



# The Network

**Winnetka Covenant Church**

1200 Hibbard Rd • Wilmette IL 60091 • 847.446.4300

**September, 2014**

**September 7  
Celebration**

**Sunday**

9:30 Sunday

School

10:45 Worship

**September 17  
Wednesday Night  
Activities Begin**

5:30 Dinner

6:15 Singing

6:45 Activities for  
all ages.

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*There is a time for everything,  
and a season for every activity  
under the heavens.*

**Ecclesiastes 3:1**

We're about to begin a new season, which brings a different rhythm of life. Summer vacations are over, school is beginning, and sports, music lessons, and other activities resume. The rhythm of our church's life changes as well. We rested from some of our ministries this summer, and now is the time to reengage. Keep in mind that the many activities offered by the church are not just more to DO—their purpose is to help us find a way to BE in all the facets of our lives—a way of being that is rooted in the love and power of God in Christ.

Whether you're new to Winnetka Covenant or have been part of the church for a long time, we'd like you to know about how you can grow in loving God and loving others and how you can serve God by serving others through the ministries of

this congregation. To that end we have created a Ministry Guide for this fall. Both print and electronic versions will soon be available. In it you will find much of what's happening this year in worship and Christian formation for all ages as well as descriptions of ministries in which you can use your gifts to serve the church and the world.

We're glad you are a part of our church family. Take a look at the numerous ministries described in the guide. Commit yourself to being a regular part of a ministry that strengthens your own faith and a ministry where you can strengthen someone else in their faith ... and may God bless you in the year ahead.

*Andrea Johnson*

## **Celebration Sunday September 7**

**9:30 a.m., Sunday School Kick-Off**

All kids and adults together in the Upper Room.  
Refreshments, music and fun!

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

This special celebratory worship service will feature music by the Prairie Brass Band, directed by Mary Gingrich.

**12:00 noon**

Lunch in the fellowship hall for everybody, sponsored by the Sr. High League.  
Donations will help support our youth going to CHIC in summer, 2015.

# Christian Formation

## Children

**Rotation Sunday School begins Sunday, September 14 for children age 4 through grade 5**

**Theme for the year: *Test of Faith***

Throughout the scriptures, people faced many challenges to their faith. From Adam and Eve to you and me, there are times when we do well and live in ways that are pleasing to God. At other times we find ourselves in need of God's grace because we have missed the mark. Through the stories of faith, we learn that God's grace is always extended to us.

**Unit 1: Garden of Eden - September 14, 21, 28 & Oct. 5**

Workshops:

**Thou Art:** Kids will juxtapose Bible reading, chalk art and classical music to interpret an understanding of Eden, free choice, and grace.

**Moved by the Spirit:** Kids will play games of choice to discover how we have free choice, how we suffer the consequences of those choices and that God's grace is what keeps us right with God.

**Garden of Eatn':** Kids will make lemon or chocolate treats as a springboard to ponder the bitterness of wrong choices and the sweetness of God's grace.

**Where in the World Is?:** Kids will focus on the relationship between the Garden of Eden, stewardship of the earth, and current agricultural practices. They will learn about organic gardening and create garden tool hangers.

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**God could use someone like you!** It is our privilege and joy to pass on our faith to the children of our church. Consider volunteering to lead a Rotation Sunday School workshop this year, help occasionally with Children's Worship, or volunteer in the nursery. We are also currently looking to hire a nursery care provider to provide a consistent presence in the nursery on Sunday mornings, Wednesday nights, and first Fridays for MOPS. If you'd like more information, contact Pastor Andrea.

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**Welcome, Intern Bobby Becker!** We are pleased that Bobby Becker, a North Park University student, will be joining us as an intern this year to lead Children's Worship and serve as a junior high counselor. Bobby is a senior Biblical & Theological Studies and Youth Ministry major, focusing on children's ministry. He has just finished his third summer as a counselor at Covenant Harbor Bible Camp. We look forward to Bobby joining us in ministry.

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## Adults

**Adult Sunday School this fall - September 14-October 19**

Kurt Peterson will lead us on a six-week exploration of "Living the Spirit of the Early Church in Today's World." Join us in the Upper Room, 9:30-10:30 a.m.

**Wednesday night opportunities for adult formation: 6:45-7:45 p.m., beginning September 17**

**Called to Be Church—**

**The Book of Acts for a New Day**

This will be a simple time of Bible reading and reflection on the life of the early Church and our own journey together in Christ's community these days. Using the Acts of the Apostles as our text, we will wonder together:

- What was at the heart of their life together?
- What challenges did they face?
- What was their mission?
- How did they approach ministry in their culture, time and place?
- Who were the characters active in the infant Church?

Of course, as we do this, we will reflect also on our life as the Church these days, and our own stories. We will read and reflect together. Come and join us!

**Women Walking Together into the Heart of God**

13 weeks, beginning Wednesday, September 17th

*Sensible Shoes* is a fictional story written by Covenant Pastor & Spiritual Director Sharon Garlough Brown, of four women's walk together on a spiritual journey. You are invited to walk that same three month journey with Judi Geake, who recently completed her certification as a Spiritual Director at North Park Theological Seminary. There will be daily scripture reading, prayer, reflection questions, and journaling (5 days a week), then group discussion of the covered chapter on Wednesday nights. We will look at how the women are responding to (or resisting) the presence and love of God, allowing them to become windows and mirrors into seeing ourselves more clearly as we consider our own life with God.

Questions? Contact Judi

Books will be available for \$15 at the first session. Please pre-register with the church office.

**Concerns Group**

Prayer Room

This group is for anyone in the church, ranging from the curious to the passionate, who is interested in exploring current issues of compassion, mercy and justice. In this group we will talk about the issues and listen to each other's opinions and ideas, using books, films, articles, and special guests as resources for discussion. The group decides whether and how they can or will take action together or as individuals to make a difference.

# Music Notes

## Psalm 149

*Praise the Lord!*

*Sing to the Lord a new song;*

*sing God's praise in the assembly of the faithful!*

*2 Let Israel celebrate its maker;*

*let Zion's children rejoice in their king!*

*3 Let them praise God's name with dance;*

*let them sing God's praise with the drum and lyre!*

*4 Because the Lord is pleased with his people,*

*God will beautify the poor with saving help.*

*5 Let the faithful celebrate with glory;*

*let them shout for joy on their beds.*

*6 Let the high praises of God be in their mouths*

*and a double-edged sword in their hands,*

*7 to get revenge against the nations*

*and punishments on the peoples,*

*8 binding their rulers in chains*

*and their officials in iron shackles,*

*9 achieving the justice*

*written against them.*

*That will be an honor for all God's faithful people.*

*Praise the Lord!*

I love the lectionary. Psalm 149 is paired with the story of God's Pass-over in Exodus 16 and Romans 13:

"Whoever loves another person has fulfilled the Law." God's unfathomable goodness and generosity—GRACE—is told over and over in "wonderful words of life."



How fitting then, we start September with Prairie Brass Band leading our PRAISE! How exhilarating it will be to lift our hearts and voices together.

PBB is a 30+ member English-style brass band. Formed decades ago in the Chicago suburbs, Mary Gingrich is their new director. As long-time Covenant festival leader and current Worship Committee chair, Royce Eckhardt helped plan and will play organ for much of this service.

I look forward to the Sanctuary Choir resuming - wearing our new robes and singing "Forgive Us As We Forgive," "The Eyes Of All Wait Upon Thee" and "At the Name of Jesus."

ALL SINGERS high school and up can sing in the choir!! Beginning Saturday, September 6, 9:30-11:00, then each Wednesday from 6:45-8:00 and most Sundays at 10:15. COME SING!! It's unbelievably rewarding in so many ways.

In new beginnings, *Dawn*

# New Opportunities for Fellowship & Learning

**For Now:**

## Friday Night Fellowship

September 12, 2014 through January 30, 2015 - 7:30 p.m.

Come and fellowship with your Church family! Get to know new friends, and enjoy dessert! Each week a gathering will take place in someone's home. The host provides coffee and lemonade, and the rest of us bring a dessert to share. There will be time for informal conversation, and we will gather together for a time at the end for group conversation and prayer for the Church and for one another. Here's the best part ... no RSVP needed! Just come and join us when you can.

**For Later:**

## Community Bible Experience

February 9—April 3, 2015 (8 weeks)

This is a congregational experience of reading through the New Testament in 8 weeks. Each person is given a text called "The Books of the Bible," which is the NIV new testament in book form. Digital editions are also available for free download for ebook and mp3 audio. There is also a kids audio version. Individuals may also sign up for daily e-mails to read and listen to each days' text online.

There will be gatherings throughout the week at the Church and in homes to reflect together around 5 simple questions:

- A. What was new or compelling to you?
- B. What questions did you have?
- C. Was there anything that bothered you?
- D. What did you learn about loving God?
- E. How might this form/change the way we live?

# Trustee News

## The Winnetka Covenant church financial summary through July, 2014:

As of the end of July 2014, we continue to be in a good financial position! Thank you for your continued response and support to our mission. Please help us catch up if you missed some giving over the summer months. Our financial summary is highlighted below.

### YTD Financials:

- General Fund Giving and Receipts through July 2014 - \$609,873  
Receipts to date are slightly below planned budget.
- Expenses are running at 2014 planned budget.

### Comparisons to Prior Year and Budget:

	2014 Actual	2013 Actual	%	2014 Budget	%
General Fund Receipts	\$609,873	\$553,067	109%	\$622,493	98%
Expenses	\$632,150	\$645,684	98%	\$631,203	100%
Net Operating Income/(Loss)	\$(22,277)	\$(92,617)			

	<u>7/31/2014</u>	<u>7/31/2013</u>
Cash - General Fund	\$(68,704)	\$(94,302)
Building Fund*	0	3,050
Exchange Accounts	87,335	99,384
Depreciation Set Aside*	0	40,874
Petty Cash	125	125
Memorial/Bequest Funds*	<u>14,776</u>	<u>249,989</u>
	\$33,352	\$299,120
Investments -		
Memorial/Bequest Funds	\$222,864	\$49,606
General Fund	<u>37,133</u>	<u>16,279</u>
Total	\$259,998	\$65,885

\*\*Some cash funds, memorials, and bequests consolidated into NCP DIA investment funds in order to maximize interest income.

### Capital Projects:

- Strom's Glenview home has been sold. Unfortunately, a net loss was incurred from this shared equity agreement. The church NCP loan for this agreement will be paid off. Contact Kurt Kovacic, if interested in the details.
- The playground is now completed.

Winnetka Covenant Church 2013 Financial Report Available: Every year, the WCC Trustees run an independent accountant review of the finances. Mike Anderson completed this review and provided a report of his findings and summary. This is not a formal audit, however it is in place to identify potential risks or issues concerning the church's financial management, reporting, and practices. I am pleased to note that, once again, our financials and reports have been found to be well in order. This is certainly due to the excellent bookkeeping, reporting and financial management of Nancy Sharp, Joan Wallgren, and Roger Schmitt. A special thanks to this financial team. If interested in reviewing the WCC 2013 finances, a copy of the report is available in the Church Office or can be sent online, as requested.

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## **Church Cleanup Day - Saturday, September 13, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

Sponsored by the Board of Trustees, coffee and donuts will be served from 8:30 to 9:00.

Come and serve at Winnetka Covenant by participating in a church clean-up day! We need your help cleaning the church and everybody is welcome. There are a lot of big and little things that need to be done; like deep cleaning of church areas not regularly cleaned, closets to clean and organize, minor repairs and painting, window cleaning, yard or playground maintenance, maybe a chore you have seen and want to take on. There will be plenty to do!

Please RSVP to John Couleur or let Bruce Strom know of your interest.

## Youth Notes

As the school year gets under way the Junior and Senior High Youth Groups gear up also for a fun and busy fall season of activities. A full fall calendar will be communicated to the students and their parents but here are some of the highlights:

1. **Celebration Sunday Lunch Fundraiser** - Sunday, September 7th! This annual luncheon is sponsored by the youth and their families. All are invited to stay after church and eat lunch together. Proceeds from the lunch will go to support our students' participation in CHIC, 2015.
2. **Sunday School** - There are offerings for jr. and sr high (separately). The High School class meets in Christy's office, and the Jr. Highers are in the youth room upstairs. 9:30-10:30 on Sunday mornings before worship. Sunday School has a different feel than youth group gatherings - hope the students can be part of this time.
3. **First Parent Gathering** - Monday, September 22 from 7-8:15 p.m. We meet quarterly, and this is the first one of the school year. There will be information, discussion, space to ask questions, and at this meeting everyone will receive the year-long calendar. I'm wondering if we might read a book together this year, and devote part of our time together when we gather reflecting on the book. Also, looking to move the gatherings from church into people's homes. Anyone interested in hosting the September one?
4. **Kickoff days - High League, Sunday, September 7th; Jr. High, Wednesday, September 10th** High Leaguers will gather for our kickoff at Gillson Park/Beach for some grilling, reconnecting, games, new introductions, and worship on the beach. Jr. Highers will have the church to themselves on the 10th (Wednesday night activities start the following week)! Mark your calendars!
5. **Retreats** - Jr. High Fall Retreat at Covenant Point (October 10-13) and please tentatively mark the weekend of October 4-5 for High League (more info to come). Registration will happen in early September. Friends are welcome!
6. **CHIC: Covenant High In Christ** - This is our denomination's triennial youth conference that is happening again this coming summer - 2015, in Knoxville, TN! It is open to students who will have completed 9th-12th grade by the summer of 2015. We had a Parent Meeting about this back in the spring, and we'll talk about it again this fall. I will send out an e-mail with the paperwork, in case you were unable to join us in the spring to receive it. We have a registration and deposit (not total registration fee - just a deposit) due in September. CHIC is happening the week of July 11-17, 2015. Go here for more information (<http://chic2015.org>). Start talking with your kids about this opportunity!

Looking forward to welcoming new 6th and 9th graders into Jr. High and High League. We've had a really great summer connecting, reaching out together, and reflecting on our faith together. Thank you for the ways you've loved and supported me since arriving at WCC. Glad to be doing ministry together in this place.

*Christy Bouris*

## Local Missions and Other Opportunities

Within our church we have ongoing opportunities to serve our local community. One of our longest standing local mission endeavors is cooking for **A Just Harvest Community Kitchen** two times a month. You are invited to participate on Thursday, September 4 at 1:00 in our kitchen. John Anderson will be the coordinator that day. Then on September 18 we gather again to cook. Ted Garrison is the coordinator that day. On the 18th 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 sign-up on the bulletin board by the kitchen.

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A second opportunity that comes around four times a year is when we host the families in the **Family Promise** program. This is a network of local churches who take turns hosting, for a week at a time, temporarily homeless families as they get back on their feet and move back into stable housing. Our next hosting opportunity will be the week of October 12-19. Be watching for the sign-up schedules to go up online and in the Narthex so you can be a part of this important ministry.

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We have a note from Elise Wall, Volunteer Manager for CovenantCare Hospice, part of the Covenant Retirement Community family of organizations. They are currently looking for hospice volunteers in the Evanston area. If you would like to explore this opportunity, please contact Elise at [ecwall@covenantcareathome.org](mailto:ecwall@covenantcareathome.org)

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There are opportunities to serve and retreat at Covenant Point. They range from a Volunteer Work Day (9/13), Silent Retreat (9/19-21), Women's Retreat (9/26-28) and Quilter's Retreat (10/16-19). Check their website for more information.

## 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 25** 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 Marilyn 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 **September meeting will be on the 16th.**

### ***Tuesday morning Bible Study*** -

The Tuesday Morning Women's bible Study meets weekly from September thru April. Our opening session will be on Tuesday, September 9 at 9:30 a.m. We invite you to join us for this year's study of the Gospel of John. This gospel has always been a favorite. It is familiar and simple, yet so profound. You will also enjoy the fellowship! Study Guides will be available in the church office and in class. Questions: contact Joann Larson.

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### **Bridal shower:**

All ladies of the church are invited when we give bridal showers for our young adults. This is a wonderful way for our church to show our love and support as couples embark on an exciting new chapter of their lives. There will be a shower on **Thursday, September 4 at 7:00 p.m. for Jessica Carley and Jonathan Fogel.**

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### **Girls' Night Out** -

On October 9 all women and girls are invited to an evening of fellowship. We will have an opportunity to hear Jen Brunzell and her mother, Kelly O'Brien, tell about their family's travels this summer to Tanzania to work with the school founded by Kelly. More details to come.

## MOPS Coming to Winnetka Covenant

Starting Friday, September 5th, Winnetka Covenant will have a Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS) group! The theme of this year's MOPS group is entitled *Be You, Bravely*.

It will meet the first Friday of each month from 9:30-11:00 and is open to mothers and their children, ages birth to 5 years. For more information about MOPS you can contact Elizabeth Schwartz or visit [mops.org](http://mops.org). Childcare will be provided while mothers in the community connect and better equip themselves for the journey of life. If you would like to volunteer for childcare, please contact Elizabeth. Cost will be \$50 for the year.

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### **Women's Retreat—February 6-8, 2015**

It seems a long way off, but the women's retreat will be February 6-8, and we are pleased that Judi Geake will be our speaker again this year, using "Happiness" as a theme. We will begin taking registrations in October. You won't want to miss this, so get it on your calendar now.

## Men's Ministries News

Men's fellowship will again meet the first three Saturdays of each month at 8:00 a.m. Men, watch your e-mail messages and the bulletins and Network for details.

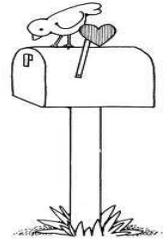
Watch also for information on opportunities to participate in work projects and for singing together. If you would like to be included on an e-mail list for notifications of events, please contact Paul Christmas.

## Mailbox

Dear WCC Friends,

*Thank you for your prayer support, cards, memorial gifts, and other expressions of sympathy received recently in remembrance of Ruby's life. The Memorial Service and the commitment in our exceptionally beautiful memorial garden were and are unforgettable by myself and our families.*

Sincerely,  
Doug Anderson



## Family News

We had babies, weddings, and graduations this summer and would like to offer congratulations and best wishes to all involved:

- On June 23 and June 24 Thom and Phyllis Morris became grandparents to two grandsons. Jen & Dan Schreiber, living in Richland, WA, gave birth to David Thomas Schreiber on the 23rd. David was 9 lb., 3 oz. The next day Rob and Maria Morris, living in London, England, gave birth to Alexander Thomas Morris, who weighed 7 lb.
- Heidi and Scott Bernover had a daughter, Hayden Elizabeth on July 21. She was 6 lb., 3 oz. at birth and joins her big brother, Harrison, at home. Beth Rolander is Hayden's grandmother.
- James Kristopher White was born to Sarah and Rodger White on July 26, weighing 7 lb., 10 oz. and measuring 22 inches. Tim and Kris Johnson are his grandparents.
- Erin Isaacson and Matt Lewitke were married on July 12.
- Colin Quackenbush and Sarah Whims were married on August 9, out on Vashon Island, WA.
- Christy Bouris and Andy Meyer were married on August 16.
- Judi Geake graduated with a Certificate in Spiritual Direction from the C. John Weborg Center for Spiritual Direction at North Park Theological Seminary on July 27th.
- Alex Johnson graduated from the University of Oregon with a Masters in Applied Physics

### Network by e-mail -

Some people prefer to receive information online. If this is you and you would prefer to receive the Network by e-mail, please send your information to Joan at [wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com](mailto:wccjoanwallgren@gmail.com).

### Steven Ministry Meeting Dates:

Sunday, September 7 - 6:00-8:00 p.m., at church

Sunday, October 5 - 6:00-8:00 p.m., at church

## 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

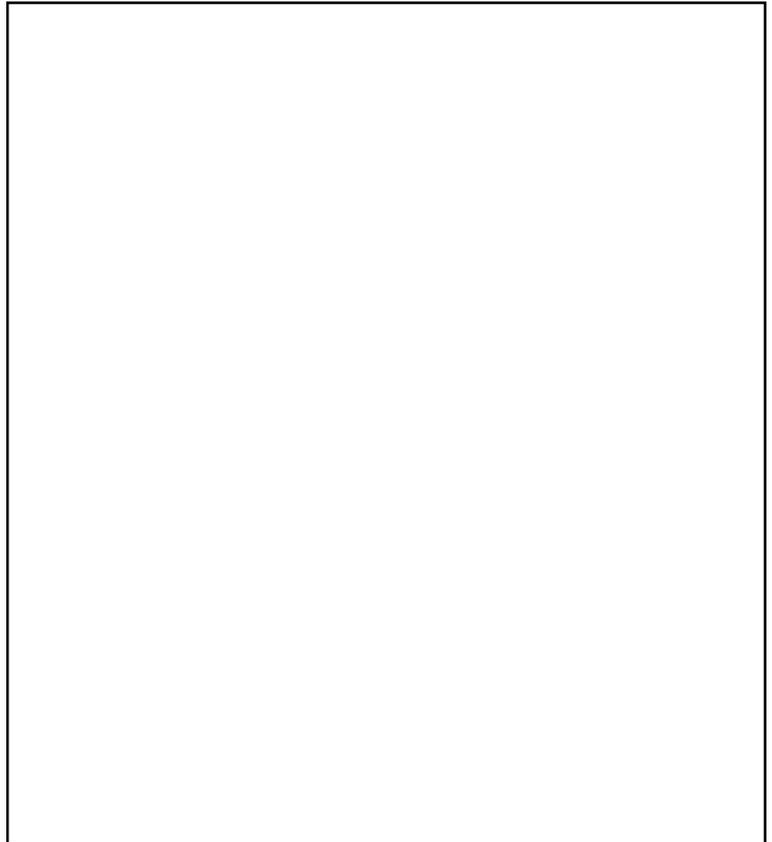
We hold grace as our highest value.

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.



## Preschool News

Winnetka Covenant Preschool is officially entering its 40th year! That's 40 years of providing that precious first school experience to both the children in our church and our beloved community. Although we're excited to be embarking on this landmark year, there are certain realities that need to be faced. Enrollment is at an all-time low, the school has been operating at a loss for several consecutive years, and unless there's change, the school's future will be in jeopardy. To make do, we've had to merge two classrooms into one and make cuts in our longtime teaching staff.

However, there are many reasons to be hopeful. Our new Director, Mary Sue Reese, has been working hard on several initiatives that seek to draw in new families. She has increased the school's social media presence, introduced new program and tuition initiatives, and developed a marketing strategy that will make the school more competitive with local preschools. We are confident that these efforts will work, that our enrollment numbers will be restored and the school will thrive and be sustainable once again.

Even with these strategies in place, we need your help. The first and easiest way you can help the preschool is by using *Fundico* for all of your Amazon.com purchases. Just follow these easy steps:

1. Go to our website ([www.wccpreschool.com](http://www.wccpreschool.com))
2. Select the **Mission** tab
3. Click the **Fundico** button at the bottom of the page
4. Click the **Amazon.com** button and shop as you normally would.

That's it. 3% of your purchase will go directly to the preschool. If our entire church community utilized this feature when doing their Amazon shopping, that 3% adds up quickly.

Another way you can personally support the preschool is by helping us purchase specific classroom items. Both Mary Sue and the rest of the preschool teachers have come up with a list of items that are needed to update our classrooms and make them stand out from the local preschools. These items range from wall hooks to light tables; from baskets to lofts. In the coming weeks, look for details in the church bulletin and a display in the Narthex on how you can donate toward the purchase of these items.

Thank you so much for considering helping the preschool in these ways. Here's to 40 more years of first school experiences.