



# The Network

**Winnetka Covenant Church**

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

October, 2013

## Prayer Song

October  
18 & 19  
Guess Who's  
Coming to  
Dinner?  
(see page 5)

November 2  
Harvest Dinner  
(see pages 3 & 5)

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Some time ago a dear friend sent me a “keeper” email. Her friend had just returned from Ghana with something called a “prayer song,” common to the Christian community there. It’s a prayer sung repetitively, and it goes like this:

Journeying God  
 Pitch your tent with mine  
 So that I may not become deterred  
 By hardship, strangeness, doubt.  
 Show me the movement I must make  
 Toward a wealth not dependent on possessions,  
 Toward a strength not bolstered by might,  
 Toward a God not confined to heaven.  
 Help me to find myself as I walk in others’ shoes.

The prayer has been a page marker in my Bible for two years now. It’s become familiar enough that I’ve created my own tune: good prayer that belongs to someone else comes to life in me.

On October 6, World Communion Sunday, we will gather, along with the world’s countless host, to remember again what God has done. As Eugene Peterson’s Message translation says, “The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighborhood.” Indeed, the journeying God has pitched his tent with mine!

Remember your praying brothers and sisters around the world. Receive their beautiful prayers, and make them your own.

*Peter Hawkinson*

# 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.

## October 13, 20, 27 & November 3 The Word of God: The Psalms

**Created by the Spirit:** Kids will explore Psalm 121 and create 3-D paper sculptures to illustrate the images.

**Moved by the Spirit:** Kids will play a variety of games, explore Psalm 139, learning that God is always watching over us.

**Video Live:** Kids will explore psalms of lament, particularly Psalm 22, the first words of which were spoken by Jesus on the cross. Create a music video to reflect the images in the psalm.

**Mad Scientist:** Kids will explore the wonder of God's creation and images of nature in Psalm 8 using microscopes, binoculars and magnifying glasses.

**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.

# Fall Adult Sunday School

## "The Reason for God:

### Conversations on Faith and Life,"

A DVD and discussion **facilitated by Peter Hawkinson** in the Upper Room, **September 15-October 20.**

Captured live and unscripted, pastor and author Timothy Keller meets with a group of people over six sessions to address their doubts and objections to Christianity. Using literature, philosophy, real-life experiences and the Bible, Keller and the group explore the truth of Christianity. This series gives fascinating insight into non-Christians' perspective of Christians and Christian belief and practice and helps us think about how to interact with them in honest ways around their questions.

## "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.

Sessions include:

1. Isn't the Bible a Myth?
2. How Can You Say There Is Only One Way to God?
3. What Gives You the Right to Tell Me How to Live My Life?
4. Why Does God Allow Suffering?
5. Why Is the Church Responsible for So Much Injustice?
6. How Can God Be Full of Love and Wrath at the Same Time?

## Music Notes

“A merry heart doeth good like a medicine.” Proverbs 17:22

**Winnetka's Got Talent** is right around the corner -  
**November 2, part of the Harvest Dinner.**

Here's a sneak preview of the line-up SO FAR:

Michael Jackson impersonation - - - Irish dance - - -  
“Go Tell Aunt Rhody” on the violin - - -  
a ‘new’ organist - - - a few instrumental and vocal ensembles, but still no story or joke teller, no poem reader, nobody dressed up in costume disguise doing choreography to an old song?

Don't find yourself saying on November 3, “I could have done ???” Get the whole family in the act. Or surprise them!! Submit your less-than-4-minute ‘act’ to Royce, Dawn or any Worship Committee member by mid-October.

**Watch for our music interns**, Steven Braun and Dmitri German, to take a turn conducting the choir: October 6 - the beautiful new communion anthem by Craig Courtney, “The Whisper” and October 13 - Dan Forest's powerful declaration of God's wonderful creation, “Music of Living.” We welcome Janet Eckhardt to the piano in Nancy's absence.



**Music 4 Kids 2013-14 has begun.** Kids pre-K to 5th grade meet in the choir room 5:00-5:30 on Wednesdays when we have dinners. It's a fast-moving time when we learn traditional and new songs of the church, have fun with rhythm instruments, learn music fundamentals, and prepare to become music leaders in our worship. Bring your kids for this life-giving half hour.

Music is a cornerstone of our offering to God's kingdom. Bells and choirs all have a place for YOU. “Let everything that hath breath Praise the Lord!”

*Joyfully yours, Dawn*

## Handbells at Winnetka Covenant Church

Music has been a part of worship since Biblical times as found in Psalm 150:

- 3Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!
- 4Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!
- 5Praise him with sounding cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
- 6Let everything that has breath praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

*(The Latin word “cymbala” is used both for cymbals and bells.)*

Handbells as we know them are descendants of church tower bells from 16th century England. At that time the practice of change ringing or pealing was common. It took hours of practicing in cold bell towers to learn the numeric sequences required to perform the peals properly. This much ringing was disturbing to the surrounding villagers so something had to be done. With technological advances being made in the ability to cast metal, smaller bells were developed so the ringers were able to practice indoors. In the 18th century tune or melodic ringing became popular which is what we hear in worship today. English handbells were introduced to the United States in the 1830's and '40's. They have been a part of worship in American churches for almost 200 years.

In 1980, our music directors, John and Merle Hanson recommended adding handbells to the music program. They arranged for Schulmerich Carillons, Inc. to loan a set of handbells to Winnetka Covenant Church. A number of high school students and adults quickly learned the techniques and performed in several services. As a result of the enrichment handbells added to worship services it was approved to purchase 3 octaves of handbells with memorial funds. Handbells have been a part of our worship for 33 years. It has been said that the handbell choir may be the ultimate expression of music-making as a community of believers. The ensemble cannot function without each individual; at the same time, the contribution of each individual is meaningless apart from the whole.

As our new season begins I would like to recognize two long-time members of the handbell choir and they are Joan Wallgren who has been ringing for 25 years and Cindy (Hanson) Buettgen who has been ringing for 33 years. They have been individuals in the whole making music to praise our Lord.

Please help us to continue the tradition. We are in need of some people to help with the bass bells. If you are comfortable in the bass clef we need you. Come give us a try!

*Yours in peace, Linda Johnson, Handbell Director*

## The Winnetka Covenant Church Financial Summary through August, 2013:

As of the end of August 2013, we are still significantly below budgeted giving and less than the same time last year (August 2012). We are keeping expenses below budget, but not enough to offset our giving shortfall. We still have a \$90K 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 August 2013 - \$631,842  
§ Receipts to date are 17% below planned budget.
- Expenses are slightly less than with the 2013 planned budget.
- Cash position is still very good due to recent memorial gifts and bequests, however these include designated funds not intended for the general fund and operations of WCC. Overall cash is up 244% from 2012.

### Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2013 Actual	2012 Actual	%	2013 Budget	%
General Fund Receipts	\$ 631,842	\$ 657,755	96%	\$762,067	83%
Expenses	\$ 742,013	\$ 684,073	106%	\$747,547	97%
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	(\$ 92,172)	(\$26,318)			

	<u>8/31/2013</u>
General Fund Cash	\$(93,452)
Building Fund	3,050
Exchange Fund	106,242
Depreciation Set Aside	40,875
Memorial Fund	249,989
Petty Cash	<u>125</u>
Total	\$306,830

### » 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 - October 6, 13, and 20 (North Side Youth Collision), - 6:30-8:30 p.m.

Junior High Youth Ministry - October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 during Wednesday night activities

Coffee (High School) - October 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 - 3:30 p.m.

Jr. High Fall Retreat at Covenant Point - October 11-14

Sr. High Dunes Retreat - October 26-27

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

## Missions

This year our **Harvest Dinner** will be on a different night of the week - **SATURDAY, November 2**, and with a different kind of program - **Winnetka's Got Talent**, but the underlying mission will be the same. This is an evening where we recognize our commitment to missions and receive an offering to provide monetary Christmas gifts to the career missionaries that we support as a church. The Harvest Dinner is an all-church potluck dinner, to be held on November 2 at 5:00. You will receive details about what to bring in a letter in a couple of weeks. Meantime, please refer to Dawn's article on page 3 for details about the program. If you have a talent you can share, we invite you to be a part of the fun program that night.

## Local Missions

### A Just Harvest:

**Annual awards banquet and 30th anniversary gala**, at the Adler Planetarium, will be Sunday, October 27, 6-9 p.m. Tickets are \$150 each. This is their primary fundraising event each year and we are hoping for a great turnout from Winnetka Covenant as we celebrate 30 years of working together on behalf of those we serve each night at the Kitchen. Please join us at this very special venue for what will be a wonderful evening.

You can reserve by contacting the church office or online at [www.ajustharvest.org/events/seeing-beyond](http://www.ajustharvest.org/events/seeing-beyond).

#### WCC Community Kitchen Preparation Days

Thursday, October 3 - 1:00 p.m.

(Ted Garrison, contact)

Thursday, October 17 - 1:00 p.m.

(John Anderson, contact)

WCC Community Kitchen Serving Day

Thursday, October 17 - 4:30 p.m.

The next **Sankofa Journey (A Journey Toward Racial Righteousness)**, sponsored by the Department of Compassion, Mercy, and Justice of the Evangelical Covenant Church is scheduled to take place January 31-February 3, 2014. The Sankofa Journey is an intentional, cross-racial prayer journey that seeks to assist disciples of Christ on their move toward a righteous response to the social ills related to racism. This interactive experience explores historic sites of importance in the Civil Rights movement and sites of oppression and inequality for people of color, while seeking to move participants toward healing the wounds and racial divide caused by hundreds of years of racial injustice in the United States. Registration information can be found on the Covenant web site, [covchurch.org](http://covchurch.org). A video, Sankofa: The Journey Continues can be found on [CovChurch.tv](http://CovChurch.tv)

### WCC Members in ministry -

My name is Matt Johnson and I wanted to tell you a little bit about the work I do at World Relief Chicago. We are a refugee resettlement agency in Chicago that serves refugees from several different countries including Iraq, Burma, Bhutan, Somalia, and Sudan. The people we serve have been subjected to various forms of persecution that forced them to flee their homes, often times leaving everything behind. We work alongside the local Church to make the transition to life in America as easy as possible for those that we serve. One way that churches get involved is by donating various items that can be given to the refugees that we serve. In preparation for the winter and cold weather, we will have a need for blankets and warm clothing for men, women, and children. The clothing items include coats, hats, gloves, scarves, and boots. If you are interested in donating any of these items, starting in October, there will be a bin located in the narthex where you can bring them. Also, please feel free to contact me by phone (773-681-8549) or e-mail ([mjohnson@wr.org](mailto:mjohnson@wr.org)) if you have any questions. Thanks!

*(If you'd like your ministry to be featured, please contact Joan Wallgren.)*

## Guess Who Dinners are Back!!

After a hiatus of several years, the Diaconate will again be sponsoring **Guess Who's Coming to Dinner? on Friday, October 18 or Saturday, October 19**. This is an opportunity to get to know a small group of people in homes of our members and friends. To participate, you just fill out the form, either at church or online at the church website, and indicate which night you can come and if you want to attend as a guest or host a group in your home. The Diaconate committee will randomly assign the groups and the host of each group will contact his/her guests to let them know the details (the time, what to bring, etc.) The deadline for reserving is October 11. New to the church? This is a great way to connect.

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

### *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 Marilynn 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 **October 15**.

### *Thursday Bible Study -*

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 4<sup>th</sup>, with reservations being taken following church on Sundays, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, and November 3<sup>rd</sup>, as well as at the fall gathering. We are also looking for people to help on the planning committee. If you are interested, please call or e-mail Joan Wallgren.

## 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. Regular meetings will start on October 5, with breakfast at the Ridgeview Grill at 8:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Paul Christmas (ptc3144@aol.com). On October 12, WCC-Behind the Scenes: the machines and gadgets that support our church. Visits to the boiler room, organ pit, sound system, the "Tunnel", the "cellfrey", and more will tell the story. October 19 will be a session in the Upper Room where we will share

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 & 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.

the state of our physical, relational, and spiritual selves.

**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.

## Mailbox

Friends,

We were pleasantly surprised and pleased when our children - Kristin, Bill, and Julie - wanted to host an open house/reception in honor of our 50th wedding anniversary; they determined the date, when Kris and the family were visiting from Connecticut... The wedding actually took place on a very cold snowy day in January. Some friends said that they were sorry to be tardy with their greetings - not to worry! We're celebrating all year!

We were extremely gratified by all who attended our happy event, and all of those who sent us such lovely cards, thoughtful notes and letters, as well as gave warm personal greetings. All wonderful evidence of our caring fellowship.

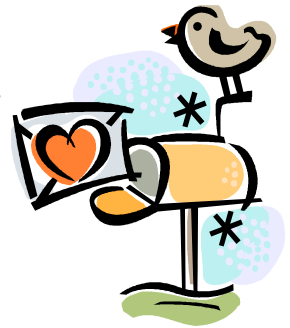
Thank you all, from the bottoms of our hearts, and praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Ellie & Peter Milbratz

Winnetka Covenant Church,  
The Chicago Horn  
Consort would like to thank the  
Winnetka Covenant Church for  
hosting our concert in July.  
We had a wonderful audience,  
and the generous freewill do-  
nations helped with our travel  
expenses to the International  
Horn Symposium in Memphis.

Many thanks,

Mary Gingrich and Kelly Langenberg



Dear Friends,

Thank you all so much for your calls, e-mails, and text messages sent to me in regard to the flood which we recently experienced at Frasier Meadows in Boulder. I greatly appreciate your prayers as we begin the re-building process.

Sincerely, Tim Johnson

## Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- **Brent Strobel and Eva Larson**, on their marriage, August 17, in the Seattle area, where they will remain..
- **Courtney Sharp and Kevin Najimi**, on their wedding, September 20, in Milwaukee. They will live in the Milwaukee area.
- **Claire Nelson and Trevor Mayo**, who were recently engaged. They are planning a January wedding.
- **Chris and Lindsey Harper**, on the birth of their daughter, **Vivienne Kate**, born August 27. She weighed 7 lb., 7 oz, 20 inches long. She joins her sister, Reese, at home.

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

## Directory Changes

No directory changes to publish this month. Be watching for the new updated directory in the next couple of weeks. If you have not previously given us your cell phone number or e-mail address and would like those in the directory, please notify Joan Wallgren in the church office (847-446-4300 or [wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com](mailto:wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com)).

## Upcoming Events:

**At North Park University** - Thursday, October 10, 6:00 p.m. in Hamming Hall.

In celebration of 150 years since the birth of early Covenant leader and founding North Park University president David Nyvall, the archives at North Park has invited Scott Erickson to give a lecture the evening of October 10 on Nyvall's enduring impact on the school. For more information, go to this link: <http://www.northpark.edu/News/Featured-Events/Scott-Erickson-Lecture>.

**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.

## **Winnetka Covenant Church Network**

1200 Hibbard Road  
Wilmette, Illinois, 60091

847-446-4300

[www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://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.

# **The Parenting Teenagers Course**

**Truth: Parenting teenagers is harder than ever for most parents today.**

**Truth: No role we undertake in life is more important than parenting.**

Over 10 sessions including practical talks played on DVD and time to discuss with other parents, you will discover practical tools to help you:

- **Keep** your long-term aim in mind
- **Meet** your teenagers' needs
- **Set** effective boundaries
- **Help** develop your teenagers' emotional health
- **Pass** on values and help them make good choices

When: Wednesdays: 5:30-7:45 p.m., September 18 - November 20

Where: Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Rd., Wilmette

Cost: \$10.00 per person for the entire course, includes materials and childcare/children's activities for birth-junior high.  
Dinner (served from 5:30-6:15) is an extra minimal cost per week.

This course is for every type of parenting situation, including parenting on your own, step-parenting, and parenting as a couple. The aim of The Parenting Teenagers Course is to equip parents and caregivers of teenagers aged 11-18 years old with strategies to build a healthy relationship while guiding them into adulthood. Although the course is based on Christian principles, its practical tools are applicable to parents of teenagers, whether they are churchgoers or not.

How do we register? Go to [www.winnetkacovenant.org](http://www.winnetkacovenant.org) or call 847-446-4300.