



STRAILER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

October 2015

from the Pastor's Pen:

On Tuesday, October 13th, our Session will be hosting a 90-minute meeting from 7-8:30pm (dessert refreshments included) to kick off the next phase of the New Beginnings process. "Why New Beginnings?" I have heard many ask. As a Christian congregation, we have a calling from God: We are to develop faithful and effective ministry that shares God's unconditional love and justice with a hurting world. While the message of God's love is eternal, ministry today doesn't look like first-century, or even 20th century ministry. In fact, today's ministry doesn't look like ministry even a decade ago! Many once-thriving congregations are in declining health or stuck in patterns leading toward decline. They need help to discern God's unique call again, to regain their vitality, to direct their time, talents and treasures into new mission and ministry channels.

Over the last decade here at Willow Creek, membership has dropped by 48% (by 137 members) and attendance at Sunday worship has dropped by 22%. Likewise, our offerings have seen a 23% decrease, and our mission outreach a 99% decrease, though we have made great strides in the last couple of years (increasing our offerings by 8% and our mission outreach to almost 6% of our budget). We cannot just work harder; like many congregations across the country, we must find a new way to be the church if Willow Creek is to continue as a place of worship and service in our community. With this next phase of the process, we will be striving to hear everyone's voices. We will begin discerning what God is calling us to do through each of your voices. I cannot urge you more strongly to attend!

The New Beginnings conversations that will begin on October 13th are your opportunity to participate in writing a new future story for this church. Last weekend, I attended a training session in DeKalb along with leaders from our church and seven other congregations in Blackhawk Presbytery. During our time together, we learned about healthy churches and change, and how to understand and share the results of the New Beginnings assessments that took place at our churches back in August. We also talked about how we will work with those results within our congregations to change the declining trends and discern the new future to which God is calling us.

At this first session, our small group leaders and I will share the assessment report information with you and invite you to participate in a series of conversations (five more sessions, though in smaller groups meeting at different times throughout the

From the Pastor's Pen Continued

week) shaped by what we have learned about ourselves and our community through the assessment. These conversations will give you a chance to share your observations and feelings, concerns and hopes about the future of your church. These will not be problem solving sessions to "fix" the church, nor will they be about assigning blame. No, in the small group sessions, we will learn about the mission field just outside our door (and between our feet), we will listen to the voice of God through each one of our voices, and together, we will begin to catch God's vision for our future.

We need your help to do this, and have striven to personally invite each person in our worshipping community to be a part of one of the several small groups led by: Jill Peterson Lembesis and Maren Reid, Janet and David Ensminger, Delores and Jim Hall, Dianne Wallace and Nancy Peterson, and Kim and John Reid. Whether you are an official "member" or not, God has called you to be a part of our congregation, perhaps for such a time as this (see Esther 4:14). Please make every effort to join in this process by your presence, your participation, and your prayers.

In Christ, who calls us into a hope-filled future,
Pastor Judith

When: Tuesday, October 13, 7-8:30pm

Where: Fellowship Hall (Rides are available for those who don't drive.)

Who: YOU! All who participate in the life of the congregation are encouraged to attend.

What: Refresh and Learn (and actually see the official Assessment Report!)

- Learn about today's healthy congregations
- Learn how New Beginnings works and what you can do
- Receive a summary of our assessment (the complete assessment will be revealed in future small group conversations)
- Sign up for small group conversations if you haven't already

This is your opportunity to contribute to the future direction of Willow Creek while we grow together in faith. Don't miss it!

STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION

ABOVE and BEYOND the CALL of DUTY recognizes individuals, couples or groups that serve God through Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.



Nominations forms can be obtained on the welcome stand outside Fellowship Hall near the Education Wing. Completed nominations can be deposited in the box on the welcome stand. Nominations can also be made directly to members of the Mission, Membership and Stewardship Committee (David Ensminger, Pat Nortch, Delores Hall, Jim Hall) or Pastor Judith.



I would like to say thank you to all who visited with me for my birthday celebration. I would also like to thank all who sent birthday cards. I am so grateful for having such a wonderful church family!

May God bless you, Gordon Bindenagel



**World Communion Sunday
Peace & Global Witness Offering**
Sunday, October 4



OLDE ENGLISH FAIRE & STRONGHOLD FUNDRAISER
Sat-Sun, October 3 & 4, 9 am–4 pm (entertainment 'til 5:30 pm)



Run to the Castle 5K
(Youth Group volunteering)
Sat., October 17
Packet Pick up/ Check In: 9 am
Start Time: 10 am

Run to the Castle through trail and gravel paths to arrive safely in the courtyard. First 100 participants will receive a commemorative pint glass. Parking will be available for free onsite.

Oct 4:

Chancel Choir rehearses 8:30

Chancel Choir sings for Worship

Young People's Choir rehearses 11:00

**Oct 11:**

Chancel Choir rehearses 8:30, Children/ Youth Choir joins us at 9:15

Both choirs sing for worship

Oct 18:

Chancel Choir rehearses 8:30

Chancel Choir sings for worship

Young People's Choir rehearses 11:00

Oct 25:

Chancel Choir rehearses 8:30, Children/ Youth Choir rehearses 9:30

Young People's Choir sings for worship



On Sunday, November 1st, All Saints' Day, the Chancel Choir will be doing a stirring rendition of the Appalachian Gospel tune Precious Memories. I would like to have some instruments involved. We already have two guitars; if anyone plays a bit of "fiddle" or any kind of percussion and would like to join us, let me know. I am trying to locate a

tambourine and someone to play it. Anyone play the banjo? Any other ideas for instruments?

We will have two rehearsals: One on Sunday, October 25 at 9:00 and one on November 1st at 9:00. Anyone who wants to sing along on this beautiful American song, please join us.

I was noticing how many little children we had come forward for the Children's Sermon last week. I feel these children are too young to sing with our Children's Choir, though I immediately began to wonder how many young children would like to sing in a "Cherub" Choir. I was thinking that if we get enough interest we could sing two times this year, with one rehearsal the week before we sing for worship, after church for about 15 minutes, and one rehearsal the morning of the service, about 9:30. The songs would be very simple and easily learned.

Please let Pastor Judith or I know if you think your child might enjoy singing with us!



Bell Choir Schedule:

Thursday, October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 @ 6:45 pm

Bell Choir



Mariners

Tuesday, October 13 @ 10:00 am

Meet at Boone County Historical Museum, 518 South State St., Belvidere
Afterwards meet @ 11:30 am for Lunch at the Steam Plant, 123 Meadow Street, Belvidere; If you have any questions, contact Sue Brick 815-885-3922



Willow Creek Youth Group

Sunday, Oct. 11, 1-3 pm – Games & Lesson

Saturday, Oct. 17, Morning – Stronghold 5K

Sunday, October 25, 1-3 pm – Games & Lesson



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 18th**. PYT is for high school age youth, incoming freshmen to graduated seniors.



Save the Date for these upcoming Events:



Hamball Potluck & Congregational Meeting
Sunday, November 22

Cookie Walk
Sat., December 5

**Young People's &
Chancel Choir Cantata**
Sunday, December 13



Thank you! Thank you!

Thank you to **ALL** who prepared the grounds, banners/flags, fellowship hall, food, music, advertisement and to **ALL** who participated to make this a wonderful event.

Please email/send (willowcreekchrch@aol.com) digital copies of any pictures or video of The Kirkin' o' The Tartans for a compilation of this event. If you have any questions, please call the church office 815-885-3455.



WCPC Operating Statistics August, 2015

Income	11,689.00
Expenses	10,161.00
Previous Month - Excess/(Deficit)	(3,533.00)

Kirkin' o' The Tartans



A Celebration of Family



October 2015 All Church Calendar

Thur 10/1	6:45 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Fri-Sat 10/2-3	---	Pastor @ Stronghold
Sat 10/3		
Sat-Sun 10/3-4	8:00 am	Music & Worship Meeting
	---	Olde English Faire @ Stronghold
Sun 10/4	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship with Traditional Communion (Chancel Choir Sing) • World Communion Sunday • <i>Mission of the Month: A Season of Peace</i> Begins-Peace & Global Witness Offering
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Young People's Choir Rehearsal
Mon 10/5	7:00 -9:00 pm	Session Meeting
Thur 10/8	---	No Preschool 10/8 thru 10/14 Columbus Day Break
	1:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
	6:45 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 10/11	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:15 am	Young People's Choir joins Chancel Choir for Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship (Chancel & Young People's Choir Sing)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	1:00-3:00 pm	Youth Group Games & Lesson
Mon 10/12	---	Columbus Day
	9:00 am	Christian Education Meeting (per mtg minutes of 8/4)
	7:00 pm	Pastor-Bethany Session
Tue 10/13	10:00 am	Mariners will meet at the Boone County Historical Society, 518 South State Street, Belvidere; Lunch following at the Steam Plant, 123 Meadow Street, Belvidere
	7-8:30 pm	Session 1: All Small Groups will meet together to go over the New Beginnings Assessment
Thur 10/15	----	Preschool Resumes
	6:30 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sat 10/17	7:30 am	Youth Group –Volunteering @ Stronghold's "Race to the Castle 5K"
Sun 10/18	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship (Chancel Choir Sing)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Young People's Choir Rehearsal
Tues 10/20	8:00 am	Buildings and Grounds Meeting
Wed 10/21	11:30 am	Presby Lunch
Thur 10/22	---	Pastor Com Meeting
	6:45 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 10/25	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	9:30 am	Young People's Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship (Young People's Choir Sings)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	1:00 pm-3:00 pm	Youth Group Games & Lessons

October 2015 All Church Calendar Continued

Mon 10/26

Tue 10/27

Sat 10/31

Sun 11/1

7:00 pm Mission/Membership/Stewardship Meeting

1:00 pm Pastor-Stronghold for Meeting

6:45 pm Bell Rehearsal

--- Halloween

10:00 am Celebration of All Saints Day and dedication of Memorials (with communion)



Weekly Small Group Meetings, October 14th - December 1st, 2015



Tuesday evenings at the Reid's home with John and Kim
Wednesday afternoons at the church with Jim and Delores
Saturday mornings at Maren's with Jill and Maren

Other group meeting times and places are still being determined. Stay tuned for more details!