



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

November, 2013

Living the Truth

November 2
Harvest Dinner
&
Winnetka's
Got Talent

November 17
Quarterly
Business Meeting

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During my last year of seminary, Bishop William Willimon came and preached at a lecture series on money. Not always the most popular topic of conversation—inside or outside of the church. Willimon began his sermon, “The most honest sentence in the most honest, truthful book that I know, namely Flaubert’s Madame Bovary, is, ‘Of all the winds that blow upon love, the coldest is the request for money.’” I agree with this preacher – the discussion always gets interesting with money. Scripture has a lot to say here, and Jesus talked about it as it related to the kingdom of God.

I confess, when the topics of money and giving come up in the church, I want to talk around the subject or ignore it. It’s no wonder Jesus focuses more on money than any other subject in his teaching. North Park Theological Seminary professor Klyne Snodgrass notes, “No aspect of Jesus’ teaching is so confrontational and so difficult to implement as his teaching on money.” Which makes a Network article on stewardship no easy task. When Bishop Willimon preached, I sat in the pew, and he made me think. But, I know that isn’t enough – “thinking.” Especially because he spoke to that very response. Thinking about money, and even telling the truth about how we have not used it in ways that fully reflect the kingdom – these are good things! But they are not the whole of what Jesus calls us to do. Willimon said to us, “Jesus Christ enables us to tell the truth about ourselves. Not simply to be honest, repentant, and guilt ridden – but so that we can live the truth about ourselves. And its not enough in this phase just to stand up and be honest about my sin...I’ve also got to take up the disciplines that enable me to live a more sanctified, holy life.”

So, truthfully – money is tricky and dangerous. And it is important, and something Jesus pays attention to. We need to pay attention to it because Jesus does. What do my financial habits reveal about me? About you? About us? What would it look like to listen more closely to Jesus and bear witness to the Good News in thought, word, and deed as it pertains to our assets? Following Christ touches everything in our lives and his teachings are far from metaphorical or optional. They call us to respond.

Willimon reflects at the end of his sermon, “Money reveals the truth about us. But let us also say that in the hands of Jesus Christ it’s also an encouragement to live the *truth* in adventurous new ways.” We are called to be a community who lives a different way. And we need each other. As a fellow follower, I invite you to remind me of Jesus’ words as I seek to enact this important part of the Good News.

Christy Bouris

Children's Rotation Sunday School

What is it?

We're now in another great year of Rotation Sunday School. What is Rotation Sunday School? This curriculum style focuses on teaching major Bible stories and concepts through kid-friendly, multi-media workshops, such as: art, drama, music, cooking, puppets, storytelling, games, audio-visual, and woodworking. Children learn the same Bible story four consecutive weeks, rotating to a different workshop each week. Personal connection, familiarity and continuity are provided by a volunteer called a "shepherd." These individuals accompany the children each week and focus on building relationships.

2013-2014 Theme: THE WORD OF GOD

The Word of God, as passed on to us through the Bible and the lives of the faithful, is a multifaceted jewel providing for us many different ways to enter into the story of faith. It is from these words that we receive guidance and support as we travel on the journey of faith. From the ancient text of Genesis to the power of Revelation God's word continues to be relevant to our lives.

November/December Rotation Sunday School

Beginning Sunday, November 10 and going through December 15, kids age 4 through grade 5 will spend the first 40 minutes of Sunday School practicing for the Sunday School Christmas program in the choir room with Dawn Pegis. The last 20 minutes of the hour they will be in room 203 enjoying stories for the Christmas season and working on creating art for the Christmas program. Parents may pick up children from room 203 at 10:30 a.m.

Share your faith and gifts with our kids by leading a workshop! Being a workshop leader is a great way to share your gifts with our kids. Less preparation is involved than traditional teaching, as you will prepare the same lesson for each of three age groups, and lead the workshop just three Sundays. Choose a workshop that connects with your skills or interests, and discover how you can share faith with our kids in a fun and meaningful way! Contact pastor Andrea if you're interested or would like any information about workshops we're doing this year.

Sunday School Christmas Program

"Christmas Around the World" will be the theme of this year's Children's Sunday School Christmas program on December 15. If you have a Nativity scene, especially of a particular national or ethnic character, and would be willing to share it for display from the afternoon of December 7 through Epiphany, January 6, please contact Dawn or the office.

Fall Adult Sunday School

**"American Christianity:
From the Puritans to Billy Graham"
October 27-November 24
Taught by Kurt Peterson**

Kurt will be relating concepts from the past to our present experiences today. For example, when we study the Puritans, we will discuss the relationship between church and state. When we talk about the mid-19th century, we will talk about how slaveholders and the opponents of slavery read the Bible, relating that to how people today read scripture as well. When we talk about modern evangelicalism, we will talk about ecumenism and other faiths.



Music Notes



Blessed be the Lord of the Harvest

God's creation declares the blessings of His glorious and bountiful harvest. Thanks be to God indeed!

As Christians, we gather to hear and proclaim God's Word. "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing" We worship - lifting our hearts and voices to God in praise.

With our ears still filled with Reformation sounds - brilliant brass, glorious organ, voices of choir and congregation, and prophetic Word - we look forward now to a month of thanksgiving from All Saints to Christ the King.

November highlights include:

Nov 2 - Celebrating the talents of Winnetka Covenanters will be the focus of this year's Harvest Dinner program on SATURDAY (November 2) at 5:00. Come prepared for FUN!

Nov 3 - Choir sings John Ylvisaker's "Shine Like the Sun" with lovely violin improvisation by Nancy Magill. Offertory features Marilyn Ham's setting "Jesus Lover of My Soul/Like a River Glorious" by Janet Eckhardt and I. Choir concludes, surrounding like a 'cloud of witnesses' singing:

God be in my head and in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes, and in my looking;
God be in my mouth, and in my speaking;
God be in my heart, and in my thinking;
God be at mine end, and at my departing.

Nov 10 & 17 - We'll continue to enjoy the budding musical leadership of our interns, Dimitri German and Steven Braun as they each direct again in November.

Nov 24 - Christ the King Sunday - Alice Parker's "Ride on, King Jesus" features Steven on tenor solo.

"Let your heart now be filled with gladness."

Joyfully yours, Dawn

Winnetka Interfaith Council Service of Thanksgiving

Tuesday Evening, November 26, 2013 at 7:30 p.m.

Featured Speaker

Dr. Harold Sulkin

Chancellor Emeritus

Spertus Institute of Jewish Studies

Interfaith Choir

Directed by

Dr. Robert Harris

Hosted By

Winnetka Congregational Church

725 Pine Street, Winnetka, 847-441-3400

Financial & Non-Perishable Food Donations

New Trier Angel Food Pantry

Financial Donations

Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions

The Winnetka Covenant Church Financial Summary through September, 2013:

As of the end of September 2013, we are still significantly below budgeted giving and less than the same time last year (September 2012). We are keeping expenses below budget, but not enough to offset our giving shortfall. We now have over a \$100K deficit to make up! Thank you to those who have already responded and for others, please help us catch up.

» YTD Financials

- General Fund Giving and Receipts through September 2013 - \$706,860
 § Receipts to date are 18% below planned budget.
- Expenses are slightly less than with the 2013 planned budget.
- Cash position due to memorial and exchange funds is still good.

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2013 Actual	2012 Actual	%	2013 Budget	%
General Fund Receipts	\$ 706,860	\$ 754,872	94%	\$858,699	82%
Expenses	\$ 814,390	\$ 772,182	105%	\$832,091	98%
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	(\$107,529)	(\$17,309)			

	<u>9/30/2013</u>
General Fund Cash	\$(108,259)
Building Fund	3,050
Exchange Fund	103,991
Depreciation Set Aside	40,875
Memorial Fund	248,873
Petty Cash	<u>125</u>
Total	\$228,657

» Projects

- o WCC sign committee has signed the contract and engaged the C Johnson Sign Company. This project is primarily funded by the C. Erland memorial. Contact M. Spellman or R. Nelson with any questions.
- o WCC playground committee is moving forward with phase 1 (final drawings, costs and permits). Contact L. Johnson or B. Anderson with any questions.
- o Initial bids for a WCC property landscape design are being requested. Contact K. Kovacic, P.A. Nelson or R. Schmitt with any questions.

The WCC Board of Trustees monthly financial reports and meeting minutes can be provided by the church office. Please contact Roger Schmitt, WCC Treasurer or Kelly Quackenbush, Financial Secretary with any questions.

Youth Ministry Dates

Sr. High League - November 3, 10, 17 (North Side Youth Collision), and 24 - 6:30-8:30 p.m.
 Junior High Youth Ministry - November 6, 13, and 20 during Wednesday night activities
 Coffee (High School) - November 13 and 20 - 3:30 p.m. (no coffee on the 6th or the 27th)
 Dude and Ladydudefest (High School guys and gals overnights) - November 1 through the 2nd
 Winnetka's Got Talent and Harvest Dinner - November 2
 Jr. High North Side Youth Collision event - November 8
 Parent Gathering - November 18th, 7:30

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

Missions

Mission of the Month - Ethiopia

(Each month the mission committee will be featuring a Mission or Missionary that is supported by our church. Bill and Terese Hunt visited Ethiopia in September.) Terese writes:

Bill and I just spent ten days in Ethiopia in September. Ethiopia is changing a lot - cell phones and skyscrapers - but the needs are still huge. Bill feels the best thing he can do is provide jobs in a city where the unemployment rate is reported to be an astounding 80%! He visits our factory where we produce athletic uniforms, employing 500 people, and investigates other ventures such as producing baseballs. Lots of meetings and negotiations.

We visited the CHAMPRO School and, even though it was a holiday, received a warm welcome. We brought money for new desks, provided in part by WCC. Education is an invaluable gift - along with clean water. We had the privilege of seeing the water flow, also assisted by WCC, and hear the stories of how this clean water source has improved the lives, health, and safety on the mountainside. Please visit aglimmerofhope.org/OurWork/Karsa to see the water flow.

Local Missions

Upcoming opportunities to serve:

Saturday, November 9 there are 2 opportunities:

8:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. - Work morning at Cornerstone Community Shelter. Help renovate a room into a computer lab and children's play room. Work includes cleaning, painting, carpentry, and assembling computer tables and chairs. Anyone over age 13 is welcome to help (age 10 & up if accompanied by a parent). We'll carpool from the church parking lot at 8:00. Contact Jeff Johnson .

1:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. - Volunteer at The Greater Chicago Food Depository. Come help package food to be distributed to local food pantries. Our work benefits the North Park Friendship Center. Age 13 and up are welcome. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required.

Please see the back page for an exciting month-long opportunity sponsored by the Trailblazers.

We are trying to figure out how to start a church in the area as many of the people are animist (pre-Christian) or Coptic Christians. They need the living Christ! Anyone interested?

When Bill is attending meetings, I serve at the feeding station sponsored by Hope Enterprises (HopeEnterprises.org). Visit the website and view the YouTube on street children. It's said to be the only soup kitchen on the continent of Africa and feeds 1,000 of the poorest of the poor every day. It's an incredible organization which manages to do this for U.S. \$50/day! Helping prepare and serve lunch to the lame leading the blind, lepers, and street children gives me joy even though I have to blink back the tears. Half a dozen WCC members shared the joy with me several years ago. I know these people would eat even if I weren't there but I **MUST BE THERE** when I can. I tear up again thinking of them as I write.

So food, water, education, jobs, and Jesus - that's what we're trying to provide for a few people in Ethiopia. Thank you for your help.

Fundraisers for Family Promise - two opportunities in November to help Family Promise:

Sunday, November 3, 4:00 p.m.

Concert by Dr. Aaron Stampfl (piano) & Jenny Jung (violin) First Presbyterian Church of Wilmette. Donations will be received.

Tuesday, November 12, Pizza at Lou Malnati's in Wilmette and Evanston. 20% of your bill will be donated to Family Promise. The fundraising form must accompany your order. These can be picked up in the office or e-mail wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com and we will send you one.

WCC Community Kitchen Preparation Days

Thursday, November 7 - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, November 21 - 1:00 p.m.

WCC Community Kitchen Serving Day

Thursday, November 21 - 4:30 p.m.

Quarterly Congregational Business Meeting

Following church on Sunday, November 17, please plan to stay for a quarterly business meeting. Childcare will be provided.

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. & Sharing Group Luncheon -

The Quilting and Sharing Groups will join together for their annual holiday luncheon at Graziano's on **Thursday, November 7 at 12:00**. Please make reservations now with either Esther Johnson or Marian Eckhardt.

Stitch and Study -

Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, prayer, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, meets on the third Tuesday of each month at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. 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. The next meeting will be **November 19**.

Thursday Bible Study -

Thursday afternoon Bible Study, 1:00-2:45 in the church Library will continue through November 21 studying: "Breaking Free: The Journey, The Stories," by Beth Moore.

"This in-depth Bible study leads you through Isaiah 61:1-4 to discover the transforming power of Christian freedom by drawing parallels between the captive Israelites and the spiritual strongholds in our lives." Our format includes reviewing and discussing each week's homework, viewing the DVD Bible teaching & closing with prayers for one another.

Member Books are \$15.95 (plus shipping and tax) through Lifeway.com ****ensure to order the updated edition**** Please plan on joining us!! All are welcome, please invite your friends. Questions, please contact Claire Macfarland.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study -

The Tuesday Morning Women's Bible Study is studying, from the book of Isaiah, "Watchman on the Walls." Study Guides are available in the church office. All women are welcome. Come at 9:30 for the study, or at 9:15 for coffee and conversation. Questions? Contact Joann Larson.

Women's Retreat

The date set for our **retreat** is **January 31-February 2, 2014**, held at Geneva Bay Center at Covenant Harbor. This year we are pleased that we will have our own **Judi Geake as the speaker** for the retreat. Judi has done extensive work in the area of personality types and her topic for the weekend will be "How Our Personality Affects Our Spirituality." She writes: "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John all looked at the ministry of Jesus through the eyes of their individuality, giving us four different insights into the personality and teaching of Jesus. On this weekend retreat we will look at who God created us to be, how our prayer life can be enriched by looking at the differences between the major New Testament writers, and how that information relates to our everyday lives as women." If you have never been to the retreat, this would be a great year to give it a try. If it is something you do every year and wouldn't miss it, why not look around and see if there's someone new to the church that you could invite to come with you.

The registration deadline is November 4th, with the last day of registration November 3rd. We are also looking for people to help on the planning committee. If you are interested, please call or e-mail Joan Wallgren.

Lucia Breakfast, Pageant, and Boutique - Saturday, December 7

Planning for our Lucia Festival is well underway. We will take reservations for the breakfast on November 10 (and on the 17th if there are still any open spots). The Pageant, following the breakfast, is open to all with no reservations. The boutique, featuring Swedish deli and bakery items, as well as hand-crafted items by our own congregation's friends and members, will follow the pageant. Contact Jane Rivi if you are interested in having a table in the boutique. In addition, please watch the bulletins for the times and dates for cookie-baking sessions, baking spritz and pepparkakor for the breakfast and sale. If you would like to volunteer to help with any aspect of Lucia, please contact Inger Eiesland-Schultz.

Lumunos Fundraising Gathering

Lumunos is an organization empowering people to explore, discern, and act on their many gifts and calls in the complexity of their daily lives for the good of God's world. They will be sponsoring a fundraising gathering at Pinstripes on Willow Road in Northbrook on Sunday, November 10, from 4-7 p.m. Questions, contact Peter A Nelson or Jed Bassett.

Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- **Colin Quackenbush and Sarah Whims** on their recent engagement, out in Seattle. They are planning for an August, 2014 wedding.
- **Ryan and Megan Hunt** on the birth of **Kira Jean**, born October 7 and weighing 8 lb., 10 oz. She joins her big sister Sara at home. Bill & Terese Hunt are Kira's grandparents.

Best wishes to each of these families as they begin new chapters in their lives.

Men's Ministries News

Opportunities for service and fellowship occur throughout the year, some on a regular schedule, others 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. All men are invited to participate. November's programs are:

Nov. 2 - Brian Madvig, "Fear and Hate"

Nov. 9 - Participate in Cornerstone work project (see page 5)

Nov. 16 - Art Nelson, topic to be announced.

Men's Work Crew - Painting parties, carpentry projects, and service projects are a regular part of the Men's Ministries. Workers will be recruited as the needs arise.

Men's Share and Support - If you're expecting a medical procedure, test, treatment, or new medication, get connected to someone who's been there and done that. Pastor Hawkinson will try to link you to someone with experiences to share and who can help turn anxiety into anticipation. Men who are willing to share and support, please contact Pastor Hawkinson

Upcoming Events:

The Board of Directors and Executive Director Joey Ekberg of the North Park Friendship Center are pleased to invite you to an **Open House** at our new partner pantry, the **Lincoln Square Friendship Center**, 2733 W. Lawrence, on Sunday, November 10 from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. Come have a cup of coffee, meet Director Heidi Bush, and learn how we all can play a part in fighting hunger in our community!

Women Ministries of the Central Conference Leadership Development Workshop -

Saturday, November 2, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Church of the Good Shepherd Evangelical Covenant in Crest Hill, IL
Information about this gathering is posted on the bulletin board in the main hallway at the church. Please look there for registration forms.

Holly Fair at Covenant Village of Northbrook, 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

All are invited to this annual fundraising event at Covenant Village. Come and shop the selection of antiques, collectibles, needlework, jewelry, framed art, books, woodcrafts, Christmas decorations, baked goods and edibles, and handmade crafts. Enjoy the coffee shop with Swedish pastries and refreshments. For more information, call 847-480-6380.

It has been several years since our last photo directory was made and we are badly in need of a new one. We are looking for several people who would be willing to form a committee and oversee the production of a new photo directory. This is a short-term commitment but a very important one. If you like to organize, then this is the opportunity for you!

Winnetka Covenant Church provides a subscription to the Covenant Companion to each member family in the congregation. If you would like to reimburse the church for the cost of your subscription, the cost is \$18 and can be given by check (with Covenant Companion on the memo line) or online.

Winnetka Covenant Church Network

1200 Hibbard Road
Wilmette, Illinois, 60091

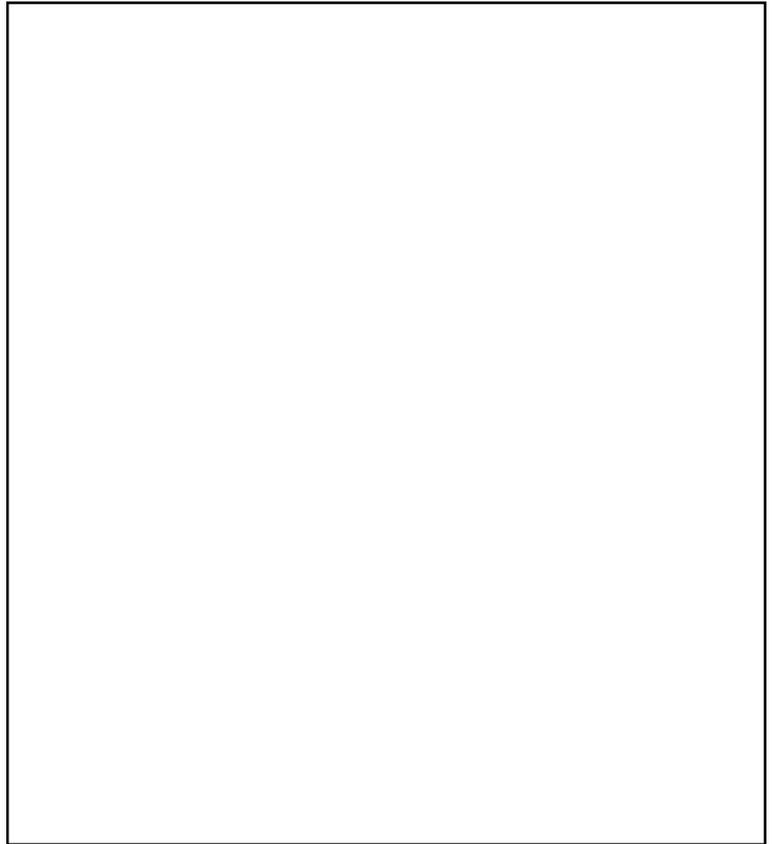
847-446-4300
www.winnetkacovenant.org

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.



Can we do it? Yes we CAN!!!

In the past year Cornerstone Community Outreach has provided over 200,000 meals and more than 20,000 food bags for the homeless in Chicago. Here's a chance where we can help! This year our Trailblazer group (Grades 3-5) is pushing to help Cornerstone increase their ability to help the men, women and children who each day wonder when their next meal is. Can we do it? Yes we CAN!!!! On Wednesday November 20th Trailblazers will be joining with Cornerstone and helping fight against hunger in Chicago. We hope to fill the van with more cans and dried food than Cornerstone has ever received!

Help us collect and get the word out! Trailblazer kids will be out in the narthex on Sundays after worship to collect any donations. There will also be boxes set up for convenient drop-off during the week. Want to help us reach out even further? Grab a bag from the narthex and ask your neighbors or contact Nadia Jimenez or Dan Hoglund for more information on how you can help! If you'd prefer to give a monetary donation, make checks out to Winnetka Covenant Church and write "Trailblazer Food Drive" in the memo.

To find out more about Cornerstone Community Outreach, go to <http://www.ccolife.org/statistics/>