

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARGYLE

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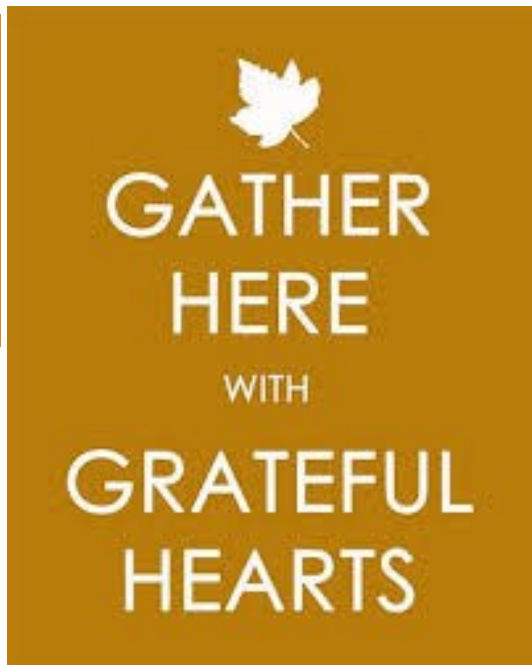
*A Faith Community, Growing
Together, Sharing The Love
of Christ*

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Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle



STREAMER

November 2013

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From the Pastor

Forget Tithing, Start Trusting!

I think our world today has changed so much, that most of us don't really understand tithing. I am often asked, "Presbyterians don't tithe, do they?" We don't see the value. We misunderstand the purpose. We simply just don't get it.

For many people, both those who attend church and those who don't, our pledge/offering/tithe seems like some sort of social club dues. The church becomes just another bill in the long list of monthly expenses. I often hear, "I thought tithing was an Old Testament thing," and "Is a tithe a tenth of the gross or the net income," and "I have so many bills, isn't it enough that I 'tithe' my time to church?" It seems we all want to know the same thing: what's the least I can give and still feel right with God?

I think these conversations or thoughts betray us, and totally miss the point. Maybe we should forget about tithing all together!

Tithing is supposed to be an act of worship that draws you closer to the heart of God. The offering is just that, an act of worship. Biblical generosity is not about giving the minimum, or giving an exact amount. It is about humbling ourselves before the Almighty and all-loving

God. When we offer a part of what we call ours, we give glory to the One who gave us everything...through Creation, and through the gift of God's one and only son, our Lord, Jesus Christ (John 3:16-17). When we give in church, we affirm the gift of Christ; we dethrone ourselves and lift up Jesus.

Truth be told, God doesn't need our money; we are the ones *who need*



to give it! We need to put God's first things first. We need to put God first in our lives, and in our budgets! In the Old Testament, we are told our God is a jealous God. I would word it differently. Our God wants to know our love. Our God wants to know God is first in our lives. God wants us! God wants us to trust and to grow in our faith. God wants us to be in a closer relationship, and to know that it is God who provides and cares for us.

What is the root of all evil? The love of money (1 Tim 6:10). We should be clinging to God, not money. We should be trusting in God, not money. Everything belongs to God (Ps. 24:1). And God will take care of our every need (Matthew 6:25). So, these things being true: loving/lusting after money is bad; it all belongs to God anyway; and God will take care of our every need; we now need to change our ideas about giving to the church.

Perhaps we should ask ourselves how much we should keep instead of how much we can afford to give. Is it possible that you are limiting God with your outlook on giving?

Maybe you are obedient in pledging and giving a percentage of your first fruits, but completely unwilling when the Spirit prompts you farther. In my head, God knocks at the door, and I say, "Sorry, I already gave at the office." Truth is, God is calling me to do more financially than I have done before. And so as I pray about my pledge for 2014, I am asking God how much I should keep. Enough to keep us comfortable? Enough to take care of those unexpected things that are always cropping up? No, those questions belie a tendency to think I am supposed to use money to make me feel good. "God, are you asking me to give an amount that makes me feel uncomfortable, one requires a little more FAITH?" Such are my thoughts and prayers. What are yours?

God doesn't just want our first fruits, or our first 10%. God wants our WHOLE heart. So, trust God, attend to the nudges of the Spirit, and follow The Way of Christ Jesus. Forget tithing, give all you can and give joyfully!!



November 2013

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

					1	2
3 <i>Dedication Sunday w/ communion</i>	4 <i>2pm MMS 7PM SESSION</i>	5 <i>Preschool/ Burpee Mu- seum.</i>	6	7 <i>7pm bells</i>	8	9
10 <i>2:30p HSY 4:00p MSY</i>	11 <i>No Pre- school Presby. meeting</i>	12 <i>Presby. Meeting</i>	13 <i>Mariners 1130am W & M 6:30pm</i>	14 <i>7pm bells</i>	15	16
17 <i>HSY 2:30pm MSY 4:00pm</i>	18 <i>B & G 9am</i>	19	20 <i>Deacon's 2:30pm</i>	21 <i>7pm bells</i>	22	23
24 <i>Handbell/ Potluck & Ann. Cong. Meeting</i>	25	26	27 <i>No Pre- school</i>	28 <i>Thanksgiv- ing/ Office closed.</i>	29 <i>Office Closed/No Preschool</i>	30
Judith on family vacation.		Will be in the pulpit 11/24 &		12/1		

Health Ministries

If you have diabetes, hopefully you know the importance of foot care. Here are the 12 S's to consider & ways to take action:

- **Sugar**—Check your blood sugar regularly. Know your A1C goals & test results (every 3 months.)
- **Smoking**—Stop smoking. Smoke from cigarettes decrease the circulation in your legs by 30% for an hour!
- **Sores**— check for sores, blisters, cuts, or open skin every day as you may lose some of your feeling.
- **Scale or callus**— Check for scale (caused by dry skin or fungal infection) or callus (caused by pressure.)
- **See the bottom**— Use a mirror to check the bottoms of your feet every day, or ask for help, especially if your eyesight is a problem. Remind your healthcare provider to check your feet at every visit.
- **Socks**—Choose socks without seams that fit without binding. Wear socks at night if your feet are cold. Wear light colored socks so you can detect drainage from cracks and sores.
- **Shoes**—Buy properly fitting shoes (at the end of the day) that have room for your toes. Avoid pointed shoes and sandals.
- **Steps**—Wear shoes or slippers with arch support at all times. Don't walk bare-foot or in socks.
- **Shower**—shower and wash your feet every day. Dry carefully, especially between toes.
- **Soaks**—Never soak your feet.
- **Safe**—nail care—Cut nails straight across or see a foot care specialist.
- **Skin**—take care of your skin: avoid adhesive tape and chemical treatments. Use moisturizers, but don't put between your toes.

November is Diabetes Awareness Month. Ask your healthcare provider if you are at risk for diabetes. If you already have a diagnosis, make sure your treatment regime is working to prevent or prolong long term complications.

The Annual Congregational Meeting of the Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle, Caldonia, Illinois will be held on Sunday, November 24, 2013 immediately following the church service in the sanctuary. The meeting is called for the purpose of the election of 2014 officers, to vote on the Pastoral Compensation Package and any other business that may properly come before this meeting.

Janet Hyland
Clerk of Session

The Annual Potluck Dinner (which will follow morning worship service and Congregational Meeting) will be on Sunday, November 24th. Ham balls, potatoes, rolls, coffee and milk will be provided. Single persons are asked to bring one dish to pass and families are asked to bring two dishes to pass. Also, remember your plates, cups, glasses, and silverware. Hope to see all of you. Any questions, call Barb Greenlee at (815)885-2270.

The Children's Christmas Program will be during the worship service on December 8th. All children are welcome to be a part of it. They will be practicing during Sunday School in November, and there will be an additional practice on Saturday, December 7th (time is TBA). Please see April Rottman or Karli Rankin if your children would like to be a part of the program.

Help the youth celebrate the Reason for the Season! On Sunday December 15th the Sunday school students will be celebrating Jesus' birthday by having a party. The party will continue during fellowship hour where cake will be served. We will be collecting gifts for Jesus in the form of baby food/formula and diapers. The baby food and formula donations will be given to the food pantry and diaper donations will be given to the Babies in Need closet.

Christmas child any donations need to be in by November 18th.

Mitten and Sock Giving Tree. During the month of November the Health Ministries committee is asking for donations of MITTENS AND SOCKS for our Giving tree. Help to keep needy children's fingers and toes warm this winter!! You will also get a warm feeling knowing you can make a difference!! Watch for the tree coming soon, and Thanks for Giving!!

FALL FEST THANK YOU

Some of you may not have seen the Rockford Rescue Mission trailer sitting in the back of the parking lot on the day of Fall Fest. After the event we loaded all the left overs from the rummage sale into the trailer and it was picked up on Monday. The following is the Thank You letter we received as a result of that donation.

On behalf of our Thrift Store and Rockford Rescue Mission, I want to personally thank you for hosting a collection for us from the Willow Creek Church Fall Fest Rummage Sale.

The Mission is dependent upon people like you to help collect gently used clothing and household items. With out your help, we would not be able to supply all the needs of our clients or keep our Thrift Store adequately stocked.

In addition to supplying the needs of Mission clients and residents, the revenue from our Thrift Store provides operating income for the Rockford Mission programs.

Thank you for helping Rockford Rescue Mission *recover and restore broken lives*.

Partners in Hope,



Sherry Pitney
Executive Director

**WCPC Operating Statistics
September, 2013**

Income	12,830.00
Expenses	12,782.00
Previous Month -	
Excess/	
(Deficit)	2,286.00

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE

Actual vs Budget

FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED September 30, 2013

	Budget	Actual	Variance
Contributions - General	99,450	91,147	(8,303)
Contributions - Special	600	474	(126)
Other Income	6,959	3,672	(3,287)
Endowment	-	-	-
School & Event	1,316	611	(705)
Total Revenue	108,325	95,904	(12,421)
	78,093	76,922	1,171
Christian Ed & Youth	3,563	2,506	1,057
Music & Worship	1,499	1,175	324
Member & Stewardship	881	918	(37)
Building & Grounds	34,073	33,462	611
	4,446	2,437	2,009
	225	70	155
Missions - Budgeted	750	154	596
Unbudgeted	-	354	(354)
Total Expense	123,530		5,532
Change in cash from operations	(15,205)		(6,889)
Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School			
& Liabilities	-	(1,761)	1,761
Net Cash Transfers To/ (From)			
Investments	-	-	-
Change in cash since January 1, 2013	(15,205)		(5,128)