

STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

December 2014

from the Pastor's Pen:



It's almost time to begin celebrating Advent, and so I thought you might like to know how Advent came to be. No one really knows when the Church first celebrated Advent, or for that matter, Christmas. There's no evidence of any talk about Jesus' birth date in the Church until at least the third century (by Clement in Egypt). As the dates for the crucifixion and resurrection began to be debated, speculation about the birth date also arose. Many dates were considered as a possibility for THE day. Some of the popular possibilities were actually in Spring. December 25th wasn't even mentioned as a possibility.

By the fourth century CE we find some writers referring to December 25th as THE day. There are a couple different theories about why the church settled on that date. The most popular theory says we combined the pagan celebration Saturnalia, held on December 25th, as a way to spread Christianity

through Rome. Christians are known to have incorporated pagan symbols as a method of evangelism in the medieval times; the persecuted Christians of the early Church, however, were more concerned with distancing themselves from these practices. Therefore, most scholars agree that THE date derives from ancient theological traditions (both Jewish and early Christian) which bound creation/conception and redemption/crucifixion together. The celebration of Christmas, then, was nine months after the date of conception (March 25, according to a 4th century Christian writing *On Solstices and Equinoxes*).

Advent came into being sometime later. The first clear reference is found in sixth century writings. Advent was then a five week season in which those waiting to be Baptized were set apart for a time of penance and fasting. Advent was later shortened to four weeks, and primarily focused on preparation for the Second Coming. That's why our Advent lectionary contains lessons about Jesus' birth and apocalyptic lessons about the time when Jesus will come again. Advent is a time to remember the fact that the story of Jesus has not ended. As we say in our full communion liturgy, "Christ has died! Christ is risen! Christ will come again!" As we celebrate the season of Advent, we celebrate a season of expectant waiting, a season of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Beginning four Sundays prior to Christmas and ending on Christmas Eve, Advent helps us prepare for the coming, or "advent," of the Christ child, God-With-Us, at Christmas. For hundreds of years, Christians have used an Advent wreath to inspire their hopes for the coming light of Christ. By lighting candles and reading Bible verses, we are reminded about the meaning of Christ's birth, and we become more excited about Christ's advent in the past, in the future, and in our own lives today! So, come and worship, come and see the light grow, come and prepare your hearts again for the coming of Christ!



Thanks for all the cards, calls, and help during my last hospitalization and recuperation. It was a "C-Different experience."

Jean Greenlee

Thanks' to WCPC's talented Youth Group who created and distributed Bible Book Markers to all pew bibles in the sanctuary. Should any of the markers follow anybody home, that's OK. The youth group will make sure that the bibles continue to be supplied.

GOOD JOB, MUCH APPRECIATED!



**"Student in Need"
Recipient Sends his
Thanks!**

Dear Sir
I wanted to say that you
for donating the clothes. Having
an extra pair of pants will
be very helpful. I have already
used them.
Sincerely
Gregory



On Sunday, November 2nd, there was a dedication of 2014 memorials. The funds for these items came from the families of Edith Breckinridge, Howard Hetrick, Warren & Helen Paulson, Dale Pease, Robert Picken, and Ernest Schlichting. With these funds, we

were able to provide handbells, bell choir equipment, and wireless mic equipment. The Memorial Committee greatly appreciates these gifts given in memory of loved ones.

At this time, we are completing additional projects and will be dedicating them at a later date in memory of these saints to witness to the resurrection of Christ.

Please keep the church in mind for future memorials and honorariums, so we can continue to update and maintain our building and grounds. It would not be possible without these gifts.

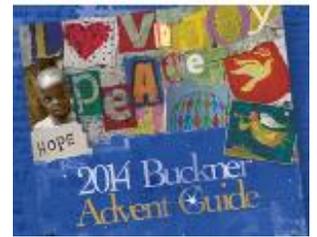
If you have any suggestions for use of memorial funds, please contact a member of the Memorial Committee.

Thanks, Jack Greenlee, Chairman

(Memorial Committee Members: Jack Greenlee, Curt Greenlee, Eugene Wheeler, Brenda Benning Carolyn Miller, and Erin Coupar)

WCPC is happy to provide an Advent Devotional Guide for each family.

The guide includes a scripture and devotional reading for each day of Advent. The Advent Devotional Guides are located near the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall.



STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION

The title might be ABCD. The meaning is; ABOVE and BEYOND the CALL of DUTY. The purpose would be to recognize individuals, couples or groups that served Willow Creek Presbyterian Church ABCD. The time frame might be recently, quarterly or even annually. Nominations could be made directly or anonymously to members of the Mission, Membership and Stewardship Committee. Please share your thoughts on this endeavor with any member of the Mission, Membership and Stewardship Committee (David Ensminger, Sherri Finley, Pat Nortch, Delores Hall, Jim Hall) or Pastor Judith.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DIME?

Just ask the 90,000 k – 8 schools nationwide who have received over \$600,000,000 through the BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION program since 1996!

Each of those points gleaned from box tops from 250 participating products is worth a DIME – oh but how they add up.

If you are not already collecting these box tops, consider starting. There is a display at the rear of the Fellowship Hall with a Quaker Oats box where you can place your box tops. When a sufficient number have been collected, we will forward them to Kemmerer Village who is our chosen recipient.

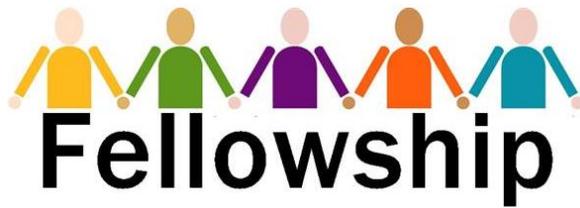


THANK YOU!!



Time and Talent Pledge Cards

Please remember to bring or send you commitments of time, talent and treasure to the church this month.



Fellowship

How better to get to know our Church Family than through our weekly fellowship gatherings here at WCPC. Through casual conversations, we can share things we have in common and enlighten ourselves relative to what our fellow parishioners BRING TO THE TABLE.

This can only be possible with the support and participation of the entire congregation! Please consider signing up to host a Sunday in the near future. You will enjoy the experience and your life will be enriched accordingly.

THANK YOU!



at what's NEW at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church

Due to obvious needs, Session has approved:

1. Updating the Parking Lot (old asphalt removed, replaced with new 2.5 inch thick asphalt, and restriped) for the total of \$61,543.
2. 130+ feet of old damaged sidewalk was replaced (in front of the church and at the back door) for a cost of \$4,500.
3. Repair the brick on the west end of church (chimney, west wall, and windows) for approximately \$3,500.



Session approved temporarily using money for the sidewalk and brick repair from the money market account. In addition, Session authorized using \$32,000 from Gifts and Bequests to cover the projects and is asking the congregation to raise the remaining balance through donations.

If you wish to donate to this project, please make the check payable to WCPC and note on the memo line "Facilities Project". Thank you for your support.

Goal is \$30,000

\$10,883 raised so far! Thank you for your support!



Christmas Giving Tree

Health Care Ministries has set up a Christmas tree at the entrance of the Church Education Wing. Donations of children's scarves, mittens, gloves and hats are being accepted through December 1st.



We hope that by now you have chosen your most awesome cookie recipes and are stocking up on sweet supplies and secret ingredients! Don't forget, cookie donations are due at the church on Friday, December 5th between 9:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. The Cookie Walk will be held on Saturday, December 6th between 9:00 a.m. and noon. There will also be lovely hand knit items by Barb Greenlee and others for sale. And the table decorations this year are Santa wood carvings by our very own Dave Ensminger! Shoppers are also invited to enjoy a cup of wassail or hot tea or coffee with a sweet at the cafe.

So, be sure to tell your friends, neighbors, relatives and everyone you know to come. Fliers are available in the entryway by the office. Put them up where you work and/or hand them out to people you think might be interested.

The Advent Season



November 30 First Sunday of Advent

December 7 - Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday School Christmas Program



December 14 - Third Sunday of Advent
Bell Choir Rings in Worship

December 21 - Fourth Sunday of Advent
Christmas Cantata by Chancel & Children's Choirs



Christmas Eve - 9:30 pm Carols & Music
December 24 - 10:00 pm Candlelight Service

Calling all ringers, Bell Choir Schedule as follows:

Thursdays, December 4, 11 & 18 at 6:30 pm

Contact Dianne Londo for further information 815-623-8512.



Children's Bell Choir (ages 6-12)

November 23, 30, December 7 & 14 @ 8:45 am

Meet in the Kitchen Craft Area

Contact Dianne Londo for more information at
815-623-8512 or amctmama@outlook.com

Choir Rehearsal: November 23, 30 @ 8:30 am

December 7 & 14 (downstairs) @ 8:30 am

December 21 @ 8:30 am

Children's Choir Rehearsal: November 23, 30 & December 14 @ 11:00 am



On December 21 at Worship, The Chancel Choir and the Children's Choir will present the cantata "Come to the Manger." It is a lovely piece based on Christmas Carols. Any extra singers who are interested in making this short commitment are very welcome to join us.

Rehearsals will be Nov. 23 and 30 at 8:45, Dec. 7 and 14 at 8:30. Our final rehearsal on December 21 will also be at 8:30. Come to as many or few rehearsals as you think you may need. If you wish to sign out the music and look it over, see Liz.

There will be no choir rehearsal or singing for worship on December 28. Enjoy your day off! Our regular 8:30 schedule will resume on January 4 of the New Year.

Youth Group Happenings

December 14 (2:30–4:30 pm)

Sat, December 20th (starting @ 4:00 pm) Youth Group Lock-in
We will go Christmas Caroling and have a progressive dinner before returning to church for a Christmas Party!



Martha Ruth Circle will meet at the Stockholm Inn on December 2, 2014 at 9:30 a.m. We will order from the menu and have lesson 2 in our study of Paul. If you would like to bring a Christmas Gift for the Baby Angel Closet it would be very much appreciated. Things that are requested most often are: Diaper Rash Cream, Baby Wash, Pacifiers for little babies, Bibbs, Onesies with long sleeves for winter. Delores Hall

Schooners Gathering Friday, December 5th at Maren Reid's home (12885 Arygle Road, Caledonia). Come around 6:30 for dinner with games and Canstruction discussion to follow. We welcome anyone who feels they are not seasoned enough to be a part of another social group from Willow Creek :)



Mariners will meet at Ciao Bella, December 9, 2014 at 11:30 a.m. If you did not indicate that you would be there at our November meeting, and wish to attend, please call The Hall's at 815-633-1784. We will install new officers and celebrate Christmas.

Mark your calendars for January 4 when we'll have an undecorating party church and, when all work is done, enjoy a light lunch/refreshments.



after



WCPC Operating Statistics October, 2014

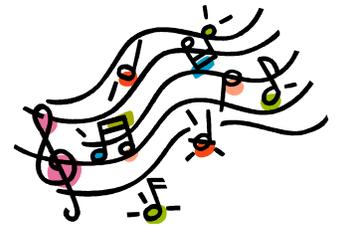
Income	11,339.00
Expenses	11,154.00
Previous Month - Excess/(Deficit)	(887.00)



We are very excited to announce that the Willow Creek Bell Choir will be presenting a bell concert, “In My Heart There Rings A Melody”, on February 15, 2015, at 3:00 pm, at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle.

There is no admission charge, but a donation of a canned good or non-perishable food item is encouraged. Raffle tickets will be given for every food item that is donated. A Cookie Bouquet from “Cookies By Design” will be awarded to the winning raffle ticket holder. There will also be a free will offering taken during the concert, with the donations going to support the Music Therapy Program of the Holistic Health Department at Swedish American Hospital.

Light refreshments will be served following the concert.
Please mark your calendar for Sunday, February 15, 2015!!



CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING: SUPPORTING PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE LEADERS

WHEN IS THE CHRISTMAS JOY OFFERING RECEIVED?

The Christmas Joy Offering is traditionally received during the Advent Season. However, you can help sustain the important PC(USA) ministries and programs that are supported by the Christmas Joy Offering by making an online gift at any time throughout the year.

HOW IS MY GIFT USED?

A gift to the Christmas Joy Offering helps provide financial assistance to current and former church workers and their families and also enables deserving students to attend Presbyterian-related racial ethnic colleges and schools.

- **The Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions**
- **Racial Ethnic Leadership Development**

December 2014 All Church Calendar

Mon 12/1	---	Poinsettia Order Forms Due
	6:30 pm	Joint Session/Deacon Christmas Party
Tue 12/2	9:30 am	Martha Ruth Circle @ Stockholm Inn
	---	Angel Baby Closet Distribution (Love Inc.)
Wed 12/3	3:30 pm	Christian Education Gathering to make ornaments
Thur 12/4	6:30 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Fri 12/5	9:00am-8:00pm	Cookie Walk Drop-off
	6:30 pm	Schooners @ Maren Reid's house for dinner with games & Construction discussion
Sat 11/6	9:00 am-noon	Cookie Walk
Sun 12/7	8:45 am	Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal (Craft Area by Kitchen)
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (Downstairs)
	10:00 am	Sunday Worship with Communion by Intinction (2 nd Sunday of Advent -Children's Program)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Mon 12/8	9:30 am	Membership/Stewardship/Mission Meeting
Tue 12/9	11:30 am	Mariners Lunch @ Ciao Bella
Wed 12/10	12:15 pm	Preschool Meeting
	2:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
	6:30 pm	Music & Worship (Donna, Brenda & Judith) working on Usher/Liturgist List
Thur 12/11	6:30 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Fri 12/12	3:30-5:30 pm	Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall & Kitchen)
Sun 12/14	8:45 am	Children's Bell Choir Rehearsal (Craft Area by Kitchen)
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal (Downstairs)
	10:00 am	Sunday Worship with Communion by Intinction (3rd Sunday of Advent-Bells for Worship)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	2:30-4:30 pm	Youth Group
Tue 12/16	9:00 am	Building & Grounds Meeting
Thur 12/18	6:30 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Fri 12/19	---	No Preschool – Christmas Vacation –Return Monday January 5
Sat 12/20	8:00 am	Music & Worship Meeting
	4:00 pm	Youth Group Lock-in/Progressive Dinner & Caroling
Sun 12/21	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Sunday Worship with Communion by Intinction (4th Sunday of Advent) Christmas Joy Offering (Christmas Cantata for worship with Chancel Choir and Children's Choir)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Wed 12/24	---	Church Office Closed
	9:30 pm	Carols and Christmas Music
	10:00 pm	Christmas Eve Worship with Communion by Intinction
Thur 12/25	---	Christmas Day – Church Office Closed
Fri 12/26	---	Church Office Closed
	---	Pastor Judith Vacation begins through 1/2/15
Sun 12/28	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Sunday Worship with Guest Worship Leader John Harden
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:20 am	Finance & Personnel Meeting
Wed 12/31	---	New Year's Eve Church Office Closed

Poinsettia Order Form



Would you like to order a Poinsettia in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person? The cost is \$10.00 each, and they are available in white, pink or red. You may take your poinsettia home, or donate it for the Deacons to deliver to the elderly and infirm. Please fill out this form and drop it in the collection plate on Sunday morning or mail it to the church. **The deadline to order is Monday, December 1.**

Number _____ Color _____ Deacons may deliver after Christmas: Yes or No

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor Name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin: _____

Please make checks payable to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, with memo: Poinsettia.