



STREAM

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

October 2016

Not long ago, I was in a grocery store in Roscoe. I turned into the freezer aisle and instantly saw a gentleman slip and fall. He wasn't injured — at least he said he wasn't — but it shook him up quite a bit before he returned to his feet. He had slipped on some liquid on the floor. A child nearby said, "It's always like that because people take too long pickin' a flavor." Within minutes several store manager types were there making sure the man was okay and the spill was marked with ample signage and all mopped up. As I left, I noticed several workers roaming the store and parking lot picking up fallen cans, bottles, even toys and trash.

The other night, at dinner with the Skiffers, the subject of the new stop sign at Orth and Beloit came up. No matter if it is a spill on the floor, school bus accident, or pain and suffering due to faulty products only later recalled, it hurts even more knowing it could have been prevented.

That's not to say that stewards ought be micro-managers or control-freaks. I'm suggesting that stewards, or leaders (and followers, because there is always someone coming along behind us) need always be observant of the little things that could affect others or have big, unintended consequences.

I remember my supervising teacher back in college, who always seemed to know what was going on, often pointing out little things no one else noticed--grammar mistakes here and there, untied laces, strange bruises, missing faces. His intention, as he said, was to "spot the crisis, no matter how small, before the calamity, no matter how big." Intentionality matters. As a teacher, I followed his example, refusing to do deskwork during the class so that I could roam, connect, and look for opportunity to address problems before they grew too big and costly.

It's a good lesson to learn in all our affairs. Big things often start small, when they are easier to resolve. Ever let a minor hurt fester before seeing the doctor, or a small miscommunication grow to into a marital rift? As humans, it is oh, so tempting to focus on the things in someone else's way, but as stewards and leaders, we first correct the things lurking in our own paths (the logs in our own eyes, *Matthew 7*); that way we will have some experience to share with others as they find those little path-lurkers themselves.

Pastor Judith

**Recent Visitors & New Members say...
Willow Creek is a warm and welcoming Church!**



PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FELLOWSHIP HOUR - HOW CAN *YOU* SERVE?

Sign up to host a Sunday Morning Fellowship. The sign-up sheet is on the Fellowship Table.

OR

- 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.
- When you walk down the juice aisle of your favorite grocery store, pick up a jug or two of juice (Hawaiian Punch, etc.) and bring it/mark it for Sunday Fellowship.
- When you are at church, volunteer to serve on a blank Sunday, we welcome your help any time in the kitchen. As you may have heard the new coffee pot is easy to work!

GO ALL IN!

GO DO!



Coffee Fellowship

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 Membership and Stewardship Committee or Pastor Judith.



Peace & Global Witness Special Offerings Sunday, October 2, 2016

A gift to the Peace & Global Witness Offering enables the church to promote the Peace of Christ by addressing systems of injustice across the world. 25% of our congregational offering stays here, designated for our church to use locally to promote peace and global witness!



WCPC Operating Statistics August 2016

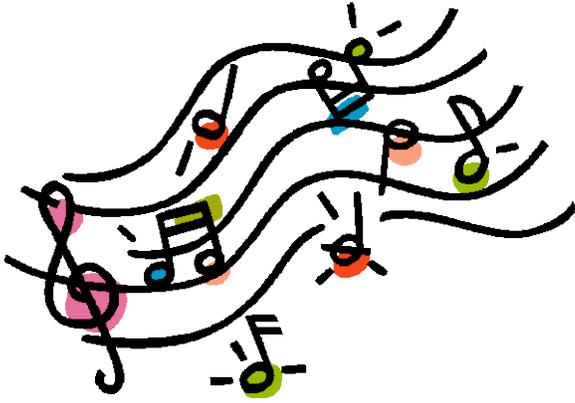
August showed us it's typical self as parents prepared their students for a new school year. We at least held our own as income kept pace with our expenses. Thank you again for your continued faithful giving.



WCPC Operating Statistics

	August, 2016	Year-to-Date
Income	14,430.00	88,098.00
Expenses	14,433.00	106,365.00
	(3.00)	(18,267.00)

9/7/16 Session Summary: July was a good month financially. Pastor's report and request for vacation 10/10 – 10/16 was approved. Approved plans to repair the chimney and related items, not to exceed \$20,000, funds to come from New Covenant Endowment Fund earnings. Beginning on 9/25 there will be a Gathering & Gospel time at 9 a.m. with showing of films and discussion. Grace & Gratitude Fellowship Hour will begin 10/2 after worship. Both will be intergenerational (for children, youth & adults together).



Let's Celebrate

On Sunday, October 9, the Chancel Choir will host a special fellowship hour in honor of two gentlemen who gave many, many years to our choir. Both are now retired from singing, and we miss them. There will also be a special presentation during Worship.

Please join us in honoring Gordon Bindenagel and Herb Greenlee and help us thank them for all of their years of service!



Choir Rehearsal:

Sunday, October 2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 @ 8:30 am

Chancel Choir Sings for Worship all Sundays in October

Young Peoples Choir Rehearsal:

Sunday, October 9, 16, & 23 @ 11:00 am

Bell Rehearsal:

Thursday, October 6, 13, 20, & 27 @ 7:00 pm



Mariners

Tuesday, October 11 @ 11:00 am

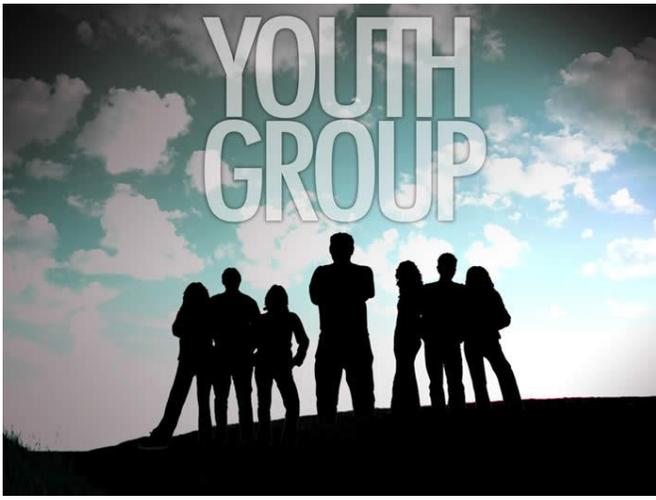
Mariners will meet at the Camp Grant Museum and the Command Post Restaurant, 1004 Samuelson Rd., Rockford. If questions, contact Richard & Pat Nortch (hosting) 815-623-2897.



October Skiffers

October Skiffers will be held on October 8th at the Beloit Civic Theatre for a play called The Spitfire Grill. The tickets are \$8.00 for seniors (60 and older) otherwise \$10.00. We will go to Bravo's (376 Prairie Hill Rd, S. Beloit) for dinner first at 5:30 pm and then on to the play that starts at 7:30 pm. For more information, contact Kathy Meyer at meyerrkm1962@aol.com or call 815-708-4804.

Thank You, Kathy Meyer & Ron Beyer



Willow Creek Youth Group

Sun, Oct 9, 1-3 pm – Games and Lesson @ Church
Sat, Oct 22, 9:30 am – Pumpkin Carving/Decorating as a Mission at Maple Crest
Sun, Nov 6, 1-3 pm – Leaf Raking
Sun, Nov 13, 1-3 pm – Help decorate church and then bowling
Sun, Dec 4, 1-3 pm – Games & Lesson @ Church
Sat/Sun, Dec 17-18, Time TBD – Lock-in with service @ Rockford Rescue Mission

Thank you for the birthday gluten free cake, carb free cheeses and free birthday card signed by so many beloved friends. It was such a blessing to start my special day learning, worshipping and fellowshiping with my church family!

Pastor Judith



GRANITE CITY
food & brewery

D 2 D
DINE TO DONATE

October 23rd
9am to 10pm

20% of your bill goes to Stronghold!

Granite City Food & Brewery
American fare plus an on-site brewery
2800 Harrison Ave, Harrison, MO

For More information: Chris@StrongholdCenter.org (815) 732-6111 x60

SACRED JOURNEYS

WITH BRUCE FEILER

Gather & Gospel Class Sundays, 9:00-9:50 am.

This class is for adults, teens and families with children. Sara will be in the childcare center to teach toddlers and younger children. We will use a PBS video series, *Sacred Journeys: with Bruce Feiler*. The class will start with a scripture reading, 30 minutes of video (taking the six part series across 12 Sundays), and then discuss the journey. Journeys will include Lourdes (France/Catholic), Shikoku (Japan/Buddhism), Jerusalem (Israel/Jewish, Muslim, Christian), Mecca (Saudi Arabia/Muslim), Ganges (India/Hinduism), Nigeria (Yoruba/African).

For as long as humans have been humans, we have traveled the world in search of spiritual understanding. And to get closer to our gods. Today, religion is more threatened than ever, yet sacred journeys are more popular than ever. 200 million people go on a pilgrimage each year. They set out from the ordinary, and seek the extraordinary. [SACRED JOURNEYS WITH BRUCE FEILER](#) takes viewers on some of the most celebrated, challenging and spectacular religious pilgrimages on earth. In this landmark six-part series, we travel with American pilgrims looking to transform their lives as they visit places deeply meaningful to their faith. And our cameras gain privileged access to places rarely seen by viewers before.

A pilgrimage at its core is a gesture of action. Pilgrims feel a deeper connection to their faith. They feel closer to God. In a world in which more and more things are digital and ephemeral, a sacred journey gives the pilgrim the chance to experience something real. Pilgrimage today is more alive than ever before. But you can't experience its wonders unless you go.

Please Join us Sundays at 9:00

Grace and Gratitude Fellowship Hour (with refreshments after worship)

Research shows that the best way to pass our faith on to our kids is through intergenerational group activities and discussions, and that the best way to learn a Bible story or theme is to teach it to someone else. Our first "lesson" will help us explore and practice our faith using the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers.



October 2nd & 30th
November 13th
December 4th



Kirkin O' the Tartan Thank you

Many Willow Creek Church members, family, friends and first-time visitors enjoyed our outstanding “Kirkin O’ the Tartan” service on Sunday, September 18. The service and all the special music (bell choir, chancel choir, violinist, pipes & drums, soloist and organist) were very much appreciated. We were blessed with a beautiful day for the outdoor potluck lunch where the entertainment continued with music, dancing, games and horse drawn wagon rides. The “Kirkin” committee would like to recognize and thank the “behind the scenes” workers who made this day so perfect: The **Music & Worship Committee** who helps the pastor with planning the service and who worked with the

Membership Committee to prepare and clean up after the lunch, the **Building & Grounds Committee** who put up and then tore down the tent, tables and chairs, **Tom Andrew** for providing the sound system, **Jack Greenlee** for arranging the horse/wagon ride, **Katie VanVleet/Steve Paulson** for volunteering to be the drivers, **Herb Greenlee** who opened up the winery to provide tours after the “Kirkin” event ended, and to **Don Greenlee** who was this year’s honorable Beadle.

Very soon Jim Hall will be handing out 2017 calendars. When he does, the first date you can enter is September 17, 2017, as the tentative date for the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church Third Annual “Kirkin O’ the Tartan”.



October 2016 All Church Calendar

Sat 10/1	9:00 am-5:00 pm	Olde English Faire @ Stronghold 10/1 & 10/2 --- Pastor – Work @ Old English Faire All Day
Sun 10/2	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00-9:50 am	Gather & Gospel (Intergenerational)
	10:00 am	Worship- Traditional Communion; MOM Peace & Global Witness
	11:00 am	Grace & Gratitude Fellowship Hour
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
	6:15-7:30 pm	Drum Circle
Mon 10/3	---	Preschool Puppet Show for Fire Prevention
Tue 10/4	1:00 pm	Pastor-Stronghold Committee Meeting
Wed 10/5	7:00-9:00 pm	Session Meeting
Thur 10/6-Tue10/11		No Preschool – Columbus Day Break
	Noon	Pastor Stateline Clergy Luncheon & GRCA /Luncheon
Thur 10/6	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Fri 10/7	4:00-5:30 pm	Girl Scouts Kitchen & Fellowship Hall
Sat 10/8	5:30 pm	Skiffers-Bravo for Pizza & Beloit Civic Theatre (Tickets required, contact Kathy Meyer)
Sun 10/9	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00-9:50 am	Gather & Gospel (Intergenerational)
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship-Choir Celebration for Herb Greenlee & Gordon Bindenabel
	11:00 am	Young People’s Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 am-12:45pm	Lunch & Learning with Pastor Judith (PCUSA/Church)
	1:00-3:00 pm	Youth Group-Games & Lesson @ Church
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 10/10	9:00 am	MMS Meeting
	---	Pastor Judith on Vacation 10/10/10/16
Tue 10/11	11:00 am	Mariners – Camp Grant Museum & Command Post Restaurant, 1004 Samuelson Rd, Rockford, contact Nortchs for more information 815-623-2897
Thur 10/13	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 10/16	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00-9:50 am	Gather & Gospel (Intergenerational)
	10:00 am	Worship (Pulpit Supply)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Young People’s Choir Rehearsal
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
	6:15-7:30 pm	Drum Circle
Tue 10/18	8:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Meeting
	5:30 pm	Worship & Music Meeting
Wed 10/19	Noon	Pastor Preby Clergy Lunch
Thur 10/20	1:30 pm	Deacon Meeting
	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sat 10/22	9:30 am	Pumpkin Carving @ Maple Crest Nursing Home

October 2016 Calendar Continued

Sun 10/23

- 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00-9:50 am Gather & Gospel (Intergenerational)
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:00 am Fellowship
- 11:00 am Young People's Choir Rehearsal
- 11:30 am-12:45pm Lunch & Learning with Pastor Judith (Meet Mentors)
- 5:00-6:00 pm AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
- 9:00 am-10:00pm Stronghold @ Granite City Fundraiser

Tue 10/25

10:00am-3:00pm Pastor Mtg Commission on Ministry @ Stronghold

Wed 10/26

7:00 pm Finance & Personnel Meeting

Thur 10/27

9:00 am Pastor BAC/COM @ Stronghold

7:00 pm Bell Rehearsal

Fri 10/28

4:00-5:30 pm Girl Scouts Kitchen & Fellowship Hall

Sun 10/30

- 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal
- 9:00-9:50 am Gather & Gospel (Intergenerational)
- 10:00 am Worship
- 11:00 am Grace & Gratitude Fellowship Hour
- 5:00-6:00 pm AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
- 6:15-7:30 pm *Drum Circle*

Mon 10/31 -11/6

--- Pastor Continuing Education (No Sundays Missed)

Stronghold Center Presents:
Olde English Faire

Dates
 OCT 1ST 9:00AM - 5:00PM
 OCT 2ND 9:00AM - 4:00PM

Daily Ticket Prices
 ADULTS \$10
 7-12 YEAR OLDS \$5
 6 & UNDER FREE ADMIT

ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT THE WORK OF THE STRONGHOLD CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER
 1922 IL ROUTE 2 NORTH, OREGON, IL
www.strongholdcenter.org

Stronghold

Stronghold - A Note from Dr. Danny Peirce

As the summer days come to a close, we begin to prepare our hearts and souls for the coming time of reflection and thanksgiving for all we are blessed with. God has graced Stronghold and all who experience the wonder of this place. We had a fabulous turnout of over 400 people for the 2nd Annual 5K (90 runners) and Stronghold Open House. Please think about coming to join us for new programs like Tea at the Castle or year two of Stories in the Castle.

Of course, Stronghold is about carrying on traditions. Once again in conjunction with Oregon's Autumn on Parade, the grounds will be transformed during our Olde English Faire during the first weekend in October. This year we have new performers, vendors, and a Silent Auction. The Faire is a major fundraising project for our Camp Ministries. Please consider helping us by attending, volunteering, or maybe you have something that would be interest to donation for the Silent Auction. If so, please contact me at danny@strongholdcenter.org or 815.732.6111 ext. 608

Stronghold - 5k Run and Labor Day Report from Chris Busker

Wow. What a weekend! On September 3rd, Stronghold hosted its 2nd annual Cross Country Run to the Castle. 93 people paid to run our hilly and scenic 5 kilometer (3.1 mile) course. With a significant increase from last year's race of 37 participants, Stronghold is growing into a family favorite for Labor Day traditions. In addition to the 5k run, we opened up our swimming pool, our trails, The Giant Swing, The Leap of Faith and the Castle to the general public. We couldn't believe it- over 400 people showed up to tour the Castle! It was a busy day that reconnected past campers with Stronghold, introduced new people to our wonderful organization and showcased our Christian Hospitality. Mark your calendars now! You will want to be at Stronghold next Labor Day weekend!

Stronghold - Stories in the Castle

October's Stories in the Castle will take place on **October 20th**. Stories will have a **Bat Theme** and stories will be read by Lee/Carrol/Whiteside County Master Naturalist **Pam Richards**. Simple children's crafts will follow the stories.

Questions? Please email Richard Simpson (richard@strongholdcenter.org) or call 815 732 6111 ext. 606

Stronghold - Ye Olde English Faire

Save the Date! On **October 1st and 2nd** Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center will transform its grounds into Elizabethan England to celebrate our Olde English Faire. Knights in armor and jesters will roam the grounds, entertainers will perform for you and vendors offer a range of goods for sale. Tickets are available online or at the gate for \$10 (adults) or \$5 (7-12 yrs); children 6 and under are FREE.

This year the faire is bigger and better than ever with over 40 vendors, over 30 different entertainers including singers, actors, dancers and musicians of all ages as well as a new fire act and a 'create your own adventure' stage show. Our food court will be loaded with hearty stews, turkey legs and burgers as well as brownies, pumpkin bars and hot chocolate to name a few items.

For more information or to buy tickets please visit www.strongholdcenter.org/englishfaire.html

Questions? Please call the offices today on 815-732-6111 or email chris@strongholdcenter.org for questions about tickets or richard@strongholdcenter.org for other faire related questions.

Stronghold - Schedule a Castle tour today

Would you like to learn more about the Stronghold castle? Have you ever stayed in the castle and wanted to learn more about the history of it? You can schedule a tour of the castle today and learn about the Strong family and pick up on some of the secrets of the castle!

Please contact Chris Busker on 815-732-6111 ext. 607 or via email (chris@strongholdcenter.org) for more information and to schedule a tour.

Stronghold - We would love to host your group!

Are you part of a group that is looking for somewhere to meet? Stronghold offers a range of facilities that can cater to the needs of almost any group. Stronghold program staff would be happy to instruct your group in a range of indoor and outdoor activities to promote inclusion and positive team development within your group. Our Kitchen offers quality food and snacks to make your visit with us even more worry free.

Questions? Please email Chris Busker (chris@strongholdcenter.org) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 607