

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARGYLE

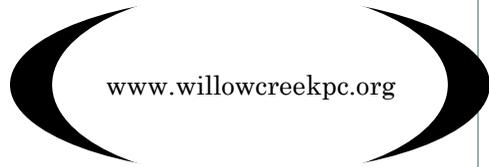
The Rev. Judith March Hardie

7300 Belvidere Road  
Caledonia, IL 61011

Return Service Requested

Phone: 815-885-3455  
Fax: 815-885-2015

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



«Label Name 1»

«Address Line 1»

«City, State Zip (5-digit)»

**Come see Magic Mike!** This will be an encore presentation of Magic Mike. He entertained us last year, and it was such fun that we would like to share the time with even more of our friends and family. **Children are welcome!** We will order from the menu on separate checks. The Mariners are excited to see Magic Mike and to welcome you on Tuesday, March 12th, at 11:30 AM at the Machine Shed on State Street. The Machine Shed would like a count for seating by Friday, March 8th. Please call Nettie Parker at 815-885-8005 or the church office at 815-885-3455 to let us know you are coming.



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle



# STREAMER

March 2013

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## From the Pastor

**Philippians 4:6-7** *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

Spring is the time of year when we look forward to signs of new life, new beginnings, and new possibilities. As I write, there are pictures of blizzards in Texas, but I am just home from a youth retreat where many shared the excitement of baseball practices ramping up. For baseball fans, there is a special excitement that surrounds Opening Day – the end of spring training and the start of a new season.

Opening Day is filled with hope and promise when fans can look forward and forget last season. After all, every major league team begins with a 0-0 record. There is even a book titled, Why Time Begins on Opening Day. I have a renewed interest in America's pastime after watching a rebroadcast of "Baseball: a Film by Ken Burns" on PBS. I am intrigued by what we can learn about life from the game of baseball. The significance of this sport should not be overlooked. It is a sport filled mostly with errors, strikes, and foul-balls, but it is also marked by preparation, courage, humility, persistence, and chance, such that we build communities around it.

The excitement and hope of Opening Day in baseball marks the end of Spring Training. The joy and hope of Easter marks the end of the season of preparation called Lent. I always begin the season of Lent motivated to do some rigorous spiritual training. But halfway through, I have grown so weary with trying to be more disciplined in prayer and reading scripture that I am tempted to give up. I remind myself that Jesus' season of preparation was an intense 40-day period in the wilderness wrestling with who he was and how he should live. Lent is modeled after that example and assumes that we, too, need a season to struggle with who we are and how we should live.

So, halfway through this Lent, I encourage you to not give up. If you never started, it's not too late to get ready for Easter with some spiritual preparations. A good place to start is prayer. Start simply and each day become more aware of God's presence as you raise your heart and mind to God. Structure your prayer with the acronym ACTS. "Adoration" means praise and love expressed to God. "Confession" means naming the things that keep you from loving and trusting God and receiving God's forgiveness. "Thanksgiving" may include the counting of one's blessings. "Supplication" is asking for help, both for oneself and for others. These parts offer a way for balancing prayer and deepening our relationship with God and our readiness for service.

There is no one right way to pray for all people, so do not get caught up in rigidly following the ACTS formula or any other. It *is* important to attend to the various dimensions of prayer as indicated by these four letters, and perhaps to others. Prayer gets to be very dry when it is not balanced. Prayer is communion with God and deserves a lifetime of learning. Do not let guilty feelings over past neglect prevent you from trying it anew.

Easter is our Opening Day. The resurrection began a new season. The resurrection points us to the future with the promise of new life and hope. Our scorecard in life is full of errors. It is our chance now to begin anew. No matter how we have failed in the past. No matter that we have made mistakes. No matter that we have shown poor judgment. No matter that we have made a hurtful comment to someone. Easter is a season of hope and new beginnings. It allows us to learn from our past, to persevere, and to move forward into the future with the promise of new life.

*Don't pray when you feel like it. Have an appointment with the Lord and keep it. A man is most powerful on his knees. ~ Corrie Ten Boom*

## Flowers

*Please consider sharing a floral decoration for the church chancel on a Sunday of your choice. A bud vase, an arrangement, or a flower or flowers from your garden, would brighten the sanctuary. If you wish, make it a tribute to a family member or a memorable event, which can be noted in that week's bulletin. Just notify the church office if that is the case. If there is an artificial arrangement on the chancel, please place it behind a choir pew and replace it with your floral piece. A "Flowers" chart is located on the wall by the Information Center in the Fellowship Hall. Sign up for all to enjoy!*



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>3</b> 9am S. School 10:30 Worship w/Communion 11:30 Fellowship 11:45 CE mtg.	<b>4</b>  Session 7pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Luke/Acts 9am  Bells 7pm	<b>1/8</b> Paulson/Schlie Rehearsal 5:30pm (March 1st)	<b>2/9</b> Paulson/Schlie Wedding 2pm (March 2nd), Spaghetti Sup- per @ 5:30 & Youth Lock-In (March 9th)
<b>10</b> 9am S. School 10:30 Worship w/Communion 11:30 Fellowship 3-5 Youth	<b>11</b>  MMS 2pm	<b>12</b>  Mariners 11:30am	<b>13</b>  Deacons 2pm	<b>14</b> Luke/Acts 9am  Bells 7pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>  M & W 9am
<b>17</b> 9am S. School 10:30 Worship w/Communion 11:30 Fellowship 3-5 Youth	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> B & G 9am  Preschool Bd. 12:30pm	<b>20</b>  STREAMER DEADLINE	<b>21</b> Luke/Acts 9am  Bells 7pm	<b>22</b> Preschool Easter Egg Hunt 9:50am	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9am S. School 10:30 Worship w/ Communion 11:30 Fellowship 3-5 Youth	<b>25</b> Spring Break begins (Preschool closed all week)  F & P 9am	<b>26</b>  Martha~Ruth Circle 9am	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Luke/Acts 9am  Maundy Thurs- day Service w/ Communion 7pm	<b>29</b> Community Good Friday Service at Rock- ton UMC at noon	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 8am Sunrise 9am Breakfast 9:30 Egg Hunt 10:30 Worship w/Communion & Special Offering						



Thank You to our Willow Creek Family for all of the prayers, concerns, and cards, as we grieve the death of my mom, Lucille Omholt. As Denise Cooper said to us, "It was a very exciting day for her" as it was her wish, after nearly 98 years, to "move" to her heavenly home. We are so very *blessed* to be members of Willow Creek!



Peace and Love...  
Barb & Ron Johnson

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Thanks to the person/group/committee who provided the new microwave in the kitchen, and a belated thanks to the ones who saw to getting the smoking one to the dumpster!  
—Pastor Judith



March 9th at 5:30, the Youth will host a Spaghetti Supper to raise funds for missions. 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 Triennium (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 help us help others!



#### 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.



#### When Being Like Sheep Isn't a Good Thing

On a cold day one winter, Joe was sliding on a frozen pond when the ice broke. Luckily, he was able to get out of the water and crawl to safety. He went home in his wet clothes almost frozen. His aunt asked him why he was sliding on the ice. "Because all the other boys did," he answered. She gave him dry clothes and something warm to drink. Then, she told him a story:

"When I was a little girl, Joe, my father had a great flock of sheep. One day, a big ram jumped through a gap in the fence. He was followed by the other sheep. When the ram tumbled into the bottom of an old well where father used to throw rubbish, the next sheep never stopped to see what had become of him. He jumped in right after the ram, and so did the next one and the next. The sheep kept jumping into the well until it was full. Then, father pulled them out as best he could. The sheep at the bottom of the well were almost smothered to death."

"What silly sheep!" exclaimed Joe. Then, suddenly, a look of discernment came over his face, and he smiled at his aunt. He had gotten the point of the story: If we simply follow others without watching where we are going, we may land in trouble.

The book of Psalms opens with some timeless wisdom on this subject (Ps. 1:1-3; cf. Prov. 1:15-16; 4:14): *Happy are those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or take the path that sinners tread, or sit in the seat of scoffers; but their delight is in the law of the Lord, and on his law they meditate day and night. They are like trees planted by streams of water, which yield their fruit in its season, and their leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.*

#### "What is this thing?" you may ask.



This is called a "QR Code".

Okay, so what's a "QR Code"?

A "QR Code", or "Quick Read Code", is a matrix barcode, or two-dimensional code, that is readable by QR scanners, mobile phones with a camera, and smartphones. You will begin seeing this little black and white square in bulletins, Streamers, and other places. It is connected to our new-and-improved website: [www.willowcreekpc.org](http://www.willowcreekpc.org).

So, if you have a smartphone or a cellphone with a camera, give it a try! You will need a QR scanner app if you have a smartphone, or if you have a regular cellphone with a camera, you will still need an internet connection in order to connect to the church website. This technology provides another way to distribute relevant information to more people.



## Presbyterian Women News



### Mark Your Calendars!

\* The Spring Dinner will be held Saturday, April 6, 2013. Sign-up sheets for volunteers will be posted in the Fellowship Hall soon. Tickets will be sold at church on March 17th, March 24th, and March 31st. There will be two setting times from which to choose: **4:30 and 5:30.**

Adult tickets are \$9.00, children ages 6-12 are \$4.50, and children 5 and under are free. You can also call the Church Office at 815-885-3455 or Nettie Parker at 815-885-8005 for tickets. Please come and support the mission work of our PW!

\* As you clear away decorations, etc., and find things that you might not use again or are going to replace, please put them aside for the Fall Rummage Sale. As you do spring cleaning, you will find things that aren't used or played with anymore. Please gather and save them for the Fall Rummage Sale, too. We had plans to make Fall Fest a real festival last fall, but the weather didn't cooperate. Hopefully, with planning and an earlier date, we can have it this year as we had wanted to last year! We need not only donations but also people! It isn't too early to begin to plan. How would you like to help? PW has an Event poster in the Fellowship Hall which needs some names on it!

\* Save the Date: Annual Spring Gathering & Business Meeting on Saturday, April 13, 2013, in Joliet—Pastor Judith will be giving the devotions!



### **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.

### 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 Hymn-Sing on Sunday, April 28th!  
*Also...*

### **It is time to order Easter flowers!**

*This year, you are also being offered the special opportunity to purchase a new hymnal in honor or in memory of a special person!*

If you would like to order Easter flowers, a hymnal or hymnals, or both, please locate an order form on the bench outside the church office in the Education wing. The cost is \$10 for lilies, \$11 for tulips, daffodils, or hyacinths, and \$15 for hymnals. Each flower or hymnal may be purchased in honor or memory of someone, just as in years past. Just fill out the form and drop it in the collection plate on a Sunday morning, place it in the church secretary's mail slot by the office, or mail it to the church. **The deadline to order is Monday, March 18th.** Please make checks payable to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church. Thank you!



### **Willow Creek Operating Stats—January 2013**

Income	\$11,191.00
Expenses	\$14,021.00
Previous Month-Excess/(Deficit)	6,228.00