



STREAMER
Willow Creek Presbyterian
Church of Argyle
7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011
815-885-3455
May 2014

Message from the Pastor

The Romans had a saying: money is like seawater; the more you drink, the thirstier you become.

St. Augustine said, "By the grace of Christ the day is now at hand in which we are to gather in the harvest, and, therefore, should be thinking about returning thanks to God who gave it, both in the matter of making offerings and rendering tithes. For God who has deigned to give the whole has condescended to seek back from us the tithe, doubtless for our own profit, not God's own." (Augustine, A.D. 430)

An ancient Jewish rabbi developed an understanding about levels of giving called, The Eight Degrees of Charity. The first degree is to give, but with reluctance or regret. This is the gift of the hand, but not of the heart. The second is to give cheerfully, but not proportionately to the distress of the sufferer. The third is to give cheerfully and proportionately but not until solicited. The fourth is to give cheerfully, proportionately, and even unsolicited, but to put it in the poor man's hand, thereby exciting in him the painful emotion of shame. The fifth is to give charity in such a way that the distressed may receive the bounty, and know their benefactor, without there being known to him. The sixth degree, which rises still higher, is to know the objects of our bounty but remain unknown to them. The seventh is still more meritorious, namely, to bestow charity in such a way that the benefactor may not know the relieved persons, nor they the names of their benefactors. The eighth and most meritorious of all, is to anticipate charity by preventing poverty; namely, to assist the reduced fellowman, either by a considerable gift, or a sum of money, or by teaching him a trade, or by putting him in the way of business, so that he may earn an honest livelihood, and not be forced to the dreadful alternative of holding out his hand for charity. (Rabbi Moses Ben Maimonides, Spanish philosopher, A.D. 1135)

From Henry Ward Beecher, an abolitionist, a preacher and the son of a preacher: "What I spent I had, what I kept I lost, what I gave I have" (1877).

Will those of you who have been putting buttons in the collection basket, kindly put in your own buttons, and not those from the church upholstery. (Notice in a Scottish Presbyterian Church)

Lately, we've been talking a lot about money in our committee meetings and Session meetings. Our winter expenses, being far more than were expected, have made some of us nervous. But, the reality is, we've been worrying about money here for as long as I have been here, and perhaps longer.

After studying a rolling report of the last 13 months of income and expenses here at Willow Creek, we have discovered that, on average, our weekly giving falls almost \$242 short of covering our operating expenses. Please, think and pray about the good and godly work we do together here, about the many blessings of wealth and ability you have been given, and then set an offering goal for yourselves.

Many times I have been told that the people here will come through when there is a need, like when we needed an elevator, or when one of the old boilers (that have had a small leak since I have been here) goes. And I believe that. But there is a problem with the pattern of giving to fill a need--it is very limiting, especially when we are giving to our own need.

Don't get me wrong. I love this church, it's history and it's people! And it is a very good church with wonderfully made people who love God! None of that is in question. What is at stake is our growth and continued life together. We need our finances to serve our vision, not limit it. Your enlarged offering, especially one we can plan on in the form of a pledge, will truly help us expand our care and ministry beyond ourselves. Together, may we learn to follow the commandment to love our neighbor as ourselves.

I learned to give as a child. I was given coins to offer at church when I was little. I was given an allowance as I grew up, the only stipulation being that I budget for clothing, fun, and church. My favorite superhero was Spider-Man. Peter Parker learned that with great power comes great responsibility. Likewise, I learned that because I was given so much, I was to care for others and not just myself. So, please, consider the gifts God has given you, and pledge to be a good steward: loving God and caring for others. After all, it all belongs to God.

The earth is the Lord's and the fullness thereof; the world, and all who dwell within. Psalm 24:1

Grace and Peace, Pastor Judith

Rubye Lorraine Nielsen, a long time former member of Willow Creek, passed away on March 26, 2014 at the age of 92.

Rubye is predeceased by her parents, Erwin Hoffmann and Irene Bruce Hoffmann, her brother, Bruce Hoffmann and her husband John R. Nielsen. Rubye is lovingly remembered by children, Bonnie Wigen (Bob) of Menomonie, Wisconsin; Vernon Nielsen (Krista) of McClenny, Florida; Lynne Nielsen (Gordon Zobenica) of New Freedom, Pennsylvania; grandson John V. Nielsen (Diana) and great grandsons Chase, Blayne, and Bo of McClenny, Florida. Rubye was born in Chicago, IL on July 6, 1921. Her family moved to Kennan, Wisconsin when she was 12 years old. She returned to Chicago at age 16 where she remained until marrying John Nielsen in 1945. John and Rubye eventually settled in Roscoe, Illinois, which was her home for 55 years. Rubye was employed at Sundstrand Corporation in Belvedere, Illinois for 26 years. In 2008 she moved to Pennsylvania to be close to family. Rubye will be cremated and her ashes returned to her beloved Illinois. A Celebration of Life will be scheduled at a later date.

Health Ministries

Recently, a local cardio-thoracic surgeon, Dr. Thomas Carter, talked about overall health and heart health. He spoke about the 2nd Law of Thermodynamics and how all systems, inevitably, will decay. That Law is applicable to our physical bodies. However, our bodies were also designed to be healthy. So, for our own good, we need to change our way of thinking...and be diligent about health...we need to choose to pursue health.

Dr. Carter listed our NEEDS (not wants):

1. Clean water
2. Exercise (aim for 10,000 steps every day)
3. Adequate rest/sleep
4. Avoid scary stuff i.e. smoking, risky behavior
5. Eat healthy food, the right stuff. Eat for health, not weight.
6. Consider adding pharmaceutical grade supplements to fight toxins and improve immunity.

Avoid bad foods (we know what they are...they look good, but are lethal!) Bad foods (high fat, salt, low fiber, processed, etc.) cause inflammation and oxidative stress inside our bodies, which in turn causes headaches, GERD (reflux,) arthritis, cancer, coronary heart disease, diabetes, and more.) When we are 20-25% overweight, we lose 10 years of life expectancy.

Consider a supplement regime that includes: a broad spectrum Multi-Vitamin, CoQ10, Glutathione, Fish Oil (Omega-3,) N Acetyl Cysteine, Milk Thistle, Tumeric, Grape Seed Extract, a Probiotic, and Vitamin D. Supplements protect and rejuvenate body cells, lower inflammation & protect our DNA from oxidative stress, detoxify & improve digestion of heavy meals, protect vital organs, lower LDL (bad cholesterol,) and lower cancer risk, just to name a few.

Giving our bodies proper fuel reduces our risk of heart death, sudden death due to heart rhythm irregularities, heart attack, and cancer risk. Good fuel also lowers triglycerides, blood pressure, and insulin resistance, while raising our HDL (good cholesterol.)

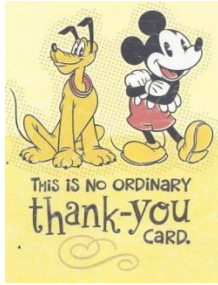
As we live in our temporary earthly bodies, let's purpose to be as strong and healthy as possible! Let's consistently choose the best fuel possible, with the food we eat and the vitamins and supplements we take. To life! Happy Spring! (Now, let's work on getting 10,000 steps every day!!)



Willow Creek Presbyterian Church Community Blood Drive on Monday, April 28th, 3:00 pm to 7:00 pm. The Rock River Valley Blood Center mobile bus will be parked in the parking lot. To schedule a time to donate, please call 815-885-3455 or 654-1923. Walk-ins are welcome! First time donors, please bring a photo I.D. Be sure to have plenty to eat and drink before you donate!

The Willow Creek Children's Choir will rehearse on April 27 and May 4 after worship, singing for Worship on Mother's Day, May 11.

Bell Rehearsal Thursday, May 15, 22, 29, June 5, 12, 19 all at 7:00 p.m. Ring for worship on June 22nd.



To all the Ladies and Gentlemen of Willow Creek Church,
Thank you all for the help and support for my mother. I can't thank you
enough. Love you all!
Love, Sarah Boeke

Do you have high cholesterol or high blood pressure? Have members of your family suffered from these ailments? Do you have a poor diet? If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, you may want to consider being screened for your risk of stroke through the services of Life Line Screening. Life Line Screening uses ultrasound technology to view the plaque build up in your carotid arteries, the main arteries that carry blood to the brain. Blockages in these arteries are a leading cause of stroke. We are pleased to host this Life Line Screening event on 5/1/2014 at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church. Register for a Wellness Package which includes 4 vascular tests and osteoporosis screening from \$149 (\$139 with our member discount). All five screenings take 60-90 minutes to complete. **In order to register for this event and to receive a \$10 discount off any package priced above \$129, please call 1-888-653-6441 or visit www.lifelinescreening.com/community-partners.**

Skiffers will be hosted by Jack & Jean Greenlee Sunday, May 18th, with a picnic at the Beckman Mill. Details to all later.



MARCH MISSION RESULTS: The Rockford Rescue Mission has published as one of their core values “Partnering with the Church and Community”. We shared in this core value this month by donating \$212.00 to their worthy cause. We at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church can also feel that we have shared in another of their core values: “Rejoicing in Lives Changed by GOD”. Thank you!

Rockford Area National Day of Prayer Luncheon, Cliffbreakers Resort, 700 W. Riverside Blvd, Rockford, Thursday, May 1, 2014 @ 11:45 AM, Tickets \$20 Each, Checks Payable to: Prayer Luncheon, Remit to: Lynn Neilsson, 1965 Shaw Woods Drive, Rockford, IL 61107 Include: Name, Address, Phone, E-mail with remittance

For more info: Call Lynn at 815-633-6261 or E-mail lkneilsson@yahoo.com

Stronghold Summer Camps 2014: Stronghold is a year-round Conference, Retreat and Camping Center operated as a ministry of the Presbytery of Blackhawk, Presbyterian Church (USA). During the summer, Stronghold Summer Camps become the place where many friendships and memories are born. Stronghold Summer Camps offer youth opportunities to respond positively to the person and ministry of Jesus Christ, grow in their relationships with God and one another, and increase their understanding and appreciation for the world around them. To learn more about Stronghold's summer camps and for a registration form see their website: www.strongholdcenter.org

May 2014 All Church Calendar

Thur 5/1	9:00 am	Life Line Screening
	11:45 am	Rockford Area National Day of Prayer
Fri 5/2	6:00 pm	Wedding Rehearsal (Rebecca Guthrie & Joseph Calhoun)
Sat 5/3	2:30 pm	Wedding (Rebecca Guthrie & Joseph Calhoun)
	TBD	Youth Group Lock-In
Sun 5/4	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	3 rd Sunday of Easter Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	11:20 am	Christian Ed Meeting
Mon 5/5	2:00 pm	Membership, Stewardship & Mission Meeting
	7:00-9:00 pm	Session Meeting
Sun 5/11	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	4 th Sunday of Easter Worship – Mother's Day (Children's Choir will perform)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	---	Mother's Day, No Youth Group
Wed 5/14	2:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
	6:30 pm	Second Annual Community-Wide Picnic Planning Meeting in Fellowship Hall
Thur 5/15	7:00 pm	Bells Rehearsal
Sun 5/18	9:00 am	Sunday School (Last Sunday School before Summer Break)
	10:00 am	5 th Sunday of Easter Worship – Sunday School Program
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	2:30-TBD pm	Youth Group (Belvidere Pet Shelter)
	TBD	Skiffers will be hosted by Jack & Jean Greenlee Sunday, May 18th, with a picnic at the Beckman Mill. Details to all later.
	Noon-4:00 pm	Londo Piano Recital (noon-2:30 Sanctuary; 2:30-4 Fellowship Hall)
Tue 5/20	9:00 am	Building & Grounds Meeting
Thur 5/22	7:00 pm	Bells Rehearsal
Sun 5/25	10:00 am	6 th Sunday of Easter Worship
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:20 am	Finance/Personnel Meeting
Mon 5/26	---	Memorial Day – Office Closed
Tue 5/27	---	Preschool Last Day for 3-yr olds
Wed 5/28	---	Preschool Last Day for 4-yr olds
Thur 5/29	5:30 pm	Preschool BIG Music Show
	7:00 pm	Bells



The Second Annual Community-Wide Picnic will be held on Sunday, August 24th, after worship. We are looking for committee members and volunteers to make this a fun filled success. **A planning meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14th at 6:30 pm, in the Fellowship Hall.** Questions or suggestions? Contact Pat Nortch 815-623-2897 or pnortch1@charter.net

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE
 Actual vs Budget
 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2014

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:			
Contributions - General	31,775	36,395	4,620
Contributions - Special	250	174	(76)
Other Income	2,229	2,759	530
Endowment	-	-	-
School & Event	188	-	(188)
Total Revenue	34,442	39,328	4,886
EXPENSES:			
MINISTRY OF:			
Personnel	26,347	23,180	3,167
Christian Ed & Youth	1,113	-	1,113
Music & Worship	544	275	269
Member & Stewardship	425	19	406
Building & Grounds	11,395	15,398	(4,003)
Session	1,554	105	1,449
Deacons	50	-	50
Missions - Budgeted	250	-	250
- Unbudgeted	-	-	-
Total Expense	41,678	38,977	2,701
Change in cash from operations	(7,236)	351	7,587
OTHER:			
Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School & Liabilities	-	510	(510)
Net Cash Transfers To/(From) Investments	-	-	-
Change in cash since January 1, 2014	<u>(7,236)</u>	<u>(159)</u>	<u>7,077</u>

Bring Your Hobby to Church



On April 6, 2014, we gathered together for a special themed potluck. At Willow Creek, we believe that as we spend time together, as we get to know our fellow Jesus-followers better, we are spending time with Christ, getting to know God better. First we shared a wonderful potluck meal with everything from soup to nuts! Some of the hobbies shared were parts of an extensive model train set-up, a few quilts, some paintings, draft-horse teams and wagons, wood carvings, photographs, Karate, flute, guitar, and voice. Perhaps I should get some of the shutterbugs in the congregation to help us capture a wider variety of the goings on here at Willow Creek! Above, there are few pictures of what went on outside after sharing a meal, a mini concert, and other inside hobbies. You can find more pictures on Facebook! Thanks to Barb and Don, and all who shared of their special God-given talents and interests! Pastor Judith

Christ is Risen!



On April 20th, after remembering in several worship services the Hosanna's of Palm Sunday, the Last Supper and Footwashing of Maundy Thursday, and the Crucifixion of Good Friday, we celebrated the Empty Tomb and the Resurrection of Christ! Ten of our youth led our Sunrise Service at the Scottish Cemetery Chapel, which was followed by a wonderful breakfast together. And by wonderful, I mean if you left hungry...well, let's just say that there was a breakfast smorgasbord offered: donuts, muffins, fruit salad, pancakes, egg casserole and breakfast pizza! Thanks to Jack & Jean and all the session members who helped out. As I was visiting with some of our families, I noticed the children getting more egg-cited. The bigger kids first! They couldn't wait to finish their job of helping the Easter Bunny. Pretty soon it was time to unleash the 22 small hunters of eggs (along with their grown-up egg spotters) out into the church and manse lawns. There was much candy and many special numbered tickets to redeem for prizes. There was even a lesson about an empty egg during the Children's Message in our second worship service. It is such a joy to celebrate with friends, family, food and fun, but it is an eternal joy we celebrate when we realize that Christ's empty tomb means no tomb will ever hold us! May you all know the joy of our new birth to Christ's living hope this Eastertide! Pastor Judith



Attention Quilters

2014 Stronghold Quilt Auction and Silent Auction
Saturday, October, 4 (Quilt Preview 10:00 – noon)

Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center, 1922 IL 2 North, Oregon, IL.

Needed: Donated quilts for the Quilt Auction and items for the Silent Auction. To donate a quilt or silent auction item as an individual, church, or group, please contact Thelma Busker, Quilt Auction Coordinator, at 815-871-1655 or tkbusker@comcast.net or stop in the church office for additional information.

Also Greatly Needed: Bidders for quilts. If you know anyone who appreciates the hard work that goes into making a nice quilt, invite them to attend the auction to bid on a quilt and more importantly to support Stronghold. Quilts make a great birthday or Christmas gifts for someone to love. **Proceeds will benefit castle and camp improvement.**

Future Dates Worth Noting

June 8 - Pentecost (wear colors of flames)
June 23 thru 27 Vacation Bible School
July 5– Church reserved for a wedding
August 24 – 2nd Annual All-Church Picnic
August 31 – Schuster/Neff Wedding
October 6 – Nadia Bolz-Weber, Belvidere Community Center @ 6:30 pm
October 11 – Kickoff meeting for Cookie Walk @ 10:30 am
November 2 – Daylight Saving Time ends
December 6 – Cookie Walk



Treasurer's Report:

WCPC Operating Statistics

March, 2014

Income	15,235.00
Expenses	12,115.00
Previous Month - Excess/(Deficit)	(5,634.00)

A Few Housekeeping Notes:

- If you have changed your address, phone number or email account, please call the church office to update your file.
- Information for the June Streamer is due by May 20. Please write your committee, group, or personal submittal as you would like to see it appear in the newsletter and email it to the church office.
- Also, announcements for the Sunday Morning Order of Worship must be in the office by Wednesday morning. Anything that does not meet that deadline can be appropriately announced at the designated time during the service.