, and got an unexpected wake-up call. It came with the second cup of coffee, when the speaker swung for the fences early, and invaded our collective personal space with the following questions:

Do we really believe that the cross of Christ is the difference between life and death for us and for the world?

Are we being the Church in a way that brings integrity to our "Yes"?

The first question didn't seem to catch anyone off guard, evidenced by the clanking of forks and knives and coffee cups: "Of course, Yes, of course". The second, though, brought a quick, hushed, somewhat awkward silence to the breakfast festivities. We were there for a little bit of advice, for a new thought or idea, for a little bit of inspiration, and honestly, maybe an encouraging pat on the back. What I got, at least, was a wake-up call from a faithful prophet of God. Now, 6 hours later, my mind races, and I feel called to sit in silence and wonder about my absolute, passionate "Yes" and how my life of formation, and witness, and loving reflects (or not) this deep sense that the grace of God in Jesus Christ is life and death stuff, that I am called into the saving work of Christ, with Christ, and that this is to be the central vocation, the central work of my life as a Christian, and that I can't do that work without death and resurrection being at the center of my own story. The grace of God for sinners. New life in Christ.

Another dear friend recently reminded me of our tendency as the Church to let the Good News become old news, and grace a kind of

assumed reality that makes us more than anything comfortable. We need to come back constantly to Grace, to our sin and God's salvation of us, and THIS is what must shape our understanding of what it means to be the Church, and how we approach the ministry Christ is calling us to do.

The old Covenant question "*Are you alive still in Jesus?*" is a good one for us these days. And my prayer is that our "Yes" comes not out of habit, but from hearts warmed up with the good news of a loving God on a cross speaking forgiveness, trampling down our sin, and rising up to raise us up to new life.

A wake-up call is also good news, because as much as it's a challenge, it's also an invitation into a larger conversation and time of discernment and prayer that brings hope for the future.

So join me in reflecting on these questions, and praying about the mission of the Church during these spring days (whenever they happen to arrive!)

Grace and Peace.

Peter Hawkinson

Rotation Sunday School, April 28 - May 19



Calling all kids! Our final rotation of the year is called “The Covenant: Kingdom Parables.” We have some fun and interesting workshops that will help us explore the Parable of the Great Feast.

SUMMARY OF WORKSHOPS

Faith Today: Kids will participate in some role-playing about inclusive/exclusive situations and respond to the role-playing through a choice of art, journal writing, or poetry.

Games: Kids will explore the story in scripture and play several games to express the different elements and ideas of the Parable.

Puppetry: Kids will enact a puppet show based on the book, *The Next Place*.

Where in the World Is?: Kids will connect the Kingdom Parables to the efforts of Family Promise to provide housing for those who don’t have it. They will make *Peace houses* as a reminder that even in their own homes, they can create the Kingdom of God with a peaceful attitude.

Connection to the Yearly Theme: The Covenant builds the relationship between the Kingdom of God on earth and in heaven. The Kingdom of God is what we are striving to create here on earth as we live the life of a Christian, acting on the Covenant that is written on our hearts. The kingdom is the vision that Jesus shared on how we are supposed to relate to each other and to God.

Scripture: Luke 14:15-24

Memory Verse: Blessed is anyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God! Luke 14:15

We look forward to seeing your kids in Sunday School!

Andrea Johnson

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.

Sunday mornings, 9:30 in the Upper Room

“Holy, Human Stories to Connect With”

May 5, 12, & 19

Art Nelson, teacher

Come and see how “YOUR Story” fits.

Year-end Schedule Changes

Wednesday, May 15 will be the final night of Wednesday evening activities.

A Joyful Celebration, May 26, 9:30

Sunday school groups of all ages come together!

We’ll gather in the Upper Room for refreshments, singing and reflection, and sharing about what we’ve experienced in Sunday School this year, and what we’ll take with us.

On **Sunday, June 2** we change to summer hours, with 9:30 worship and the all-church picnic immediately following.

Music Notes



Today I'm still waiting, but when you read this there will be lots of flowers and trees blooming. The children have been excitedly telling me about all the signs of Spring as they prepare to sing "All Things Bright and Beautiful" on Mother's Day, May 12.

May is 'home' to the family highlights of Mother's Day and Confirmation (19th), and in scripture this year we also focus on John's encouragement to love one another as well as his later Revelation of the Holy City. Choir will sing the rousing spiritual, "Goin' to the Holy City" May 5. The annual Spring trip of Holy Days: Ascension, Pentecost, and Trinity Sundays all occur in May this year (12, 19 and 26). Ralph Vaughn Williams set a beautiful text by Caroline M. Noel in 1927 titled "At the Name of Jesus." This beautiful text, both an invitation and affirmation of faith encompasses the breadth of these Holy Days - we will sing it on Ascension Day.

*At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow,
Every tongue confess him King of glory now;
'Tis the Father's pleasure we should call him Lord,
Who from the beginning was the might Word.*

*At his voice creation sprang at once to sight,
All the Angel faces, all the hosts of light,
Thrones and dominations, stars upon their way
All the heavenly orders, in their great array.*

*Humbled for a season, to receive a name
From the lips of sinners unto whom he came,
Faithfully he bore it spotless to the last,
Brought it back victorious when from death he passed.*

*Bore it up triumphant with its human light,
Through all ranks of creatures, to the central height
To the throne of Godhead, to the father's breast;
Filled it with the glory of that perfect rest.*

*Name him, brothers, name him, with love as strong as death,
But with awe and wonder, and with bated breath;
He is God the Saviour, He is Christ the Lord,
Ever to be worshiped, trusted, and adored.*

*In your hearts enthrone him, there let him subdue
All that is not holy, all that is not true:
Crown him as your captain in temptation's hour;
Let his will enfold you in its light and power.*

*Brothers, this Lord Jesus shall return again,
With his Father's glory, with his Angel train;
For all wreaths of empire meet upon his brow,
And our hearts confess him King of glory now.*

Singing with glorious confidence in our Lord, Saviour, King and Word,

Dawn

The Winnetka Covenant Church financial summary through March 2013:

As of end of March 2013, we are still below targeted giving and significantly less that same time last year (March 2012). Fortunately in the first week of April, a few generous gifts were given which has helped our financial giving year to date short-fall. Our financial summary is highlighted below.

Ø YTD Financials

- General Fund Giving and Receipts through March 2013 - \$237,091
§ Receipts to date are 17% below planned budget.
- Expenses are 1% above 2013 planned budget.
- Operating funds and cash are 18% below 2012, at this time.

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2013 Actual	2012 Actual	%	2013 Budget	%
General Fund					
Receipts	\$ 237,091	\$ 262,958	90%	\$286,625	83%
Expenses	\$ 305,519	\$ 276,139	110%	\$302,245	101%
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	(\$ 68,427)	(\$13,181)			

	<u>3/31/2013</u>	<u>3/31/2012</u>
General Fund Cash	\$(60,835)	\$(28,827)
Building Fund	3,050	3,050
Exchange Fund	86,059	143,212
Depreciation Set Aside	40,865	40,842
Memorial Fund	103,824	51,512
Petty Cash	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>
Total	\$173,091	\$209,917

Ø Expenses are higher based on planned salary and pastoral expenses, plant expense (air conditioner lien release and snow removal), and music expenses.

Ø Capital Projects

- o WCC sign committee has been formed and have started signage requirements development and discussion.
- o Recommendation to revise the WCC-Hawkinson shared equity agreement. Option to share capital expenses current and future on the 210 Lockerbie Lane home. Pending congregational vote.

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 Roger Schmitt, WCC Treasurer or Kelly Quackenbush, Financial Secretary with any questions.

Trustee Notes

- There is a committee hard at work planning the refurbishing and expansion of our existing playground into a Playground and Greenspace. It's an exciting project which will result in a well-designed outdoor play/learning space that will be utilized by multiple groups throughout the year. To find out more about the project, including the projected design of the space, please go to the website (www.winnetkacovenant.org). The total cost of the project will be about \$70,000, half of which has already been raised. We are currently accepting donations and pledges to be fulfilled over 3 years. Pledges can be made online at the web site or pick up a pledge card in the office.
- WCC participates in the every-member subscription plan for the Covenant Companion, our denomination's monthly magazine. If you are able to reimburse the church for the cost of your subscription (\$18) it is greatly appreciated.
- More and more people are going electronic these days. If you would prefer to receive your Network each month by e-mail, please contact wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com to make that happen.

Youth News & Dates

Junior High

Junior High Youth Ministry:

Wednesday evenings, 6:15 -7:45p.m.

May 1, 8, 15, 22 (the 22nd will be the last youth group of the school year!)

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

Merge: May 6, 20 (last of the school year)

Confirmation: Presentation of faith papers on the 17th, and Confirmation Sunday on the 19th.

A Just Harvest: May 16th. Meet at WCC at 4:15, return by 7:30 p.m. Signups on the bulletin board.

*Christy Bouris, Youth Pastor
Winnetka Covenant Church
christy.bouris@gmail.com
847-446-4300*

Parent Gathering: Monday, May 20th, 7-8:15 p.m.
The last one of the school year. All parents of jr. and sr. high students are welcome. This month, the chair of New Trier's Social Work Department will be with us to address the issue of teen anxiety. Please join us.

Senior High

Senior High Youth Ministry:

Sundays, 7-9p.m. May 5, 12, 19, 26 - regular meetings

High School Sunday School offering: book group

Coffee: Wednesdays, May 1. 8. 15, after school

Wedding Shower: Thursday, May 2nd, for Brent Strobel and Eva Larson, at 7 p.m.

Senior Night: Sunday, May 12th. All students from High League are invited, along with the parents of the graduating seniors.

A Just Harvest: May 16th.. Meet at WCC at 4:15, return by 7:30 p.m. Signups on the bulletin board.

Local Missions

A Just Harvest

Would you like to participate in community gardening around the Howard Street area? Would you like to see how A Just Harvest's Genesis Project is working with youth and young adults to cultivate these gardens? Join us on **Saturday, May 11th anytime between 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. for Planting the Seeds for Change: Community Involvement & Supply Donation Day** at 7647 N. Paulina, Chicago (an open lot south of A Just Harvest). Children are welcome! We'll have gardening activities for children and plants for sale (including petunias, impatiens, kitchen herbs, tomatoes, peppers, eggplant, broccoli, and cabbage). We will also accept donations of garden equipment. For more information or for a wish list of needed supplies, visit <http://www.ajustharvest.org/may11>.

WCC Community Kitchen Preparation Days
Thursday, May 2 - 1:30 p.m.,
Ted Garrison, contact person
Thursday, May 16 - 1:30 p.m.,
John Anderson, contact person

Ongoing donation opportunities

(all drop-offs in the mission display area of the narthex):

Used glasses: If you have glasses you are no longer using, a missionary medical team can take them to an area of need. These glasses are taken to our mission fields and are used by local residents in various countries.

Local Social Services

A new feature for the Network, we will highlight congregation members who work for local social service organizations. As you read, please keep these people in mind as you go about your daily lives and possibly meet people who might need these services. If you work for such an organization and would like to be featured, please let me know at wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com.

Megan Orlandino works for The Catholic Charities Maternity and Adoption Services. Here is their mission statement: "Catholic Charities Maternity & Adoption Services has resources to serve teens, women and their families facing unplanned pregnancies. We're here to help, without pressuring you. We can help you whether you decide to parent your child, or make a plan of adoption. If you are not sure what to do, our 24-hour hotline has caring & professional counselors available to help you. Our services are free and confidential. 1-800-CARE-002 or 312-454-1717

Non-perishable food: Food is always being collected and given to the North Park Friendship Center food pantry.

Cell phones: Cell phones you no longer use are donated and used to benefit at-risk women and help the environment in the process.

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 **May 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, is now meeting on the third Tuesday of each month at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. The **May meeting will be on the 23rd**. 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.

Registration materials for the Central Conference Fall Fellowship Women's Retreat is now available. Forms and information are on the bulletin board in the main hallway. Dates for the retreat are September 13-15 or September 20-22, 2013, and it will be held at Covenant Harbor. The speaker will be Judy Peterson, North Park University Campus Pastor and the theme is Unlocked. "You will have complete and free access to God's Kingdom, keys to open any and every door." (Matthew 16:19). Information is available at www.wmcc2gether.com.

Men's Ministry News

Opportunities for service and fellowship occur throughout the year.

Men's Fellowship -

The group usually meets on the first three Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m. The men's fellowship is primarily a discussion group and has been a rewarding way for men to probe and share their spiritual lives. Questions should be addressed to Richard Spears.

Tuesday & Thursday Bible Studies -

Tuesday, April 30 is the final day for the Tuesday morning Bible Study. Participants will go out for lunch following the meeting and will then resume in the fall.

Thursday, May 2 is the final day for the Thursday afternoon Bible Study and will also then resume in the fall.

Bridal Shower:

Thursday, May 2 at 7:00 p.m. All women of the church, along with hi-leaguers past and present (male and female) are invited to a shower for **Eva Larson and Brent Strobel** as we offer thanks and gratitude for their commitment during the last four years as high-league counselors. They have provided unwavering continuity supporting our youth during the staff changes of the last two years!

Join us to help them celebrate their upcoming wedding.

Men's Singing Ensemble -

The group will be part of worship services occasionally, as needed. Tenors, basses and baritones of **all ages** are welcome. Communication is by e-mail. Please e-mail Gary Stenstrom for information.

Men's Work Crew Call

Painters, carpenters, and service project workers will be recruited as the needs arise. Answering the call for participation is purely voluntary and always for a good cause.

Confirmation Sunday is May 19

All are invited to church on Friday, May 17 at 7:00 for the presentation of faith papers by this year's confirmands.

Congratulations to this year's confirmands:

Brinn Anderson	Robbie Kelly
Greta Eanes	Annika Magnusson
Olivia Engling	Leif Schultz
Jimmie Hall	Amanda Stenstrom
Kari Hoglund	Katie Wiberg
Britta Johnson	

Mailbox

Thanks to the many people who helped make the Rummage Sale a success - to those who donated, those who spent time during the week helping to set up and making pickups at people's homes, those who baked, those who worked the day of the sale, and those who shopped. Once again it was a great example of the church coming together for a wonderful cause. We took a phone call in the office a couple of days after the sale and the caller was very complimentary about how nice and friendly everyone was while she was shopping.

Dear Winnetka Covenant Friends,

Ruby and I want to express our genuine gratitude for your concern and prayers for her health and confinement. Thank you for the cards, flowers, well wishes and visits by the diaconate, Art Nelson and especially Pastor Peter Hawkinson.

May God bless you for your goodness.

Ruby and Doug Anderson

Friends,

I enjoyed the Easter Lily so much. Thanks again.

Love, Millie Swenson

Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- **Elizabeth and Mike Schwartz** on the birth, April 11, of **Theolinda Eileene** Schwartz. Thea weighed 7 lb., 10 oz. and was 20-1/4 inches long. She joins her brother Matthew, at home and John & Jeanne Couleur are her happy grandparents.
- **Holly and Andy McGregor** on the birth of **Filippa Sweetpea** McGregor. Pippa was born April 13, weighed 9 lb., 15 oz., and joins her sister Tekla at home. Her grandmothers are Marcia McGregor and Beth Rolander.
- **Tim and Sarah Johnson**, who welcomed **Owen Mack** Johnson on April 14. Owen was 7-1/2 lbs. and 22 inches. Joan Johnson is his proud grandmother.
- **Susan Johnson and Maxwell Fry**, on their recent engagement. They will be married this summer in Vail, Colorado, where they both reside. Susan is the daughter of Joan Johnson.

Graduations

Congratulations to our friends and members who are graduating from college and graduate school this spring. They are:

- Jonathan Hall, graduating on May 18th from Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas with a degree in Finance and Sports Management.
- Erin Isaacson, who will graduate from Valparaiso University on May 19. Erin has earned a BS in Kinesiology.
- Courtney Sharp graduates May 23 from The Peabody Conservatory of The Johns Hopkins University with a masters degree in cello performance. She will be pursuing teaching/performing opportunities in the Milwaukee area where she will be marrying Kevin Najimi in September.
- Madeline Sharp, who will graduate on May 24 from The Juilliard School with a masters degree in viola performance. Beginning in September she will be performing with New World Symphony in Miami, FL.
- Sam Vanoer, graduating on May 19 from Marquette University with his BA in Secondary Education.

Best wishes to each of these young adults as they begin this exciting time of their lives.

There was a red wool blazer donated to the rummage sale that had a pin on the lapel. It was a gold leaf-shaped pin with multi-color oval stones. In case someone donated the blazer without meaning to donate the pin, we kept the pin in the church office and you can get it there. If you donated the blazer meaning to donate the pin also, please let us know that as well.

Winnetka Covenant Church Network

1200 Hibbard Road
Wilmette, Illinois, 60091

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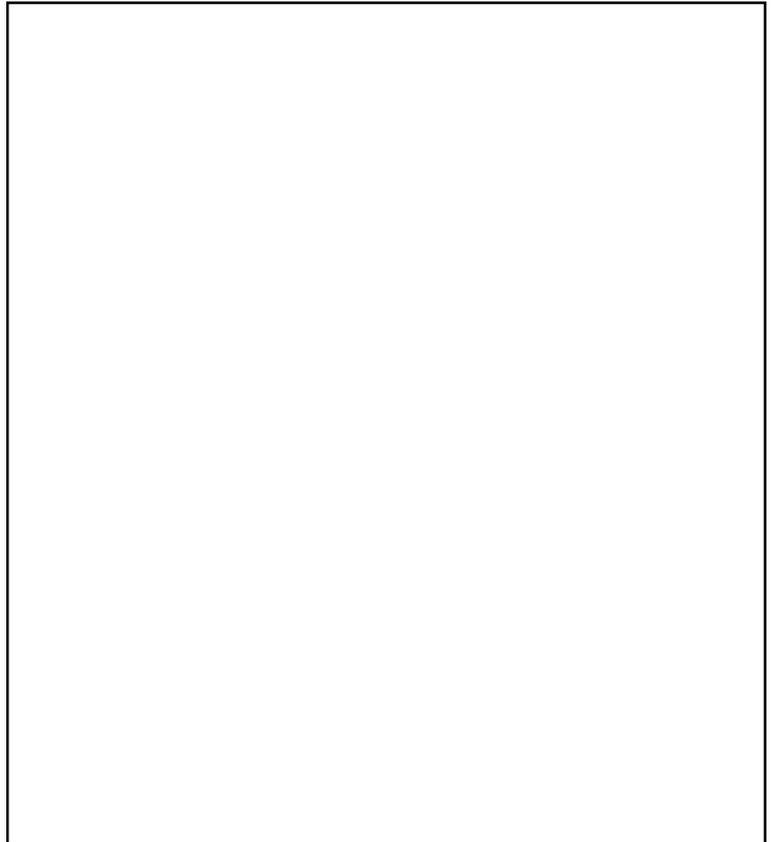
www.winnetkacovenant.org

Our Mission

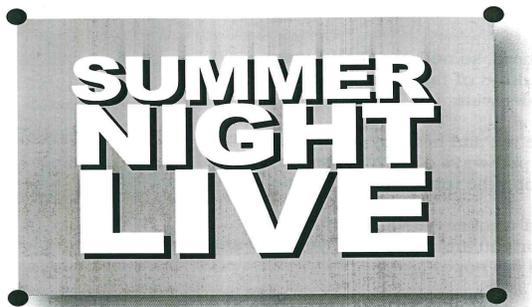
To be a Christian community and to proclaim
the gospel, Worshiping together in love,
Nurturing people in faith,
serving others as Christian disciples,
And building a world of justice and hope
in the name of Christ.

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.



LIVE from WINNETKA COVENANT CHURCH, it's...

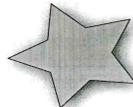


starring:

you • your family • your neighbors • people of all ages

featuring:

fellowship • activities • music • games



6-8pm • rain or shine
Wednesdays • June 5th, 12th, 19th & 26th
at WINNETKA COVENANT
bring your own picnic • dessert provided

QUESTIONS? contact the church office at 847.446.4300 ...and don't forget to bring your blankets & chairs!