

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARGYLE

The Rev. Judith March Hardie

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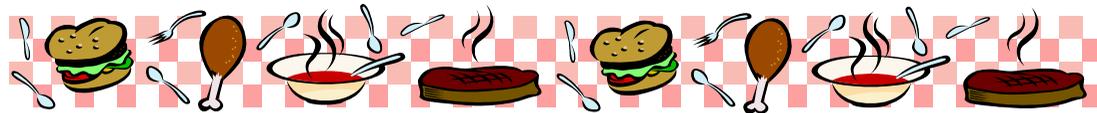
*A Faith Community, Growing
Together, Sharing The Love
of Christ*

www.willowcreekpc.org

«Label Name 1»

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Mariners

The Mariners will meet on Wednesday, April 10th, at 11:30am at the Steam Plant Family Restaurant at 123 Meadow Street in Belvidere. Please call Wayne & Shirley Ashburn at 815-572-2482 if you have any questions.

YOU ARE INVITED...

Come check out the new Bible Study beginning on Thursday, April 25th, at 9:00 AM. We meet weekly and will be studying the book of Acts.

Bring a friend; all are welcome!



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle



STREAMER

April 2013

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From the Pastor

Are You a Charismatic Christian?

Romans 12:6-8 *"We have different gifts that are consistent with God's grace that has been given to us. If your gift is prophecy, you should prophesy in proportion to your faith. If your gift is service, devote yourself to serving. If your gift is teaching, devote yourself to teaching. If your gift is encouragement, devote yourself to encouraging. The one giving should do it with no strings attached. The leader should lead with passion. The one showing mercy should be cheerful."*
You are gifted! God declares it to be so.

The word "gifts" in the Bible is a translation from the Greek word "charisma", and the root word for it is 'grace'. It is used only 17 times in the New Testament, each time referring either to the undeserved gift of God's grace for salvation, or the unmerited gift of God's grace which helps us extend grace to others. Thus, spiritual gifts, or charisma, are unearned presents from God to and through God's children.

Each of us is fearfully and wonderfully made to play an awesome part in God's kingdom. In using our gifts, we manifest the grace of God who generously endows us with all things good to glorify God's Name. And our church is designed in a similar way, gifted in order to show God's power and love for God's glory (not our own). So, the church is gifted in such a way that each of us has a valued role particularly suited for us, in order to fully exhibit the kingdom of God.

But the problem is that we don't always know what our gift is. We don't always understand how our gift fits in with other gifted Christians. We often have as hard of a time discerning what we are being called to do as the church has in utilizing all the gifted folks God calls together. So, how do we get from here to there? How do we know what our gift is? How do we know what God has called us to do? How do we know what God asks of us as a family of Christ-followers? And, most importantly, should we wait until we are certain to do anything?



No! We should be grace-filled enough to allow risk. We cannot, we will not, always be right. We will fail. We will need to monitor and adjust. There may be times when we think others aren't pulling their weight. There may be times when we feel wronged or judged. In the verses preceding those quoted above, we see that the first-century Roman church faced this same issue. Some were thinking more highly of themselves because they were doing some things others were not doing (verse 3). Paul reminds us that "all members do not have the same function" (v.4). We've been gifted according to God's grace in order to use those gifts to serve others, not ourselves (vv.6-13). Our service is to be marked by diligence and fervor, for we are serving the Lord, not man (v.11).

So, let's not look over our shoulders to see what others are doing or not doing. Look at how God may be able to use you in the kingdom today. God has gifted you, so claim your charisma and take a risk today. Ask God what you should commit yourself to doing for God's glory, and for the people to know God's grace through you and your work.

May God grant you courage to get involved, for you are indeed gifted!



Meet the Challenge

Friends of the church, we have a challenge to meet! Many of us have probably thought or wondered how we could help the victims of Hurricane Sandy that devastated the East Coast last October 29th.

We can help—by providing ONE 5-GALLON EMERGENCY CLEAN-UP BUCKET.

These supplies enable people to begin the overwhelming job of cleaning up after a flood, hurricane, tornado, or other disaster here in the United States.

The bucket may be found in the Fellowship Hall with "sticky notes" on it. Please take a "note" and help fill the bucket.

Pastor Judith will be taking the bucket with her to the Spring Gathering of Presbyterian Women in Joliet, Illinois, on Saturday, April 13th.

Thank you so much for your support!
-Janet Ensminger, Coordinator of Mission Involvement



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Preschool closed Session 7pm	2	3	4	5	6 PW Spring Dinner
7 9:30am Worship w/Communion 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 S. School	8 MMS 2pm	9 Presbytery Mtg.	10 Mariners 11:30am Deacons 2pm	11	12	13 PW Mini-Gathering In Joliet
14 9:30am Worship 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 S. School Youth 3-5pm	15	16 B & G 9am	17	18	19	20 STREAMER DEADLINE
21 9:30am Worship w/guest minister 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 S. School Youth 3-5pm	22 F & P 9am	23 Martha~Ruth Circle 9am	24 Evening w/ Missionary 7pm	25 Acts Study 9am	26	27 Music & Worship 9am
28 9:30am Worship 10:30 Hymnal Brunch Youth 3-5pm	29	30				

This year, our youth in grades 8th-12th will be going to Purdue University in July for the National PC(USA) Youth Triennial gathering. The Presbyterian Youth Triennial (PYT) theme is *Stomp out Hunger*. We will be creating over a quarter-million meals for people in need. We will also attend worship, small group Bible studies, and other godly youth activities. The cost is around \$600 for each youth and sponsor. Please pray for us as we raise money and encourage our youth to plan to participate in this life-changing trip!



SAVE THE DATE—Wednesday, April 24th

Come and enjoy an evening with Sarah Henken. Sarah is a Presbyterian missionary who comes to us from her recent time in Colombia and Bolivia in the Andean region of South America. Coffee & dessert will be served. Our evening together will begin at 7:00. Watch for more information in an upcoming worship bulletin.

Thank You!

On behalf of the children and staff of Kemmerer Village, we would like to express our sincere appreciation for your recent gift of \$141.14 on February 19, 2013. Your friendship and support serve as encouragement to our staff as we begin another year providing for the many young people entrusted to our care.

-Sincerely, Michael A. Havera, Executive Director

From the Mission Committee:

Students in Need is a new chance for local mission utilizing 40% of our Pentecost Offering, as well as any offerings dedicated to this fund. It will help Special Education teachers at Kennedy Middle School purchase basic items, such as clothing and any other special items for students who are in need. If you wish to support this mission with an extra gift, please designate it "Students in Need".



Health Ministries

Did you know?

- 90% of us dispose of unused medicines in the toilet or trash
- Prescription drugs are now the #1 drug used by teenagers
- 78,000 children under age 5 are treated for accidental poisoning in the U.S. every year
- 80% of water samples from 139 streams in 30 states contained residues from prescription and OTC (over-the-counter) medicines, as analyzed by the U.S. Geological Survey
- Discarded medication prescription containers can be used for identity theft as they provide personal patient information.

What can we do to protect our environment, our children, & our identities?

- Take your unused/unwanted/expired medicines to a KEEP NORTHERN ILLINOIS BEAUTIFUL Medication Collection Drive. The next collection will be on June 8, 2013, at Machesney Park Mall from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM.
- Use a permanent marker to black out your name and personal information on the label, but leave medication information legible.
- Please follow directions at drop-off site. Only give your donation to drop-off site personnel.
- Leave medicines in original packaging.

It's best for all of us if we:

- DON'T flush unwanted medicines down the sink, drain, or toilet
- DON'T place them in the trash
- DON'T give or sell them to others
- DO treat every day as Earth Day
- DO contact your pharmacy to check on other medication recycling options

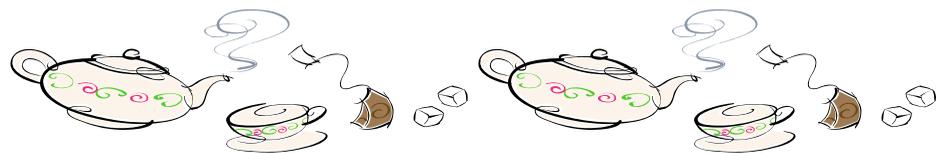
KEEP NORTHERN ILLINOIS BEAUTIFUL

**5417 N. Second St.
Loves Park, IL 61111
(815) 637-1343
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From the Choir and the C.E. and Music & Worship Committees:

A change will come immediately after Easter. Several committees of Session have been discussing the pros and cons of our Sunday morning schedule since late last spring. Hoping to increase the number of people who can join us for worship and participate in the various offerings of Christian Education, we will be changing to the following schedule after Easter: Worship at 9:30 AM and Sunday school at 11:00 AM, with Fellowship time in-between. Please mark your calendars: Worship at 9:30 AM beginning on April 7th.



Spring Tea....

PW will host their Spring Tea on Saturday, May 11th, beginning at 1:00 PM. All ladies of Willow Creek and friends are invited. Bring your favorite tea cup and a friend, your mother, or your daughter, or just come and join others to enjoy a wonderful afternoon.

This event will begin with a program presented by Jodi Beach. Jodi is well known in the Rockford area, and we are looking forward to a delightful program. Afterwards, enjoy tea, savories, and desserts!

Tickets will be available, and reservations are required. The cost is \$7 for adults, \$3 for children 10 & under, and free for children 4 & under. Contact Janet Ensminger at 815-633-8933 or Delores Hall at 815-633-1784 if you need more information. Tickets will be available to purchase after church on April 21st & 28th and on May 5th.



News from the Music & Worship Committee:

New Hymnals: We are excited to be planning to purchase new hymnals, titled Glory to God, which is a new Presbyterian hymnal. We have received a gift to help purchase 50 of these hymnals, and our goal is to fully supply our pews and the choir with 215 copies, plus two spiral-bound copies for the piano and organ.

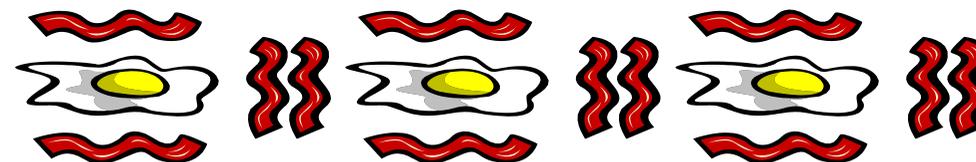


Listen for the singing of some of these new and old hymns in worship and in so doing, whet your appetite for a special Potluck Brunch on Sunday, April 28th!



Hymnal Brunch

This hymnal fundraiser will be held on Sunday, April 28th, following the morning church service at 9:30. Egg casserole and juice will be furnished by the Music & Worship Committee. Please bring a dish to pass and your own table service. You will once again have the opportunity to purchase a hymnal or hymnals in honor or in memory of someone. The hymnals are \$15 each. Please plan to attend!



Willow Creek Operating Stats—February 2013

Income	\$9,497.00
Expenses	\$14,782.00
Previous Month-Excess/(Deficit)	(2,830.00)