



STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

May 2017

Greetings! It is both Spring and Eastertide again in Northern Illinois—PTL (as my friend CJ says), or Praise The Lord!! I sometimes wonder how those in the southern hemisphere deal with the reversal of meteorological and liturgical seasons, because the collusion of Spring and Easter are so powerfully meaningful to me here.

We spend a lot of time and effort around here in fellowship groups, committees, boards (Session and the Deaconate), and on staff planning, preparing, and doing our best to punctuate our Lenten and Easter celebrations (a big TYVM, thank you very much, to Tom, Liz, Youth Group, Choir, too many other church members to name, and Carol!). I know from visiting with many of you that the same effort is often given at home in preparation for Spring planting in gardens and fields, not to mention Easter family gatherings big and small.

The same is true at Advent and Christmas, I know. And the metaphor of the Christmas light born in a manger in winter darkness is just as powerful as the Good News of life bursting from the tomb and the ground at Easter. It strikes me that I often preach about keeping some piece of Christmas décor out when packing up to remind us of the continual birth of Christ into our hearts and lives, and this year I will be preaching about how Easter is more than just one day, it is an entire season of our liturgical year—Eastertide, all the way up to Pentecost on June 4th. The cross has such a powerful message during Holy Week and Easter, we already keep this piece of “décor” out year round! The Promise of New Life is for Now and Always; this Spring, let’s try to focus on the ways we can participate and engage with Christian practices, dancing with the Gardener as Jesus continues to teach us new things.

If you were here on Easter, you may remember my story about my ballét lessons as a young girl (I studied for 7-8 years, from 5 to 13), and the comparison of the excitement I had for my leotard, slippers, tutus, and watching myself dance in the mirror with our excitement for all of the frills of being the Church. What really makes a ballét dancer is not all of the frills, but all of the time spent with a mentor or teacher on the fundamentals, the basics. Some of my dance-mates were also my classmates in school, where we often spent time at recess teaching our other friends to plié and strike the basic five positions. Though Miss Joyce was our ballet matron, Miss Dawn (a student in her teens) was our mentor and encourager; I am sure that just as I learned more by “teaching” on the playground, Miss Dawn was growing through teaching us. That’s the way growth happens—by sharing and reproducing, whether we are talking ballet, trees and flowers, children and families, or even church and faith--the Body of Christ.

The joy of watching ourselves dance in front of the mirrors, or celebrating life in Christ at church on Easter, would be thin empty and probably short-lived if we didn't practice the basics, both with and as an instructor and mentor. So, what are the basics of being an Easter People that we ought to practice and develop? If we are to live as Easter People, perhaps we could learn something from looking more deeply into the resurrection than one Sunday's celebrations allow. These are "Easter practices" for us to develop and share:

Practice Being Together--"meet[ing] together" (Acts 2:46)—practice "the fellowship" worshiping together (v. 42), and also "fellowshipping" in each other's homes (v. 46).

Practice Learning--the first Christians "devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching" (v. 42). Learning isn't just a means *TO* an end, it *IS* an end. My parents taught me to practice learning, not just fill to fill my head, but to shape my life, to learn how to learn—to *learn to learn* and to come to *love to learn*.

Practice Eating Together— in restaurants, in homes, at church for pot-lucks and special events, at home around the table—gather to eat and eat together! Practice eating together as a way to practice being Christian—to love one another, to recognize and welcome among us the love of Jesus, our host at every meal—especially Communion.

Practice Praying--One of our youngest members recently came to me and asked a brilliant question: "I know I should pray, I want to pray, but what should I actually pray? What should I actually say?" Jesus was once asked that by his disciples—and gave us the Lord's prayer. We also need to, spend time listening—prayerfully! Look for all the times when prayer is appropriate, and remember it's not the words we use, but the relationship we build; we are not trying to please God, but to hear and thank God.

Practice Giving--Give as there is need (v. 45). Believers once held everything "in common...selling their possessions and goods" (v. 44), even fasting themselves to have food to share with the hungry (see my article in last month's Streamer). Just like the message of Easter turned our world upside down, the radical economic practice of sharing, of turning our budgets upside down, will free us from the tombs of parsimony. Easter People value individuals over wealth.

But most of all, ***practice Dancing with Jesus, practice being the Body of Christ***--!! Practice putting it all together each and every day, because whatever it is that we practice, we become. So together, let's continue to recognize the tombs that want to keep us from truly living, and to practice all of the biblical basics of the faith so that we can begin to hear the music and to dance with the Lord of the Dance!

Pastor Judith



To Congregation Members:

Your \$110.00 donation continues to help us provide those necessities for the lives of the more than 2,000 individuals we serve each month.

We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of our organization and the individuals in our County that are in need.

We rely on individuals, companies, churches, schools, and clubs to help us meet the needs of the ever growing population of people living in poverty in our County.

Sincerely, Tracy Dlugosz



Thank you and your precious congregation for their recent and generous donation to the ministry of Illinois Credo Recovery.

For the past sixteen years in Rockford Credo has been providing scholarships for men and women to attend three day weekend retreats where they have the opportunity to receive God unconditional grace.

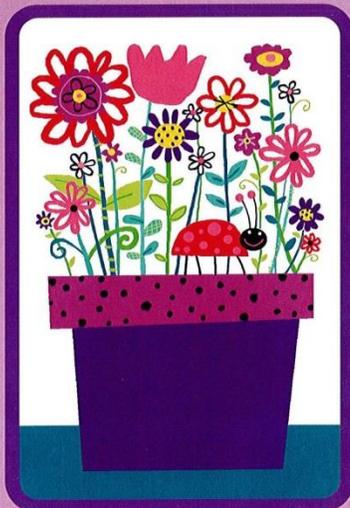
Over those years many have been redeemed and delivered from their struggle with addiction and have begun anew, developing a fresh beginning and a wholesome and holy way to regain the joy that God promises.

We are grateful for you and the support of your congregation provide and we will always strive to do our best to use the funds you have provided with good stewardship.

May God richly bless you and those you faithfully serve, Ed Caputo, Director of Development

For a gift to a family who lost everything to a fire from our Families In Need Fund (Cookie Walk):

Just a little note
of thanks...



On behalf of the Washington Academy community, we thank you for your generous gift to one of our families. The effects of your kindness cannot be measured.

Sincerely,

Suzie Bond,
School Counselor

...for a whole lot
of thoughtfulness.

Thank you so
much for
your thoughtfulness
and kind donation
to a family in
need. We really
appreciate it.
Suzie Bond
WA
Brenner



Thank you! You are helping to build a more compassionate community and transforming the lives of Rockford families.

Your gift of children's hats and gloves gives hope to Shelter Care families who struggle with homelessness, to Jubilee Center members who need a safe place to gather each day, and to parents who place their kids at MAYA'S House while they take care of vital pursuits for the well-being of their families. You may never know the names of those you help, but you put a smile on their faces and hope in their hearts!

Thanks so much to all your church members for their generosity to ShelterCare!

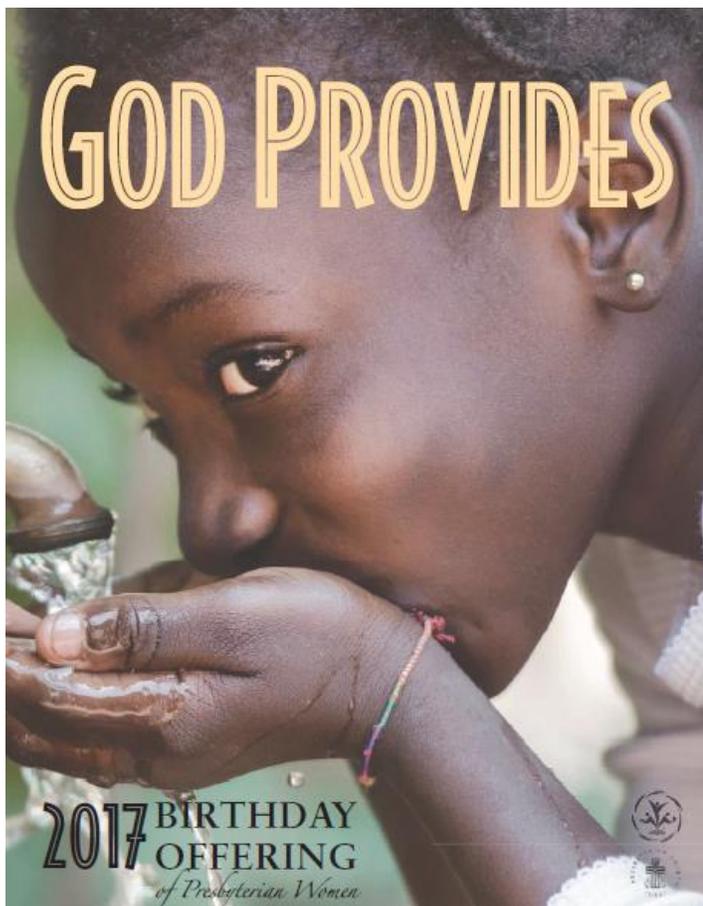
Sincerely, Sarah Parker-Scanlon, Executive Director

Thank you all for the special gifts for Isla's baptism. The rose from Skiffers, the handmade blanket from Schooners, and the Bible from the church are very special keepsakes. And thank you, Pastor Judith, for making her baptism such a blessing. We are truly blessed to have such a wonderful church family. With gratitude and blessings,
Jimmy, Jamie, and Isla Cunningham



Happy 75th Wedding Anniversary Gordon & Pat Bindenagel
Congratulations!





2017 Birthday Offering

Sunday, May 7

The Presbyterian Women ask you to answer the call to show Jesus' love to the world by offering prayers and financial support to three projects that support the critical need for shelter, health care and water in the areas they serve:

- First-Hand Aid's Rural Clinic Development Initiative serving rural communities in Cuba
- Safe Haven for Victims of Domestic Violence, South Carolina
- The Paper for Water Navajo Water Project



May mission of the month is The Birthday Offering.

Party will be May 7th during fellowship.

Please enjoy Birthday cupcakes and visit with others at the table decorated for your birth month.



Boone County Fair August 8 - 13

The Mission TEAM will have the respite tent again this year. We will be looking for volunteers to man the tent again. More info to follow.

Want to help out at Northern IL Food Bank?
Go to website www.SolveHungerToday.org or
call 815-639-1257 to sign up.



One Body Collaboratives made a wonderful contribution to the Willow Creek Baby Angel Closet. Delores and Jim Hall are pictured here unloading the car load of contributions.



2017 Church World Service Kits Challenge



Willow Creek Mission TEAM has accepted a challenge to assemble 25 School Kits, 10 Hygiene Kits, and 10 Clean-up Buckets. The kits will be collected at the November Blackhawk Presbytery Meeting. The Mission TEAM will organize and provide more information on how Willow Creek will accomplish this.



Church Office Closed
Memorial Day, Monday, May 29



Effective Tuesday, May 23 thru Labor Day
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday
8:30 am to Noon

STEWARDSHIP 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 is an important part of our gathering. Sign-up is available in the Kitchen Window. Help us welcome newcomers with light refreshments and warm hearts. If you need any assistance setting up or serving for Fellowship, please call Sandy Bell cell # 815-871-6301.



WCPC Operating Statistics

Office administration, lights, heat, and upkeep and repairs has controlled our financial destiny in the first quarter of this year. Had we not had the blessings of the mild winter, the picture would have looked much more gloomy. Thanks be to God! We also thank you for your continued support.



WCPC Operating Statistics

	March 2017	Year-to-Date
Income	11,412.68	35,536.67
Expenses	14,490.32	45,238.23
	(3,077.64)	(9,701.56)



Grace and Gratitude Fellowship Hour (with refreshments after worship)

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.



May 7...Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:30
Chancel choir sings for Worship
Young People's Choir Rehearsal 11:00

May 14...Chancel Choir rehearsal 9:00
Young People's Choir sings for Worship

May 21 and 28...Chancel Choir rehearsal 9:00
Chancel Choir sing for Worship



McEachran Homestead Winery Friday Night 6-9pm Patio Schedule

May 5 City of Rockford Pipe Band
w/ Lucas Greenlee

May 12 Lone Canary

May 19 Paper Airplane

May 26 Daniel Scott



Confirmation, baptisms, first communion, and end of year recognitions will be celebrated today during worship, with small special gifts from the confirmands for each household and special treats during fellowship.

Willow Creek Youth Group Year-End Fling

May 21st details to come.



Mariners

Mariners will be meeting on May 11, 2017, a Thursday for an outing to the White Pines luncheon theatre. We will meet at the church at 10 a.m. to carpool. All the extra tickets have been sold to friends in Willow Creek. We are hoping for a beautiful spring day and a good time for all.

Martha Ruth Circle

9:30 am, Tuesday, May 23 @ WCPC (Nettie Parker hosting)

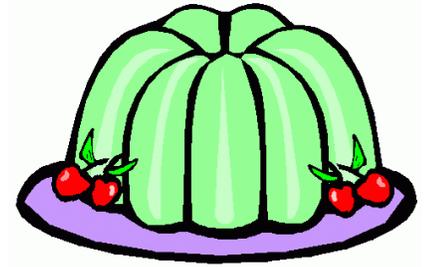




SUMMER SOUP'R SALAD SUNDAY is May 28th.

Come celebrate
Memorial Day and
help kick off the
summer sermon series

on SUPER HEROES! We will worship downstairs, and super hero attire and paraphernalia is welcome! Please also bring a summer soup or salad to share (coffee, tea, lemonade, plates and utensils provided). Ice cream sundaes will be served for dessert! Finally, if you have kids or grandkids that have a favorite superhero, please ask them about it. Take a picture of them dressed as that hero and send it to willowcreekpc@gmail.com or post it on our Facebook page ASAP. Thanks!!



Our Church is HOSTING Blackhawk Presbytery on June 13th--WE NEED YOUR HELP!!

On Tuesday, June 13th, we will be hosting the pastors, associate pastors, retired pastors, presbytery staff, and elders from churches all over Northern Illinois for one of five

regular stated meetings of our presbytery. The morning will begin with arrivals as early as 8 for setting up and general fellowship. The meeting will begin around 9:30, with worship at 9:45. We expect to need to park 60+ cars, and to feed lunch to around 100 people. The meeting will conclude by about 3pm.

Pastor is looking for a volunteer coordinator who can call to secure the person-power we will need to put our best foot forward in welcoming our guests. As people arrive, we will need 3 or 4 people outside to help park (likely needing to save more spots than normal for handicap/close parking); someone just inside each of the doors to point folks in the right direction; two or three registrars to get commissioners and guests signed in; a lunch ticket seller; and a kitchen patrol to keep the morning snacks and beverages fresh. We are hoping to provide a choir or some special music during worship, and will need ushers to hand out bulletins and help folks to find the elevator, restrooms, and such. Once the meeting begins, a strong kitchen crew to changeover and serve lunch, and a small greeter/guide crew to continue to help folks to find what they need will remain. We will need a sound person morning and afternoon, and a healthy set-up and clean-up crew. All in all, we will probably need a team of 12-18 people, or more. We are excited for the opportunity to make connections and serve within the presbytery, and hope you are as excited to help us!



A note from the Christian Education Committee:

This summer we will be hosting Stronghold's Day Camp June 26th-30th for children entering 1st grade through 5th grade. It is an all day camp (9:00-3:30) full of games, Bible study, crafts, and tons of fun! The cost is \$35 per child with a family maximum of \$100. Snacks will be provided, but children need to bring their own lunch.

Since this camp is only for 1st-5th graders, Middle School Students (entering 6th-9th grade) will go on a Local Mission Tour. Led by Pastor Judith and Maren Reid, they will get to travel to different places in the community and do mission work. Each day they will gather at Willow Creek and transportation to the sites will be provided. The cost is \$35 per child with a family maximum of \$100. They will need to bring a lunch each day.

We will be running a VBS program for 4-5 year olds the same week. The Preschool VBS, led by Rebekah Landi, is from 9:00-Noon and costs \$20. Preschoolers will participate in songs, crafts, games, and developmentally appropriate Bible study. High School students will be able to help with the day camp or Preschool VBS or Local Mission Tour.

Registration forms for all of the activities the week of June 26th will be coming soon. We will need a few volunteers so please let Rebekah Landi, Maren Reid, or April Rottman if you are interested in helping.



Preschool is Winding Down!



Preschool Sing

Wednesday, May 3 @ 11:00 am

Last Day of Preschool

Friday, May 19



May 2017 All Church Calendar

Tue 5/2	7:00 -9:00 pm	Session Meeting
Wed 5/3	11:00 am	Preschool Sing
	5:00-5:30 pm	Light Supper
	5:45-6:45 pm	Brent Vernon Concert
Thur 5/4	1:30 pm	Deacon Meeting (Training – read sections 1-3)
Sat 5/6	11:00 am	Family Internment Service for William Lee @ Harlem Cemetery
	7:00-9:00 pm	<i>Painting Party to benefit Willow Creek Summer Camps (tickets \$35 available now)</i>
Sun 5/7	8:30 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00-9:50 am	Gather & Gospel
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion; Birthday Offering Mission; Chancel Choir Sings
	11:00 am	Grace & Gratitude Fellowship Hour with Birthday Celebration
	11:00 am	Young People’s Choir Rehearsal
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 5/8	9:00 am	Mission Team Meeting
Thur 5/11	<i>10:00 am</i>	<i>Mariners meet @ WC to carpool to lunch & musical @ White Pines</i>
Fri 5/12	3:45-6:00 pm	Girl Scouts – Fellowship Hall & Kitchen
Sun 5/14	9:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	9:00-9:50 am	Gather & Gospel
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion by Intinction; Mother’s Day; Youth Recognition Sunday; Confirmations & Baptisms; Young People’s Choir Sings
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
	6:15-7:30 pm	Drum Circle
Mon 5/15-Sun 5/21		Pastor on Study Leave
Tue 5/16	8:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Meeting
Thur 5/18	12:15 pm	Preschool Board Meeting
Fri 5/19	---	Last Day of Preschool
Sat 5/20	---	Streamer Submissions Due
Sun 5/21	9:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship; Pulpit Supply Denise Cooper; Chancel Choir Sings
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	TBD	Youth Group Year End Fling-Details to come
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
Mon 5/22	---	Summer Summer Hours Begin–Open Tues, Wed, Thur 8:30 to noon
Tue 5/23	<i>9:30 am</i>	<i>Martha Ruth @ WCPC (Nettie Parker Hosting)</i>
	11:00 am	Pastor – Stronghold Meeting
Sun 5/28	9:00 am	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Soup’r Salad Summer Kickoff with Worship downstairs
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Christian Education Meeting
	5:00-6:00 pm	AA Meeting (Sold on Sobriety)
	6:15-7:30 pm	Drum Circle
Mon 5/29	---	Memorial Day Office Closed

In Concert

An event for the entire family!

BRENT VERNON

Singer—Songwriter—Ventriloquist—Author—Illustrator

with a special appearance by

SAM



Wednesday, May 3rd

At Willow Creek Presbyterian Church

7300 Belvidere Road, Caledonia, IL

Light Supper: 5:00-5:30 pm

Concert: 5:45-6:45 pm

Come Paint with Us!



**Saturday, May 6th
7-9pm**

**at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church
(corner of 173 and Belvidere Rd)**

Refreshments & Fun will be served!

Instructor, Angie Scardoto

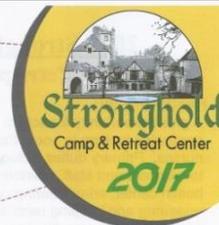
**Apron and ALL art supplies provided
Your 16" x 20" painting is your souvenir!**

Tickets \$35

Available online or call (815) 885-3455



STRONGHOLD FAMILY CAMP



Trying to decide what to do with your family this summer? Enjoy a new adventure for the entire family. Parents, children, grandparents, aunts, uncles and all the cousins are invited for a weekend of games, crafts, swimming, campfires, and fellowship in the beauty of God's creation. Stay in one of our beautiful retreat buildings or bring a tent and stay at the Stronghold tent camp area. Join us for this special weekend at Stronghold July 28th - 30th or August 4th - 6th. You can register online or get a brochure by contacting the Stronghold office at info@strongholdcenter.org or 815-732-6111.



1922 IL Rt 2 N, PO Box 199 Oregon, IL 61061
reservations@strongholdcenter.org 815-732-6111

WWW.STRONGHOLDCENTER.ORG



Save the Date – Tuesday, June 13

The Blackhawk Presbytery will hold their meeting at Willow Creek Church on Tuesday, June 13. Representatives from 88 churches in the Blackhawk Presbytery are 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. In addition, we have now been asked to host an inaugural fellowship event, either before or after the meeting. This could be a cook-out, a meet-and-eat at a local restaurant, or even a visit to a local attraction (like the Paulson Museum or McEachran Winery). Such fellowship events will be hosted in conjunction with each Presbytery meeting, moving forward, to help us get to know one another and to build us up for shared mission through better connection to God and our community.

2017 Willow Creek Summer Camp – Monday, June 26 - Friday, June 30
 Opportunities for Everyone!



Pre-K	(ages 4-5)	Vacation Bible School
Elementary	(Grades 1-5)	Stronghold Day Camp
Middle School	(Grades 6-9)	Local Mission Tour
High School	(Grades 10-12)	Summer Camp Crew



Sunday, July 23, 2017

Worship in the Park
 Rock Cut State Park
 Lions Club Pavilion
 (Handicap parking available)

A potluck picnic will be planned afterwards.



Sunday, September 24

Contact Lucas Greenlee if you would like to be a part of the Planning Committee

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE
 Actual vs Budget
 FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2017

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:			
Contributions - General	32,525	30,795	(1,730)
Contributions - Special	150	-	(150)
Other Income	1,238	3,158	1,920
Endowment	900	1,584	684
School & Event	125	-	(125)
Total Revenue	34,938	35,537	599
EXPENSES:			
MINISTRY OF:			
Personnel	27,729	27,935	(206)
Christian Ed & Youth	1,287	160	1,127
Music & Worship	734	871	(137)
Member & Stewardship	137	210	(73)
Building & Grounds	11,500	13,151	(1,651)
Session	1,179	1,349	(170)
Deacons	50	-	50
Missions - Denominational	175	-	175
- Endowment Supported	900	900	-
Designated	575	662	(87)
Other	-	-	-
Total Expense	44,266	45,238	(972)
Change in cash from operations	(9,328)	(9,701)	(373)
OTHER:			
Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School & Liabilities	-	(648)	648
Net Cash Transfers To/(From) Investments	-	-	-
Change in cash since January 1, 2017	(9,328)	(9,053)	275

***** Pamphlets available in Fellowship Hall *****

ROCKFORD ★ ALL STAR ★ BASKETBALL ★ CAMP

www.rockfordallstar.com

CAMP SITE
BELVIDERE NORTH HIGH SCHOOL
9393 Beloit Road
Belvidere, IL 61008

The finest athletic facility in the area:

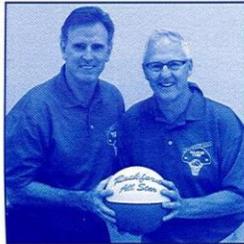
4 full courts for scrimmage
26 baskets for shooting drills
and fundamentals

CAMP DIRECTOR

Dale Greenlee
former Captain at University of Kansas

CO-CAMP DIRECTOR

Bill Wilhelmi
Rockford Public Schools



Dale

Bill

GENERAL INFORMATION

- How to Dress:** Come each day dressed in T-shirt, shorts, socks, and basketball shoes.
- Arrival and Departure Times:** Camp will run from 9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.
- Lunch:** Bring a sack lunch with your name clearly marked. Camp will provide lemonade drinks at lunch.
- Prospective Campers:**
BOYS: between the ages of 7 and 17 years
GIRLS: between the ages of 7 and 17 years
Under NCAA rules, high school graduates are ineligible to attend.
- Camp Fee:** \$170.00

ASSISTANT CAMP DIRECTORS

Dan Green – *Jefferson High School*
Cindy Hamilton – *Holy Family*
Carl Armato – *Rockford Public Schools*



Dan



Cindy



Carl

FEATURES AND ADVANTAGES

- ★ Individual instruction in offensive and defensive fundamentals.
- ★ Emphasis on shooting, ball handling, and rebounding.
- ★ Drill and game situations.
- ★ Outstanding staff of coaches.
- ★ Emphasis on good sportsmanship and a positive attitude.

FREE THROW CONTEST
★
1 ON 1 TOURNAMENT
★
SHOOTING CONTESTS
★
QUICKNESS DRILLS

AIM OF CAMP

The primary purpose of the camp is to teach new skills in fundamentally sound basketball and to improve these players' abilities in the fine points of the game. We will expose the campers to the correct fundamentals and motivate them to expand their abilities to the fullest. With these ideas in mind, we hope to be able to develop future athletes' ideals in sportsmanship and leadership.

GUEST SPEAKER

RONNIE FIELDS

CHICAGO BASKETBALL GREAT

APPLICATION ★ JULY 10 - 14, 2017 ★ BOYS & GIRLS

FILL OUT AND MAIL WITH CHECK TO:
Rockford All Star Camp, 9302 Crystal River Dr., Indianapolis, Indiana 46240

Name (please print) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Age (AS OF JUNE 2017) _____ Height _____

School (CURRENT) _____ Grade (2017) _____

Adult T-Shirt Size (CIRCLE ONE): X-Small Small Medium Large X-Large

Check week or weeks desired: **BOYS** JULY 10 - 14 **GIRLS** JULY 10 - 14

Camp Fee of \$170.00 enclosed

NOTE: \$25.00 discount for second camper in the same family.

Deposit of \$80.00 enclosed.

NOTE: \$40.00 discount for third camper in the same family.

Balance due on 1ST DAY OF CAMP.

My child is in good health and can participate in basketball.

I understand that the camp does not provide medical insurance and that campers must abide by the rules of the All Star Camp.

Signed: (PARENT OR GUARDIAN) _____

ARMED FORCES WEEKEND COMMEMORATION

WWII BATTLE REENACTMENT MAY 20-21, 2017

- Vintage WWII aircraft flyovers
- Hundreds of Uniformed Re-enactors
- Vintage WWII Tanks, Jeeps, and Motorcycles
- Period Style USO Show
- Activities for All Ages
- Food and Beverages Available



Stronghold Camp & Retreat Center Oregon, IL 61061
info@strongholdcenter.org 815-732-6111

WWW.STRONGHOLDCENTER.ORG

Save the Date

Armed Forces Weekend Commemoration
1st Annual WWII Battle Reenactment and Public Display

May 20-21, 2017

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

May 1945 the German Army is on the run! In the east the Russian Army has pushed back the Germans from Stalingrad into the heart of Germany. In the west the British and Americans have forced the Germans to give up France and defend the Fatherland in Austria. The German Army is about to collapse, however they are not yet defeated, they are still very dangerous and heavy fighting is expected. Join us at the Stronghold Camp and Retreat center and see history come to life. Members of the World War Two Historical Reenactment Society (WWIHRs) will portray members of the German and Allied Forces which were involved in this conflict. In addition to the two main battle reenactments held each day the WWIHRs members will reenact the "Battle for Castle Iffer" using the Stronghold Castle site. Popular accounts of the battle have called it the "strangest" battle of World War II as it may have been the only battle in the war in which American and German fought side-by-side.

Come and experience:

- Elaborate displays acting as the backdrop of a European Village during WWII
- Interaction with Hundreds of uniformed military and 1940 era civilian re-enactors representing soldiers from the United States, England, Poland, Russia, Italy and Germany
- Encampments and live battle reenactments of Allied and Axis troops on Stronghold grounds
- Soldier base camps filled with period vehicles, tents, weapons, field equipment and artifacts
- American and German Field Hospitals
- German cavalry scenes
- USO show (tickets available for purchase)
- Period Church Services
- Vintage Aircraft Flyovers
- Fire Simulated WWII 50 Cal. Machine Gun
- Special Children's Activities
- Meet actual U.S. WWII, Korean War, Vietnam and Mideast Veterans
- Shop for WWII memorabilia from numerous vendors
- Period food and snacks will be available for purchase
- Beer and Beverages will be available for purchase
- Veteran Reunions Welcome
- Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Richard A. Russo
Event coordinator
Unit Commander
5th Kompanie Gross Deutschland
vzsla25@sbcglobal.net



Habitat for Humanity, Boone County

Last year at the Boone County Fair, a couple of folks from the Habitat for Humanity booth came to visit us in our respite tent. We visited about how our church has helped with builds in Rockford in the past, and how we might be able to support the efforts now in Boone County.

Habitat for Humanity of Boone County is building their 8th house this year at 320 Gilman Street in Belvidere. The ground-breaking ceremony was held the first weekend of April, and there is so much excitement! Would you like to help a family to get into their own affordable home?

One way to help is to join one of the work crews of skilled and unskilled volunteers. There is always an on-site build supervisor on-site to provide training, and you will receive information about appropriate dress, training and expectations prior to your work day. Crews are usually 10-20 people, and lunch is served at noon.

Another way to help is to provide that lunch for the 10-20 people (as well as napkins, plates, utensil, garbage bags, drinks, etc.). The lunch bunch would find out by around 10am how many workers will be at the site on the scheduled day, and all are welcome to stay and eat with the crew and family.

If you are interested in either opportunity, let one of the Mission TEAM or Session members know. And if you want to include others outside our church fellowship, that is fine, too. What's important is that we are using the gifts God gives each of us to help others! Call Judith or Carol in the office, and we can connect you with the volunteer organizers, Cindy and Beth, of Habitat.