

# STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

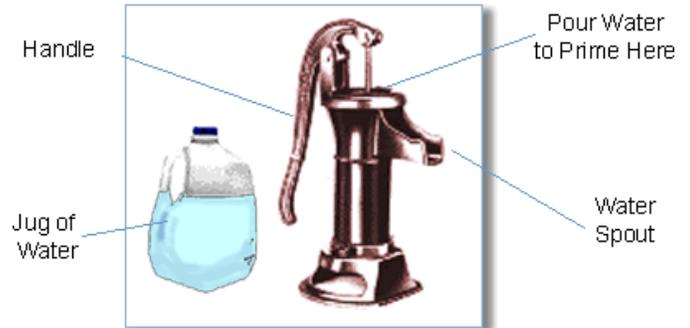
Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

January 2016



“As Jesus looked up, he saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. ‘Truly I tell you,’ he said, ‘this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on’” (Luke 21:1-4 NIV).



There are many ironies in life. One is that when things get tough, whether it's a difficult health decision, a strained relationship, or even a rough financial patch, we tend to close down and isolate ourselves from the help that is out there. We brood over a decision, losing sleep, feeling stuck between a rock and a hard place, when first going to God in prayer and then reaching out to others might provide more of a solution. We act as though everything is fine, embarrassed to put family struggles into words, when giving it to God and finding others with similar experiences would be much more helpful. We buckle-down and cut-back, even take on a second job--which can put us more, not less, at risk. Admittedly, it may feel like the well of life is running dry, but more likely, the pump needs to be primed.

Remember the old Kingston Trio song, “Desert Pete”? Pete left a note in an old baking powder tin. “This pump is old, but she works so give her a try. I put in a new sucker washer, but you may find the leather dry. I buried a bitters jar of water underneath that rock, but there's just enough to prime it, so don't you drink a drop. Just pour it all in and pump like mad. Have faith, my friend, there's water down below. You've got to give until you get—I'm the one that ought to know.”

The fellow who found the note says he was “tempted strong to drink it,” the pump looked so dry. But the chorus repeats, “You've got to prime the pump, you must have faith and believe. You've got to give of yourself before you're worthy to receive. Drink all the water you can hold, wash your face and cool your feet, then leave the bottle full for others, thank you kindly, Desert Pete.”

If you have heard anything about what we are trying to do around here at Willow Creek, with the New Beginnings curriculum, and dreaming big, and trying to understand how God is calling us to revitalize our mission, perhaps you have already seen the connection. Whether thinking about the congregation or our own individual faith, the same is true. We need to prime the pump, work hard, give of ourselves, and make provisions for others to do the same before we may get what we think we need, ... before we leave this place to the next generation!

Like the widow whom Jesus saw, and like the traveler in the song, sometimes you have to pour in all you have in order to receive what you need. Like Desert Pete, sometimes you have to use what you have before you can get any more. So, don't hold back, don't wait and see--and definitely don't drill holes in the boat or throw sand in the well. Trust God enough to tithe a portion of what God's left for you to prime the pump; let's pour it all in. Love God enough to use your abilities to pump like mad; let's see what abundant living water really is! Thank God enough that God knows our pump is ready and able to provide faith formation and compassionate Christian community here for many, and for many generations to come.

To give is better than to receive. How true. What are we giving to God?

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

*Pastor Judith*

Pastor Judith

(I found the song "Desert Pete" on YouTube and listened as I typed--<https://youtu.be/08kEFELCb3I>).



To the Congregation:

*Thank you for your support and Christmas gift to me this year.*

To Bell Choir:

*Thank you to the members of Willow Creek Ringers for their generous and yummy gift!*

*Dianne*



12/13/15

*Thank you for your generous gift. We will be able to do something special for our clients to help them to have a better Christmas. We remain eternally grateful. Thank you and God Bless,  
Christi Union Doty  
Linda Jones*



Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest and support of our Campbell's Labels for Education and General Mills Box Tops for Education Programs. Thanks to the support of churches and individuals these programs are a continuing benefit to our mission of caring for young people.

**The Campbell's Labels Program** has provided equipment for our Therapeutic Recreation program; educational software, computers and reference books for the cottages.

The funds we have received from the **General Mills Box Tops for Education Program** have helped purchase books for the Village library as well as help fund the Reading Counts Program in our on-grounds school. Kemmerer Village has participated in this General Mills Program since 1999 receiving over \$20,000.00 to help fund educational programs.

Again, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to you for your support and friendship.

Sincerely, Alice Christenberry, associate Director of Financial Development

### **Kemmerer Village and Box Tops for Education**

We recently sent a large brown envelope full of box tops to Kemmerer Village. Thank you for participating. Kemmerer does great things with the box tops and since they get them from many churches, they have lots with which to do things.



The Membership, Mission and Stewardship Committee has suggested that when you deposit box tops you drop a small piece of paper with you name on it in the Box Top container. When it is emptied a name will be drawn out and a Kemmerer Village Cookbook will be given to that person. Kathy Meyer was the first one to have her name drawn and it was done at the time she left for Texas. It is waiting for her when she returns in the spring. Thank you Kathy, hope you enjoy your new cookbook.



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your kind donation of 56 School Kits to Church World Service. Your compassion has given individuals and families touched by disaster the tangible evidence that they matter. That someone cares. And they are not alone.

Disasters can strike anywhere, anytime. And they can take many forms: tornadoes, earthquakes, civil conflict, drought, hurricanes and more. But with the support of caring people like you - who understand the urgency of responding after a disaster - people in crisis receive help when they need it, and hope for the future.

For updates on our most recent work, visit [cwsglobal.org](http://cwsglobal.org). Or, to find out more about the CWS Kit Program, visit [www.cwsglobal.org/kits](http://www.cwsglobal.org/kits).

Here at home or overseas, when tragedy strikes your donations ensure that help is never far behind.

With Deepest Gratitude, Rev. John L. McCullough, President and CEO



Thanks to everyone for their thoughts, prayers, cards and visits during my last hospital stay and recuperation. I'm beginning to feel like a FORD this year--Fix Or Repair Daily.

*Thanks again for the thoughtfulness, Jean Greenlee*



Dear Willow Creek Congregation,

Thank you for the Christmas Bonuses. We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,

Diane VanVleet, Stephanie Konen, Doris Pacek, Carol Nevicosi and Pastor Judith

We thank all who have signed up to host Fellowship on Sunday mornings. We hope you will also help us provide refreshments on the blank Sundays. When you are baking at home, bake extra for the church.

We will "Bank Baked Goods" in the freezer (labeled & dated) and get them out for Fellowship whenever we have a blank Sunday.



### LOST & FOUND

**Lost** (or maybe just misplaced) The new Presbyterian Hymnals "Glory to God" in large print. They were stored in the back of the sanctuary then were moved when some rearranging took place. If anyone remembers where they were moved, please contact the office.

**Lost**, the owners of several containers left from the Cookie Walk. Please check the oversupply in the kitchen to see if your container may be looking for you.

**2016 Contribution Envelopes are available in the Fellowship Hall. If you did not get a box, but would like one please let us know.**

**Offering Envelopes**



Mark your calendars for **January 3** when we'll have an un-decorating party after church and, when all work is done, enjoy a Chili lunch/refreshments.

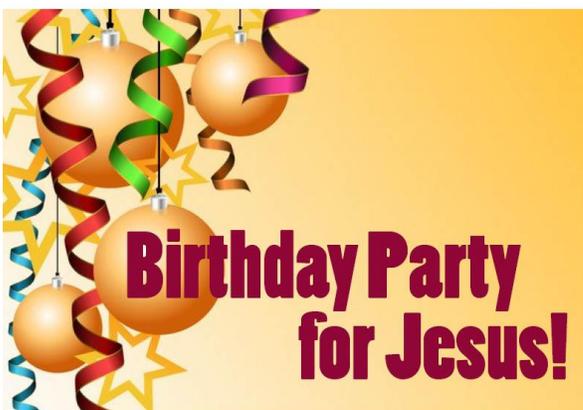


**Usher Training** Shortly, all usher volunteers will be notified of their 2016 assignments. Since several new usher volunteers have been added in the past few years and some changes in the appropriate procedure have been made, an Usher Training session has been set up for 2016 ushers on Sunday, January 10 at 9:20 a.m. All ushers, new and veteran, should plan to attend.

### Sunday School Upcoming Dates:

Sunday, January 3 – Wear your pajamas! We will watch a movie.

Sunday, January 10 – Regular Sunday School, followed by the Birthday Party for Jesus during Fellowship hour with the entire congregation. There will be a birthday cake and some birthday party games. Please bring a present for Baby Jesus (items for the Babies in Need Closet).



### You are invited to a Birthday Party for Jesus!

When: January 10, 2016 at 11:00

Where: Fellowship Hall

We will have birthday cake and games to celebrate. Please bring a gift for baby Jesus (for Babies in Need Closet). Items needed are: diaper cream, baby wash, bottles, bibs, onesies in sizes from newborn to 24 months, diapers in all sizes, and clothes. Gently used items are accepted as long as they are clean and not stained or worn- looking.

The Session of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle, Caledonia, Illinois is calling for a Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, January 17 after worship**. The meeting is called for the purpose of hearing and discussing a report from our New Beginnings process.



# Willow Creek Youth Group

**January 17 After Worship** – Spaghetti Dinner/Auction to raise money for the trip to Purdue University PYT

**July 18-23, 2016** – Presbyterian Youth Triennium (PYT)



**PRESBYTERIAN YOUTH**

## Triennium

**July 19 – 23, 2016**

Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

[www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org](http://www.presbyterianyouthtriennium.org)

**Help them GO!** PYT is a life giving, life changing, faith moving experience! As the world changes, society shifts – and the church expands – the need for vibrant young Presbyterians grows. Help your young people **GO** to the next great place in their faith! Watch for our upcoming fundraisers this year!

**NOTE:** We'll spend the night at Stronghold on **July 18<sup>th</sup>**. PYT is for high school age youth, incoming freshmen to graduated seniors.



### Mariners

Tuesday, January 12 @ 11:30 am at Church (Officers Hosting)  
Lunch Included

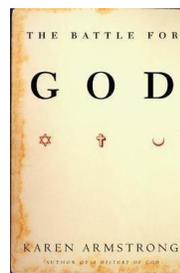
### Martha Ruth Circle

Tuesday, January 26 @ 9:30 am at WCPC  
Breakfast and Bible Study

Our study is a Horizon Bible Study on Water. Very interesting and since we have just gotten started it would not be hard to catch up if you would like to join us. We meet just once a month and anyone who is interested is invited to come.



**Wednesday, January 20th**  
**Book Study Group**  
**@ Mary's Market**  
**6 pm (some come @ 7) to 8:30 pm**



### Choir Rehearsal:

Sun, Jan 3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 @ 8:30 am

### Young Peoples Choir Rehearsal:

Sun, Jan 3, 10, 24, & 31 @ 11:00 am

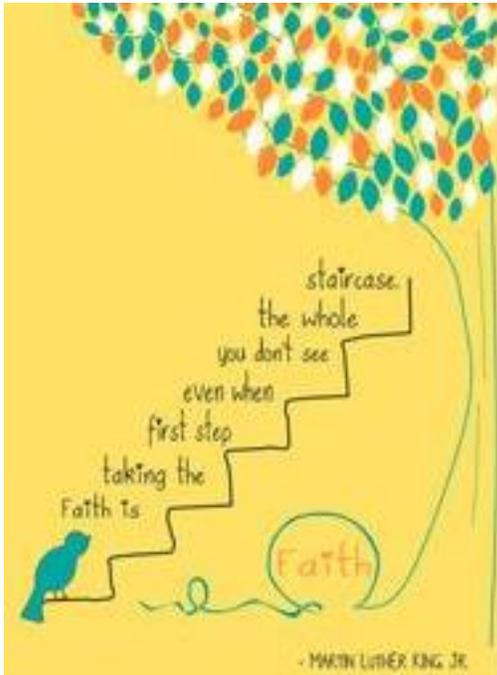


Save the Date....Sunday, February 14, 2016 3:00p.m.

*In My Heart There Rings a Melody*

A Valentine's Concert presented by Tom Andrew, keyboard, John Harden and Elizabeth LaGrande O'Leary, vocalists, and Deborah Dunnavan, accompanist.

No admission is charged, but non-perishable food items will be collected at the door. A free will offering will be collected to support the Holistic Health Department's Music Therapy Program at Swedish America Hospital. Light refreshments will be served.



Though it may feel more secure to know the outcome at the beginning, we can't always see the entire path ahead. Every journey starts with the first step, a little faith, and often some hard work, just ask Desert Pete. Our New Beginnings assessment and home group meetings have been completed, and we now turn to selecting the first steps to take on our new journey together. As I write, I don't yet know what that will be, or even in which direction we will go. I'm still full of hope, for I know I'm traveling amongst Christ-followers. Whatever that first step is, I believe we all will take it with faith in the One who called even Lazarus, a man dead and buried four days, to come out of the grave and live.

In January, I am taking a first step by setting up "coffee shop hours" when I will be out in the community, watching, praying, working, and visiting. I have chosen Wednesdays, from 9-11am and 2-4pm.

On the 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> come to Caffeind in Roscoe (near Alpine Bank); on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> come to Meg's Daily Grind (just south of Riverside). Come visit with me about what God is doing in your life, in our congregation, in the greater Rockford area, and beyond.

**WCPC Operating Statistics for October, 2015**



Our income for the month of October was \$9,249.00, while our expenses totaled \$12,067.00, for a deficit of \$2,818. This follows September's deficit of \$2,766.00. If you have been so blessed as to be able to

give an extra year-end gift this year, that blessing would be employed to continue providing for the spiritual growth, biblical education, worship, fellowship and Christian outreach of Willow Creek Church. Thank you for all the generous blessings of your time, talent, and financial resources this year!



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace. 1 Peter 4:10

## Cookie Walk 2015



Photo Courtesy of Jim Ralston

Absolutely fabulous!! That is the description of WCPC Fellowship Hall at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, December 5 the hall was decorated for Christmas, the tables covered with red and green cloths and centerpieces of snowmen as well as tray after tray of the most wonderful assortment of beautifully decorated Christmas cookies ever seen in one place. Customers were waiting at the door well before opening time and by 9:30 there was barely walking room between the tables. The aroma of baking cinnamon buns and hot wassail kept the tables in the "café" occupied. The steady flow continued throughout the morning and "this church has the very best cookie walk" was heard many times. This did not happen by accident. The response to the call for cookie donations from the ladies, gents and youth group at Willow Creek and beyond was outstanding as we received 455 dozen cookies. (figure that in baking hours!!) Then there were the men who set up the tables and placed the signs. Several members took fliers and posted/distributed them throughout the area. Shifts of ladies worked throughout Friday collecting and registering cookies and again on Saturday replenishing trays. We cannot forget the café workers and cookie weighers and cashiers. On Friday, one of Santa's elves sneaked into the church and set-up a beautiful display of knit hats, scarves, and shawls which added to the festive atmosphere and to the coiffures. What an "all church" function and as a result, we brought community into the church and added \$2678.77 to our Families in Need fund. Many, many thanks!!

With the winter months come increased utility, clothing and food expenses. Families who are already struggling sometime feel helpless and hopeless. We know there are families in our community who we can help if we only knew who they are. For privacy considerations, it is sometime hard to match the people who need assistance with those who want to provide it. If anyone knows of a family who could use our help, please contact Pastor Judith. Our Families in Need Fund is set up to help those in our immediate community and confidentiality and dignity is promised.

# Christmas Cantata 2015



## January 2016 All Church Calendar

Fri 1/1	---	New Year's Day – Office Closed – No Preschool
Sun 1/3	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sunday School – Wear Pajamas Worship with Communion <i>Undecorating Party After Church; Chili Luncheon Following</i> Young People's Choir Rehearsal
Mon 1/4	---	Preschool Resumes  <b>7:00-9:00 pm Session Meeting</b>
Wed 1/6	9-11 am & 2-4 pm	<i>Pastor Coffee Shop Hours @ Caffeind in Roscoe near Alpine Rd</i>
Fri 1/8	3:15-5:45 pm	Girl Scouts – Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
Sat 1/9	---	Landi Family Use Kitchen & Fellowship Hall to celebrate Emma's 1 <sup>st</sup> Birthday
Sun 1/10	8:30 am 9:00 am 9:20 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sunday School Usher Training in Sanctuary Worship; Mission of the Month-Babies in Need <i>Fellowship - Birthday Party for Jesus during Fellowship; Christian Education – decorating &amp; games</i> Young People's Choir Rehearsal
Mon 1/11	<b>9:00 am</b>	<b>Mission/Membership/Stewardship Meeting</b>
Tue 1/12	11:30 am <b>6:30 pm</b>	<i>Mariners @ WCPC for Lunch (Officers Hosting)</i> <b>Music &amp; Worship Meeting</b>
Wed 1/13	9-11 am & 2-4 pm	<i>Pastor Coffee Shop Hours @ Caffeind in Roscoe near Alpine Rd</i>
Thur 1/14	<b>1:00 pm</b>	<b>Deacon Meeting</b>
Sat 1/16	9:00 am- 1:30 pm	<i>Session Retreat – Location TBD</i>
Sun 1/17	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sunday School Worship <i>Congregational Meeting after Worship</i> <i>Fellowship Youth Spaghetti Lunch &amp; Auction to raise money for Prebyterian Youth Triennium</i>
Mon 1/18	---	No Preschool- Martin Luther King Day
Tue 1/19	<b>8:00 am</b>	<b>Building &amp; Grounds Meeting</b>
Wed 1/20	9-11 am & 2-4 pm	<i>Pastor Coffee Shop Hours @ Meg's Daily Grind (South of Riverside)</i>
Wed 1/20	6/7-8:30	<i>Book Club @ Mary's Market</i>
Fri 1/22	3:15-5:45 pm	Girl Scouts – Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
Sun 1/24	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sunday School Worship Fellowship Young People's Choir Rehearsal
Tue 1/26	9:30 am	<i>Martha Ruth Circle @ WCPC (Nettie Parker Hosting)</i>
Wed 1/27	9-11 am & 2-4 pm	<i>Pastor Coffee Shop Hours @ Meg's Daily Grind (South of Riverside)</i>
Sun 1/31	8:30 am 9:00 am 10:00 am 11:00 am 11:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal Sunday School Worship Fellowship Young People's Choir Rehearsal

# Youth Group Progressive Dinner and Caroling





On December 6, 2015, our youth group counted, sorted, and prepared for delivery food collected from their Food Drive. Along with Pastor Judith and Maren Reid, they stopped only momentarily to pose for a photograph. The Food Drive yielded 314 food items, \$25 in cash, and a large bag of toiletries. All will be donated to the [Food Pantry at the Old Stone Church](#) in Rockton. A great deal of thanks goes to those in our local neighbors who contributed to the cause. The youth of our church appreciate the opportunity to serve the community and help provide for those in need.



### **Christmas Card Tree on Sanctuary Landing**

If you did not receive a Christmas Card from the following people, check the Christmas Card Tree. They made a contribution to WCPC as part of the Kemmerer Village Project instead of mailing a card.

Pat & Gordy Bindenagel  
Jeane Shallenberger  
Janet & David Ensminger  
Penny & Steve Picken  
Sue & Dick Brick  
Janet Hyland  
Blackhawk Presbytery & Stronghold Camp  
Swedish American Foundation

Kim & John Reid  
Gene & Carolyn J. Wheeler  
Dayle & Steve Paulson  
Donna & Les Hamilton  
Delores & Jim Hall  
The Rottman Family  
Jack & Jean Greenlee