



STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

February 2017

Many cards, flowers, sweets and homemade gifts will be prepared, given and received in the name of Love around the middle of this month as we celebrate what may seem a Hallmark-hyped holiday.

Valentine's Day, tradition tells us, is named after a Christian martyr—a Roman Catholic priest of the third century. In his day, the Rite of Matrimony had been outlawed for young people, in order that the young men could more fully devote themselves to their military service. Valentine was arrested for continuing to hold secret Christian weddings.

By the time he was put to death, Fr. Valentine had converted several prison guards and their families to Christianity. When he learned that the daughter of the executioner had lost her sight, he prayed for-and she received- healing. Before his death he sent a little note of encouragement to her-- from your Valentine.

Our celebrations of Valentine's Day, in fact our celebration of Love and Marriage is somewhat different today. Movies tend to over-romanticize them. Reality TV often degrades them. As Christians, we look for ways to know and show love, but do we really understand it? What is love? (My apologies if like I, you just heard Haddaway, the musical group that made this question famous in 1993.)

The Scriptures teach, "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor. 13:4-7). Jesus said, "Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends" (John 15:13). "For God so loved the world..."

One of the key ingredients in the biblical love (an ingredient sometimes overlooked today) is self-sacrifice. Love sacrifices for the good of the other person. This is how God-in-Christ has loved us, and it is our model for how we are to love others. In fact, all that we do together here, involves following this model of giving of ourselves to love and care for Christ as we love and serve others!

May your heart be blessed and moved by the wonderful love of Christ!

Grace and Peace,

Pastor Judith



I would like to thank Willow Creek Church for their thoughts and prayers for me and others in need. The poinsettia is nice, and the cards are appreciated also. I am glad for the great people of the church. Everyone is so loving.

Again, thank you, for the thoughts, cards, prayers, and the poinsettia.

Sincerely, Todd Greenlee



THE CARPENTER'S PLACE™
PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR REBUILDING LIVES™

December 27, 2016

Rev. Judith March Hardie
Willow Creek Presbyterian Church
7300 Belvidere Rd
Caledonia, IL 61011-9608

Dear Rev. Hardie and Church Family,

Your generous donation to Carpenter's Place is deeply appreciated.

Our guests are very grateful for the gifts of basic items most of us take for granted. Items such as shoes, coats, deodorant, pots, pans and all that is needed to set up their new apartment are such treasures to them! These items help rebuild their lives, and begin the next positive chapter.

Bitter cold days are not just uncomfortable for our guests, they are very dangerous. They can be life threatening. It is critical we assure the homeless men and women who come to Carpenter's Place have warm winter clothing and boots. Our need for heavy socks, warm boots, jeans and jackets is great at this time. Will you please share that need with those you know?

We deeply appreciate your kindness and generosity!

Sincerely,

Stacy
Stacy Kirchner
Community Engagement

*Warmest
Regards*

Donation Type	Description	Value
In-Kind: Clothes	1 large bag of clothes, 1 med bag of clothes and 1 small bag of clothes	

* These bags included some coats, sweaters, and the hats, scarves and gloves from our Mitten Tree last Christmas.



Dear Willow Creek Skiffers,
As we approach the end of the year, we reflect on the kindness of those who have supported us over and over again. We rely on the generosity of donors such as you. Being



a nonprofit organization is challenging but rewarding as well. The challenge is finding people to stand alongside us like you but the reward is helping impoverished children create good relationships with our adult volunteers, receive hot meals, basic life essentials, and ultimately learn about God and his plan for their lives.

Right now our focus is helping the children learn about the meaning of Christmas. We strive to provide Christmas presents to the kids that come through our doors each week. It's our desire to give them the gift of Christmas in their hearts, bodies, and something to remind them someone cares about them.

On behalf of Rock House Kids, we want to thank you. May you have a wonderful Christmas season and expect great things in the New Year! Thank you again.

Sincerely, Dola Gregory, Founder and CEO

On 12/8/16 a donation of \$50 was given by the WCPC Skiffers

Dear WCPC Skiffers:

A blessing! A joy! That's YOU! **THANK YOU!**

Your kindness and generosity bring blessings and joy to the world of homeless men and women at Carpenter's Place. You give them the gifts of faith, hope, joy and love.



CARPENTER'S PLACE™
PROVIDING THE TOOLS FOR REBUILDING LIVES™

Your very generous \$50.00 donation will truly make a positive impact on the lives of our homeless guests. And, to make the impact even greater, generous donors will match, DOUBLE, all donations up to \$50,000.00 that are received by December 31, 2016.

Please know, our gratitude is doubled, too!

May the Infant Jesus Bless You and Those You Love with Gifts of Love and Joy,

Kay Lerrick, Executive Director

Dear WCPC Skiffers,

Thank you for your year-end gift of \$50.00 received on 12/29/2016. This special time of year has been made even brighter for the children and adults served by the Goldie B. Floberg Center because of your generous support.



We truly appreciate your generosity - this special time of year and our organization wouldn't be the same without the compassion of individuals like you.

Yours in Service, John Pingo, Ph.D., BCBA, President/CEO

Thank you for keeping the children and adults we serve in your heart this holiday season!



Thank you for the lovely cards, notes and gifts with Christmas wishes. I hope you each had a blessed Christmas.

Sharon Beu



THANK YOU!

Thank you for the wonderful gifts that were given to the Baby Angel Closet at the Birthday Party for Jesus. Thank you so much for your generosity.



Pastor Judith March-Hardie, Tareetta Littleton and daughter, and Delores Hall, Baby Angel Coordinator at Willow Creek Presbyterian Baby Angel Closet

Baby Angel Closet

The Willow Creek Baby Angel Closet was recently featured in the "One Body Collaboratives." Pictured is part of one of the 27 families we helped in September (10 were referred through One Body and 17 through the Belvidere School District).

STEWARSHIP RECOGNITION

ABOVE and BEYOND the CALL of DUTY recognizes individuals, couples or groups that serve God through Willow Creek Presbyterian Church.

Nominations forms can be obtained on the welcome stand outside Fellowship Hall near the Education Wing. Completed nominations can be deposited in the box on the welcome stand. Nominations can also be made directly to Pastor Judith.





Fellowship Matters!
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR FELLOWSHIP
HOUR
HOW CAN **YOU** SERVE?

**GO ALL IN!
GO & DO!**

- Sign up to host a Sunday Morning Fellowship. The sign-up sheet is on the Fellowship Table.
- When you are baking at home, bake extra for the church. We will “Bank Baked Goods” in the freezer (labeled & dated) and get them out for Fellowship whenever we have a blank Sunday.
- When you walk down the juice aisle of your favorite grocery store, pick up a jug or two of juice (Hawaiian Punch, etc.) and bring it/mark it for Sunday Fellowship.
- When you are at church, volunteer to serve on a blank Sunday, we welcome your help any time in the kitchen. As you may have heard, the new coffee maker is easy to work!
- Volunteer to be a greeter—or better yet, seek out newcomers and folks you might not know so well. Help build this Christian Fellowship!

Additions to January Streamer Christmas Card Tree on Sanctuary Landing

If you did not receive a Christmas Card from the following people, check the Christmas Card Tree. They made a contribution to WCPC as part of the Kemmerer Village Project instead of mailing a card.

Jack & Jean Greenlee

The Miskell Family



WCPC Operating Statistics

December has us trying to answer the age old question, "Why can't everyday be like Christmas?" But then we realize we wouldn't have any goals to work toward, i.e. eliminating our deficit spending. Thank you for your generous giving throughout the year. Happy New Year everyone!



WCPC Operating Statistics

	December, 2016	Year-to-Date
Income	19,546.23	163,184.33
Expenses	13,847.15	174,409.61
	5,699.08	(11,225.28)

SACRED JOURNEYS

WITH BRUCE FEILER

Gather & Gospel Class

Sundays, 9:00-9:50 am.

**Please join us Sundays at 9:00
in the McEachern Library**



Grace and Gratitude Fellowship Hour

(with refreshments after worship)

February 5, March 5, April 2, and May 7

Please help us pass the faith and a little Bible knowledge on to our children. As we do not have Children's Sunday School this year, your participation in these monthly experiences is invaluable for our children and our future.

Choir Rehearsal:

February 5:

- 8:30 am Chancel Choir Rehearsal, sing for worship
- Young People's Choir rehearse 11:00

February 12:

- Chancel Choir rehearse 8:30
- Young People's Choir sings for worship

February 19:

- Chancel Choir rehearse 8:30, sing for worship
- Young People's Choir rehearse 11:00

No Choir Rehearsals on Sun, Feb 26



Bell Rehearsal :

Thursdays, February 2, 9, 16, 23 @ 7:00 pm



Martha Ruth Circle

Tuesday, February 28 @ 9:30 am

Nettie Parker Hosting at Willow Creek Church

All Ladies are welcome!



Mariner February Meeting

Tuesday, February 14 at 11:30 am

Ciao Bella's, 6500 E. Riverside Blvd, Rockford

David & Janet Ensminger Hosting





Save the date - We are expecting to call a Congregational Meeting on (or near) Sunday, February 26.

Willow Creek Youth Group & Confirmation Class

Sun, 2/12, 11:30-12:45 am - Confirmation Class
1:00-3:00 pm - Games/Snacks/Lesson

Sun, 2/19, 11:30-12:45 am Confirmation Class
1:00-3:00 pm Games/Snacks/Lesson

Fri, 2/24- Sun, 2-26 Stronghold Confirmation Retreat; Leave Church on Fri, 2/24 @ 5:15 pm

Sun, 2/26, 11:30 am – Sr. High Movie with Maren Reid



invited. Please call or email Pastor Judith if you would like to participate on the “Presbytery Planning Team” or any of the Event Day additional teams that will be needed: Parking Team, Greeting Team, Registration Team, Worship Team (Choir & Head Usher), and a Kitchen Team. Pastor’s email willowcreekpc@gmail.com and cell # 779-200-2247.

Save the Date – Tuesday, June 13

The Blackhawk Presbytery will hold their meeting at Willow Creek Church on Tuesday, June 13. Representative from 88 churches in the Blackhawk Presbytery are



Marjorie Andrew Wold went home to be with the Lord on April 15, 2015, at the age of 96. She had no children, and her beloved husband Milo had gone Home long before. Most who knew her had heard her say she had no close family.

I’ve thought about that phrase – “no close family”. The more I’ve thought about it, the more strongly I feel that Marge Wold had more close family than many. And much of her close family was here at the church. Marge chose to honor her family – her church family – in her will. You and I were part of Marge’s family.

Have you thought about planned giving for your church family? Through the WCPC Endowment Fund, we are growing seed gifts to provide for the church for years to come. The purpose of the Fund is to provide a secure and financially stable vehicle to receive and invest proceeds derived from gifts and bequests to the fund. The money is invested in-perpetuity (only the interest is disbursed) with the Presbyterian Foundation in New Covenant Growth and Income Funds. We hope that you will consider giving to an existing fund, or even starting a new fund, so that your gifts can share Christ's love and care to many future generations of your family here at Willow Creek.

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE
Actual vs Budget
FOR THE TWELVE MONTHS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2016

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:			
Contributions - General	140,100	134,650	(5,450)
Contributions - Special	1,350	465	(885)
Other Income	5,325	5,413	88
Endowment	-	21,856	21,856
School & Event	500	800	300
 Total Revenue	 147,275	 163,184	 15,909
EXPENSES:			
MINISTRY OF:			
Personnel	117,887	109,168	8,719
Christian Ed & Youth	5,375	3,146	2,229
Music & Worship	3,606	2,132	1,474
Member & Stewardship	1,200	744	456
Building & Grounds	48,050	57,173	(9,123)
Session	5,663	1,336	4,327
Deacons	200	10	190
Missions - Budgeted	700	700	-
- Unbudgeted	500	-	500
 Total Expense	 183,181	 174,409	 8,772
 Change in cash from operations	 (35,906)	 (11,225)	 24,681
OTHER:			
Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School & Liabilities	-	5,269	(5,269)
Net Cash Transfers To/(From) Investments	-	(25,000)	25,000
 Change in cash since January 1, 2016	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> (35,906)	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> 8,506	 <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> 44,412

	February 2017	
Wed 2/1	7:00-9:00 pm	Session Meeting
Thur 2/2	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 2/5	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00-9:50 am	Gather & Gospel
	10:00 am	Worship with Traditional Communion; Mission = CREDO; Chancel Choir Sings for Worship
	11:00 am	Grace & Gratitude Fellowship Hour
	11:00 am	Young People's Choir Rehearsal
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
	6:15-7:30 pm	Drum Circle
Thur 2/9	1:30 pm	Deacon Meeting
	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 2/12	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00-9:50 am	Gather & Gospel
	10:00 am	Worship; Young People's Choir Sings
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:30 -12:45 am	Confirmation Class
	1-3 pm	Youth Group – Games/Snack/Lesson
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 2/13	9:00 am	Mission Meeting
Tues 2/14	---	Presbytery Meeting Location TBD
	11:30 am	<i>Mariners @ Ciao Bellas Restaurant, 6500 E. Riverside Blvd, Rockford</i>
Thur 2/16	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Fri 2/17	---	No Preschool
Sat 2/18	10:30 am	Heart Health and Healthy Living to 100 with Dr. Blahnik
Sun 2/19	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00-9:50 am	Gather & Gospel
	10:00 am	Worship; Chancel Choir Sings
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Young People's Choir Rehearsal
	11:30 -12:45 am	Confirmation Class
	1-3 pm	Youth Group – Games/Snacks/Lesson
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
	6:15-7:30 pm	Drum Circle
Mon 2/20	---	No Preschool
Tue 2/21	---	No Preschool
	8:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Meeting
	5:30 pm	Music & Worship Meeting
Thur 2/23	7:00 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Fri 2/24 -Sun 2/26		Stronghold Confirmation Retreat – Leave Church on Fri 2/24 @ 5:15 pm
Sun 2/26	9:00-9:50 am	Gather & Gospel
	10:00 am	Worship-Dan Holmes (Expected to call Congregational Mtg)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:15 am	Finance and Personnel Meeting
	11:30 am	Sr High Youth for Movie with Maren Reid
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Tue 2/28	9:30 am	Martha Ruth (Nettie Parker Hosting)
	11:00 am	Pastor – Stronghold Meeting

2017 Stronghold Summer Camps are here!

More information is available at www.strongholdcenter.org
or pick up a brochure at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church

2017 STRONGHOLD SUMMER C CAMPS

Date	Event	Sleeping Area	Grade Completed	Tier I	Tier II	Tier III	Squire Circle
June 16-18	Grandcamp	Heritage Lodge	Grandparents & Grandchildren ages 5-12	\$150 \$100 \$75	\$175 \$125 \$75	\$200 \$150 \$100	\$250 \$200 \$150
June 25-30	Jr. Eco-Explorers Jr. Castle Camp Climb High	Sears Center Castle Summer Cabins/Tents	3-6 3-6 7-11	\$325 \$335 \$370	\$375 \$385 \$420	\$425 \$435 \$470	\$525 \$535 \$570
July 5-14	Jr. High 10-Day Sr. High 10-Day	Summer Cabins Summer Cabins	6-8 9-12	\$455 \$465	\$520 \$530	\$585 \$595	\$700 \$700
July 5-8	Mini Camp	Sears Center	2-4	\$170	\$200	\$230	\$280
July 9-14	Jr. Adventure Jr. M.A.D.	Summer Cabins Sears Center	3-5 3-6	\$310 \$330	\$360 \$380	\$410 \$430	\$510 \$530
July 16-21	Night Owl Sr. High Night Owl	Sears Center Carriage House	6-8 9-12	\$350 \$360	\$400 \$410	\$450 \$460	\$550 \$560
July 17-21	Day Adventure	Summer Cabins	K-3	\$103	\$128	\$153	\$203
July 23-28	Jr. Artists Hydro Camp Wilderness Adventure Medieval M.A.D.	Sears Center Carriage House Tents Castle	3-6 3-6 6-8 6-8	\$335 \$340 \$350 \$350	\$385 \$390 \$400 \$400	\$435 \$440 \$450 \$450	\$535 \$540 \$550 \$550
July 28-30	Family Camp I	Heritage Lodge/Tents	Open to all				See Description
July 30-August 4	Jr. Discovery Camper vs. Wild Jr. High Adventure Sr. High Adventure	Sears Center Summer Cabins/Tents Summer Cabins Summer Cabins	3-6 6-8 6-8 9-12	\$335 \$345 \$335 \$350	\$385 \$395 \$385 \$400	\$435 \$445 \$435 \$450	\$535 \$545 \$535 \$550
August 4-5	Family Camp II	Heritage Lodge/Tents	Open to all				See Description

Can't attend, but would still like to participate?

Consider donating to the Stronghold Camp Scholarship Program

www.strongholdcenter.org/donate.html

Or call Stronghold (815)732-6111



Calling all Women of Willow Creek



You are all invited to gather with other women from within Blackhawk Presbytery as well as women from other denominations at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center for a weekend retreat, designed to relax, refresh and renew you and your spirit. Join us for fellowship and inspiring worship. Relax in a safe and nature rich environment. Discover Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center in the winter months; explore the trails, discover the castle, worship indoors and out! ***Love is a Many-Splendored Thing*** is the conference for you!

Dates of Retreat:

February 10th, 11th, & 12th, 2017

Location:

Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center
1922 IL. Route 2 North
Oregon, IL 61061

- This retreat is for women of all ages (18 years and older)
- 2 night retreat (Friday – Sunday)
 - Retreat starts at **7:00pm** in **Heritage Lodge**
- Excellent Retreat Leadership
 - Mrs. LaNelle Pierce-Eubanks
 - Dr. Jennifer Zimmerman
- Powerful, Inspiring worship and workshops
- Retreat Cost:
 - **\$110** (Shared Room, two nights)
 - **\$160** (Private Room, two nights)
 - **\$75** (Shared Room, one night)
 - **\$95** (Private Room, one night)
 - **\$40** (Saturday only, no overnight)
- Cost includes all meals, snacks and Retreat Supplies.
- Spaces limited! **Register today!**



Questions? Email or call us today:

danny@strongholdcenter.org

richard@strongholdcenter.org

815-732-6111 ext. 606. or ext. 608



Calling all Men of Willow Creek



You are all invited to gather with other Men from within Blackhawk Presbytery as well as men from other denominations at Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center for a weekend retreat, designed to relax, refresh and renew you and your spirit. Join us for the fellowship and the inspiring worship. Relax in a safe and nature rich environment. Discover Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center in the winter months; explore the trails, discover the castle, worship indoors and out! ***Relax and Renew*** is the conference for you!

Dates of Retreat:

February 3rd, 4th & 5th, 2017

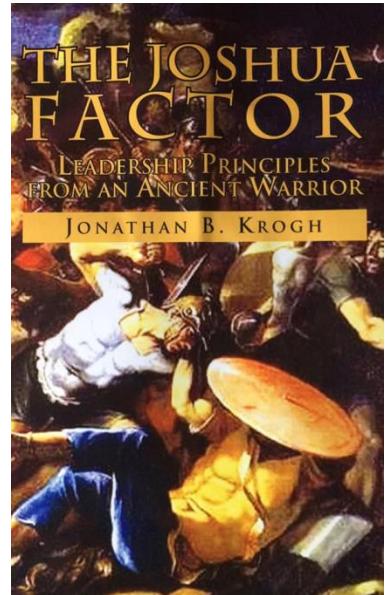
Location:

Stronghold Camp and Retreat Center
1922 IL. Route 2 North
Oregon, IL 61061

- This retreat is for men of all ages (18 years and older)
- 2 night retreat (Friday – Sunday)
 - Retreat starts at **7:30pm** with **Worship in Heritage Lodge**
- Excellent Retreat Leadership
 - Pastor Johnathon Krogh,
- Powerful, Inspiring worship opportunities
- Retreat Cost:
 - **\$110** (Shared Room, two nights)
 - **\$160** (Private Room, two nights)
 - **\$75** (Shared Room, one night)
 - **\$95** (Private Room, one night)
 - **\$40** (Saturday only, no overnight)
- Cost includes all meals, snacks and Retreat Supplies.
- Spaces limited! **Register today!**

Questions? Email or call us today:

danny@strongholdcenter.org
richard@strongholdcenter.org
815-732-6111 ext. 606. **or** ext. 608



REBUILD the TEMPLE

Healthy Living to 100



- Are you too... Busy?
- Are you too... Stressed?
- Are you too... Depressed?
- Are you too... Tired?
- Are you too... Un-Healthy?
- Are you too... Overweight?

Saturday, Feb 18th 10:30am

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church
7300 Belvidere Rd. Caledonia, IL



Simply HEART HEALTH

- Cutting-edge nutritional secrets
- Ideal Healing Meals
- Anti-Inflammatory Eating
- Reversing the Silent Killer Naturally
- The Cholesterol Myth



Simply STRESSING LESS

- Eliminate Fear, worry, panic and anxiety
- Defining your Purpose, Mission & Vision
- Balance Hormones Naturally
- Time & Energy...Peace Management
- Get 160 hours out of a 40 hour week
- Olympic Level Energy

Seminar Hosted by: **Better Together**
Life & Recovery Coaching, LLC

Limited
Space
Sign Up
Now!

RSVP: 815-243-3311

No Cost
No Obligation

GUEST SPEAKER
DR. EMMETT
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