



# The Network

**Winnetka Covenant Church**

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

October, 2015

October 2

## Women's Fall Meeting

October

16 & 17

## Guess Who Dinners

November 7

## Harvest Dinner

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## Great JOY!

Over the summer sermons, Pastor Hawkinson reflected on the fruits of Spirit Life (Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Generosity, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self-Control) and issued an invitation to share a story if we'd experienced anything relating to one of them.

I suspect, if you have talked to me in person over the past few weeks, you have felt the JOY that I am feeling having joined the staff of Winnetka Covenant Church.

When I returned to North Park for my Certificate in Spiritual Direction, I had no clear vision of what God had in store for me. I only sensed that he wasn't finished with me yet!

He and I had traveled quite a journey together. A B.S. in Marketing Management from Valparaiso University led me to a job with A.C. Nielsen Marketing Research. It was there I met my husband Howard and worked until I stayed home to raise my three sons. When that task no longer required my full time attention, I returned to school, attending National Louis University for an MS in Human Services. That reinvention of myself led to a 20-year career as Director of the Women's Exchange. At age 65 I retired. However, after one year I experienced a Spirit-driven restlessness and began looking for yet another way to reinvent myself.

God's leading and Peter's support led me to North Park Seminary for the next two years where I completed a Certificate in Spiritual Direction.

An now to JOY! This is what I posted on Facebook the Monday after Heidi and I were welcomed to the Church Staff during the Sunday service. *"After retiring as Director of the Women's Exchange four years ago – a job I loved every minute of every day for 20 years, I can finally say I've found another job I think I'll love as much."*

I've spent 33 years benefiting from membership in our church, growing deeper in faith and deepening my relationship with God. During that time I've also embraced the church's Swedish roots and everything Swedish except lutefisk.

I am now in the grip of great JOY as I contemplate being able to give back some of the Spiritual Direction I have been blessed with while here. I am also able to say with great JOY that I know God is, even now, not finished with me yet. I've heard that 69 is the new 49. I look forward to celebrating my fiftieth birthday with you next year as a member of the staff at Winnetka Covenant Church. Our work together has just begun!

With Great JOY!

*Judi Geake*

# Christian Formation

Sunday School for all ages, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

## For children, ages 4 - 5<sup>th</sup> grade – Rotation Sunday School 2015-2016: “Quest for Identity”

People of faith travel a path that includes a struggle between everyday experience and their relationship with God. In a quest for an identity, group dynamics can form a sense of inclusion or exclusion in the community. Jacob and Esau battled within the realm of sibling rivalry. Joseph and his brothers fought the same battle, only to find a place of reconciliation. Jesus Christ calls us to be a community of inclusion. We forge our identities as we build community. Each culture responds to the faith story in relation to their own history and customs; this year we explore how various cultures communicate the biblical stories within their own context.

Units this year include: Joseph and His Brothers, Joseph in Egypt, The Samaritan Woman, Zaccheus, Mary Magdalene, Easter Around the World, and The Epistles.

### Unit 1: Joseph in Egypt – October 11, 18, 25 & November 1

**Thou Art:** Create an Egyptian wall mural or relief plaques to depict the scenes of Joseph’s life in Egypt.

**Garden of Eatin’:** Make Twelve Tribe Trail Mix, learning how these twelve separate brothers became united as the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Learn about Jacob’s blessing and discuss the role of blessings in our lives.

**Moved by the Spirit:** Play adapted versions of Simon Says, Four Square and Battleship to move your way into the story of Joseph and the quest for identity for his family.

**Disciples’ Drama:** Play charades to enact the two dreams of Joseph and the four other dreams he interpreted in Egypt. Discuss the role of dreams, particularly as Joseph saw them as revelations from God.

### 2’s & 3’s and Nursery Care –

Nursery care is provided for babies and toddlers, from birth to age 2, through the Sunday School hour and the Worship Service. Sunday School for 2-and-3-year-olds begins at 9:30 and continues through the end of the Worship Service.

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## For Adults – 2 options

### “God and Government”

September 20 – October 25, in the Upper Room

Large group discussion format, led by Kurt Peterson

Topics of discussion include:

- What is the proper relationship between church and state?
- How have Christians throughout history thought about this?
- What can we learn from the past and from scripture to help us live as Christians today?
- How should the church and state relate when addressing issues like health care, war, education, social welfare programs, the justice system, and other cultural issues?

### Alpha

September 20 – December 20, in Room 203

Small group video & discussion format, led by Pastor Hawkinson

Alpha is a chance to explore and question the meaning of life while learning about the basics of the Christian Faith. Topics include:

- Who Is Jesus?
- Why Did Jesus Die?
- How Can I Be Sure of My Faith?
- How Do I Pray?
- How Does God Guide Us?

This class involves a DVD presentation and discussion. Participants receive a personal guidebook to help on the journey.

# Music Notes



Doesn't seem possible, but Fall 2015 is in full swing. What a blessing to have our volunteer singers back in the loft – and joined by the children last Sunday!! What eager beavers they are!

October music begins with a wonderful anthem of praise with horn. It will be a treat to have Dan Gingrich play “*Sing to the Lord*” by Paul Basler. Also on October 4 we welcome again tenor Luther Lewis to sing the classic spiritual, “*Go Down, Moses*” as we examine God’s mighty deliverance of the Israelites from Egyptian bondage.

October 11, as we contemplate God’s commandments the choir will sing Bruckner’s

*Os justi meditabitur sapientiam, et lingua ejus loquetur judicium.  
Lex Dei ejus in corde ipsius: et non supplantabuntur gressus ejus.*

The mouth of the righteous speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment.  
The law of his God is in his heart; none of his steps shall slide. Psalm 37:30-31

We will heartily and purposefully sing it in Latin! Besides the fact that it sings best in Latin, one of the things I’m grateful my Mom taught me, while not fluency in another language (I wish), but study of and appreciation for the beauty and meaning in language and specifically the origin of so much English derived from Latin. As I appreciate the depth and breadth of richness in our cultural heritage, I especially appreciate the value and role of language in conveying qualities and nuances of meaning within each historical era. Just as we can develop a deeper understanding of the Bible through the study of Greek, Hebrew, and Arabic, we grasp a better view of our own limited perspective when we embrace the diversity of other languages and cultures. We can also find the similarities and continuity!! So, above, is a 2 week preview to our musical/language focus. Enjoy the discovery!

October 18 we reprise the gorgeous Terre Johnson setting of the Thomas Moore/Samuel Webbe text, *Come Ye, Disconsolate*. Studying the story of Ruth, we are reminded of the price of loyalty and kindness and so many rewards when we break out of our comfort zone and follow God’s ways.

*Come, ye disconsolate, where'er ye languish.  
Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot heal.*

*Joy of the desolate, Light of the straying,  
Hope when all others die, Fadeless and pure!  
Here speaks the comforter, tenderly saying,  
Earth has no sorrow that heav'n cannot cure.*

*Here see the Bread of Life, see waters flowing  
Forth from the throne of God, pure from above.*

*Come to the feast of love; come ever-knowing  
Earth has no sorrow but heav'n can remove.* Thomas Moore/Samuel Webbe

October 25 our worship focuses on when David was made King over Israel; bringing the Ark of the Covenant to Jerusalem with song and making it a place of worship. We will sing Melodie Tunney’s “*Sound His Praise*” in Mary McDonald’s vibrant arrangement.

Looking forward to worshipping with you. Bring a friend to share the STORY! Share the mercy!

With songs for your heart, Dawn Pegis

## Guess Who's Coming to Dinner

### Friday, October 16 or Saturday, October 17

Held at the homes of church friends, Guess Who Dinners work like this:

- People sign up to either host a dinner or attend a dinner, choosing one night or the other
- A committee of the Diaconate will randomly assign people to their dinner parties
- Hosts will plan the menu and set the time and guests will contribute to the menu as requested by the host

Sign up to host or attend, either online or look for the signup table in the narthex. Join the fun!

# Youth Opportunities

## October Youth Dates

- Sunday School – all Sundays, except the 11<sup>th</sup> for jr. high
- Sr. High League (7-9 p.m.) – 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>
- Jr. High Youth Group/Confirmation (4:30-6:30 p.m.) – 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> (not on the 11<sup>th</sup>, due to the retreat)
- Sr. High Coffee – 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup>
- Jr. High Fall Covenant Point Retreat – 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>

## NEW ONLINE YOUTH CALENDAR!

Visit the Winnetka Covenant website ([www.winnekacovenant.org](http://www.winnekacovenant.org)), then select “Ministries” in the side bar. Click on either Junior or Senior High to see a list of up-to-date happenings, including the link to the new online calendar.

## Winnetka Covenant Financial Summary through August 31

- YTD Financials – Thank you for your financial support throughout the summer
  - General Fund Giving through August 31 - \$685,128
  - Contributions/pledges are slightly above plan, at +2%, we target +5% to prevent use of memorial and exchange funds
  - Overall receipts to date are at 2014 actuals and slightly above 2015 budget. Expenses are slightly under 2015 planned budget

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2015 Actual	2014 Actual	%	2015 Bud.	%
Contributions (only)	\$630,825	\$628,659	100%	\$619,530	102%
Total General Fund Receipts (incl Contributions)	\$ 685,128	\$682,703	100%	\$704,018	97%
Expenses	\$ 683,398	\$ 704,508	97%	\$685,165	99%
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	\$1,730	(\$22,805)			

	8/31/2015	8/31/2014
<u>Cash</u>		
General Fund	\$(64,258)	\$(68,712)
Exchange Accounts	66,134	83,696
Petty Cash	125	125
Memorial/Bequest Funds*	43,214	(4,290)
	\$44,215	\$ 10,818
<u>*Investments</u>		
Memorial/Bequest Funds	\$ 93,537	\$171,901
Johnson/Gustafson Memorial	49,399	51,210
Sabbatical Grant (’15 AMJ)	22,584	0
General Fund	516	37,181
Total	\$166,035	\$260,291

- Capital Projects
  - Gym padding (funded via special request/Men’s basketball and Exchange funds)
  - South side attic bat/pest issue under work

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

**Farewell for Bruce Strom** – Please join us following worship on Sunday, October 4 as we say thank you to Bruce Strom, our Facilities Manager. Bruce is retiring after many years of faithful and cheerful service. Bruce’s son, Peter, who worked as Bruce’s assistant for a number of years until leaving for full time employment just a couple of months ago will also be with us that morning.

# Mission Opportunities

**A Just Harvest – October 1<sup>st</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>** , at 1:00, cooking in our kitchen. New participants are always welcome to join the cooking crew. On 15<sup>th</sup> we are also asked to send a crew to the Kitchen to serve the food. They will meet at church to depart at 4:30 and return about 7:00. There is a signup sheet for this on the bulletin board by the kitchen or contact Pastor Andrea to sign up or with questions.

**Greater Chicago Food Depository** – on the second Saturday of every month we go to the Greater Chicago Food Depository to help package food for local food banks. Our work there benefits the North Park Friendship Center. Our next visit is **Saturday, October 10**, from 1:00 – 3:45. The opportunity is open to all, ages 14 and older. Long pants and closed-toe shoes are required. Please sign up on the list posted on the bulletin board next to the kitchen. Contact Pastor Andrea with questions.

## Spiritual Direction

### Spiritual Direction for Individuals and Small Groups

Many who would like to grow in their spiritual life are turning to Spiritual Directors for companionship and discernment as they examine and reflect on their relationships with God. A Spiritual Director listens with confidentiality and compassion, offering both guidance and support as people seek to find where God’s Spirit is at work in their lives ... at home, work, play, or worship. Often called Spiritual Companionship, this ministry is an ancient tradition within the Church. In today’s individualistic and secularized western culture, more and more people are feeling the need for such a companionship.

If you think you might be interested in meeting one time to discover whether Spiritual Direction is right for you, feel free to call Judi Geake at the church on Tuesday or Friday mornings. Judi completed a Certificate in Spiritual Direction at North Park Theological Seminary and can meet with you herself, or refer you to other local Spiritual Directors.

If you would like to embark on this journey with two or three others in a small group rather than as an individual, you can discuss that possibility with Judi when you meet.

### **“There Are No Second Fiddles in God’s Orchestra”**

**A seminar for finding meaning and purpose.**

**Saturday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

**Pre-registration required. Cost is \$10. Led by Judi Geake.**

How would you describe yourself: Realistic? Investigative? Artistic? Social? Enterprising? Conventional? Doing what comes naturally is part of God’s plan for you. Knowing what your individual gifts are, however, can sometimes be baffling or confusing.

Whether you are looking for a place to volunteer, are in the middle of a job search, or just interested in learning more about yourself as a unique creation of God, come spend a morning exploring who you are and identifying the special gifts you bring to our life together in the church. You will use a personal workbook to help with the discovery of why you are here, what you do best, what you are passionate about, what you value, and what your priorities are. Judi Geake has over 20 years of experience using the tools included in the LIFEKEYS Discovery Workbook by Jane A.G. Kise, David Stark & Sandra Krebs Hirsh.

## Columbarium and Memorial Garden

Believe it or not, it has been just five years since people initially began to make reservations for our columbarium and memorial garden and the whole project became a reality. It has become such a beautiful space and natural part of our life together it feels like it’s been there forever. We invite you to spend time there, enjoying the quiet, meditative spirit and beautiful landscaping.

We also remind you of the opportunity to memorialize those who have been a part of our life together but may be buried elsewhere, by placing a plaque on the memorial wall. Look for the forms in the narthex or contact the church office.

# Women's Ministries

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 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 22nd** at Baker's Square. You'll enjoy the fellowship! Call Marian Eckhardt with questions.

**Stitch and Study** - Stitch and Study, combining prayer, conversation, and craft/ needlework projects, meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the home of Marilyn Nelson. New participants are always welcome to come with or without a project. In October we will meet on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Tuesday morning Bible Study** – the 2015-2016 year is underway, Our study is in the books of Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. In these ancient stories we will meet people just like ourselves, and be amazed at the contemporary relevance of God at work in their lives and in their world. We welcome all women to join us each Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. for fellowship and inspiration. Study guides are available in the office or on the first day of class. Joann Larson leads the study.

## ***Two Steps Forward* discussion groups**

Join us for a six-week discussion group on the new book by Sharon Garlough Brown, *Two Steps Forward*, beginning on either Wednesday, October 14<sup>th</sup> – November 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:45-7:45 p.m. or Thursday, October 15<sup>th</sup> – November 19<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-2:00 p.m. No homework other than reading ... pages for discussion and discussion questions will be e-mailed prior to each meeting. Prerequisite: having read book one, *Sensible Shoes*.

**If neither of these times works for you and you would be interested in participating at another time, please contact Judi.**

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## **Moms Together – October 2<sup>nd</sup>, November 6<sup>th</sup> and December 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00 a.m**

Being a mother of young children is both exhausting and exhilarating. Which of those two takes priority can be explained, in part, by your God-given personality vs. the God-given personality of your child. Understanding yourself is the first step in learning how to more fully enjoy the parenting journey. A portion of each meeting this fall will be spent exploring this topic with the help of facilitator Judi Geake. We will also allow time for discussion of other topics as they arise. We will meet the first Friday of each month. CHILD CARE IS PROVIDED.

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## **Bridal Showers**

All women of the church are invited to a bridal shower for **Sloane Quackenbush**, Thursday, October 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Women of the church are also invited to a bridal shower for **Christine Buettgen**, Thursday, November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.

Please help us, as a church, express our love and support to these two young women as they embark on a new chapter in their lives.

## **Covenant Women Ministries Fall Meeting Friday, October 2, 7:00 p.m.**

We are excited to welcome Covenant Pastor and Spiritual Director Sharon Garlough Brown as guest speaker at the fall kickoff for Covenant Women on Friday, October 2. Sharon is the author of the much-loved fiction work, *Sensible Shoes*, which follows the spiritual journeys of four very different women as they meet together at a Michigan retreat center. Hannah, a pastor who doesn't realize how exhausted she is; Meg, a widow and recent empty-nester who is haunted by her past; Mara, a woman who has bounced from relationship to relationship trying to navigate a difficult marriage; and Charissa, a hard-working graduate student who wants to get things right.

Sharon will speak about the importance of the ministry of Spiritual Direction as well as her own journey as a Spiritual Director that led to writing the book and its sequel, *Two Steps Forward*, due out in October. Copies of both books will be available at the meeting. The church office has several copies of *Sensible Shoes* (\$15 each) if you'd like to read it prior to the event.

# Mailbox

Dear Winnetka Church Family,

Ray and I are sending a huge thank-you to each of you for your notes of encouragement and comfort. We are especially grateful for your continued prayers. We cherish every thought and prayer. This has been an arduous journey for us, although this week has started with more GOOD days for me than bad ones.

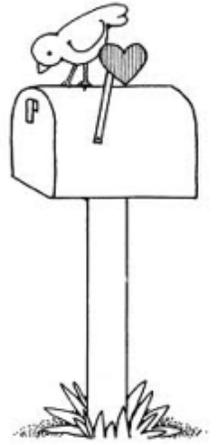
Thank you, again.

Kathy Cunningham

Dear Winnetka Covenant Family,

Nancy and I are grateful for your prayers, visits, phone calls, emails, and cards during and after my recent surgery. Thanks to Pastors Peter, Andrea, and Christy for their care and concern. We both felt surrounded by God's love and your caring, expressed in so many ways.

Stan Thoren



# Family News

Congratulations to:

- **Christine Anderson and Alex Meyer**, who were engaged last September and will be married this October 17<sup>th</sup> in Nashville, TN. Christine is the daughter of John Anderson.
- **Mary Johnson and Cal Katter**, who were married in our church yesterday, September 26.

Best wishes to both of these couples.

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## Fall Art Exhibit

### “Creation ... Inspiration to Create”

The wonders of our world surround us and never cease to amaze!

We are reminded of God's power and presence in His creation.

With the beginning of this Fall season, we have focused on the “Beginning” with creation stories from Genesis in the current sermon series, “God's Story – Our Story” based on the Narrative Lectionary. This is a four-year cycle of scripture readings from Creation through the period of the early Christian Church.

As we reflect on the Old Testament stories, we are ever mindful of God's presence, intervention and redemption plans for each of us. His story enfolds our story.

Artwork displayed in the narthex was created by several WCC artists. Made in the image of God, we each are inclined and gifted to function in various ways, portraying the many attributes of God. One attribute is “creativity”, whether using our hands, our voices, or our minds. This exhibit is specifically about “visual creation.” We can enjoy what has been presented as each artist was inspired by their subject and used their gifts to create ... to the glory of God.

The exhibit will remain in the narthex until Advent. Participating artists include: Barbara Ainslie Balsam, Mary Barnes-Gingrich, Esther Johnson, Peter Milbratz, Marilynn Nelson, and Ingrid Papanek.

## 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.

## Wednesday Nights At Winnetka Covenant

**5:15 – 5:45 — Music4Kids** A music program to give our 4-year-olds through 5<sup>th</sup> graders opportunities to participate in worship through song AND instruments. Dawn Pegis, contact

**5:45 – 6:30 — Supper in the gym (new, later time)**

**6:00 – 6:45 — Bell Choir** Bell choir rehearses in the choir room. New ringers are always welcome. Linda Johnson, contact

**6:30 – 6:45 — Praise in the Sanctuary** Singing for all ages. Parents are asked to accompany their children.

**6:45 – 7:45 —**

**For Kids: Crafts, Games, and Bible Stories** Kids divide into three groups (4 & 5-year-olds, grades 1 & 2 and grades 3-5) and rotate through 20-minute stations to enjoy crafts, games, and Bible stories. Heidi Hedberg, contact

**For Youth: Hangout/Homework Time** Junior High in the Youth Room, Senior High in Pastor Christy's office

**For Adults:**

**Choir Practice** in the Choir Room – new singers, high school and above, in all voice parts are welcome. Dawn Pegis, contact

**Animate Faith** in Room 203 – *Animate* is a three-part series that starts by exploring the foundations of Christian Faith, then takes a deep dive into the Bible, and wraps up with an engaging look at how we can take part in the central practices today. The time involves a brief DVD presentation, group discussion, and personal journaling. (*Animate Faith – September 23 – November 11*)