

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARGYLE

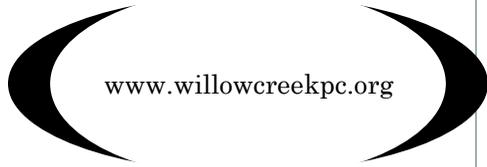
The Rev. Judith March Hardie

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



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The staff would like to say "Thank You" to the entire congregation for the Christmas gifts we each received. We truly appreciate your generosity! God bless each of you in the New Year!



Thank you all so very much for your prayers, calls, cards, and visits during John's surgery and recuperation and Kim's hospitalization. We are so grateful for our dear church family and appreciate your expressions of care and concern.

Thank you all so very much for the prayers, cards, calls, and visits to Bob at the hospital and while he was at the rehab center. We are very thankful he is now home and doing well. We are both so very grateful.

*Thank you and
God bless you all,
Gyneth & Bob Lamont*



Blessings to all...
John & Kim Reid

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle



STREAMER

January 2013

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As I sit down to write my monthly newsletter article, my thoughts and prayers are with the people of Newtown, Connecticut. The pictures, images, and sounds of the news coverage reminded me of the now numerous other horrific acts of violence in our collective memory. The questioning, the anger, the confusion, the indescribable horror of lives lost, have become an all too common theme in our daily lives and routines.

As we search for answers and begin to move forward as a society and as a nation, we can trust God and God's promises. Our God chose to take on flesh in the person of Jesus Christ and fully enter into the brokenness, sinfulness, and wounded-ness that the world often exhibits. I have been asked in response to this horrific tragedy, "What can we do?" There is nothing that we can do to bring back those who were lost, but that does not mean that we choose the course of inaction. I ask that you pray for all those affected, for those who have to bury a loved one, for those who were first at the scene as first responders, for the children and teachers who survived the attack, to cope with such a traumatic event and live again.

God was not absent during the massacre at Sandy Hook; God was there as surely as Jesus Christ was on the cross for all of us! God's response to sin and brokenness is always that of love, of grace, of mercy, of presence through the Holy Spirit.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." These are words of comfort and love, demonstrating that God's Kingdom is for all of us, especially the most vulnerable in our midst. The apostle Paul said, "What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

(Continued on page 2)



From The Pastor (continued from page 1)

These are words that I read at a recent funeral because they point to the reality of God's love in Christ, and to the limitless love of God that is ours no matter what. We believe in a God who knows intimately what it feels like to lose a Son, yet we also believe in a God who conquered sin and death forever in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. The prophet Micah said, "What does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" We are on the brink of starting a new year, and a new year is always full of possibilities and opportunities. As you live out your daily life and walk with God, I invite you to show the truth of the words of John 1:5, "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

Living in God's amazing grace,
Pastor Judith

2012 Christmas Cookie Walk

Many, many thanks to all who helped make this year's cookie sale such a tremendous success. We opened at 9:00am, and people came streaming in the door. This continued non-stop until around noon, when we posted a "Sold Out" sign in the front parking lot of the church. Sadly, we had to turn people away. Our WCPC bakers outdid themselves with the large variety of beautifully-decorated cookies.

We saw many people who shopped with us last year and new faces as well. The word is out that WCPC's cookie sale is "the best." New for this year was a table dedicated to cookies from other lands and another table containing cookies for those who are gluten-intolerant. Both went over very well. The two displays of items hand-knitted and donated by Barb Greenlee were very popular and certainly added to our end proceeds of \$1500. Pastor Judith has identified two families who could possibly use some assistance; she is checking them out. A small portion of the proceeds will be reserved for emergency assistance for families-in-need throughout the year. Again, thanks so much to all who baked, set up, tore down, and assisted with the sale and the café.



January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Office Closed	2	3 Office closes at 11am 7pm Bells	4	5
6 9am Ch. School-Birthday Party for Jesus 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 11:30 Fellowship	7 10:30 Luke 7pm Session	8	9 2pm Deacons	10 7pm Bells	11	12 PW ABC Breakfast 9:00am
13 9am Ch. School 10:30 Worship & Ordination/ Installation Service 11:30 Fellowship 3-5 Youth	14 10:30 Luke	15 9am B&G	16	17 7pm Bells	18 STREAMER DEADLINE	19
20 9am Ch. School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3-5 Youth	21 10:30 Luke	22	23	24 7pm Bells	25	26 Session Retreat at the church 9:30-1:30
27 9am Ch. School 10:30 Worship 11:30 Fellowship 3-5 Youth	28 9am F&P 10:30 Luke 2pm MMS	29	30	31 7pm Bells		

Please accept our heartfelt “Thank you” for your ongoing support of our Food Pantry! Your donations have gone a very long way to assist us in fighting family hunger while they resolve their problems. You’re greatly appreciated—*Dom VanSchewen, Supervisor
Old Stone Church Food Pantry
(12/10/12)*



I want to thank you for your generous contribution—especially appreciated in this challenging economy. Thanks to caring donors like you, **Church World Service** can provide food, water, and other necessities to families displaced by natural disasters. And with your help, we can also assist impoverished communities as they work to improve their farming techniques, develop reliable water sources, and build a more sustainable future.

In a world wounded in so many ways, I remain hopeful because of the creative, resilient women, men, and children we assist around the world, and because of caring people like you, who empower us to act on your behalf. May God bless you for your compassionate support.

Yours in service,

*Rev. John L. McCullough, President and CEO
(12/7/12)*

Thank you so much for supporting **Rockford Rescue Mission**. All during the year, and especially during the holiday season, homeless and hurting men, women, and children look to us for the vital help they need. Your gifts are helping to touch and change lives. Thanks for your partnership in this great work.

God Bless—Dell Kinney, Church Relations (12/6/12)

During this holiday season, I want to express my deep gratitude for your gift to **Rockford Rescue Mission**. By year end, we’ll receive more than fifty percent of our annual income from friends and donors just like you. Your generosity allows us to provide nutritious meals, comfortable beds, clean clothes, biblical guidance, and hope for the future to many homeless and hurting people. Your recent gift is truly a blessing. Thank you again.

Partners in Hope—Sherry Pitney, Executive Director (11/28/12)

HEALTH MINISTRIES - JANUARY 2013

[Take Steps to Protect Yourself during Flu Season: Parish Nurse Notes](#)

Flu season is here...and outbreaks have occurred at local nursing homes and rehab units. That means you're at risk to get the flu! If you have diabetes, you are three times more likely be hospitalized with the flu than other people.

The good news is, there are steps we can take to protect ourselves:

- * Get a flu shot! It is the single best way to protect yourself against the flu.
- * Take prescription flu medicine (anti-viral) when healthcare provider prescribes it.
- * **Take everyday steps to protect your health:**
 - Cover your nose and mouth w/ a tissue when you cough or sneeze, then throw it away.
 - Wash your hands often w/ soap and water, especially after you cough or sneeze. Use alcohol-based hand rub as a 2nd choice.
 - Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth. Germs spread this way.
 - Avoid close contact w/ sick people.
 - Have enough medications, food, and supplies to last a week in case you have to stay at home.

Remember that people infected with the flu can pass it to others a day or two before their symptoms occur, so you may not even know when you've been exposed. That means it's important that those around you get a flu shot, too.

If you have diabetes, here are special sick day rules to follow if you're sick w/ flu-like illness, even if your blood sugars are normal:

1. Continue taking your diabetes pills or insulin. Take them even if you're unable to eat.
2. Test your blood sugar every 4 hours & keep track of results.
3. Drink extra fluids (no calorie) and try to eat normally. Try to eat the same amount of carbohydrates.
4. Weigh yourself every day. Losing weight can be a sign of high blood sugars level.
5. Check your temperature every morning and every evening. A fever may be sign of an infection. **Call your healthcare provider or go to the ER if the following happen:**
 - You feel too sick to eat normally and are unable to keep food down for more than 6 hours.
 - You have severe diarrhea.
 - Your temperature is over 101 degrees.
 - You lose 5 pounds or more.
 - Your blood glucose is lower than 60 or remains over 300.
 - You have moderate or large amounts of ketones in your urine.
 - You have trouble breathing.
 - You feel sleepy or can't think clearly.

If you feel sick, please stay home & away from others who might be vulnerable. Wash your hands with soap & water often. Eat well and get enough rest. With good self care and a little "luck," we'll make it to spring without getting the flu!

Excerpts: NIDC (Northern IL Diabetes Coalition) Notes, Aug. 2012.



PW ABC Breakfast

Breakfast will be served at 9:00 on January 12th in the Fellowship Hall, and then we will view the film, "Mary Magdalene" by Geri Smith. Also, the 2013 PW Directories will be distributed. A sign-up sheet will be available in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

Poinsettias



JoAnn & Loren Buffington	In Memory of Loved Ones
Roger & Barbara Cummings	In Memory of Our Families
Mr. & Mrs. David H. Ensminger	In Memory of Our Parents
Wayne Greenlee	In Memory of Vivian Greenlee
Jim & Delores Hall	In Memory of Our Parents
The Hissong Family	In Memory of Robert Hissong
Janet Hyland	In Memory of Ross & Ruth Greenlee
Rich & Dianne Londo	In Memory of Harold & Eloise Vance
	In Honor of Hubert & Gertrude Londo
Frank Lyford	In Memory of Carol Lyford
Jamie Ralston	In Memory of Grandpa Pickett
Eugene & Carolyn Wheeler	In Memory of Our Parents & Granddaughter



Thank you for your generous donation of canned goods for the benefit of our Pantry and your check for \$158.54. Your donations will allow us to continue to help those who need it most. We deeply appreciate your donations. It makes such a difference in the lives of our clients.

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.

June E. Eastland, Administrative Assistant
Belvidere/Boone County Food Pantry
(from a letter dated November 29, 2012)



We send our warmest thanks to you for your kind generosity! Your \$150.00 donation will help change lives; help homeless men and women move from a life on the streets to one of stability and self-sufficiency. That's real change, thanks to you!

Everyday at Carpenter's Place, we thank God for your support and ask His special blessings upon you and your loved ones.

Thank you and God bless you!

Roger Reithmeier, Board President
Kay Larrick, Executive Director
(from a letter dated November 28, 2012)

Willow Creek Operating Stats—November 2012

Income	\$14,833.00
Expenses	\$13,008.00
Previous Month-Excess/(Deficit)	(3,901.00)