

STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

October 2014

Today, it has been five week exactly since I heard the words, "It's Cancer." I have had, and am scheduled for, many labs, screens and scans. I have had surgery, and the results were as good as I could have hoped! But, most of all, I have had time to think, pray, and read. I have been lifted up by so many prayers (Thank you!), and I have tried to stay positive *and* busy! Sometimes, however, in a quiet moment when my brain tried to turn towards worry, I found peace in reading my Bible.

The Bible is our source of knowledge, inspiration and hope. When we use the word "inspired," we mean it in two ways. First, our creeds and confessions say that the Bible is the "inspired" Word of God. This means that the Bible is both the product of human authors, editors, scribes and translators, and the work of the Holy Spirit. Presbyterian Christians argue that the authority of the Bible lies not in the words on the page but with the Holy Spirit who not only inspired the authors but inspires us as readers today (and this Spirit is both a challenging and a comforting one). Second, not only is the text inspired, we are supposed to be inspired by reading and hearing the scriptures, as I certainly have been this last month.

I know, however, that many don't experience the Bible as inspiring. Some see it as a weapon used against them: "behave this way, or else..."; "Believe this, or else..." Obviously, the Bible contains principles, values, and rules for living. But when people use it primarily as a way to condemn others, the Bible itself is being abused, because its purpose is to bring life not death, hope not fear, joy not anxiety. Others (including many Christians) find the Bible intimidating or boring. If you haven't read the Bible in a long time, the best place to begin is with the gospels. If you begin with the first chapter of Matthew and read one chapter a day, you can complete all four gospels by Christmas. Read slowly (most chapters aren't very long) and try reading out loud (or at least speaking the words quietly to yourself). Much of the Bible was handed down in oral form before it was written, and most of it was written in order to be heard rather than scanned.

Remember, translation matters! Translation always involves interpretation. The translators need to decide what the original texts mean in order to select the appropriate words in the modern language. The New Revised Standard Version (1989) is the text I used in seminary. It is a substantial revision of the Revised Standard Version of the 1950's, which my father used in seminary. In both cases, the work was done by groups of scholars representing both mainline Protestant and Catholic traditions. Many people like the NIV (the New International Version) which came out about thirty years ago (and is our Pew Bible). It is readable but definitely shows the evangelical theological bias of the translators. I currently use several versions in my studies, and would recommend the 2011 Common English Bible for ease of reading (translated by a very diverse group of American biblical scholars and tested widely for readability), the 1995 New American Standard Bible for its literal translations (by a team of conservative biblical scholars of a variety of denominations), 1993-2002 The Message as a current idiomatic translation (by a Presbyterian scholar) for its readability and freshness, and the 2009 Inclusive Bible for its readability, its poetry, and its non-sexist language (a dynamic translation by a team of laity and clergy called Priests for Equality).

The psalms describe God's word (specifically the Torah or first five books of the Hebrew Bible) as "a lamp for our feet and a light for our path." Not every passage will be equally illuminating, but sometimes a story or a saying will reach out and grab you in surprising ways. The psalmist also said that God's word is sweeter than honey from the honeycomb and more valuable than gold. No matter what you are facing in life, start reading. And if you have any questions, just email me (willowcreekpc@frontier.com) or ask!

The 2nd Annual Community-Wide Picnic
August 24th 2014



Great Food!



**Lots of fun
and games!**



**Fantastic
Entertainment!**



**Wonderful
Fellowship!**



(Pictures courtesy of Steve Picken)



Dear Willow Creek Church,
Thank you for your thoughts and prayers. The people at our church are very caring. Also, they are willing to help each other. Thank you again, for all your love and support.
Sincerely,
Todd Greenlee

Dear Willow Creek Presbyterian Church Membership:

Remedies received your August 4, 2014 donations of \$250.00 and \$204.00 and I want to personally thank you for supporting our agency's programs that assist adults and children who are victims of domestic violence or affected by substance abuse.

Without the thoughtful consideration and donations from caring people like you, we would not be able to continue providing these needed services to the community.

Your gift and continued kindness is greatly appreciated.

With sincere gratitude, Gary Halbach, President and CEO



“Helping Churches Help People” - Mary Pulliam (Director) from LOVE INC recently visited our church and explained that their organization is a clearing house for local churches. They operate a ministry for 80+ churches in Boone and Winnebago Counties with a staff of

approximately 25. We have been working with LOVE INC for some time now and administer our “Babies in Need” program through them. We have been funding the “Babies in Need” program through your contributions. On our Mission Sunday, we were able to present Mary Pulliam with a \$250.00 check and are sending an additional \$163.00 collected via our Mission Sunday collection. I’m sure this will assist LOVE INC in their ongoing administrative costs and help them meet the needs of our community. **THANK YOU!**

Dear Friends,

Thank you for your interest and support of our Campbell's Labels for Education and General Mills Box Tops for Education Programs. Thanks to the support of churches and individuals these programs are a continuing benefit to our mission of caring for young people.

The Campbell's Labels Program has provided equipment for our Therapeutic Recreation program; educational software, computers and reference books for the cottages.

The funds we have received from the General Mills Box Tops for Education Program have helped purchase books for the Village library as well as help fund the Reading Counts Program in our on-grounds school. Kemmerer Village has participated in this General Mills Program since 1999 receiving over \$20,000.00 to help fund educational programs.

Again, we would like to express our sincere appreciation to you for your support and friendship.
Sincerely, Alice Christenberry, Associate Director of Financial Development

RE: Thank you for your recent donation of labels & box tops given on 8/19/2014.





Choir Rehearsal Sundays, at 8:30 am on September 28 and October 5 and 12.

Children's Choir Rehearsal on September 28, and October 5 and October 12 @ 11:00 am. The Children's Choir will sing for worship on October 19.

Children of all ages are invited to participate.

Calling all ringers, Bell Choir Schedule as follows:

Thursdays, September 25, October 2, 9, 23, and 30 at 6:30 pm
(no Bell Rehearsal October 16).

Bell Concert Planning Meeting Thursday, October 9 @ 5:30 pm

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



IT'S A Spaghetti Dinner

October 25th

Dinner will be served from 5 – 7 pm

Tickets will be on sale after church starting next week (Oct 5)

Adults \$10.00 Children 5-12 \$5.00 Children 4 and under free

A sign-up sheet with opportunities to help out at the dinner is available in Fellowship Hall.

Proceeds will go towards the "Facilities Projects"

Thank you!



Monday, October 6 @ 6:00 pm

Belvidere Community Building
111 W. First St., Belvidere, IL, 61008

15 Tickets have been reserved for WCPC
(Please contact the Church Office if you are
interested in attending 815-885-3455)

"Nadia Bolz-Weber has probably done more than any other pastor in recent times to poke therapeutic fun at the misdemeanors and flaws of overly-churched Christianity and Christians. The passion behind her words, however, is as deeply pastoral as it is God-drenched and liberating....thus the affection as well as the respect that attend her and her work wherever she goes."

-Phylis Tickle author of "The Great Emergence"

From Time Magazine July 7/14 2014, an update on Marine Sergeant John Peck (Grandson of Richard and Debra Piper of Caledonia, Illinois)





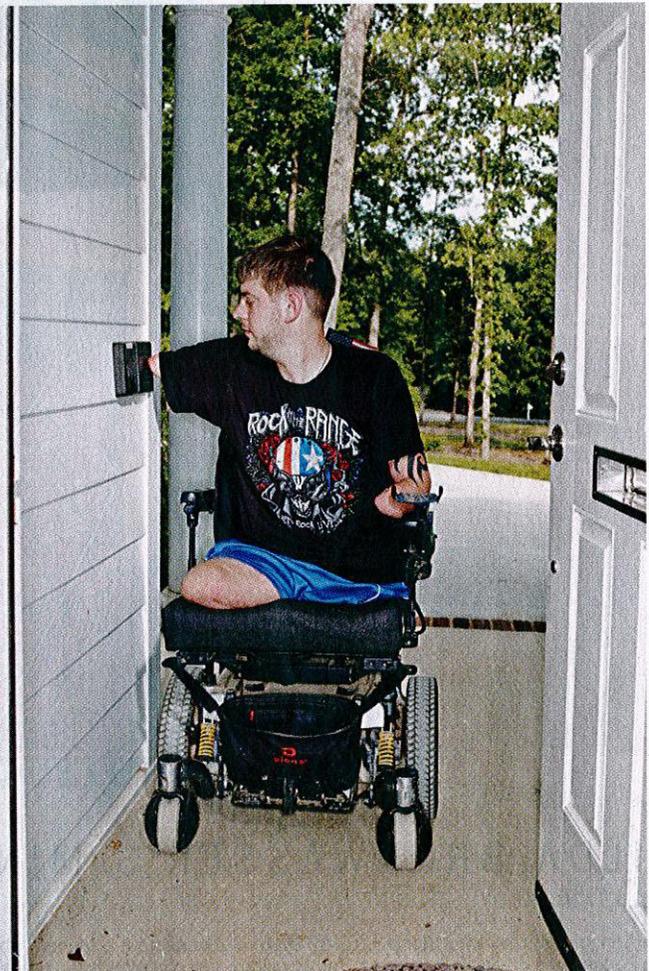
CUSTOM GAMING CONTROLLER

When he lost his limbs, Peck had to give up a lot of his old hobbies, including surfing, swimming and working on cars. But thanks to this apparatus—built by one of his friends—he's still able to play video games like *Watch Dogs* by pressing levers with his leg (to move) and biting a raised button (to shoot). "It's a way to mellow," he says.

JOHN PECK'S RESPONSIVE HOME

FREDERICKSBURG, VA.

When retired Marine Sergeant John Peck awoke from a medically induced coma in July 2010, two months after stepping on an IED in Afghanistan and losing all four of his limbs, his skin "was so hypersensitive that I would scream if someone touched me," he says. But once his physical pain subsided, Peck, then 24, faced a much more daunting obstacle: adjusting to everyday life in a new body. The challenges at his Walter Reed housing complex were immediately clear. He couldn't enter rooms with nonautomatic doors, because he didn't have hands to grab them. He'd wanted to be a chef since he was 12, and now he couldn't reach the food cabinets—let alone prepare meals. "It was incredibly frustrating," he says. Today, however, Peck lives in a house built by the Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation that was designed to serve his individual needs. Now 28, he has a bathroom with a bidet, so he can use it solo, and can adjust lighting, sound and even the height of his kitchen cabinets by tapping a tablet. To be sure, there are plenty of issues his home won't solve. "I can't put shampoo into my hair or put shorts on by myself," he says. And unloading the dishwasher is nearly impossible, even when he's wearing prosthetics. But Peck draws hope from a potential double-arm transplant—and his November wedding to fiancée Stacy Elwood. For now, he says, "my house makes the little things easier." —O.W.



EASY-OPEN DOORS

Peck inputs a code to automatically open the exterior doors of his house. "I don't have to push against them with my wheelchair anymore," he says.

LET'S KEEP THIS GOING!!! WCPC now has the honor of being known as "The Best "Christmas Cookie Walk in the area and enjoys many repeat customers year after year. Proceeds from this event are earmarked for aid to families that are experiencing financial issues that make providing just day to-day necessities a struggle and only increase with the cold, winter months. Our goal is to relieve some of that stress and spread some Christian Joy during the Holiday Season. This is not a "women's thing" nor does it fall under the responsibilities of an existing committee. It is a church-wide effort, which means volunteers are essential to "keep it going". The work is easy and fun. The more volunteers, the lighter the task. The Christmas Cookie Walk kick-off meeting is scheduled for 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, October 11, at the church. Join us if you can...or call Carolyn Wheeler or Donna Hamilton to volunteer.



Mariners

Saturday, October 11 @ Noon
Sophie's Restaurant in Roscoe

After lunch & short meeting we will go to Lensing Auto Museum
(historic autos, furniture, clothes etc.) on Rockton Road.

(If there are 15 people or more the tickets for the museum will be \$9/each otherwise \$11/each)
If anyone else would like to join us, contact Sue Brick 815-885-3922

Individuals or families interested in lighting the Advent Candles (11/30, 12/7, 12/14, 12/21, and 12/24) please contact Kim Reid at 815-885-3604 to sign-up.



Skiffers

**Brunch Sunday, October 5 @ 11:45 am at the
Thunder Bay Grille**

WCPC Operating Statistics

August, 2014

| | |
|----------|-----------|
| Income | 13,311.00 |
| Expenses | 10,246.00 |

| | |
|------------------|------------|
| Previous Month - | |
| Excess/(Deficit) | (4,777.00) |

PRESBYTERIANS IN PINK!!

* Sat, Oct. 18th Breast Cancer walk!! * Sunday, Oct. 19th is wear pink day!!

Come join our Making Strides Against Breast Cancer team!

Registration at 8:00 a.m. Walk starts at 9:00 a.m.

Place: Rock Valley College

Sign up after church on Sunday Oct. 5th or 12th!!

If interested, pink WCPC T-shirts can be ordered by Oct. 5th.



**If you are a breast cancer survivor and would like us to walk in your honor, or if you have a family member who lost the battle to breast cancer, please let us know by contacting one of the Health Ministries committee members or call the office. If you are unable to walk but would like to make a donation to our team, please do so at the sign up table or see our team's Facebook page!!



Understanding Breast Cancer Risk and How to Lower It

Every woman wants to know what she can do to lower her risk of breast cancer. Today, there are many risk factors that have contributed to more women being diagnosed with breast cancer. Most breast cancers AREN'T inherited -- only about 5% to 10% are. This means there are many things you can do to lower your risk of being diagnosed. Researchers are working to learn how factors in the environments outside and inside your body may work separately and together to affect your health and your risk of developing breast cancer. The environment inside your body includes genetics (the genes you got from your mother and father), hormone levels, and illnesses. The

environment outside your body includes air, water, food, and everything else you come into contact with each day. Parts of this external environment enter your internal environment every day -- the food you eat, the water you drink, the air you breathe, and the vitamins or medicines you take are just a few. Some of these factors -- your sex, your age, and your genetics, for example -- can't be changed. But many other factors -- smoking cigarettes, exercising, and eating nutritious food -- can be changed or modified. By making the healthiest choices possible, you can make sure your breast cancer risk is as low as possible.

These recommendations are based on current knowledge and research. Some of them may seem hard -- losing weight or quitting smoking, for example -- but making these changes can help lower your risk of breast cancer. Remember, no one is perfect. Set your goals and try to do the best you can every day.

For more information go to Breastcancer.org.



KIRKIN O' THE TARTAN.....WHAT'S THAT ALL ABOUT??

Well, let's start with "Kirk" which Scots identify with "Church" or "blessing" but was actually derived from Germanic words, "kerk" (Dutch) and "Kirche" (German). Tartans being the traditional plaid designed to identify each clan (family). Kirkin O' The Tartan or Blessing of the Tartans is celebrated annually by many churches throughout the world but not necessarily on the same date. While the following is only one historical account of the origin of this ceremony (borrowed from the Bill Petro website) it should be noted that some other Scottish loyals may disagree and could possibly take offense at any version other than their own.

Documented: In July 1745, the young Prince Charles Edward Stewart, "Bonnie Prince Charlie" returned from exile in France to Lochnaugh, Scotland. He then began enlisting the aid of the Highland Clans in an attempt to dethrone George II of England and to restore the Scottish throne to the Royal House of Stewart. The attempt was unsuccessful resulting in the "Disarming Act of 1746" which banned the wearing of any sign of the Tartan, forbade any speaking of Gaelic, outlawed Scottish music, dancing, or the playing of the pipes. This law was strictly enforced by the Hanovarian English government.

Legend: The Scottish Highlanders subsequently hid pieces of tartan under their clothing and brought them to church for a secret blessing or "kirkin. During the Sunday service Highlanders would touch the hidden cloth when the minister gave the benediction, thus rededicating themselves to God and their Scottish heritage.

To be continued in the November Streamer.....



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.

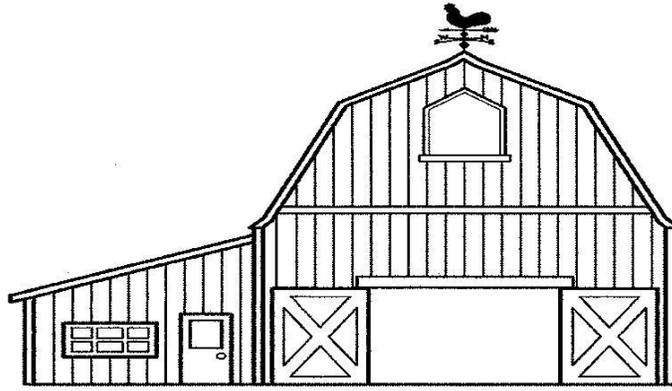
If you wish to donate to this project, please make the check payable to WCPC and note on the memo line "Facilities Project". Thank you for your support.

October 2014 All Church Calendar

| | | |
|------------|----------------|--|
| Thur 10/2 | 6:30 pm | Bell Rehearsal |
| Fri 10/3 | 3:30-5:30 pm | Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall & Kitchen) |
| Sat 10/4 | 9:00 am-5:30pm | Olde English Faire @ Stronghold |
| Sun 10/5 | 8:30 am | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 9:00 am | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship with Communion (World Communion Sunday/Peacemaking Offering) |
| | 11:00 am | Fellowship |
| | 11:00 am | Children's Choir Rehearsal |
| | 11:45 am | Skiffers will have Brunch @ Thunder Bay Grille |
| Mon 10/6 | 6:30-9:00 am | Nadia Bolz-Weber Speaking @ Belvidere Community Center |
| Tue 10/7 | 10:00-11:30 am | Angel Baby Closet Distribution (Love Inc.) |
| | 7:00-9:00 pm | Session Meeting |
| Wed 10/8 | 11:00 am | Preschool Fire Prevention Presentation in Fellowship Hall |
| | 12:15 pm | Preschool Meeting |
| | 2:00 pm | Deacons Meeting |
| Thur 10/9 | 5:30 pm | Bell Concert Planning Meeting |
| | 6:30 pm | Bell Rehearsal |
| Fri 10/10 | --- | No Preschool |
| Sat 10/11 | 8:30 am | Music & Worship Meeting |
| | 10:30 am | Cookie Walk Kick-Off Meeting |
| | Noon | Mariners Meet at Sophie's Restaurant in Roscoe. (After lunch Lensing Auto Museum on Rockton Road.) |
| Sun 10/12 | 8:30 am | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 9:00 am | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship |
| | 11:00 am | Fellowship |
| | 11:00 am | Children's Choir Rehearsal |
| | 2:30-4:30 pm | Youth Group |
| Mon 10/13 | --- | No Preschool |
| | 9:30 am | Membership/Stewardship/Mission Meeting |
| Tue 10/14 | --- | No Preschool |
| Fri 10/17 | 3:30-5:30 pm | Girl Scouts (Fellowship Hall & Kitchen) |
| Sat 10/18 | 8:00 am | Presbyterians in Pink Breast Cancer Walk @ Rock Valley College |
| Sun 10/19 | 9:00 am | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship (Children's Choir Sings) <u>Wear Pink Day for Breast Cancer!</u> |
| | 11:00 am | Fellowship |
| | 2:30-4:30 pm | Youth Group |
| Tue 10/21 | 9:00 am | Building & Grounds Meeting |
| Thur 10/23 | 6:30 pm | Bell Rehearsal |
| Sat 10/25 | 5:00 pm | Spaghetti Dinner (Fundraiser for Facilities Project) |
| Sun 10/26 | 9:00 am | Sunday School |
| | 10:00 am | Sunday Worship (Bell Duet) |
| | 11:00 am | Fellowship |
| | 11:20 am | Finance & Personnel Meeting |
| | 2:30-4:30 pm | Youth Group |
| Tue 10/28 | 9:30 am | Martha Ruth Circle @ Nettie Parker's House |
| Thur 10/30 | 6:30 pm | Bell Rehearsal |

Future Dates Worth Noting

November 2—Daylight Savings Time Ends
December 6—Cookie Walk



Paulson's Agriculture Museum of Argyle

Cordially invites you to an
OLD FASHION BARN DANCE

Saturday, October 4th
5:00pm-10:00pm

\$5.00 admission (kids 12 and under are free)

All are welcome, bring your family and friends!

It will surely be a night filled with
fun, food and music!
Food and drink available for purchase

Also including a 50/50 raffle, cake walk, and bake sale!



HEAR YE! HEAR YE!



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS THE
QUEEN REQUESTS YOUR
PRESENCE AT:

STRONGHOLD'S The Olde English Faire!

During the first full weekend of October in the 2014th year of our lord, Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center shall transform from moderne retreat and meeting place to the site of the Olde English Faire. Miss ye not the occasion to frolic at our festivities!

OCTOBER 4 & 5

GATES OPEN FROM 9
IN THE MORN
'TIL 4 IN THE EVE.
THE FAIRE
CONCLUDES AT 5:30.



**MUSIC!
MERRIMENT!
CRAFTS!
COSTUME!
DANCING!
FOOD!
TOURS!**



ADMISSION

| | 1-Day | 2-Day |
|--------------|--------|---------|
| Adults 13+ | \$9.00 | \$14.00 |
| Youth 7-12 | \$5.00 | \$7.00 |
| Children 0-6 | FREE | FREE |

Admission to the Stronghold Castle for an additional \$1.00
The Faire shall proceed in rain or shine!



www.strongholdcenter.org (815) 732-6111 Stronghold 1922 IL Route 2 N Oregon, IL 61061

Stronghold's Olde English Faire depends on a dedicated crew of volunteers...like you! Would you like to join us as we make this year's Faire better than ever? Our volunteers (many who have been helping for years) help with parking, sell tickets, shuttle people and food, lead castle tours and man the food court – cooking, packing and selling. It's a fun way to be a part of Stronghold's biggest fundraiser of the year and comes with several benefits.

To find out more, contact Loren (815-732-6111 ext. 610 or loreen@blackhawkpresbytery.org).

Westminster Concert Series 2014-2015

**Ahreum Han, Organist
Sunday, September 28, 2014 3 pm**

**Chicago Chamber Choir
Sunday, November 2, 2014 3 pm**

**Northern Illinois University Steel Band
Friday, March 20, 2015 7 pm**

**Michael Beert & Rachel Handlin
Sunday, May 3, 2015 3 pm**

Please Join Us! Free Will Offering



2821 N. Bell School Rd., Rockford, IL 61107
815.282.1500
www.WestminsterRockford.org

September Youth Group Happenings - September 28th – We will be washing cars at the North Park Fire Department located at 2191 Harlem Road in Loves Park from 1:30 – 3:30 pm. All donations will be used to purchase food for the Boone County Food Pantry. Extra donations can be made, noting “Youth Car Wash for Food” on your check or envelope. Thank You!!

