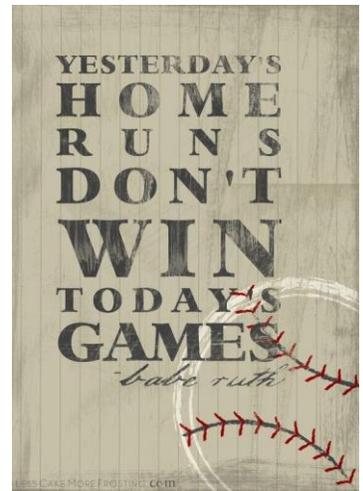




# STREAM

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle  
7300 Belvidere Road  
Caledonia, Illinois 61011  
815-885-3455  
August 2016



**KEEP  
CALM  
AND  
PUT ON YOUR  
RALLY CAP**

The inspiring devotional for our last Session meeting compared baseball with church, and talked about putting on our rally caps and lifting the spirits as the going gets rough. While football season is nearing (training is virtually upon us!), and I'm more of a football girl, go with me on this journey.

Sometimes it feels like the scoreboard of life is against us by hundreds to one....how can we ever catch up, much less win? Have you ever felt behind in an area of your life? Have you ever had a season in your life where you felt behind in your career, or your finances? Have you ever felt overwhelmed when you think about the task ahead, or your relationships (marriage, parenting or taking care of your parents)? Part of life is that even while there are some very good things going on, there are also some really challenging things going on. When we are feeling a little behind in an area of life, an emotion can pop up...a sort of down and out feeling.

That's where rally caps come in. Baseball is not run by a clock, there is always time. It may be the bottom of the ninth, but there is still hope, there is still a chance to turn the game around, to swing for the fences and bring'em all in. We may be down financially, or numerically, or in any area(s) of your life, but you/we are not out!

The truth is, sometimes Mighty Casey will strike out and lose the game, but sometimes, at the bottom of the ninth, the manager will call up an inexperienced, fairly unsuccessful hitter (Atlanta v. Philadelphia, 1992: Francisco Cabrera) who will have a "moment", a miracle. I am sure there were a few grumbles coming from the crowd when Cabrera stepped out of the pen to bat, but the manager must have known something! Some of you may be grumbling as you see the hitters, the new ideas, the new structure of Session, but look to our biblical heritage. God's help comes from unexpected places.

Here is what we need to do. Don't let past failures or current realities define us. Let God define us. Let the Creator who specializes in comebacks, define us and guide us. So, put on your rally caps and get ready to step up to the plate. No matter what might be going on in life, the greatest source of hope, of bringing possibility out of impossibility, is the Triune God. So, lean in to what Jesus said to the rich young man seeking eternal life and his disciples in Matthew 19:24-26.

As our Session guides us to try new things, to do some things differently to reach out of our comfort zones, know that we are trusting in our Triune Lord. We all, like the disciples who assumed (as did society around them) that the wealthy were especially blessed and rewarded for how they had lived, may have misjudged what God has been up to. All the time spent grieving the loss of the big, successful, powerful church...and God may have needed an "underdog."

So, lean in, look forward, don't let the past or current season define us...put your trust in the one who gave up all power and life to become the servant of all, hanging on the cross...let the God of the Comeback call and move and define us all!

*Pastor Judith*

### **Baby Angel Closet received a wonderful gift!**



In July the Baby Angel Closet received an overwhelming gift from Holy Family Church. This gift was delivered by Mary Pulliam from One Body, an organization that coordinates needs and the organizations that provide for the needs of those in need and in our case, babies and their mothers. We at Willow Creek get referrals



for our Baby Closet from One Body as well as the health departments in both Boone and Winnebago County. Holy Family had conducted a Paper Products and Baby Products drive within their church. We were the recipient of the Baby Products. That gift amounted to 18 packages of diapers plus two big boxes that contained over 100 diapers in each, 18 pkgs of wipes, several tubes of diaper rash cream, baby wash, lotion, eight small blankets, eight onesies, two shirts for newborns with the mitten covers for the hands. What a blessing, the diapers, diaper rash cream and baby wash are things that we have had to buy. Our closet is filled completely and we are ready for lots of clients. A thank you letter was sent to Holy Family telling them how much their gift meant to our closet.



Dear Pastor Judith and all the Youth Group Volunteers:

According to Feeding America's most recent statistics, over 10% of Boone County's residents are classified as "food insecure," including a sobering 21% of children. It's a challenging endeavor to continuously supply the most vulnerable men, women, and children living in Boone County with the necessities they need to survive each month.

Your help at the Pantry making lunch bags for our Books on Wheels Program, and helping clean up around the outside was greatly appreciated.

Your continued support means more than we can express and it is greatly appreciated. It would be impossible without the incredible support and generosity of our community.

We rely on individuals, companies, churches, schools, and clubs to help us meet the needs of the ever growing population of people living in poverty in our county. Thank you for caring.

Sincerely, Tracey Dlugosz, Administrative Assistant



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. We would welcome your help any time in the kitchen. Our new coffee pot is easy to work!

### 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 September 3 – October 2

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 June 2016

In May, the Session authorized transfer of \$25,000 additional dollars to cover operations and dedicated account obligations from the Church gifts and bequests money market account. This was the second transfer of funds in an eight month time period. Our monthly loss on average was \$3,418.48 for the first six months. The Session thanks you for your generous support.



k7726741 www.fotosearch.com

### WCPC Operating Statistics

	June, 2016	Year-to-Date
Income	9,144.00	59,405.00
Expenses	10,899.00	79,916.00
	<u>(1,755.00)</u>	<u>(20,511.00)</u>



## Boone County Fair Respite Tent

Thank you to all who have signed up to help with hosting the Respite Tent. We feel this is positive way Willow Creek can reach out into our community showing God's love with a bit of hospitality. We will meet after church on the 31<sup>st</sup> to discuss responsibilities and the where's, when's and how we will do this project. The tent will be set up on Monday the 8<sup>th</sup>. The schedule begins on the 9<sup>th</sup> at noon and continues through the week beginning at 10 a.m. and closing at 9 p.m. except on Sunday when it closes at 7 p.m. We pray that God will guide us in this new venture.



### Mariners

Will not meet in August as they will be working at the Boone County Fair Respite Tent.



### Martha Ruth Circle

Martha Ruth Circle will meet at the church on Tuesday, August 23 at 9:30 a.m. Everyone will bring their main "course" for breakfast. Delores will provide beverages and fruit. We will use The Cradle of Our Faith for our study. This study looks at the history, heritage and culture of Christian communities living in the Middle East (the Cradle of all three Peoples of the Book). Each chapter has been assigned. It should be an interesting morning. Pastor Judith has extra booklets if you haven't picked it up. If anyone is interested in coming to be a part of the study for the day you are welcome. Just bring something for the main course of your breakfast and join us. Pick up a booklet and read it, an overview so you can appreciate and add to the discussion.



**Sunday, September 18**

**Worship @ 10:00am followed by Potluck Lunch & Scottish Dancers**

**Please Join Us!**



August 2016 All Church Calendar

Tue 8/2	5:30 pm	Worship & Music General Committee Members Meeting
	6:30 pm	Worship & Music Business Meeting (Committee & Staff)
Wed 8/3	7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Session Meeting
Sun 8/7	10:00 am	Worship; Communion by Intinction; Mission Habitat for Humanity
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 8/8	---	Mission/Membership/Stewardship setting up Respite Tent @ Boone County Fairgrounds
Tue 8/9	---	Boone County Fair Week 8/9 thru 8/14
Sun 8/14	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Tue 8/16	8:00 am	Buildings and Grounds Meeting
Thur 8/18	1:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
Fri 8/19	6:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal – Sarah Koritz & Bryan Balthazor
Sat 8/20	3:00 pm	Wedding – Sarah Koritz & Bryan Balthazor
Sun 8/21	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Tue 8/23	9:30 am	Martha Ruth Circle @ Church
Sun 8/28	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Tue 8/30	10:00 am – noon	Preschool Open House
	4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	



## Painting Party (Fall Theme)

Saturday, September 24, 7:00-9:00 pm

Willow Creek Church Fellowship Hall

No experience necessary!

For an experience you won't forget!

Desserts will be served

**Cost: \$35/Person**

**(\$15 will come back to WCPC for Mission)**



**WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
**STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE**  
 Actual vs Budget  
 FOR THE SIX MONTHS ENDED JUNE 30, 2016

		Budget	Actual	Variance
<b>REVENUES:</b>				
	Contributions - General	70,050	55,592	(14,458)
	Contributions - Special	675	180	(495)
	Other Income	2,663	3,148	485
	Endowment	-	-	-
	School & Event	250	485	235
	Total Revenue	73,638	59,405	(14,233)
<b>EXPENSES:</b>				
MINISTRY OF:				
	Personnel	58,944	54,389	4,555
	Christian Ed & Youth	2,688	2,871	(183)
	Music & Worship	1,803	1,197	606
	Member & Stewardship	600	689	(89)
	Building & Grounds	24,025	19,590	4,435
	Session	2,831	1,170	1,661
	Deacons	100	10	90
	Missions - Budgeted	350	-	350
	- Unbudgeted	250	-	250
	Total Expense	91,591	79,916	11,675
	<b>Change in cash from operations</b>	(17,953)	(20,511)	(2,558)
<b>OTHER:</b>				
	Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School & Liabilities	-	4,565	(4,565)
	Net Cash Transfers To/(From) Investments	-	(25,000)	25,000
	<b>Change in cash since January 1, 2016</b>	(17,953)	(76)	17,877

## Bible Camp Week Was Wonderful!

WCPC ran a tiered Bible Camp Week for the second year in a row. The theme through the week used different Bible stories (Joseph, Esther, Jesus) to focus on important aspects of our Christian community, such as, trust, courage, and standing up for one another. It was a terrific week! Although the Christian Education Commission had budgeted \$2500 for the week, with registration fees and donations, we were able to save the church over 52% of the budgeted amount. We are already looking forward to start planning next year!

This year we started with an Inter-generational Fun Night, open to all ages. Over 40 people gathered for hot dogs, songs, Bible stories, discussion, and arts and crafts.



Mrs. Rebekah Landi ran the Pre-K/K group, teaching 13 children Bible stories about Joseph, Moses, and Jesus, playing with play-dough, and learning through play. Skyler Cummings assisted her.



Four counselors from Stronghold (originally from Cape Town, South Africa; England; Australia; and Ireland) came up and stayed for the week with Pastor Judith and Maren Reid. During the day (9-3:30) they led 19 elementary kids in Bible lessons, crafts, games, and worship. McCathran Andrew, Connor Kelley and Gia Cuppini were the very able assistants. We were thankful for the hospitality of Delores Hall and Pat Nortch who provided snacks for all the kids (Pre-k through High School) and lunch for our visiting Stronghold counselors. We are also grateful for Don and Barb Greenlee, Maren Reid, Lee Pickett, and the Rottman family, our lovely hosts who provided dinner, movies, swimming and other evening entertainment!



Eight middle schoolers started out the day with the Stronghold camp doing energizers before taking off for the adventure of the day with Pastor Judith and Maren Reid. Each day this team volunteered for a couple of hours, played games in a local park along with a snack and Bible lesson, worked on a mission craft project, and came back for a couple of games and the closing "campfire vespers". Hailey Monroe and Sara Rottman were the wonderful assistants. We volunteered for the Baby Angel Closet, Rockford Rescue Mission, Fresh Start Animal Shelter, (look who we found volunteering there?) Boone County Food Pantry, and the City of Loves Park (picking up trash in Argyle and along Bell School in Loves Park.)



## Presbyterian Youth Triennium 2016

Maren Reid, Jeff Cummings, Pastor Judith, Skyer Cummings, Connor Kelley, Hailey Monroe and Sara Rottman joined up with youth and sponsors from 5 other churches to make up the Blackhawk Presbytery Delegation. They left here, full of excitement, on Monday to return Saturday. They then arose on Sunday to help lead us in songs and to give the children's message at Worship in the Park on the 24<sup>th</sup>.



Our church group on day one.



Our delegation on day five.



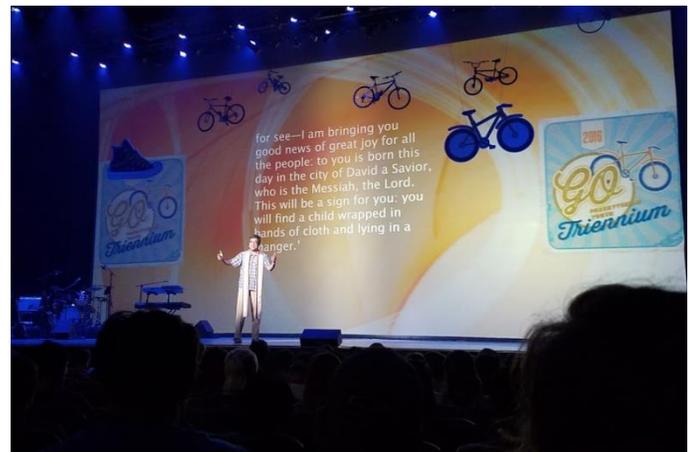
Our church group getting ice cream on the way home.



PYT kids leading the Childrens' Message.



PYT kids use cell phones to make worship even more meaningful!



Rev. Dr. Roger Nishioka preaches about Jesus' birth at our first PYT worship.

Stronghold Center Presents:

# Olde English Faire



## Dates

OCT 1<sup>ST</sup> 9:00AM - 5:00PM

OCT 2<sup>ND</sup> 9:00AM - 4:00PM

## Daily Ticket Prices

ADULTS \$10

7-12 YEAR OLDS \$5

6 & UNDER FREE ADMIT



## Stronghold

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

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

### **Stronghold - A Note from Dr. Danny Peirce**

It has been an exciting first 40 days as the new Executive Director of Stronghold. Summer camp is in full swing, and visiting our Traveling Day Camps at United Presbyterian Church in Henry and Waltham Presbyterian Church in Utica to meet pastors, staff, congregational members and campers have been highlights. We can all be proud of the Summer Staff and programs Ryan Anderson (Program Director) and Richard Simpson (Director of Youth Ministry & Church Outreach) have put together for our youth this summer.

Moving forward, Stronghold will need individual and church support for a sustainable future. Support can come in many ways including prayers, donations of time and talent, booking groups, attending events and monetary gifts. With such a deep history of changing lives and continuing in the Presbyterian traditions of camp ministry...we are changing lives one person at a time. Please join us as your faith calls.

If I can be of service in any way, please contact me at [danny@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:danny@strongholdcenter.org) or 815.732.6111. ext. 608.

### **Stronghold - Stories in the Castle**

Stories in the Castle will return on **September 15<sup>th</sup>**. Stories will have a renaissance theme to tie in with the Olde English Faire (October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>). Stories will start at 5:00pm and a special activity will take place immediately following the stories.

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

### **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 high quality food and snacks to make your visit with us even more worry free.

Questions? Please email Chris Busker ([chris@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:chris@strongholdcenter.org)) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 607 or Richard Simpson ([richard@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:richard@strongholdcenter.org)) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 606

### **Stronghold - Father Ted comes to Stronghold!**

As the Blackhawk Presbytery celebrate its 20 year partnership with Imenti, Kenya Stronghold is excited to host Missionary Father Ted Hochstatter who will talk about his decade of service in Kenya, how he serves people of Africa's largest slum and how he keeps a good outlook on life on **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** at Brubaker Center. Fr. Ted Hochstatter was ordained a priest on May 24<sup>th</sup>, 1980 after finishing theological training at St. Meinrad School of Theology in Indiana. He realized his calling to serve as a ministry through the inspiration of Mother Teresa whom he met in Rome In September 1985.

For a more detailed biography of Father Ted's work and life and to get a taste of the range of experiences Father Ted has experienced please visit [www.facebook.com/strongholdcenter](http://www.facebook.com/strongholdcenter) and look under 'Events.' Alternatively you can contact Chris Busker ([chris@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:chris@strongholdcenter.org)) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 607

### **Stronghold - Open Challenge Course**

Please join us on **September 3<sup>rd</sup>** for our open challenge course between 4:00pm and 8:00pm. Cost is \$10 per person for the Leap of Faith **OR** the Swing by Choice (also known as the Giant Swing.) \$18 per person will get you both the leap of faith **AND** the giant swing. Please meet at Brubaker for registration for this event. All participants must be at least 10 years of age or older and participants under the age of 18 will require consent from their parent/guardian.

Questions? Please email Ryan Anderson ([ryan@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:ryan@strongholdcenter.org)) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 609

### **Stronghold - THANK YOU FOR YOUR RESPONSE!**

Several months ago we put out a request for the donation of recyclable supplies for use during Arts and Crafts. We were overwhelmed by the response and have run out of space to store these supplies. As of this point in time we are no longer able to accept donations of these items. We are hoping to be able to put out a call for donations again in a few months to help us prepare for summer camp 2017!

### **Stronghold - 5K Run to the Castle**

RETREAT! Run to the Castle by way of hilly trail and smooth gravel paths to arrive safely in the Castle courtyard.

For the second year in a row, Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center will host a 5k run for participants of all ages. There will be opportunities for dog walkers and strollers starting at 10:00am. This event will take place on September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2016. Mark your calendars and 'like' our Facebook page to stay in the loop!

To get all the information as it becomes available please email Chris Busker via email ([chris@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:chris@strongholdcenter.org)) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 607.

### **Stronghold - New Van has been purchased**

As some of you may be aware, thanks to generous donations from 50 individual parties we were able to make a purchase midway through our summer camp season. The purchase made was a 2009 Toyota Sienna. We hope for this van to serve our Day camp purposes for several years and will be taking precautions to make sure that happens. We would like to extend our thanks to all who donated, no matter how large or small your donation was we wouldn't be riding in our new van without your continued support.

If you are looking to make a donation to Stronghold please contact Dr. Danny Peirce, our new executive director via email ([danny@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:danny@strongholdcenter.org)) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 608 or you can contact John Mecklenburg via email ([mecklenburg1@comcast.net](mailto:mecklenburg1@comcast.net)) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 602.

### **Stronghold - Help the Stronghold Outdoor Education Program**

Stronghold is looking to grow our Outdoor Education Program at Stronghold. We are going to develop a series of self-led lessons accessible for all guests on site. These activities will be conveniently assembled in backpacks, to be picked up at the front desk of Brubaker.

To donate a gently used backpack, please call or email Richard Simpson (815-732-6111 ext. 606 or [richard@strongholdcenter.org](mailto:richard@strongholdcenter.org)). Backpacks can be dropped off at the Stronghold display table at the Blackhawk Presbytery meeting (**September 13**, Joliet, IL) or at Stronghold during regular business hours (9 – 4 Monday – Friday)