

STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle
7300 Belvidere Road, Caledonia, Illinois 61011
September 2016



One Year into Our New Beginning

As we sat out at the Boone County Fair a couple of weeks ago, the Facebook memories app alerted me that exactly one year ago we were just starting our New Beginnings Assessment. I had posted pictures and thoughts as we were beginning the process. I remember blurting out to the volunteers in the tent, “Wow, look at us now. I think we’ve had our New

Beginning!” We immediately began rattling off some recent evidence of new growth occurring in and around us. Our goals (I’m paraphrasing from memory here) had been to build on our strengths in fellowship and hospitality, to reach out and work with existing ministries and partnerships, and to better utilize our facilities, talents and resources for ministry. And, suddenly, it seems we could look back and see where God has been working!

A year before, as our assessment day was just underway, I’d gotten a text from a couple of our members who were out exploring the fair. They wondered why we didn’t have a booth out there like some of the Belvidere churches did. Given our identified goals, it just made sense! We had more than 40 volunteers, ages 15 to 80-something! We provided great hospitality! These volunteers stood in front of the tent greeting fair-goers and inviting them in for a spot of water or a cool place to rest. Our tent welcomed young children to our play area, babies to be nursed and changed, neighbors to come in and share a lifetime of stories about their time in our church, some who wanted to know how we compared to other denominations and religions, and some who told us all about the fair exhibits and rides.

We even initiated some possible new partnerships at the fair. At our recent Session meetings, we had been discussing more congregational ministry suggestions and ideas within our three newly formed Ministry Areas (Direction, Discipleship, and Community), and God seemed to put wheels on some of these ideas the very next week at the fair. One of the Belvidere Habitat for Humanity board members enjoyed our cool water and hearing about our desire to connect through giving of our time, talents and treasures. Walter excitedly gave a few examples that might work within our talent and volunteer pool (providing refreshment on build sites, helping to get recyclable materials to the ReStore, and even building or painting), and invited me to the next board meeting. Lots of good music also made its way into our tent, and one of our volunteers was able to go over and speak to a couple of musicians who would love to come play at our church sometime (at worship, a fellowship event, or even as a part of a concert series)! And, just across from our tent was a tent for three of the Belvidere nursing homes. Once, when one of the activity directors had brought some residents out to the fair, she stopped to speak with me about our adopting some of the residents who have few, if any, family or friends to visit them—our elders had just spoken of this idea the week before in the Ministry to Community Area meeting!

So, the assessment and the small group meetings of New Beginnings may be done, but we are not...*God* is not yet done with our New Beginning! Session has restructured, and continues to smooth out plans to best support our continued growth in Discipleship (Worship, Christian Education, and Fellowship), Direction (Buildings & Grounds, Finance and Personnel), and Community (Mission, Care and Outreach). We are planning some new things within our walls: a new AA group, Sold on Sobriety, is outgrowing the Argyle Room and will be moving to the tables west of the kitchen, and a painting party will soon grace the fellowship hall (9/24—hope you can come!). Please join the Session in praying for our congregation as we listen for the new ways God is calling us to be Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

Pastor Judith

C.O.F.F.E.E. Hours with Pastor Judith Return!

In case you haven't heard, this coffee with the pastor thing is bigger than we might have known last year. It even has its own recognized acronym—COFFEE: Christ Offers Forgiveness for Everyone Everywhere. At any rate, please feel free to drop by, to bring a friend, and even to make a separate coffee date with me if the scheduled times don't work well for you. Please also let me know if you have any favorite coffee places you think I might out to try ought in the future!

Wednesdays in September

- 7th—Meg's Daily Grind off Perryville (8-11am)
- 14th—Caffeind off Elevator Road (1:30-3:30pm)
- 21st—Local Dough on Main at Prairie St. in Rockford (8-11am)
- 28th—Starbucks on 173 (1:30-3:30pm)

Dear Mariners,

Thank you for your gift of \$25, for speaking to your Church. Your gift and interest in Midway Village Museum is very much appreciated.



Midway Village Museum

40 Years

CELEBRATING ROCKFORD HISTORY

Midway Village Museum is growing as Rockford's history museum. We have more than 150,000 artifacts in our collection all relating to Rockford history. That is more artifacts than any other institution in the city, representing a priceless resource for preserving the history of our area. In addition, through support from people like you, the Museum is able to grow in its mission of community history education.

Thank you for making an investment in the future of our community.

Sincerely, David J. Byrnes



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

RE: Thank you for your recent donation of Soup Labels and Box Tops given on 7/15/2016.

Thank you to the Willow Creek congregation for your longtime friendship and support. *Campbell's is discontinuing the Labels Program as of August 1.* We can still use our points but not submit labels after August 1, 2016.

Note from MMS: Willow Creek will continue to collect the General Mills Box Tops for Education.



Thanks to everyone who joined to celebrate Malcolm's Baptism. It was absolutely beautiful, we couldn't dream of anything better!

Thank you for the storybook Bible and personalized blanket. These are gifts Malcolm will always treasure.

Thank you,
The Kenney Family

WCPC Operating Statistics July 2016

The five Sunday's in July proved beneficial, with offerings exceeding expenses for the first time in calendar 2016. Our staff expense is averaging \$9,289.23 per month for the first seven months of this year. We can easily see why our operating costs take a large portion of our monthly receipts. Thank you for your continued support.



k7726741 www.fotosearch.com

WCPC Operating Statistics

	July, 2016	Year-to-Date
Income	12,092.00	71,598.00
Expenses	9,845.00	89,862.00
	2,247.00	(18,264.00)



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!



Can't commit for every Sunday? Come when you can. If one rehearsal on a piece is enough for you, that's fine with me. I have no "minimum rehearsal" requirements. I will be glad to give you the music ahead of time if you wish.

I will be trying to get extra voices for special occasions and will let you know via the streamer, bulletin and announcement at worship. Our first special occasion will be our wonderful Kirkin' service on September 18. We will have three rehearsals for this service: September 4, 11, and 18. We'll go over Kirkin' music about 9:00. In high school? Love to sing? Join us, please!

One more thing for ALL ages: If you play an instrument and ever want to play for worship, alone or with others, let me know. I am most eager to get a list of those that play.

Bell Rehearsal:

Thursday, September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 @ 7:00 pm
Bells play for worship for the Kirkin' o' The Tartans on Sunday,
September 18



Choir Rehearsal:

Sunday, September 4, 11, 18, 25 @ 8:30 am
Chancel Choir Sings for Worship all Sundays in September

Young Peoples Choir Rehearsal:

Sunday, September 25 @ 11:00 am

Mariners

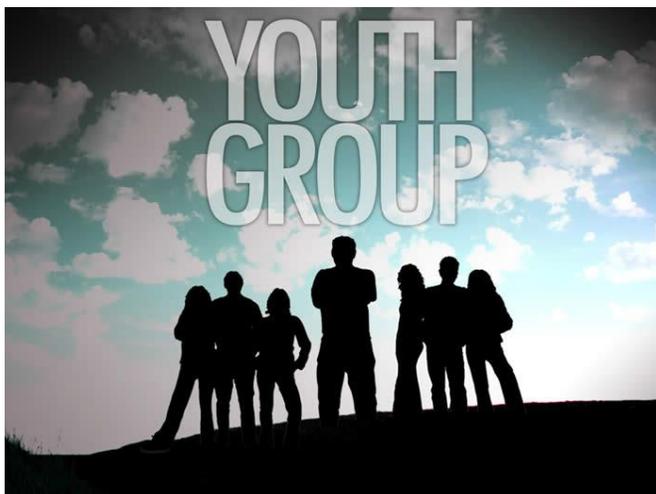
Mariners will be held on Wednesday, September 14th, at the home of Dick & Sue Brick's at 11:30 am. Please come in the North Entrance, to the lower level, so there will be no stairs. Let us know by September 5th (Labor Day) if you can attend. (815)885-3922



Martha Ruth Circle

Martha Ruth Circle will meet Tuesday, September, 27 at Jenine Spack's home. We will carpool from the church at 8:45 am. Our study will be the "Cradle of Our Faith" and copies are available in the church office.

Willow Creek Youth Group



Sun, Sept 11, 1-3 pm – Games and Lesson @ Church
Sun, Sept 25, 1-3 pm – Games and Lesson @ Church
Sun, Oct 9, 1-3 pm – Games and Lesson @ Church
Sun, Oct 23, 1-3 pm – Pumpkin Carving/Decorating as
a Mission to 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

Boone County Fair 2016



Riley and her calf, Daisy.



Skyler and her hog, Pickles.



The Monday Night Set-Up Team: Front row-Delores Hall, Pat Nortch, Jim Hall, Dave Ensminger; Back row—Judith Hardie, Katherine Ralston, Marie and Jason Wiersema, Steve Picken, Jim Ralston, Mike Landi and Janet Ensminger.



One of the families who used the tent.

Thank You to All Who Helped At the Fair!

The Fair has come and gone, it was hot but wonderful! Thanks to everyone who helped set up on Monday evening. It was a great group of Willow Creek folks that brought things to make the Respite Tent work. Most of all you gave your time and energy (muscle) to put it up, anchor it, label it with our great sign. Thank you to Jack Greenlee for providing our “anchors”. Thanks to Jim and Katherine who had poles to put the sign above the tent. Thanks to Dave and Janet for making the sign possible. Thanks to Mike and Rebekah for the play area, toys, table and rug. Thanks to Maren for the use of the huge thermos. Thanks to Steve Paulson who guided us when we had questions, told us who to call and helped with the passes, etc. The biggest thank you is to Pastor Judith who spent a lot of time there visiting with lots of people and then all of those who were scheduled; Janet Hyland, Elaine Zotas, Lee Pickett, Marie and Jason Wiersema, Beth Monroe, April Rottman, Pat and Richard Nortch, Jack and Jenine Spack, Carol Norem, Marge Abels, John and Kim Reid, Dick and Carolyn Wheeler, Gene and Carolyn Wheeler, Mike and Rebekah Landi, Nettie Parker and Jared Fank, Maren Reid, Les and Donna Hamilton, Dave and Janet Ensminger, David and Phyllis Cummings, Curt and Sharri Greenlee, Jaxon and Phoenix Greenlee, Jim and Katherine Ralston, Jeff and Skyler Cummings, Steve and Penny Picken, Jim and Delores Hall. This was something brand new for Willow Creek Presbyterian Church to do. We were reaching out to the community, our community with Christian Love. Thank you all for being a big part of it.

The Kirkin' o' The Tartans

Sunday, September 18

Worship @ 10:00am

followed by Potluck Lunch & Scottish Dancers

Spread the word, invite your friends!

Simple no-sew pattern available in Fellowship Hall, some fabric is also available, dowel will be provided.



September 2016 All Church Calendar

Thur 9/1	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 9/4	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship; Traditional Communion; Mission-The Kitchen Table in Rochelle
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:15 am	Christian Education Meeting
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 9/5	---	Labor Day
Tue 9/6	---	First Day of Tuesday-Thursday Preschool
	Noon	Pastor-Stronghold Committee
	5:30 pm	Music & Worship Meeting
Wed 9/7	---	First Day of Monday-Wednesday-Friday Preschool
	<i>8:00 -11:00 am</i>	<i>Pastor Coffee Hrs @ Meg's Daily Grind off Perryville</i>
	7:00-9:00 pm	Session Meeting
Thur 9/8	1:00 pm	Deacon Meeting
	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sat 9/10	6:30 pm	Schooners-Adult Evening of food, fellowship, & fun
Sun 9/11	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	1:00-3:00 pm	Youth Group-Games & Lesson @ Church
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 9/12	9:00 am	MMS Meeting
Tue 9/13	---	Presbyterian Meeting @ First Presbyterian in Joliet (Pastor & Delores attending)
Wed 9/14	<i>11:30 am</i>	<i>Mariners – at the home of Dick & Sue Brick</i>
	<i>1:30-3:30 pm</i>	<i>Pastor Coffee Hrs @ Caffeind off Elevator Road</i>
Thur 9/15	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 9/18	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal (may be downstairs as Bells are playing)
	10:00 am	Worship-Kirkin' o'The Tartans Celebration
	11:00 am	Potluck Lunch & Scottish Dancers
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Tue 9/20	8:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Meeting
Wed 9/21	<i>8:00 -11:00 am</i>	<i>Pastor Coffee Hrs @ Local Dough on Main @ Prairie St in Rockford</i>
Thur 9/22	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sat 9/24	<i>7:00-9:00 pm</i>	<i>Painting Party @ WCPC</i>
Sun 9/25	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:15-9:45 am	Gather & Gospel (intergenerational)
	10:00 am	Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Young People's Choir Rehearsal
	1:00-3:00 pm	Youth Group-Games & Lesson @ Church
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Tue 9/27	8:45 am	Martha Ruth-Carpool from Church to Jenine Spacks
Wed 9/28	8:00 am	Pastor-Stronghold Task Force
	<i>1:30 – 3:30 pm</i>	<i>Pastor Coffee Hrs @ Starbucks on 173</i>
Thur 9/29	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal

Painting Party

(Fall Theme)

Saturday, September 24

7:00—9:00 pm

Willow Creek Church

7300 Belvidere Road, Caledonia

Artist Angie Hentges-Scordato will guide us;

no experience necessary!

(all art supplies included)

Bring friends and join us

for an evening you won't forget!

Sparkling beverages & desserts will be served

Cost: \$35/Person

(\$15 comes back to WCPC for Mission)

To register: contact the church (815-885-3455)

email willowcreekchrch@aol.com

or find us on facebook @willowcreekpc



Westminster Concert Series 2016 - 2017

Celebrating Our 10th Season!



Rockford Chamber Players Brass Quintet

Friday, September 23, 2016 ♦ 7:00 pm ♦ Free Will Offering

Rockford Chamber Players Brass Quintet has been performing together for 25 years and has played to Rockford audiences at area churches, concert series, and festivals. Quintet members **Mark Baldin** (trumpet), **Michael Swope** (trumpet), **Becky Asher** (horn), **Brian Rogers** (trombone), and **Paul Bowyer** (tuba) have planned an evening of baroque and light classical works from composers such as Holst and Tchaikovsky as well as modern day pieces including selections from West Side Story.



The American Boychoir in Concert—How Can I Keep From Singing?

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 ♦ 7:00 pm ♦ Free Will Offering

The American Boychoir has long been recognized as one of the finest musical ensembles in the country. Under the leadership of **Fernando Malvar-Ruiz**, the American Boychoir has dazzled audiences with its unique blend of musical sophistication, spirited presentation, and ensemble virtuosity. Boys in fourth through eighth grades come from across the country and around the world to pursue a rigorous musical and academic curriculum at the American Boychoir School in Princeton, New Jersey.



Friends Together—Just Desserts!

Sunday, November 6, 2016 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ Free Will Offering

Back by popular demand! You won't want to miss this program of chamber music delights featuring some of Rockford's finest artists: **Jean Anderson** (organ), **Michael Beert** (cello), **Maria Castello** (dance), **Nanette Felix** (harp), **Rachel Handlin** (violin), **Joel Ross** (piano), and **Jacques Saint-Cyr** (flute & dance). Of course, refreshments will be served!



Tom Trenney, organist

Friday, February 17, 2017 ♦ 7:00 pm ♦ Free Will Offering

Tom Trenney is a graduate of the Cleveland Institute of Music and the Eastman School of Music. He serves as Minister of Music to First-Plymouth Congregational Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. He leads a vibrant music ministry, conducting adult and children's choirs, playing the church's magnificent Schoenstein organ, and directing the acclaimed Abendmusik Concert Series. Tom became the first organist to be awarded First Prize and Audience Prize in the American Guild of Organists' National Competition in Organ Improvisation in 2006. As a special treat, Tom will accompany a silent film.



Muskingum University Choirs

Sunday, March 5, 2017 ♦ 7:00 pm ♦ Free Will Offering

The premier choral ensemble at Muskingum University, the **Muskingum Concert Choir** performs sacred and secular music from a variety of cultures and historical periods from Renaissance pieces to contemporary choral works. The **Muskingum Chamber Singers** are a select vocal ensemble auditioned from within the choir. In addition to singing and touring with the Concert Choir, they perform for university functions, worship services, and civic events throughout central and southeastern Ohio. The choirs' director is **Dr. Zebulon Highben**.



Cor Cantiamo

Sunday, May 21, 2017 ♦ 3:00 pm ♦ Free Will Offering

Cor Cantiamo is a professional touring chamber choir in residence at **Northern Illinois University**, founded with the mission to perform and promote contemporary choral music and foster new composers for the art form. Since their founding in the spring of 2009, the choir has emerged as an energetic and accomplished vocal ensemble, receiving accolades for their performances.

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



Stronghold

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

www.strongholdcenter.org

A Note from Dr. Danny Peirce

As the busy season of the 2016 Summer Camp comes to a close here at Stronghold, I want to reach out and thank pastors, parents, youth and congregations for supporting our camp ministry. Through God's grace, numbers are trending upward as we had 305 youth and adults participate in summer camp programs here at Stronghold. Add in the 12 Traveling Day Camp sites (5 first time locations) and that adds another 419 children to bring our 2016 total to just over 720 individuals that experienced the influence and power of Stronghold Camp Ministry.

We are reaching out to touch the future in ways we cannot always fully understand in the moment. We continually hear of how much Stronghold experiences impact lives in nurturing individual relationships with the love of Jesus Christ. As we move into the future, we continue to need your continued support of prayers, creating and attending events, programs, and camps, gifts of time and talent, and financial giving to sustain the ministry so dear to us all.

I serve at the blessing of God, and if I can be of service in any way, please contact me at danny@strongholdcenter.org or 815.732.6111 ext. 608.

A new voice at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center

If you were to phone the Stronghold offices chances are you would hear a new voice. It is with great pleasure that we have been joined on staff by **Kassandra Massolle** as our **Guest Services Coordinator**. Kassandra has been involved with stronghold in one capacity or another since 2012 when she served as our Summer Camp Communications Director/Photographer. Kassandra also helps Stronghold by facilitating on the challenge course. If you wish to book a retreat Kassandra is the person to talk to. Please call her on 815-732-6111 ext. 613 or via email at reservations@strongholdcenter.org.

Stories in the Castle

Stories in the Castle will return on **September 15th**. Stories will have a renaissance theme to tie in with the Olde English Faire (**October 1st and 2nd**). 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) or call 815 732 6111 ext. 606

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 or Richard Simpson (richard@strongholdcenter.org) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 606

Open Challenge Course

Please join us on **September 3rd** 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) or call 815-732-6111 ext. 609

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!

Can you support Stronghold?

In the past several months, our heavy-duty pick-up truck that we use to plow the hill took its last, stuttering breath. Without a replacement or some major repair work Stronghold maintenance staff will not be able to plow the hill this winter for our staff and guests to make it up the hill.

Can you help? Do you have a heavy-duty, four wheel drive pick-up that you can part with? Or can you (or your organization) help us purchase a replacement truck? OR.... Do you have a \$100 gift that, when put with 29 other \$100 gifts, can get our pick-up repaired for another year or two of service?

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