



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

October, 2012

**Early Worship
and
Holy
Communion
begin
October 7,
8:30 a.m.**

**Fall
Congregational
Meeting
October 7,
11:45 a.m.**

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CHIC Reflections

Last summer we had the opportunity to travel to Knoxville, Tennessee to attend the denomination's triennial youth event - CHIC, or Covenant High in Christ. The week holds many big and small moments: bus ride conversations on the way to white water rafting, large worship experiences, challenging questions and professions of faith. Twenty-seven people from our congregation shared this experience, and here is an opportunity to hear from two different voices and their experiences at CHIC. I'm grateful for CHIC, as someone who benefited from CHIC as a high school student back in 1997. For those of you who will be attending in the future, or sending your children - I hope these voices encourage you with what's to come! — *Christy Bouris*

By Liesel Magnusson -

I had the unique opportunity to attend CHIC twice, in 2009 and again in 2012. I have been asked many times if I enjoyed one more than the other, or if I felt that one was more powerful, or which activities were better. The truth is, both were amazing, and simply cannot be compared because they offered many different types of experiences. CHIC 2012 was incredible because it was an opportunity to grow my relationships with old and new friends and

deepen my relationship with God.

Spending time with friends, both old and new, reminded me of the wonderful community to which I belong. The Christian faith is all about community, the relationships we have with each other and with God. The thing that sets CHIC apart is that it provides the opportunity to see and experience our gigantic community and be one of the thousands of high school students coming to Tennessee to worship the same awesome God together. (cont., pg 3)

By Samantha Yang -

When preparing myself for CHIC, I knew that it was going to be something amazing. From the minute I initially heard about it in church to all the individual memories people had told me about it, I knew it would be a time that I would never be able to forget. In addition to listening and asking about what to pack or what the experience would be like, I knew I had to prepare myself mentally and physically. It seems like every time I go on a church retreat I go through the same motions of making several lists and adding a sudden surge of entries into my journal. Often, when getting caught up in the motions, I find myself lost in the excitement and forgetting the main point of what I am preparing for. In preparing for CHIC, I can remember myself making an effort to ask God to use the

whole week to infuse me with his love, wisdom, and above all, to help me hear him with not only my ears, but my heart. When the time finally came, CHIC proved to be even more of a test of my faith in God because the day before I received some news that unsettled my mind and heart. It was in that moment that I knew that God wanted me to open up to him, tell him everything and listen for his words.

During the week God continued to test my relationship with him and often times it felt like I was starting from square one, but I knew that I had to persist and just go with what God had planned. Every night, speakers would give us different questions (that Jesus asked in the Gospels) and from those questions came some of the most life-changing encounters with (cont., pg 2)

Rotation Sunday School, October 14, 21, 28, and November 4

The Covenant: Abraham

Workshops:

Kingdom Characters: Abraham will use a sand map to tell his story of travel and encounters with God. Kids will create a banner using sand art to reinforce our connection with Abraham.

Art: Kids will hear the story of the visit of the three strangers to the Oaks of Mamre. Choosing a scripture verse that reminds each child of the Covenant promise, create a decoupage reminder of our own connection to the Covenant.

Moved by the Spirit: Kids will experience the nomadic lifestyle of Abraham and Sarah as they erect and dismantle the campsite with each new phase of the story. Ultimately they get to the Promised Land.

Puppetry: Kids will perform the story of Abraham, Sara and Hagar using a “promise” song.

We look forward to seeing your kids in Sunday School this month! Visit the church website to see pictures of the Noah’s Ark workshops in action. And encourage your kids to bring their offering each week. We’re aiming to raise \$700 for the North Park Friendship Center food pantry.



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, or on Wednesday nights, 6:45-7:45 p.m.



Justice for the Poor continues on Sunday mornings at 9:30 in the Upper Room

October 7: *The Gospel According to New Orleans*

The hidden secret of poverty in America was exposed in the wake of hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

October 14: *Outside the Gate: The Poor and the Global Economy*

Christians have a responsibility to our brothers and sisters all around the world.

October 21: *Beyond “Serial Charity” to a Just Society*
Christian social movements make God’s change possible.

October 28: *How are we taking our responsibility to care for the poor and to advocate for justice on their behalf?*

We will learn more about what we already are doing for the poor as a church and discuss ways we can do more.

(Samantha Yang, cont’d). God that I have ever had. Those five questions truly, are the toughest questions that I have ever faced in my relationship with God. Not only did they change the way I thought of God and my relationship with God, but they also showed me how I needed to change. Change can be really hard sometimes and I’ll be the first to admit that I hate it, but when I heard the speakers and felt the emotions I felt every night, it was hard NOT to change. Every question I heard I knew was directly from God to me, because they were all exactly what I needed to hear. Suddenly, I could feel that the cloud of darkness and unsettlement was disappearing from above me. All those unsettling thoughts and parts of the bad news disappeared as soon as I listened for God’s wisdom. CHIC really provided an environment in which I was able to reconnect with God in a way that can only be done so many times in a lifetime. I’m so grateful that I was able to go to CHIC with the group of amazing people that I went with and my life will never every be the same because of it.

Music Notes

“Take instead the lower place; your host may yet say, ‘Friend, come up’.” These are the latest words that keep replaying in my mind from our anthem yesterday. It underscores the pulpit/gospel admonition to care for those in need.

Besides this text, what does music have to do with those in need? Specifically families in Africa?

The impassioned call of two young friends who grew here in Winnetka Covenant. Here’s the story:

Christine Buettgen and Dawn Gingrich both followed their passion and talent. While Dawn continued to hone her violin talent, she was deeply touched by Christine’s work in Africa and wanted to contribute. Thus:

**Friday, October 5 at 7:30 p.m.
BENEFIT CONCERT for
JITokeZE WAMAMA WAFRIKA**

**Presented by
Dawn Gingrich - violin
Jason J. Moy - harpsichord
Tanya Gabrielian - piano**

**Musical selections will include works of
Bach and Beethoven**

Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika is a Kenyan-based nonprofit organization that works with women living in semi-arid regions of Kenya. It was founded following the vision of Philipine Chepkoech, a native of a semi-arid district in Kenya called West Pokot. For a long time, Philipine de-

BELLS

The Winnetka Covenant Church Handbell Choir is looking for some more members. Rehearsals have begun on Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. in the choir room. If you can weed your garden, you can ring a bell. We have a lot of fellowship, good food on occasion and perform several times a year in church. Consider giving us a ring! For more information, contact Linda Johnson.

(Liesel Magnusson, cont’d.)

Even when we were not at Mainstage, the nighttime worship, we were living in community with each other: sharing meals, rafting, snacking on gummy worms, exploring a cave, relaxing by the pool. I got to talk with a friend from Covenant Point who I haven’t seen in a few years, spend time with one of my best friends from Massachusetts, and experience life with my friends from WCC.

Last time I attended CHIC I was going into my sophomore year of high school; this year, I was about to start my freshman year at North Park. I was the same person both times,

sired to work for the empowerment of women in her community affected by poverty, droughts, and conflicts. In 2010 she was joined by colleagues who supported this vision and together they founded Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika. One of the colleagues was Christine Buettgen. Christine first met Philipine in the graduate program for International Development Studies at Eastern University in Pennsylvania. They discovered their common passion for empowering African women through sustainable development initiatives, traveled to Kenya together for preliminary research and founded Jitokeze. In 2012, Jitokeze added Covenant World Relief to its list of supporters.

Here are some of the initiatives of Jitokeze:

- Interest-free micro-loans and training for women and girls to produce their own food using sustainable methods of permaculture.
- Chickens! A woman is given 10 chickens for a start-up business. Over time, she gives 10 offspring to another woman to continue a sustainable and growing network of food security.
- Training in sewing and tailoring for women to start businesses in their communities making school uniforms.

Christine’s work of women helping women inspired Dawn to use her musical talent to bring awareness to the work that is happening to benefit marginalized women in Eastern Kenya. Your presence and support at this event will make such a difference. Please pick up a flyer/poster and distribute to friends and neighbors. Come October 5.

For more information on Jitokeze Wamama Wafrika please visit www.jitokeze.org.



but this time I came to CHIC with a completely different set of experiences, worries, doubts, and hopes. CHIC was a time that allowed me to refocus myself towards God and His plan. Going into college, it was so helpful to have a week set aside to remember that He is the one to whom I can turn in any situation, when I need comfort, or patience, or peace. The speakers and music all reminded me of this in different ways, as did the friends I spent time with while there.

Trustee Update

The Winnetka Covenant Church financial summary through August 2012:

Straight talk about financial stewardship - As of August 31, unfortunately, we are in a familiar budget shortfall situation post-summer. September is not looking better. Please plan to step up giving in the last three months of the year to help us meet our 2012 budget. Thank you for your generous and ongoing financial support.

► YTD Financials

- General Fund Giving through August 2012 - \$657,755
- Receipts to date are 13% below budget (\$99,000 short) - September receipts continue to be short
- Expenses are 6% below 2012 budget (\$47,000 less)
- Operating funds are less than 2011, however this is based on planned 2012 capital projects and plans (summary below)

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2012 Actual	2011 Actual	%	2012 Budget	%
General Fund Receipts	\$657,755	\$655,198	100%	\$756,323	87%
Expenses	\$684,073	\$682,348	100%	\$731,147	94%
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	(\$26,318)	(\$27,150)			
Debt Payments	\$23,039	\$21,227			
Net Excess/(Deficit)	(\$49,357)	(\$48,377)			

	<u>8/31/2012</u>	<u>8/31/2011</u>
General Fund Cash	\$ (43,409)	\$ (71,402)
Building Fund	3,050	3,050
Exchange Fund	56,282	164,687
Depreciation Set-Aside	40,855	40,817
Memorial Fund	68,985	96,119
Petty Cash	<u>125</u>	<u>125</u>
Total	\$125,887	\$233,396

► Capital Projects

- Replacement of two A/C units (Sanctuary and Choir room) almost completed
 - project was \$17,700 more than originally budgeted, due to higher efficiency units selected
- Completed projects - Playground fencing, Columbarium doors.

► Pastor Housing

- Shared Equity agreement between WCC and the Strom's house under update and revision.
- Letter to congregation was sent to explain proposed financing changes and loan with NCP. The 2012 Fall business meeting will vote on this Executive Board proposal.
- The Trustees are also reviewing the Hawkinsons' shared equity agreement.

The WCC Board of Trustees develops monthly financial reports and meeting minutes with further details. These can be referenced in the church office and will be summarized at the quarterly business meetings. Please contact Scott Hall, Treasurer or Roger Schmitt, Financial Secretary for any questions.

Mission News

Have you been looking for a way to help those in need but think they are too far away to do anything? There are many people we can help just a short car ride away. Please join us for a work day at JPUSA on Saturday, October 13th. No matter your skills or age there is something for you to do, whether it is cleaning out the basement, helping set up shelving in the food area, playing with kids or helping with refreshments. Bring your whole family, come as a group (small groups, choir, men's group, youth group, young adults, etc.) or come alone and join the rest of the group to help the people who live at JPUSA. Contact Greta Bailey, Jeff Johnson or anyone else on the Missions Committee if you can come or with questions. The more the merrier! We will meet at church at 8 a.m. to drive together. Hope to see you there!

Youth News



The mission statement of the North Side Youth Collision reads like this: "A collaboration of north side Covenant youth groups experiencing Jesus Christ through fellowship with one another." The organization will host one gathering a month, and each month is hosted by a different Covenant church. This is a great new opportunity to connect with other youth groups, and to remind students that they are not alone in their journey of faith. We are partnering with seven other north side churches! - North Park, Edgebrook, Sojourner, Ravenswood, Grace, JPUSA, Immanuel, and us! Most months, we will meet on the third Sunday. Upcoming NSYC gatherings: October 21, November 18, and December 16. Hope you can come! Invite a friend!

Christy Bouris

Contact information for Christy:
Church phone number: 847-446-4300 (ext. 16)
Christy's day off is Friday.

Junior High

Junior High Youth Ministry:

Wednesday evenings, 6:00-7:45p.m.

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

Merge: Mondays, October 15 & 29, 3:30-5:00 at church

Retreats for 2012-2013: Jr. High

Fall retreat: Columbus Day Weekend, Oct. 5-8, Cov. Point

Winter retreat: *Deep Freeze*, January 18-20, Covenant Harbor

Senior High

Senior High League Ministry:

Sundays, 7-9p.m.

All 9th-12th graders (and friends!) are welcome!

High School Sunday School offering: This fall, we are holding a **book group** during the Sunday School hour for all high school students in Christy's office. Come join Pastor Christy on Sunday mornings and immerse yourself in some good words, and discussion together. Hope to see you there!

Coffee: Wednesdays, meet at church at 3:30 p.m.

Retreats for 2012-2013: Sr. High

Fall retreat: *CREW*, October 26-28, at Covenant Harbor

Winter retreat: *Onelife*. February 15-18, at Covenant Point

A Just Harvest

Sunday, October 14, 2012 at 5 p.m.

**A Just Harvest's 9th Annual
Awards Banquet & Benefit**

"... and it was Good" - Genesis 1

A Just Harvest warmly invites you to attend its 9th annual Awards Banquet and Benefit on Sunday, October 13 at 5 p.m. at Chicago's Mid-America Club. Tickets are \$125 each, and a table seats ten. Ticket price includes dinner with dessert, and stunning views of Millennium Park, Lake Michigan, and Chicago's skyline.

The event is a celebration of our shared work and is A Just Harvest's most important fundraising event of the year. For more information and to reserve your tickets, visit www.ajustharvest.org or e-mail Michaela@ajustharvest.org.

WCC Just Harvest

Cooking Days:

10/4 - Ted Garrison

10/18 - John Anderson

Winnetka Covenant's Kitchen Volunteer of the Year is **Norm Johnson**. The following, about Norm, was on the Just Harvest website:

Norm Johnson, a retired Battalion Chief with the Glenview Fire Department, has been volunteering at A Just Harvest since 2006, shortly after joining Winnetka Covenant Church. Norm strongly believes in giving back and also volunteers at the Greater Chicago Food Pantry. He has been volunteering since he was a Boy Scout and has also done some youth hockey coaching.

Norm does his part for AJH by helping prepare the food that the WCC graciously provides. By preparing the turkey sausage, roasted potatoes, vegetables, and a fresh fruit salad, Norm sees the food before it goes off to the kitchen. Once in a while Norm also delivers and plans on serving in the kitchen one day with his wife, Sharon. Norm was born and raised in Evanston then moved to Glenview with his family. Norm enjoys volunteering and believes it to be a way to do extra work with the church.

Hunger is an important issue to Norm because he views being able to eat as a human right. Norm finds A Just Harvest to be a unique organization that is phenomenal in filling the hunger need. He absolutely loves when he is able to fill the food truck twice a month to send it off to feed the patrons at A Just Harvest.

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 **October 25** at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

Stitch and Study -

Stitch and Study, combining Bible Study, conversation, and craft/needlework projects, **meets on the first Tuesday of each month** at the home of Marilyn Nelson at 7 p.m. The October meeting will be on the 2nd. We are now 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.

Tuesday Morning Bible Study -

The Tuesday morning Bible Study is being led this fall by Joann Larson and the women are studying the book of Genesis. The **study begins at 9:30 a.m., but come at 9:15 for coffee and conversation.** Meetings are in the Trailblazer Room. Books are available in the church office.

Mark your calendars - Lucia Breakfast, Pageant and Boutique are scheduled for December 1.

Once again, we are now preparing for the upcoming Lucia event. There are always many ways to help and volunteers are sought every year. To volunteer to help, please contact Inger Eiesland-Schultz or Jen Anderson. If you are interested in having a table in the boutique, please contact Jane Rivi

Men's Ministries News

Opportunities for service and fellowship occur throughout the year. Some activities occur on a regular schedule and others arise 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. The first meeting takes place on October 6. This is primarily a discussion group and is worth the effort it takes to rise a little early in order to participate. Questions should be addressed to Paul Christmas.

Men's Singing Ensemble

Recruitment and planning for this group is still underway. Tenors, basses, and baritones of **all ages** are welcome. Occasional performances in church are planned. Rehearsal

Thursday Afternoon Bible Study -

"If you've ever experienced doubts, temptations, losses, family problems, or personal inconsistencies, join Beth Moore on an exciting journey to know King David and discover how you too can have a heart like our own God."

"David, Seeking a Heart Like His", by Beth Moore. **The current study continues through November 29th, and meets in the church Library from 1:00-2:45 p.m.**

A member book with 5 daily lessons of light homework and background reading complements the DVD teaching portion of this study. We gather weekly to discuss homework, view Beth Moore's DVD teaching segments, enjoy fellowship and share prayer requests.

Member Books are available from Lifeway.com, Christian-books.com, and Amazon. Cost is approximately \$15; however, shipping does vary. Please ensure you order the updated version. We look forward to sharing this time with you. All are welcome and please invite friends to join us. Any questions, contact Claire Macfarland.

Triennial, 2013

Triennial is a once-every-three-years gathering of Covenant Women from around the country and the next one will take place in San Diego, CA from August 15-18, 2013. Details can be found at CovChurch.org/triennial and online registration opens October 1, 2012.

times are to be announced. Please e-mail Gary Stenstrom to express an interest in participating. Our first contribution to worship will be announced by e-mail for later this month.

Men's Work Crew Call

Painting parties, carpentry projects, and service projects are a regular part of the Men's Ministries. Workers will be recruited as the needs arise. Please contact the church office to be put on this e-mail list. Answering the call for participation is purely voluntary and always for a good cause.

Men's Retreat

The annual men's retreat will be held in early spring of next year. This has been a major event in the lives of those who have attended in years past. The dates will be announced here as soon as they are available.

Mailbox

The Hollenbecks want to thank you for your continued prayers for our son-in-law, Bill Tomlin, currently serving in Afghanistan. He recently came through a very dangerous situation where his safe return can only be credited to Divine Intervention and we are convinced that your prayers are directly linked to his safety. Our profound thanks for those who "pray without ceasing."

With love, Larry and Bonnie

A big thanks for the support and blessings of our wonderful church community as I have now transitioned from my role as Director of Youth Programs. I am thankful for the opportunity to have served at WCC last year in this role. I look forward to this new chapter in my life as well as for the youth group! It is fun to step back, yet still be around to see our community continue to thrive. Thanks also for the generous departure gift as our family is grateful!

Jed Bassett

On behalf of Andy (Kendall) and the entire family please accept our thanks for your months of prayers for him and his medical team, for your notes of encouragement and reassurance. The ongoing care that the WCC community shows for extended families is a wonderful source of strength. Andy, having survived a very painful and frightening time is in the process of beginning his new life and has asked that we share his personal thanks for holding him up in your prayers.

Marcia & Rafael Jiminez

Dear friends at WCC,

For a couple of years now, you have been praying for my son-in-law, Kurt Robinson. He has been battling cancer, infections, blood clots, a weakened immune system, and debilitating headaches. I am thankful to note that through it all, he felt the hand of the Lord guiding him and the prayer support and well wishes of you, his friends and family. After many hospitalizations, ER visits, surgeries and procedures, and patient caregiving, his pain is under control and he is finally feeling and looking well. He is back to the joys of family life, getting out more, and in the process of finding a job. I want to thank you all for your prayers, concern and support for him and my daughter, Jennifer. Kurt is officially off the prayer list and we pray that this battle is behind them. God bless you all.

Mary Johnson

A big thanks to all who helped and supported us this past month with our 2 weeks of hosting homeless families here at our church! We treated two single moms with their daughters and a grandmother with her granddaughter to wonderful hospitality and a place to live, thanks to all of you! The families were truly blessed by our church and the folks from the Congregation Hakafa and Glencoe United Methodist church who helped provide volunteers! We would also like to ask for several blankets to be donated for Family Promise to be used here at WCC the next time we host families. We were in need of blankets as the weather was quite cool at night. Please bring to the office and thanks again!

Jed Bassett

Family News

We offer congratulations to Darlene Foss and Mike Murphy who were married on September 8. Best wishes to them as they begin their new life together.

Harvest Dinner

Sunday, October 28, 5:00 p.m.

Put this date on your calendar and plan to join us for the annual Harvest Dinner. This is an all-church potluck dinner followed by a program. At this time we receive an offering for Christmas gifts for the career missionaries supported by WCC. A letter will be coming with more details.

Covenant Enabling Residences of Illinois is sponsoring a fundraising event for Promise Place in Northbrook on October 20 at Fred Astaire Chicago-North in Buffalo Grove. For details, check the bulletin board by the church office.

Would you consider hosting an exchange student? It's a great way to share cultures and make a lifelong connection. Caroline is a 16-year-old from Denmark who is currently attending New Trier High School and staying temporarily with a family in Wilmette until October. We're looking for a family to host Caroline for the remainder of the year. She enjoys drawing, painting, music, dancing, and making jewelry. Her host mom describes her as "sweet, easy-going, helpful, and funny." Contact Pastor Andrea for more information.

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

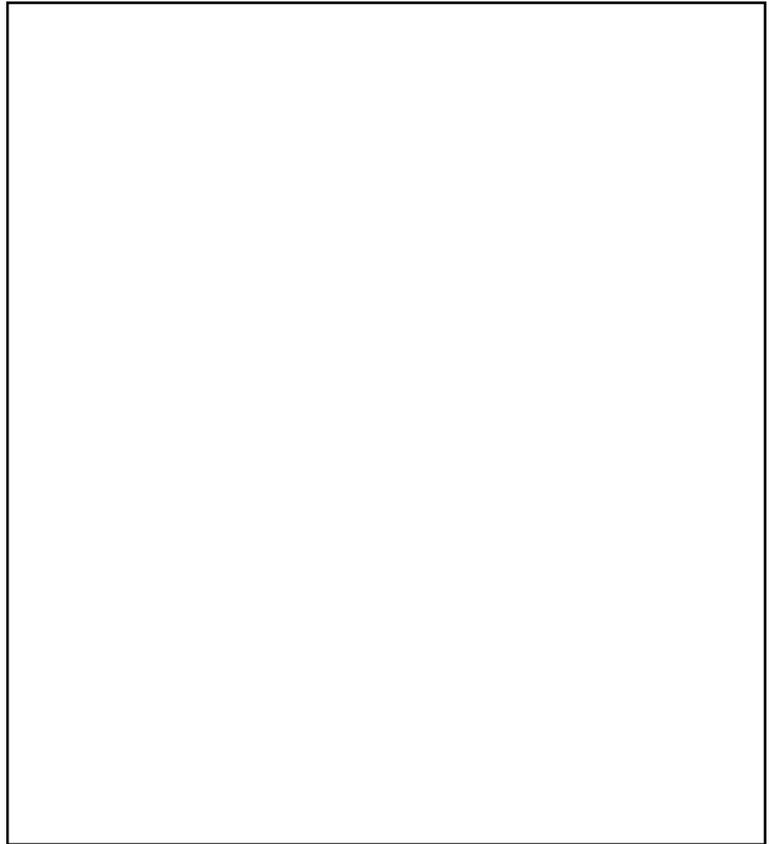
We hold grace as our highest value.

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.



Fall Fest/Kids' Concert on the Steps

Fall Fest & Kids Concert on the Steps Sunday, October 21

Greetings from the WCC Playground Committee. We hope that you are enjoying these early weeks of Fall. As many of you know, the church playground is in need of some serious attention. Our committee has been meeting and planning through these summer months to come up with a new playground solution that will not only provide a safe, engaging, and unique area in which kids can play, but also meets the needs of the various groups that utilize the space. We are excited with the progress that we have made and look forward to sharing the official plans with all of you in the near future.

We have planned an upcoming **FUN**draising event that we are truly thrilled about. At 3:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 21st, we will be hosting a Family Concert/Fall Festival out on the church's front lawn. Food, carnival games, a "bounce house", and live kid's music are all being planned. Our hope is to draw not only church families, but a large

group of community families as well. With a little bit of advertising and a lot of word of mouth, we are hoping that this will be quite the event.

This will be a fun event to raise money for the new playground! Come at 3:00 for fun, carnival games, popcorn, prizes, face painting, apple cider, taffy apples and more, then stay for the concert by kids musician, Jeanie B. at 4:00 p.m. Support us by bringing your family and friends to enjoy the event, contributing food, consider sponsoring a booth as a family/small group or just make a donation. We are excited about the potential for the new playground space and we think you will be too!

Questions? Contact a member of the Playground Committee: Greta Bailey, Jeanne Couleur, Chris Drimalla, Kira Johnson, Linnea Johnson, or Linda Kusel.