



Winnetka Covenant Church
1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

The Network

September, 2012

Announcing!
A new start
time for
Sunday School:
9:30 a.m.
each Sunday
Join us!

Winnetka Covenant Church
welcomes you this fall!

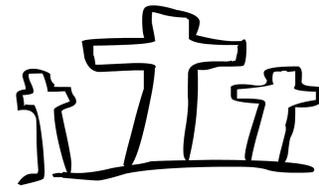
Fall schedule begins September 9

*****9:30 a.m*****

Kickoff in the Upper Room for all ages. Join us for refreshments, singing, and celebrating the beginning of a new season of Sunday school. Sunday school classes for all ages begin Sunday, September 16, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

*****10:45 a.m. Worship*****

Sandwich lunch in fellowship hall following worship—donations will be received for the summer youth/adult mission trip



*****Early Worship*****

Beginning **Sunday, October 7, 8:30-9:15 a.m.** Holy Communion is shared weekly.

*****Wednesday nights*****

Friends, Fun & Faith Formation

See **page 2** for details about what's in store for all ages.

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“The Story”: A journey together into the story of God’s love

How does God’s story intersect with your story? Would you like to gain a basic understanding of the biblical message?

“The Story” is a new way to experience the Bible. Scripture tells the grandest, most compelling story of all time: the story of God, who loves his creation, who has established for his people a way of salvation and a life that has no end. You will have the chance to read and reflect with other seekers and friends.

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 will 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.

Two time options are available, and groups are open-ended. You can join the circle on Wednesday evenings or Sunday mornings, depending on what works best for your schedule each week.

Wednesdays,
beginning Sept. 12, 6:45 p.m.
Sundays, beginning Sept. 16, 9:30 a.m.

Materials will be provided. Simply RSVP on our Church website or by calling the Church office. Welcome!

People of God, People of Justice: Fall worship theme focuses on justice and compassion

Our fall worship theme begins September 2. We will explore together biblical texts that draw us into the mind and heart of our God's will for a just and compassionate world, and our call as people living with Jesus Christ and filled with Holy Spirit to do God's will. Here are our weekly themes and texts:

September 2 – The Call to Justice

Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-9, Psalm 45:1-2,6-9
James 1:17-27, Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

September 9 – Shared Heart for the “Poor”

Proverbs 22:1-2,8-9,22-23,
Isaiah 35:4-7a,, James 2:1-17,
Mark 7:24-27

September 16 – “God Fear” and Self-Denial

Proverbs 1:20-33, Psalm 19,
Galatians 2:15-21,
Mark 8:27-38

*Your throne, O God,
endures forever and
ever.
Your royal scepter is a
scepter of equity.
You love righteousness
and hate wickedness.
(Psalm 45:6-7)*

September 23 – “Other” Ambition

Psalm 1, James 3:13-4:10, Mark 9:30-37

September 30 – Festival Worship/Organ Re-Dedication

October 7 – Speak! Act!

Numbers 11:4-6,10-16, 24-29, Psalm 124,
James 5:13-20, Mark 9:38-50

October 14 – Confession and Consecration

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15, Psalm 90:12-17,
Hebrews 4:12-16, Mark 10:17-31

October 21 – Self-Sacrifice

Isaiah 53:4-12, Psalm 91,
Hebrews 5:1-10, Mark 10:35-45

Come hungry and open,
And pray for this important season of our
worship and formation.

Justice for the Poor: Adult Sunday school, September 16-October 28

Starting September 16 we will begin a 7-topic series in the Upper Room titled *Justice for the Poor*. Jesus' life and teaching shows a deep compassion toward the poor and marginalized. His messages often highlight the injustices done to the poor and the prejudices the well-off have against them. How can we learn from the poor? What is our responsibility to care for the poor and to advocate for justice on their behalf?

Each session will begin with a 20-minute DVD presentation from the *Justice for the Poor* materials produced by Jim Wallis and Sojourners, followed by a group discussion and wrap-up. Sessions include:

Burger King Mom: Being Poor in America

God's heart is for the poor, the widow, and the orphan.

Is There Something Wrong With the Prosperity Gospel?

The truth about society is best known from the bottom.

At the Corner of Church and State: What's the Proper Role of Each in Caring for the Poor?

What's the proper role of the church and the government in caring for the poor and ending poverty?

The Gospel According to New Orleans

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

Outside the Gate: The Poor and the Global Economy- Christians have a responsibility to our brothers and sisters all around the world.

Beyond “Serial Charity” to a Just Society

Christian social movements make God's change possible.

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.



Children's Rotation Sunday School

We're looking forward to 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 is provided by a volunteer called a "shepherd." These individuals accompany the children each week and focus on building relationships.

Benefits of Rotation Sunday School:

- Repetition aids in developing a lasting memory & understanding of content
- Improved Bible literacy
- Multi-media takes advantage of both students' and volunteers' God-given abilities
- Less preparation for workshop leaders and volunteers
- Children and leaders have contact with a larger cross-section of our church family



2012-2013 Theme: THE COVENANT

The theme of the Covenant is woven throughout the scriptures. Starting with Noah and Abraham, we witness a special relationship between God and all of humankind. The descendants will be known as God's people, receiving the Ten Commandments as the laws of the Covenant. Jesus comes to live among humankind to be the fulfilled Covenant in our midst. He lives out the demands of the Covenant, to love the Lord God with all one's heart, soul, and strength. The Covenant is now between individuals and God. God's grace given to us through Jesus death and resurrection enables us to live in Covenant relationship with God and one another.

Listed below are the first four rotations in "The Covenant." Read on to find out what the kids will be up to in Sunday school—but also, read on with the purpose of discovering a workshop that you might have interest in leading! Each workshop leader will lead the same workshop each week, for 3 out of the 4 weeks listed. An adult shepherd will be present to help with the workshop. **Contact Pastor Andrea if you're interested.**

Unit 1, September 16-October 7: Noah's Ark

Art: Kids will experiment with water, light and prisms. They will make a mural of a rainbow of hands in the Sunday school classroom hallway.

Cooking: Kids will explore the different kinds and amounts of food that must have been on the ark. The kids will make

edible Arks and animals.

Games: Kids will perform a variety of team-building, cooperative activities as an expression of the covenant that God extends to us.

Puppetry: Kids will create a puppet show about the experience of Noah on the Ark, including three Bill Cosby routines related to Noah.

Unit 2, October 14-November 4: Abraham

Art: Kids create a decoupage reminder of our own connection to the Covenant.

Bedouin Encampment: Abraham tells the story of his travel and encounters with God. Kids create a banner using sand art.

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

Puppetry: Kids perform the story of Abraham, Sarah and Hagar using a "promise" song.

Unit 3, November 11-December 23: Messengers of the New Covenant

Over these weeks, all kids will meet together for a shortened class period as they spend the first half of their time rehearsing for the Christmas program. In the last 20 minutes, they will create a slideshow that depicts scenes from the song, "Mary Did You Know" that they will show to the adults in an intergenerational Advent Sunday school class on December 23.

Unit 4, January 13-February 3: The Good Samaritan

Bedouin Encampment: Kids will meet the Levite, the man who chose not to aid the victim because he believed that he would be breaking Jewish law. As the class shares food around the table, the Levite shares his personal conflict regarding the situation and asks the class to help him discover options.

Bible Improv: Kids hear the story of the Good Samaritan, ponder who might be the different characters in the story in today's world, and act out contemporary versions of this story as they understand it.

Food: Kids will hear the story of the Good Samaritan and learn about the many herbs that appear in the Bible. Use herbs in a cooking or craft project. The project will help the class connect common herbs with Jesus' command to show mercy to others.

Faith Today: Kids will hear the story of the Good Samaritan and work on providing teddy bears to children in crisis.

What's Up on Wednesday nights?

Wednesday nights are great at Winnetka Covenant! Food, friends, and faith formation—it's a midweek opportunity to grow, and connect with God and God's people of all ages. It's also a good venue for introducing friends and neighbors to our church.

Supper is served from 5:30-6:10 p.m.

Everyone is invited and encouraged to go to the Upper Room for singing, scripture and skits after dinner. We're pleased that Pastor Christy Bouris will be leading us in singing!

The Upper Room doors will open promptly at **6:10 p.m.** Parents are expected to accompany their children to the Upper Room at that time. Prior to that time, please make sure you're children are not running through the halls—for their safety and the safety of others.



Children's groups will be as follows:

- Age 2-3: Explorers
- Age 4-Kindergarten: Voyagers
- Grades 1-2: Pathfinders
- Grades 3-5: Trailblazers

After Sing Time, at 6:40 p.m., the Explorers will go to the 2's & 3's room. The Voyagers, Pathfinder and Trailblazers will rotate through three 20-minute stations: Bible Time, Games, and Art. An adult leader will facilitate each station. Each group will be accompanied by one or more "Guides."

Children's and Junior High groups will end promptly at 7:40 p.m. Children will be brought to the gym and supervised there until parents pick them up. We ask that you pick up your kids by **7:45 p.m.**

Wednesday Night Faith Formation for Adults

Book Group: The group chooses a book, reads sections on their own and comes together on Wednesday nights in the prayer room to discuss what they have read. A variety of books are chosen. This group meets in the Prayer Room.

Text Study: Pastor Art Nelson leads a study on the scripture readings that will be part of worship on the following Sunday—meets in the library.

"The Story"—see p.1 for details. Meets in Room 203.

Ways to serve on Wednesday nights:

Cook a meal—the shopping will be done for you, you can choose the menu, or we have suggestions. Never cooked for 140 people before? Don't worry! Help is available to make it manageable.

Dinner set-up, 4:30-5:30 p.m.: Put out placemats, start coffee, set out silverware, beverages, condiments, etc.

Dinner clean-up, 6:10-6:45: Help with the dishes and kitchen clean-up, or help take down chairs and tables in the gym.

A Just Harvest

Is your thumb green? Then you might be interested in The Genesis Project, A Just Harvest's new initiative to fight hunger by creating economic development opportunities. Urban gardening and an aquaponics social enterprise initiative that raises fish and plants in a symbiotic relationship form the heart of The Genesis Project. We envision meeting the growing demand for healthy, local, sustainably grown food while creating paid internships and jobs for young adults in the North of Howard community.

You can learn more by attending **"...and it was Good", A Just Harvest's 9th Annual Awards banquet and Benefit Sunday, October 14 at 5 p.m.** to view the premier of a film about the project. To learn more or to explore sharing or developing your gardening skills, contact Anthony Boatman at Anthony@ajustharvest.org

**WCC Just Harvest
Cooking Days:
9/6 - John Anderson
9/20 - Ted Garrison**

On another note, if your thumb is too green ... if your neighbors run away when you approach with zucchini, we'll help. We accept donations of produce—drop off at 7649 N. Paulina, Chicago—10-7, weekdays, 2:30-7 weekends.

Youth News

Noticing

In a youth ministry book I read awhile ago, the author, Mark Yaconelli, offers a poignant truth for his readers. He says, “We don’t ‘deliver’ God to young people...Jesus is already near.” It is more about noticing the work of God already happening, than orchestrating spiritual moments.

I am so grateful for the chance to notice God with you all here at Winnetka Covenant Church. You have welcomed me so well and I am feeling at home. Thank you! I look forward to continuing to worship with you, working with you, praying with you, eating with you, and noticing God together in all of these activities.

If any of you in the congregation would like to sit down together over a meal, a game of cribbage, or some coffee—I’d love to get to know you. Students, parents, grandparents, adults without any children in the youth group—consider this an invitation.

Peace be with you as the fall season begins!

Christy Bouris

Junior High

Junior High Kick Off!

Wednesday, September 5th, 6:00-7:45p.m.

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

Merge: Mondays, September 10 & 24, 3:30-5:00 at church

Junior High Youth Ministry:

Wednesdays, September 5, 12, 19, 26 (6-7:45pm)

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 Kick Off!

Sunday, September 9th, 7-9p.m.

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

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

Coffee: Wednesdays, September 12, 29 and 26—

Meet at church at 3:30 p.m.

HighLeague: Sundays, September 9, 16, 23, 30 (7-9pm)

Retreats for 2012-2013: Sr. High

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

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

Music Notes/Organ Dedication

Thank you to all who provided special music this summer. Your offerings blessed our worship immensely.

CHOIR resumes after Labor Day—we begin with a Saturday rehearsal September 8, 9-11:00am, including a fellowship breakfast in the choir room. We sing Sept. 9. Our regular Wednesday rehearsals resume at 6:45 on Sept. 12. If you’ve been out of choir a few years or have not yet sung, now is the perfect time to jump in. High school and up are WELCOME!!

September 30 -

Mark your calendars for the ORGAN RE-DEDICATION. We are so grateful for the recent renovation. September 30 will show off all the new features with 2 special events:

10:45—Regular worship service will be full of music featuring our organ in many ways.

3:00—Christopher Urban, a leading organist in the Chicago area will present our Wicks organ in a special recital. You won’t want to miss this fine young organist. Invite friends and family.

Thanks to all of you for your special gifts to make this renovation possible. Dean Christian, with his team at the Erickson Organ Co. have done a wonderful job enhancing our instrumental treasure. We praise the Lord for the way the organ leads our singing and lifts our hearts week in and week out. We are so grateful for the skillful leadership of Joshua Smith and to those who played before him, including Royce Eckhardt. Royce will contribute on the organ Sept. 30 and has been instrumental in creating the worship order for that special morning as well.

... will meet you in worship this Fall. Lift your voice in praise to our Savior and Lord.

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 September 27 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 September meeting will be on the 4th. 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 will be led this fall by Joann Larson. The women will be studying the book of Genesis. **The first week will be September 11, beginning at 9:30 a.m.**—come at 9:15 for coffee and conversation. Books are available in the church office.

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.

Beginning Thursday, September 13th through November 29th, we will meet in the church Library from 1:00-2:45 p.m.

A member book with 5 daily lessons of light homework and background reading compliments 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, Christianbooks.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.

Playground Upgrade Events

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

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, 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.

Coming Attraction—Soup's On! Sunday, October 14

Some fabulous cooks will be brewing delicious soups. The homemade soups, made with fresh ingredients, are: Chicken Vegetable and Squash.

Look for the order forms in the bulletin, starting Sunday, September 16. The soups will be ready for pick-up after church on Sunday, October 14. Proceeds will go to improving the church playground. If you have any questions, call Jeanne Couleur.

Mailbox

I want to thank everyone for the outpouring of love expressed in your prayers, especially the remembrances written about her in so many ways for so many years. Your presence at Eleanor's memorial service was wonderful. I miss her dearly but our faith in God's amazing love continues to help me daily!

Tom Nelson and family

I want to give a huge thank you to the church for its support of me as I accepted a call to go to Taiwan for three weeks this summer to assist the Covenant Church of Taiwan.

We were a team of ten persons that arrived in Taiwan not knowing each other well nor being aware of what we would be asked to do. Our first several days were spent team building, developing lessons, learning cultural differences and learning a few words of Mandarin. By the end of this training period we were a team that cared for each other and knew each other's personal skills.

I was selected to be a part of a four-person team that would work in several different churches over the next two weeks. The first week we taught at the Kung Ho Church in Taipei, a city of seven million people. In the morning we had about 130 children ages 5-12 that we taught using story telling, games, music and cooking. I was asked to teach cooking. Those skills helped us to teach conversational English and we incorporated

Christian faith in them. The first two afternoons found us assisting a gifted group of young adults to establish an English Camp for those ages 13-18.

On Wednesday two of us went to a small struggling church in a very poor neighborhood of Taipei to try to assist this church in getting a restart. We were able to enlist 22 to attend three days of classes which provided the Pastor with many families to follow up with.

Our second week began with a 250 mile train ride to the southern tip of Taiwan. We were there along with a group of ten members of the Kung Ho Church to help restart the Lien Bien Church which had suffered from a severe typhoon three years previously. Our first day we dressed in crazy costumes and went to the high school with a tub of ice cream and cones. We passed out ice cream cones to students along with a brochure announcing an English Camp starting the next day. Following the school visit we went to the town's night market and passed out cones and brochures announcing the English Camp and three free meals and activities at the church for the next weekend. We had 73 students show up for our English Camps and the interest was very strong with families to identify with the church.

Because of the prayers and support of our churches and others our mission team felt that God was able to work His loving miracles among many in Taiwan. Thank you again for your prayers and financial help. God richly blessed us in our ministry in Taiwan.

Bob Poor

Family News

We offer congratulations to members and friends of WCC:

- To Megan Braun and Steve Orlandino, who were married on June 30
- To Jill Eskra and Adam Geake who were married June 30
- To Jenny Peterson and David Gruner who were married on July 14
- To Ashley and Scott Bjorklund, on the birth of Otto Joseph Bjorklund on July 7. Otto weighed 7 lb., 3 oz and was 21 inches at birth. Carl and Barbara Balsam are his grandparents.

Best wishes to these families as they begin their new lives together.

A new directory will be printed soon. If you would like to add your cell phone to your listing, please let the church office know. Also, parents of college students, please let the church office know your student's new address for the fall.

Creative Kids Corner—Cooking for Life ... what is it? A curriculum of healthy ingredients and classical techniques to give young people (4-13 yrs.) the opportunity to create dinners and experience the healthy and delicious food they can

enjoy the rest of their lives. Opportunities to extend this philosophy and approach to Family Promise and other charitable organizations exist. Classes are held Mondays & Tuesdays here at WCC. Contact Linda at singswkids@me.com.

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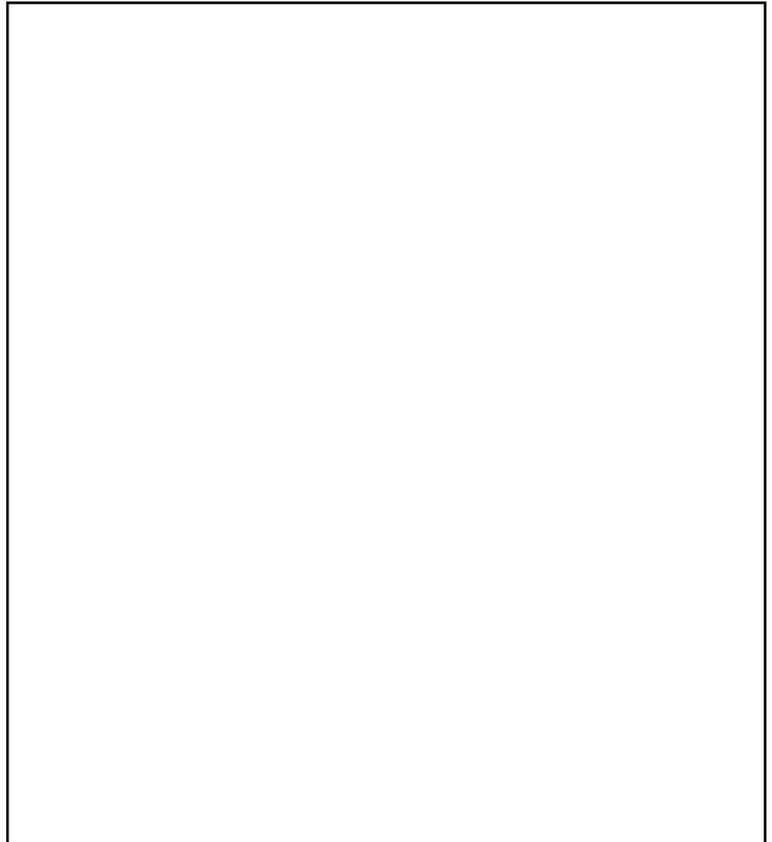
847-446-4300
www.winnetkacovenant.org

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.



Hospice Services

Covenant-sponsored hospice services are now available in our church's neighborhood! CovenantCare Hospice, affiliated with Covenant Retirement Communities and a member of the Evangelical Covenant Church family of services, recently began serving residents of Covenant Village of Northbrook and the surrounding community. While this service is new, the hospice team of nurses, social workers, chaplain, volunteers, and home health aides are hospice veterans. **So, what does this mean for our church?**

- There is now a faith-based, Covenant-sponsored hospice program available in our geographic region. The team is committed to working in partnership with our clergy team whenever WCC folks need hospice service (and this same organization provides Medicare Home Health and Private Duty service). Information about general hospice services, eligibility, insurance coverage and how to connect an individual to services is available.

- **Volunteering for hospice might be a ministry to which you are called!** There are several ways to be involved: as a regular hospice volunteer, for special projects or as part of a vigiling team (to maintain a vigil near time of death). Training is provided and loving hands are always welcome. Do you love photography or videography? You might help individuals to tell their life story. Do you love to cook? Food for hospice clients and families is a wonderful ministry. And the list goes on and on—whatever you love to do, there's a way to use your talents to help others.

For more information about these services or volunteering, contact any of the Pastors, or call CovenantCare Hospice at 800-281-2273 or Bonnie Hollenbeck.