



The Network

Winnetka Covenant Church

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

September, 2013

September 8
Fall Kick-off
S.S., 9:30
Worship, 10:45
Lunch, 12:00
(see page 2)

September 18
Wednesday Night
Activities Begin
(see page 3)

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They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone, because many wonders and signs were being done by the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

(Acts 2:42-47)

This is the less-known and most beautiful ending of the Pentecost story of Acts 2. Isn't it stunningly hopeful? Who wouldn't want to belong to a Church like this? How does this description hit you in these days of our gathering back together?

Given some recent conversations I've had with friends and strangers, it would seem that Church has met its match when it comes to this central aspect of blessed community. The "A" word has reared its ugly head: **ANONYMITY**. More than one conversation has led to a statement like this: *"I/we are not looking for a Church community. We need a Church where we can be anonymous."* The reflective statement infers that folks (most of us, to one degree or another) are feeling that we have no room left in life for more relationships, for more community, for shared life. "Day by day" time together just isn't possible anymore, sometimes even in our own families. Life is frenetic, feels like a treadmill moving non-stop at 7.8 miles per hour, requiring us to sprint; what we're created for is something in the 3.5 mph range, where a long walk is possible, because we can catch our breath.

We are not created for anonymity. We are created for community, for a recurring experienced pattern of giving and receiving love. We are created for the "day by

day" experience of sharing life together. The Church exists to be that community, that place, that space where we can live with Our Lord Jesus and with one another. And here's what I think, that we really deeply want to devote ourselves to Spiritual life and community, but the cultural patterns we face conspire against us, and often leave us feeling helpless - and so exhausted, maxed out, and longing for anonymity.

The invitation is to reflect on the patterns of our lives, and how the teaching and fellowship and bread-breaking and supportive sharing of the Church is taking shape, and to make these new priorities for ourselves and our loved ones NOT, I repeat, NOT because of guilt, or even out of duty, but because we long for life together, and we want to claim it again as our most abiding need, there is nothing we want more than to grow deeper into the love of Jesus and share that love with each other.

Take a moment to read the scripture again. Consider the treasure we have in the Church. Joy comes in the life we share day by day. Can we work together on living this way? Pray about it with me.

Peter Hawkinson

Children's Rotation Sunday School

What is it?

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 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.

Unit 1, September 15-October 6: How the Bible Came to Be

Thou Art: After viewing examples of illuminated manuscripts, particularly the Book of Kells and the St. John's Bible, kids will create an illuminated verse.

Garden of Eatin': Kids will become familiar with the books of the Bible by associating them with various foods.

Kingdom Characters: Kids will hear St. Jerome tell his story about why he translated the Bible from Greek and Hebrew to Latin, and they'll experience the translation process.

Moved by the Spirit: Kids will become a team of Bible librarians who race to organize all of the books of the Bible on a shelf, first by type of book and then by order. They'll play Bible Baseball to learn how to look up scripture.

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, including the four listed above.

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.

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?

Coming in October and November: Five weeks with Kurt Peterson on "American Christianity: From the Puritans to Billy Graham"

Kickoff Sunday, September 8

You're invited to be a member of the live studio audience at the best gameshow in Wilmette, *Sunday School Challenge!*

Come to the Upper Room at 9:30 a.m.

Enjoy music, refreshments and a lively morning as we kick off the fall.

Worship at 10:45 a.m.

Sandwich lunch following worship in fellowship hall, provided by senior high youth and their families. Donations will benefit the summer youth mission trip.

Music Notes



August is flying by, but the seasonal changes are a beautiful thing. Like many of you, we're squeezing in lots of family visits, summer projects, and just plain soaking it all in. Lately, I've found myself catching up to bushels of apples falling from the tree.

Have no fear, I've also been planning LOTS of upcoming music - some real gems culminating in the Christmas sounds at calendar's end.

Meanwhile, mark your calendars for **Sunday, September 29 at 4:00 p.m.** **Joshua Smith and his sister Brittany will present a concert of organ and harp music.** Carolyn Carlson has commissioned this event in honor of many loved ones. Its sure to be a treat.

Looking ahead, start dreaming up those FUN and crazy talent acts for our **SATURDAY, November 2, Harvest Dinner and Talent Night.** Contact Kurt Peterson, John Wallgren, Worship committee members or myself about YOUR talent 'act'.

Mary Beth Molenaar will share Piano music in worship September 1. Choir will resume our ministry September 8 with a launch rehearsal Saturday, September 7 from 9:30-11:30. It would be a great time to put some singing in your life and join the choir ministry.

Music 4 Kids (age 5-5th grade) will resume, coinciding with the Wednesday night activities schedule. We meet in the choir room from 5:00-5:30. There are still opening(s) for musical assistant(s) to welcome kids, assist with attendance and various instrument assignments. Contact me by phone, e-mail or in church.

Since we sent Dominic on to grad school (North Park, by the way!!) we are blessed to have his brother, Dimitri German, and fellow Moody music student, Steven Braun, as music Interns this year. They already were singing with us as volunteers last Spring! They will be singing in choir, helping with Wednesday night Upper Room singing, Sunday School Christmas program, and periodically singing with and leading our Youth Ensemble. Youth, check your facebook and/or e-mail for invitation to this opportunity for some great music-making. Please let me know of your interest in music at church. (I'm on facebook)

Thanks to all for keeping musical praise alive and well at Winnetka Covenant.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me bless his Holy name.

Dawn Pegis

Wednesday Nights! Beginning September 18

Supper: 5:30-6:10 p.m.

Adults: \$5
Kids age 5 to 12: \$3
Kids under 5: free
Maximum per family: \$12

"Upper Room:" 6:15-6:45

Praise and worship for all ages
Includes music, skits, scripture and prayer

Programs for all ages: 6:45-7:45 p.m.

Handbell Choir rehearsal: 6:00 p.m.

Choir Rehearsal: 6:45 p.m.

Kids

Nursery and Age 2 & 3: Play
Age 4 - Grade 5: Age-grouped rotations to Bible time, art and gym, focusing on a different Bible story each week that relates to the previous Sunday's worship focus.

Junior High Youth Group

Senior High: Opportunities to sing, play handbells or other instruments. Contact Dawn Pegis for more information.

Adults

The parenting Teenagers Course for parents of 11-18 year-olds (see back page for details).

"Making Space" - a group for anyone who wants space to connect with God in the middle of the week. We'll start with the spiritual practice of "praying the scriptures," and explore other spiritual practices throughout the year. Come every week, or come when you can. No preparation necessary and no homework. Just come and be!

The Winnetka Covenant Church Financial Summary through July, 2013:

As of the end of June 2013, we continue to fall below budgeted giving and less than the same time last year (July 2012). We are keeping expenses below budget, but not enough to offset our giving shortfall. We 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 July 2013 - \$553,067
§ 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 81% from 2012.

Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2013 Actual	2012 Actual	%	2013 Budget	%
General Fund Receipts	\$ 553,067	\$ 587,439	94%	\$668,197	83%
Expenses	\$ 645,684	\$ 606,299	106%	\$662,377	97%
Net Operating Income / (Loss)	(\$ 92,617)	(\$18,860)			

	<u>7/31/2013</u>
General Fund Cash	\$(94,302)
Building Fund	3,050
Exchange Fund	99,384
Depreciation Set Aside	40,873
Memorial Fund	249,989
Petty Cash	<u>125</u>
Total	\$299,120

» 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

Fall Kickoff Sunday and Lunch, September 8

Sr. High League - September 8 (Kick-off), 15, 22, 29 - 7:00-9:00 p.m.

Junior High Youth Ministry - September 11 (Kick-off, 6:00-7:45 p.m.), 18 & 25, during Wednesday night activities

Coffee (High School) - September 18 & 25, 3:30 p.m.

Sr. High - Night in the City @ Christy's - Saturday, September 28th

Jr. High - Night in the City @ Christy's - Friday, September 27th

All parents of Jr. and Sr. High Students are invited to come together for our first quarterly Parent Gathering on Monday evening, September 23rd from 7-8:15 p.m. Refer to Evite for more details.

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

Missionary of the month - Christine Buettgen

Each month the mission committee will be featuring a Mission or Missionary that is supported by our church.

Christine was raised and nurtured in the Christian faith here at WCC. She is currently serving a 2-year term in the Democratic Republic of Congo as a Covenant World Mission Project Missionary.

Christine writes:

Mbote mingi from Congo!

I arrived in Congo 16 months ago now, and have learned and changed so much in that short time. I am settled in my house and receive visitors almost weekly (Guestroom! What a novelty) and have a reliable ATV that gets me wherever I need to go. In fact, I like it so much that I might just buy one when I head back home to the States ... is my neck turning red?

My CWM project work is taking off. Our Savings Groups are currently 180 members strong and new groups are being formed monthly. We continue trainings on business management, health, vocational skills, and replication of the SG model. The original 12 women I have trained are like my family now, along with Mambo, the co-director. On my birthday during our training session we sang and danced to one of my favorite Lingala songs and they all prayed strength and blessing over me, it was just the gift I needed. This group has become a rock for me.

In addition to the CWM project work, I am serving as a liaison with World Vision and the *Covenant Kids Congo* program right here in Gemena. And, I recently wrote a large grant proposal for World Vision that would provide livestock gifts and trainings using our Savings Group model as a platform. This could have a widespread impact, please pray with me that we find favor with the proposal review board in the States.

I speak French and Lingala fluently, using Lingala more than French, which is exciting. The World Vision office operates in French so I still get to practice it on a regular basis.

It's very cool to be putting all my education to work and to see how thankful people are for me to share my knowledge. That's what I love about sustainable development: it's all about passing on knowledge, not just funds. This is the work I have always dreamed of doing, and God has brought me all this way. I am truly grateful.

While I love my work and I have hope in its success, this remains a very difficult culture/country to navigate. The days here can seem endless, and I often feel that this is my marathon. The gap between my wealth and those I live with isolates me from having genuine friendships, as much as I have tried to bridge the gap. There are a few exceptions to this, but it is a daily struggle for me to see terrible injustices and not have a good friend to really process with. I've always been so dependent on my friends and family for my emotional health so it is a big challenge to do life without them. Please pray that I would have strength for each new day, and that God would give me His eyes to see people here, and not rely on my own sight. Pray for my rest and rejuvenation too, as there is no place to take a "vacation" to that isn't a few plane rides away.

I have always been thankful for your unwavering support of me as a church, through every phase of my life. Thank you for loving me well so I could in turn share God's heart with this community in Congo.

Blessings on you all,
Christine

Local Missions

A Just Harvest:

Documenting our historic partnerships

Emily Taft, a summer communications intern with A Just Harvest, is seeking remembrances, stories, comments and pictures for a story board to be displayed at The Just Harvest's 30th Anniversary Gala on October 27. The goal is to honor the historic partnerships that have made A Just Harvest what it is today - an organization capable of serving more than 54,000 meals and distributing almost 300,000 pounds in a single year while addressing the root causes of hunger. If you want to share your memories with Emily, you can reach her at emily@ajustharvest.org or 773-262-2297, ext. 25.

Chicago Food Depository

September 14, 1:30 –4:30 p.m.

15 volunteers are needed to help repackage food at the Greater Chicago Food Depository. This benefits The North Park Friendship Center, a food pantry on the North side of Chicago that we support. Anyone age 13 and older is welcome. Please wear long pants and closed-toe shoes. Sign up next to the kitchen or contact the church office. Carpooling is available from the church parking lot at 12:30 p.m.

WCC Community Kitchen Preparation Days

Thursday, September 5 - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, September 19 - 1:00 p.m.

WCC Community Kitchen Serving Day

Thursday, September 19 - 4:30 p.m.

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 26** 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 **September 17**.

Thursday Bible Study -

Save the date: **Thursday, September 12 @ 1:00-2:45** in the church Library for Women's afternoon Bible Study.

"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." Recently updated, this edition includes 11 new video teaching sessions, along with updated Bible study content.

We will meet from September 12 through November 21 - the study is 11 weeks. 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 will begin on **September 10th**, at 9:30. This year's chapter by chapter study will be in the book of Isaiah, "Watchman on the Walls." Study Guides are available in the church office or on Tuesday at the first meeting when we introduce the study. All women are welcome. Come early for coffee and conversation. Questions? Contact Joann Larson.

Watch Sunday bulletins for information about a WCW Service Project night on September 26.

Bridal shower for Sarah Johnson -

All women are invited to a bridal shower, September 14, at 9:30 a.m. for Sarah Johnson (engaged to Rodger White). Sarah is the daughter of Tim and Kris Johnson. Please join us to show our love and support as a church family as Sarah and Rodger prepare to begin this new phase of their lives.

Men's Ministries News

Opportunities for service and fellowship occur throughout the year. Some activities are 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. All men are invited to participate. The first meeting in September will be a planning meeting on Saturday, the 21st. Regular meetings will start on October 6, with breakfast at the Ridgeview Grill at 8:00 a.m. Please RSVP to Paul Christmas. On October 13, 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 20 will be a session in the Upper Room where we will share 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 can also contact Pastor Hawkinson.

Mailbox

Winnetka Covenant Church,

We want to thank our entire church family for all the prayers on my brother Ray's behalf during his long battle with cancer. Now he has finished his earthly journey and he is safely home with Jesus, free from pain and suffering.

We have felt the love, support, and prayers of all you wonderful friends during this time. Thank you so much for all the cards, e-mails, and words of sympathy we have received. God is so good, ALL the time.

Marji & Reuben Hanson

To friends at Winnetka,

I wish to thank you for the cards you sent me after my fall. Pastor Peter's visit with a lovely plant was so appreciated.

Sincerely,

Jean Heintzelman



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your calls, prayers, and notes regarding the passing of our dear mother and mother-in-law. We appreciate your concern as we mourn her passing.

Sincerely,

Kris & Tim Johnson

Family News

Congratulations and best wishes to:

- **Susan Johnson and Max Fry**, on their July 27 wedding here in the church memorial garden. Susan is the daughter of Joan Johnson and she and Max live in Vail, Colorado.
- **Kari and John Lindahl** on the birth of Kaden John on August 11. Kaden weighed 7 pounds, 14 ounces and was 21-1/2 inches. Harold Anderson is his great-grandfather.

Parents of recent college graduates and college students. Please send their addresses to the church office so we can keep our records current and can communicate with them through the year. Thank you.

A new church directory will be printed soon. If you have not previously had your cell phone number or e-mail address in the directory but would like to do so, please let the church office know.

Cindy Keale, daughter of the late Marilyn and David Larson, has sent us this note:

There will be a Memorial Service for Marilyn and David Larson at Covenant Harbor on Sunday, October 6th. The service will begin at 4:00 p.m. with Ray Warren officiating. A light supper will follow in the dining hall. Please RSVP to Covenant Harbor at 262-248-3600 if you plan on attending so that they may have an accurate count for the supper.

Save the date for A Just Harvest's 10th Annual Awards Benefit & 30th Anniversary Gala. "Seeing Beyond", at the Adler Planetarium, Sunday, October 27 from 6-9 p.m. Learn more at www.ajustharvest.org/seeing-beyond.

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.

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 or call 847-446-4300.