

STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle

7300 Belvidere Road

Caledonia, Illinois 61011

815-885-3455

February 2015



from the Pastor's Pen:

After John was arrested, Jesus came into Galilee announcing God's good news, saying, "Now is the time! Here comes God's Kingdom! Change your hearts and lives, and trust this good news!" ~Mark 1:14-15

I don't know about you, but sometimes, when I am sick or when I have a day off, it is so, so easy for me to "hit the snooze button" or just grab my phone, roll over on top of it, and go back to sleep. But then there are those times, we've all had them, when going back to sleep was not an option. I had to be somewhere early, I had to get up and get going! There are also those times when I awake and have snoozed when I shouldn't have. I realize I have my phone in my hand, and it's light outside! The deluge of panic is so sudden, it's disorienting. I don't know what I am supposed to be up doing, but I'm sure I am missing it!

Jesus is saying to the people of Galilee that the alarm is sounding, the time has come! This is not the time to roll over and hit the snooze button. It's time to get up, to get ready, and to get out there to see and celebrate the good news that is being enacted in their midst!

I remember as a child, when no alarm was needed, I would eagerly hurry through my morning routine. As I was slipping on my shoes to head out the door, my dad would ask, "And where are you off to?" Usually it was 'out' to play. I loved being outdoors and playing with the other neighborhood kids. We explored, and talked, hunted crayfish, rode bicycles and pushed the limits. We were out there having fun and living the life.

Jesus is calling us, the time has come! It's time to get up, to get ready, and to head out the door with eagerness. Where are we off to? What exploration and challenge awaits us? Will we push the limits, our limits, and realize that we can be so much more? How will we grow as a community of faith, responding to Jesus' call? What good news is Christ enacting in our midst, or by our actions?

May this year, 2015, be a year of growth and change and challenge and good news for us at Willow Creek, and for the wider communities in which we live and interact! Yes, WCPC has a deep heritage, a long history, and it should be celebrated! But if WCPC is going to be a church with a rich future, it must also be a church on the move, a church that does not hit the snooze button! Let's get out there and explore, and try new things, and minister, and respond to God's call to get out there and make a difference in our world.

Let's gather to worship, moved not only by the blessing of our physical sanctuary, but touched by the spiritual music, called by the Word shared. Let's live into our calling to be a place of welcome, a place of grace, and a people of good news. And then let's respond! Let's jump out of our beds of complacency and get out into the streets of Galilee with Jesus. Let's be Kingdom people. Let's be a church alive!

Who knows what the future holds, but we know who holds the future. God might ask you the same question, my father used to ask me: "Where are you off to today?" I'd love to hear your response, both for yourselves, and as to how and where you hear Christ calling our church. Don't worry, it's not too late, but the time is now. From now on out, let's BE the Church!

Health Ministiries

Electronic cigarettes, also known as e-cigarettes, are battery-operated products designed to deliver nicotine, flavor, and other chemicals. They turn chemicals, including highly addictive nicotine, into an aerosol that is inhaled by the user. "E-cigarettes are being promoted as safer than traditional cigarettes, but a lot of people misread that to mean they're harmless," reported Stanton A. Glantz, PhD, professor of medicine and director of the Center for Tobacco Control Research and Education, University of CA-San Francisco. The good news is that the battery-operated cylinders don't actually burn tobacco, so therefore don't release as many carcinogens; but the bad news is the vapor does contain a variety of other toxic chemicals that damage the cardiovascular system and lungs.

A big caution is that e-cigarette use is on the rise among teenagers, perhaps in part due to aggressive marketing, and because the vapor comes in a variety of flavors, from cotton candy to raspberry lemonade. At the present time, it isn't known whether e-cigarette use has the potential to prompt young people to try other tobacco products which are known to cause disease and lead to premature death.

There have been reports of "adverse events" involving e-cigarettes, sometimes requiring hospitalization, such as: pneumonia, congestive heart failure, disorientation, seizure, low blood pressure, and other health problems. What isn't known for certain is whether the e-cigarettes caused these events or if they were related to a preexisting medical condition or other unknown causes.

Please warn your children, grandchildren, students, and neighbors about the damage that e-cigarettes can do...it just might spare someone from having a bad habit to kick! We just don't know:

- * the potential risks of e-cigarettes when used as intended
- * how much nicotine or other potentially harmful chemicals are inhaled during use
- * whether there are any benefits associated with using these products

Want more information? Check out www.fda.gov. Feb. is Heart Health Month. Protect yours...and it will last a lifetime.

FEBRUARY IS
HEART HEALTH
MONTH





Thank you for all the prayers, cards, calls, and good wishes during my recent troubles. It's hard to express how much the loving support from my Willow Creek family means to me.
God Bless
Dianne Londo

A Thank You note from the recipients of the Christmas Giving Tree :



12/17/14
Dear Health Ministries Committee,
Thank you so much for the hats and gloves for the children at our day care. The children are very excited and appreciative!
Have a Blessed Holiday Season & a Very Merry Christmas!
Sue Dilson
Exec. Dir
Staff and Children
© The First Step Day Care
First Step Learning Inc





STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION

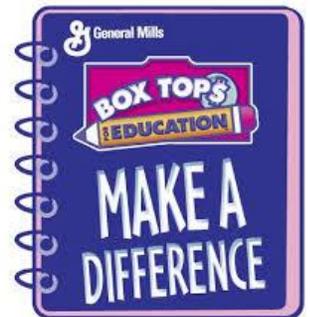
The title might be ABCD. The meaning is; ABOVE and BEYOND the CALL of DUTY. The purpose would be to recognize individuals, couples or groups that served God through Willow Creek Presbyterian Church ABCD. The time frame might be recently, quarterly or even annually. Nominations could be made directly or anonymously to members of the Mission, Membership and Stewardship Committee. Please share your thoughts on this endeavor with any member of the Mission, Membership and Stewardship Committee (David Ensminger, Sherri Finley, Pat Nortch, Delores Hall, Jim Hall) or Pastor Judith.

WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH A DIME?

Just ask the 90,000 k – 8 schools nationwide who have received over \$600,000,000 through the BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION program since 1996!

Each of those points gleaned from box tops from 250 participating products is worth a DIME – oh but how they add up.

If you are not already collecting these box tops, consider starting. There is a display at the rear of the Fellowship Hall with a Quaker Oats box where you can place your box tops. When a sufficient number have been collected, we will forward them to Kemmerer Village who is our chosen recipient.



THANK YOU!!



Fellowship

How better to get to know our Church Family than through our weekly fellowship gatherings here at WCPC. Through casual conversations, we can share things we have in common and enlighten ourselves relative to what our fellow parishioners BRING TO THE TABLE.

This can only be possible with the support and participation of the entire congregation! Please consider signing up to host a Sunday in the near future. You will enjoy the experience and your life will be enriched accordingly.

THANK YOU!



at what's NEW at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church

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

Goal is \$30,000 - \$29,100 raised so far!

Almost there...

Thank you for your support!



Bell Choir Schedule:

Thursdays, February 5 & 12 @ 6:00 pm

Saturday, February 14 @ 9:00 am Bell Concert Rehearsal (Bells & Choir)

Bells ring for Worship on Sunday, February 15

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

Bell Concert Vocal Choir Practice:

Saturday, February 7 @ 9:30 am

Saturday, February 14 @ 9:00 am Bell Concert Rehearsal (Bells & Choir)



Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, February 1, 8, and 22 @ 8:30 am

Chancel Choir sings for Worship on Sunday, February 1 & 22

Children's Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, February 1 & 22 @ 11:00 am

Children's Choir Sings for Worship on Sunday, February 8

WCPC Operating Statistics

December, 2014

Income	18,615.00
Expenses	12,906.00
Previous Month - Excess/(Deficit)	2,750.00



Committees & Groups
Remember to check your church mail slots!



Registration for Summer Camps is now open online (www.strongholdcenter.org). This year, our own Jack Kelley will be one of the counselors on staff.

Several of you GRANDPARENTS might not know about Grandcamp, but it is a time for families to enjoy the camp, and often much younger kids than would normally go to sleep-away camp can enjoy this introduction to church camp. I have heard nothing but RAVE reviews, so check it out!

Also, you will note that I have included the dates for the Confirmation Retreat. I have taken small groups twice, but we missed last year. I believe we have at least a couple of youth who are of age to think about joining the church (11 or older, depending on maturity and desire). At this retreat, we would learn about our relationship with Christ, our rituals of baptism and communion, and have some fun in the castle, too. If you have a child/grandchild who might want to explore their faith at one of these camps, please let me know ASAP!

If you would like to help any of God's children here at Willow Creek go to one of these camps, please designate a donation of any amount for Stronghold Scholarships. And, by the same token, if you want to go to camp, don't let costs scare you away. First, there are three tiers of payment (what it actually costs per camper, a medium discounted rate, and a better discounted rate), and second, there are always camperships (scholarships) available!

And finally, our youth group is in the planning stages of their summer mission trip. We are discussing beginning a more local "Mission Tour" with a couple of days at Stronghold for team building and clean-up work after all the camps are over. If you are interested in helping out with our semi-local mission trips, mark the week of August 1-6 on your calendar and watch for updates!!

February 27-March 1	Confirmation Retreat
March 13-15	Confirmation Retreat
June 12	Summer Camp Begins
June 12-14	Grandcamp
June 21-26	Jr. Artists
	Jr. Adventure I
June 21-30	Jr. High 10-Day Adventure
	Sr. High 10-Day Adventure
June 27-30	Mini Camp
July 5-10	Night Owl
	Sr. High Night Owl
July 6-10	Day Camp
July 12-17	Jr Adventure II
	Jr. Eco-Explorers
	Medieval M.A.D.
	Climb High
July 19-24	Jr. M.A.D.
	Jr. Castle Camp
	Jr. High Castle Camp
	Rock & Rope
July 24-26	Family Camp
July 26-31	Jr. Adventure III
	Jr. High Adventure
	Sr. High Adventure
	Camper vs. Wild

Youth Christmas Caroling, Progressive Dinner, and Lock-In

On December 20th, last year, our Youth Group went Christmas Caroling at four gracious and welcoming homes. We sang a few carols at each home, and were invited in for one course of a very special dinner. Before we left each host's home, everyone joined in the singing of Silent Night. At the last home, after dessert, we sang by candle light, passing the candle around the circle of carolers. It was very moving!

After our meal, we returned to the church for a fun exchange of small gifts, more snacks, games, a movie, and, finally, some much needed sleep!!



We want to thank all who helped us have such a fun night together:

Gary and Jane Greenlee and all of their kids and grandkids, who shared some warm and tasty appetizers with us!



Loren and JoAnn Buffington, who shared some delicious fruits, veggies and dips with us!



Dianne and Gary Wallace, who shared Pizza (we also ate leftovers after the movie) and ping pong with us!



Rebekah, Mike, and Olivia Landi, who shared delicious desserts and candies with us!





A Kirkin' O' the Tartan is an almost-Scottish American tradition, generally considered a rededication (of clans and others) to God's service. While 18th century Scots had to hide their ancient clan tartans in the Kirk (church), today Scots and those of Scots descent, celebrate both their national and their religious heritage with a Kirkin'. Presbyterianism has been the state religion of Scotland since 1560, so a church celebration and blessing of the tartans in our Presbyterian church honors both local and church heritage. Scots brought the Presbyterian Church to America.

On Sunday, January 18th, we held the initial meeting, albeit an informal one, of the Kirkin' Committee (a sub-committee of the Worship and Music Committee of Session). The members of this committee, currently, include: Tom Andrew, Lucas Greenlee, Jane Greenlee, and Les Hamilton. Please let Pastor Judith know if you would like to be a part of this "Research and Development" team in the next week. We will need a diverse team of folks to help with recruiting participants, planning music, making small banners, possibly a mini-show of a highland game event, and of course planning a celebratory Fellowship Hour or Potluck with favorite family recipes. We will hold our next meeting on a date (to be determined) probably after the Bell Concert on 2/15.

If you haven't ever heard of the service, this is essentially what happens: At the beginning of worship, pipes and drums play from the rear of the church as the Beadle leads the procession, delivering Bible to the chancel table. The worship leaders, musicians and choir follow, with two members of a color guard at the rear, delivering the US flag and the flag of St. Andrews. Tartan and Family Banner Bearers (we want to celebrate families of all heritages) process the down the aisle. The Tartan /Banner Bearers, possibly wearing kilts or other cultural dress, place their Banners at the front of the church, and are seated. Regular elements of our worship service follow, until the end of the hour. At that point, the banners will be retrieved, presented to receive the official Blessing O' The Tartans, and recess from the church, again to the sound of the pipes.





Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle presents

"In My Heart There Rings a Melody"

A Handbell Choir Concert



Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 3:00 p.m.

7300 Belvidere Road, Caledonia, IL 61011



No admission is charged, but non-perishable food items will be collected at the door. A raffle ticket for a Cookies By Design Bouquet will be given for every food item brought to the concert.

A free will offering will be collected to support the Holistic Health Department's Music Therapy Program at Swedish American Hospital.

Light refreshments will be served.



THE ORIGINAL COOKIE BOUQUET COMPANY

February 2015 All Church Calendar 1/23/2015

Sat 1/31	4:00 pm	Youth Group to Burns Banquet Coat Closet Duty
Sun 2/1	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Sunday Worship with Communion (Choir Sings for Worship, Mission of the Month is ShelterCare Ministries, Lou Ness Speaking)
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Mon 2/2	7-9 pm	Session Meeting
Thur 2/5	6:00 pm	Bells Rehearsal
Fri 2/6	3:30-5:30 pm	Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
Sat 2/7	9:30 am	Bell Concert Vocal Choir Practice
Sun 2/8	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship (Children's Choir Sings)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Mon 2/9	3:30 pm	Pastor/Music Director Meeting
Tues 2/10	---	Presbytery Meeting in Rochelle, IL
Wed 2/11	11:30 am	Mariner's @ Jessica's Restaurant in Roscoe
	2:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
Thur 2/12	6:00 pm	Bells Rehearsal
Fri 2/13	---	No Preschool
Sat 2/14	9:00 am	Bell Concert Rehearsal (Bells & Choir)
Sun 2/15	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship (Bells Ring for Worship)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	3:00 pm	Bell Choir Concert
Mon 2/16	---	No Preschool
Tues 2/17	---	No Preschool
	9:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Meeting
Wed 2/18	Noon	Pastor Presby Lunch (11:30 am departure)
	7:00 pm	Ash Wednesday (Imposition of Ashes & Communion)
Fri 2/20	3:30-5:30 pm	Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
Sun 2/22	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion (Choir Sings for Worship)
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:20 am	Fellowship & Personnel Meeting
	1-3pm	Youth Group
Mon 2/23	11:30 am	Pastor Board Moderator @ Stronghold
	7:00 pm	Membership/Mission/Stewardship Meeting
Tue 2/24	9:30 am	Martha Ruth Circle
Wed 2/25	12:15 pm	Preschool Meeting
Sat 2/28	8:00 am	Music & Worship

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE
 Actual vs Budget
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2014

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:			
Contributions - General	127,100	147,983	20,883
Contributions - Special	1,000	717	(283)
Other Income	8,917	5,533	(3,384)
Endowment	-	-	-
School & Event	750	479	(271)
	<hr/>		
Total Revenue	137,767	154,712	16,945
EXPENSES:			
MINISTRY OF:			
Personnel	105,389	106,485	(1,096)
Christian Ed & Youth	4,450	1,889	2,561
Music & Worship	2,300	1,783	517
Member & Stewardship	1,700	924	776
Building & Grounds	45,580	43,984	1,596
Session	6,217	1,759	4,458
Deacons	200	175	25
Missions - Budgeted	1,000	900	100
- Unbudgeted	-	3	(3)
	<hr/>		
Total Expense	166,836	157,902	8,934
Change in cash from operations	(29,069)	(3,190)	25,879
OTHER:			
Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School & Liabilities	-	(5,553)	5,553
Net Cash Transfers To/(From) Investments	-	-	-
	<hr/>		
Change in cash since January 1, 2014	<u>(29,069)</u>	<u>2,363</u>	<u>31,432</u>