

STREAMER

Willow Creek Presbyterian Church of Argyle
7300 Belvidere Road
Caledonia, Illinois 61011
815-885-3455
March 2015

from the Pastor's Pen:

The owl begins her journey at night, in the darkness, among the wilderness. Such is the journey of Lent, a time of introspection, contemplation, and reflection. A time to examine our own lives, to search for spiritual nourishment. We use this season as a time to take stock of our lives, examining those parts of ourselves that are hidden or hurting, letting go of the things that hinder us, and nurturing those practices or characteristics that help us grow in our lives and faith.

How are you longing for growth and renewal in your life? What are the things you want to let go of this season, and how might God meet you in this time of wilderness and introspection? What new beginnings might God want to nurture in you? I think these questions also have import for our faith community, for both our individual and our corporate lives. What ought we give up? What barriers to ministry exist that we need to let go? What new beginnings beckon to help us grow in faith?)

During Lent, let's each find time to reflect and contemplate, through worship, fellowship, and study. On Ash Wednesday we talked about trying a new spiritual discipline during Lent in addition to, or instead of, giving something up. Of course, any activity that helps you to grow closer to God can be a spiritual discipline. Here are just a few ways we can practice making space for focusing on and connecting with God:

Solitude: Refraining from interacting with others to be alone with God in silence.

Fasting: Going without food (or something else that may interfere with our communing with God) for a period of intense prayer.

Sabbath: Doing no work to rest in God's person and provision; praying and playing with God and others.

Secrecy: Not making our good deeds or qualities known to let God or others receive attention and to find our sufficiency in God alone.

Hours: Awakening mid sleep to read scriptures, allowing the Holy Spirit-inspired reading to be our guide, wisdom, and strength for life.

Worship: Praising God's greatness, goodness, and beauty in words, music, ritual, or silence.

Soul Friendship: Engaging fellow disciples of Jesus in prayerful conversation or other study. (see pages 5 and 8)

Personal Reflection: Paying attention to our inner self in order to grow in love for God, others, and self.

Service: Humbly serving God by overflowing with love and compassion to others, especially those in need.

One spiritual practice I am excited about beginning is a new study group, which I hope will become a new Soul Friendship. I think it is a godly coincidence that we will begin during Lent, as I feel this group has the potential to move us all, individually and as a group, forward in our faith journey. It is important to spend time contemplating the ways of the world and the ways of Christ. This is also true, as I said earlier, for our whole church family. There are so many needs, so much to do. We can get caught up in a flurry of activity without much time for thought or discernment. This Lenton season, let's remedy that.

Slow down, enough to actually see and consider things we usually let pass in a blur. Let go, set aside your usual defenses and heavy burdens. Open your hands, your hearts, your minds, and see what God may place there to help you along your journey. This Lent and Easter season, let's slow down, let go, reflect, and open ourselves to God's challenging presence and encouraging renewal. May you find the spiritual nourishment you need to walk your path. May we all grow in this season and the next to become more introspective and less rushed, more understanding and less anxious, more gracious and less judgmental. Like that owl, we, too, stare into the dark wilderness, waiting to see what life might emerge.

Grace and Peace, Judith



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, Adam Finley, 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.

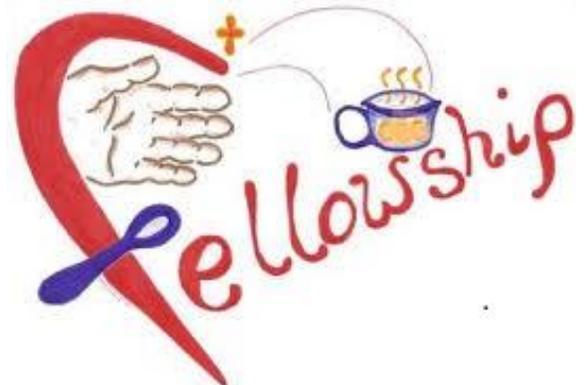
THANK YOU!!



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 to all who have signed up!



Students in Need Mission



Meet “Ajaha” our latest recipient of Students In Need. She is in the 6th grade at Kennedy Middle school located on the Auburn Campus. She is shown here modeling her new cold weather ensemble. Ajaha lives at Walter Lawson Children’s Home and commutes daily to Kennedy.

Thank You!

The Mission Committee has directed \$200 from the Mission Endowment disbursement to this dedicated mission fund. Individual donations to the Students in Need fund are always welcome.

Dear Friends at Willow Creek,

Thank you for your generous support of Love In the Name of Christ of Greater Rockford during the last year. We are pleased to supply you with a summary of your donations for the previous year.



Love INC
Love In the Name of Christ

Because of the donations of partners like you we were able to serve over needy local families during their most difficult times. Over 3,000 different needs were met supporting our families and neighbors during times of crisis. Through your donations to the Love INC clearinghouse, we provided classes, clothing, gas and bus vouchers, personal needs items, household supplies, much-needed medication and other essential services and goods. As we go into 2015, we want to offer our gratitude for your faithful support and your prayers.

In Him, Mary Pulliam, Executive Director

	Amount	Check #
8/25/14	\$250	16105
9/25/14	\$173	16151
Total	\$423	



Thank you to all those who helped make our Bell Concert a success. Over \$550.00 was raised for the Holistic Health Music Therapy Department at Swedish American Hospital, many non-perishable items were collected for local food pantries, and over 130 people had an enjoyable afternoon hearing inspiring music. The Word was preached, tasty treats and fellowship were enjoyed, and the wonderful people of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church made it all happen! We are blessed! Thank you to our vocalists, our newly formed Cow Bell Choir (see what you missed?), our pastor, guest conductor, flutist, accompanist, and speaker. A special thanks to the Willow Creek Ringers for offering their talent, time, and energy to this project. The results were awesome!

Great job bells!

Dianne Londo



Thank you for all the beautiful Birthday Cards everyone sent. I enjoyed reading them!

Many Thanks, Betty Ralston

Worship was cancelled on Sunday, February 1, due to the poor road conditions. Lou Ness, the Executive Director of Shelter Care Ministries was scheduled to speak this day. She has agreed to bring her message to us (barring any further winter storm) on Sunday, March 22nd. Please come hear about her journey - on foot- to Washington DC on behalf of the poor.



Current members of this committee include: Tom Andrew, Janet Hyland, Les Hamilton, Herb Greenlee, Jane Greenlee, Korri Greenlee, Lucas Greenlee, Jim Ralston, Steve Picken, and Steve Paulson. Please let Pastor Judith know if you

would like to be a part of this "Research and Development" team.

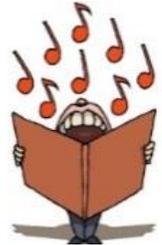
A Planning Committee Meeting will be held Sunday, March 8 @ 11:20 am in the Library

Mariners will meet at the Stockholm Inn on Tuesday, March 10 @ 11:30. All are welcome to attend. If you have any questions, please contact Nettie Parker @ 815-885-8005.



Bell Choir Schedule: Thursday, March 5 @ 6:30 pm
 Bells will join the Choir for Worship on Sunday, March 8.
 Be watching for the announcement of future rehearsal dates.
 Contact Dianne Londo for further information 815-623-8512.

Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 @ 8:30 am
 Chancel Choir sings for Worship all Sundays in March.
 On March 8, the Choir will be joined by the Willow Creek Ringers.
Children's Choir Rehearsal: Sundays, March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 @ 11:00 am



**WCPC Operating Statistics
 January, 2015**

Income	9,840.00
Expenses	15,326.00
Previous Month - Excess/(Deficit)	5,710.00



Committees & Groups
**Remember to check your
 church mail slots!**

Growing a Soul Friendship

Several times in my life I have been blessed by special Soul Friendships. During college, my church had a special Lenten Dinner series where groups of 8 were assigned to eat dinner in each other's homes. They would eat and discuss a book or a theme, and then all groups would head back to the church for dessert and more discussion. My group formed such a special bond that we continued to meet together for over two years, with our conversation/study at different times guided by best sellers, religious books, Bible studies, and even current events. Before children, I met with a group of public school teachers who had an interest in the Oscars. We read the books that became the movies nominated in various categories. As a new mother, I organized an Active Christian Parenting study group. In seminary, I was blessed to be a part of a spiritual sisterhood who studied, read, and prayed together. And, I have always participated in PW Circles. These groups, these Soul Friendships, have nurtured me, challenged me, stretched me, and enlivened me! Many of the folks from these groups remain friends, even today. I have participated in such groups in each of the churches I have served, but for this one--though we have had some special Bible study groups--until now! For years now, I've dreamed and prayed about it, and I am EXCITED at what lies ahead! If the thought of participating in such a discipline, in such a group, interests you, I invite you to dream and pray and talk to me about the many different ways to organize such a group. Let's grow some Soul Friendships! ></> judith



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.

Applications for Stronghold Summer Camp Jobs are available in the Church Office:

STRONGHOLD SUMMER CAMPS

2015 SUMMER MINISTRY TEAM EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Do you love the outdoors? Do you have a passion for ministry?



Are you great with kids? If you relate to this, then there's the perfect place waiting for you at **Stronghold Summer Camp!** Get paid spending your summer having fun, gaining valuable experience as an instructor and doing all the things you really want to do! Seems too good to be true right? Wrong, it gets better - it's a known fact that Camp friends are friends for life. You'll have the opportunity to meet people from around the world, gain great leadership experience, become a kid's hero, and learn new things. Come and have the best summer of your life.



- ⇒ **Small Group Leaders:** The real foundation of Stronghold's Summer Camps program. Make a difference in a young person's life by guiding them through their week in our Christian community at Stronghold. The daily responsibilities of Small Group Leaders include Bible Study leadership (from a prepared curriculum), recreation leadership, working as a team with other staff members, and supervision of campers through a variety of camp activities.
- ⇒ **Health Officer:** Be a first responder. Primary duties include providing basic First Aid to campers and staff, maintaining the supplies in the health center, administering camper medications, reviewing and keeping records, providing emergency care and making health recommendations to the Summer Camps Director. Great for school nurses, nurses fresh out of school, or retired nurses.
- ⇒ **Arts & Crafts Director:** Lead opportunities for children/youth to express themselves in a creative manner. Art, music, and drama are vehicles for conveying the gospel of Jesus Christ. Participate in all aspects of camp life while part of the program.
- ⇒ **Aquatics Supervisor:** Are you a certified lifeguard? Be the head lifeguard during pool activities and canoe trips. Schedule other local lifeguards to cover all aquatic events. Keep the aquatic activities safe and facilities clean in an awesome camp community. Teach water safety at pool and canoe safety on the river. Participate in all aspects of camp life while part of the program.



Call or email Stronghold for an application and an opportunity to serve on the 2015 Stronghold Summer Ministry Team. Ask for Ryan, our Summer Camps Director 815-732-6111 ext 609 -- ryan@strongholdcenter.org, or download one from our website .

STRONGHOLD SUMMER CAMPS: WWW.STRONGHOLDCENTER.ORG

March 2015 All Church Calendar

Sun 3/1	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Sunday Worship with Communion by Intinction (Choir Sings for Worship)
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	1-3 pm	Youth Group
Mon 3/2	7-9 pm	Session Meeting
Thur 3/5	6:30 pm	Bells Rehearsal
Fri 3/6	3:30-5:30 pm	Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
	6:00 pm	<i>Potluck & Discussion Episode 2 Viewing: Race Power of Illusion; 1650 Alpine Road in the Highcrest Shopping Area</i>
Sun 3/8	---	Daylight Savings Time Begins
	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal with Bells
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion by Intinction (Bells & Choir for Worship)
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:20 am	Planning Committee, Kirkin' o' The Tartans, in the Library
Mon 3/9	3:30 pm	Pastor/Music Director Meeting
Tues 3/10	11:30 pm	<i>Mariner's at Stockholm Inn (Nettie Parker Host)</i>
Wed 3/11	2:00 pm	Deacons Meeting
Thur 3/12	Noon	Stateline Pastor's Lunch
Sat 3/14	8:00 am	Music & Worship
Sun 3/15	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion by Intinction (Choir Sings for Worship)
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	1-3 pm	Youth Group
Tues 3/17	9:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Meeting
	---	St. Patrick's Day
Wed 3/18	Noon	Pastor Presby Lunch (11:30 am departure)
Fri 3/20	---	Streamer Deadline
	3:30-5:30 pm	Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
Sun 3/22	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion by Intinction (Mission of the Month is ShelterCare Ministries, Lou Ness Speaking; Choir Sings for Worship)
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Mon 3/23	9:00 am	Finance & Personnel
	11:30 am	Pastor Board Moderator @ Stronghold
	7:00 pm	Membership/Mission/Stewardship Meeting
Tue 3/24	9:30 am	<i>Martha Ruth Circle</i>
Wed 3/25	6:30 pm	<i>1st Meeting of the New Soul Friendship in Library</i>
	---	Streamer Published

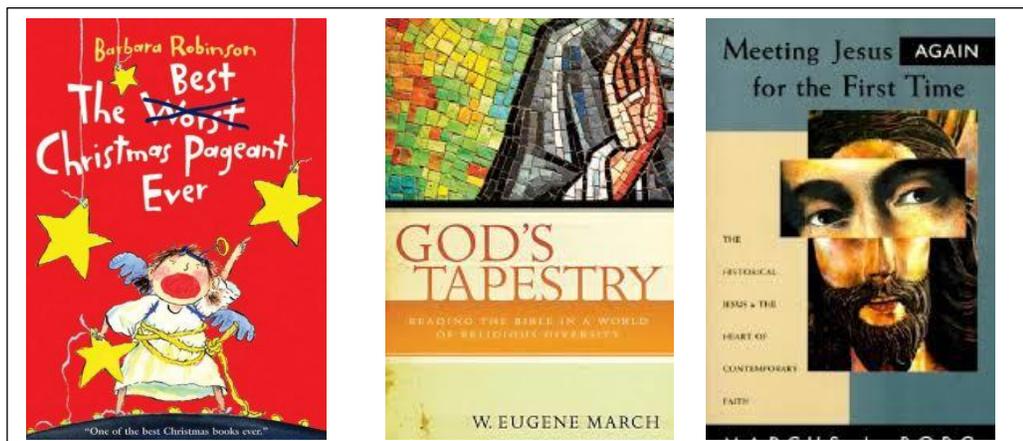
March 2015 All Church Calendar Continued

Fri 3/27	---	No Preschool – Spring Break begins
	5:30 pm	Youth Group Lock-in (Service Project for Saturday Morning)
Sun 3/29	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	<i>Palm Sunday - Holy Week Begins</i> – Worship with Communion by Intinction (One Great Hour of Sharing & Choir Sings for Worship)
	11:00 am	Children’s Choir Rehearsal
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Mon 3/30 – Mon 4/6		No Preschool – Spring Break
Thur 4/2	7:00 pm	<i>Maundy Thursday Service with Communion</i>
Fri 4/3	Noon	<i>Good Friday Service (WCPC will be hosting this year’s community service)</i>
Sun 4/5	8:00 am	<i>Sunrise Service</i>
	9:00 am	<i>Breakfast</i>
	10:00 am	Worship with Communion (Children’s Choir Sings)
	11:00 am	<i>Easter Egg Hunt & Fellowship</i>

A New Soul Friendship...A New Readers' Circle...A New Book Club

Actually, we are not sure what we might call ourselves. A few of us have been meeting, to discuss guidelines for respectful engagement (no shaming, attacking, judging, etc.) and possibilities for the first books, and we've proposed many possibilities: Spiritual Stretching, Discovery, Reading to Grow, Point Ponderers, Word Wonders, World Wideners, Creative Faith, Open Minds, even Religious Literacy, but we are determined to let the whole group decide on such things (name, purpose, meeting time and place)!

Our first meeting will be on Wednesday evening, March 25th, at 6:30pm in the church Library. Our first book, and yes it is an easy-to-read children's book, is Barbara Robinson's The Best ~~Worst~~ Christmas Pageant Ever. I have several copies available in the church office, if you want to take one home to read. This book, we think, will provide the perfect platform for our first gathering, and should be the perfect launching pad for our next read, either God's Tapestry: Reading the Bible in a World of Religious Diversity or Meeting Jesus AGAIN for the First Time. Please let me know soon if you are interested in attending (judithhardie67@gmail.com) so I can provide enough copies of the books!!



Fairhaven Christian Retirement Center Celebrates



"Spring Praise"

No Charge for Admission.

featuring ...

"Renee Cooper & Friends"

Classical Worship Ministries Director of the
First Evangelical Free Church - Rockford

This evening of Praise and Worship includes favorites by:

- Renee Cooper • First Free Chorale and Orchestra
- Jeff Rohl • Kristyn Thor • Ruth Snyder
- Amy Sanderson • Matt and Amanda Young
- Windswept Quintet • Karen Anderson



Sunday, March 8, 2015 6:00 p.m.

First EFC - Rockford (corner of Mulford & Spring Creek Rds.)

An offering will be received for the ministries of Fairhaven. Coffee & light dessert to follow.

**L.E.A.D. 2015
Leadership, Education &
Development for the Whole Church**



**"Ancient Gifts for Modern Times:
Catching Glimpses of the Divine"**

**Preaching: The Rev. Joy Douglas Strome,
Pastor, Lake View Presbyterian Church,
Chicago, IL**

**Music /Keynote: The Rev. John Bell,
(Church of Scotland) lecturer, musician,
member of the Iona Community**

Sat., March 7, 2015 8am - 3pm

**Fourth Presbyterian Church
126 E. Chestnut Street, Chicago, IL 60611**

**We welcome our neighbors from
Blackhawk Presbytery!**

**Cost: \$15 includes breakfast & lunch
Limited scholarships available.**

**Download your Easy-to-Print Brochure
and register online. Look for LEAD at:
<http://mccormick.edu/content/lead-2015>**

**We're collecting shoes for
Soles4Souls at LEAD**



**Questions?
Contact Grayson Van Camp at:
630.471.4643 or vancamps@earthlink.net**

Easter Flower Order Form

Would you like to order Easter Flowers in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special person? The cost is \$12.50, and you may order Lilies, Tulips, Daffodils or Hyacinths . You may take your flower home, or donate it for the Deacons to deliver to the elderly and infirm. Please fill out this form and drop it in the collection plate on Sunday morning or mail it to the church. **The deadline to order is Monday, March 16.**



Type of Flower _____ Number _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Donor Name as you wish it to appear in the bulletin: _____

Please make checks payable to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church, with memo: Easter Flowers.

Flowers not picked up prior to Tuesday, April 7, will be delivered
by the Church Deacons to the elderly and infirmed.