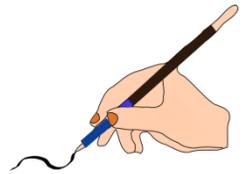


STREAM

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



from the Pastor's Pen:

Dear Church Family and Friends,

I get a digital copy of a PCUSA “magazine” dedicated to corporate worship: the theology and practice of what we do when we gather for worship (Sundays and beyond). Recently, several articles on the topic of “Grace and Gratitude” caught my mind and heart. Especially during the Lent and Easter seasons, how we respond (in worship and beyond) to the grace (unmerited favor) of God, expressed in the gift of Christ is important. Gratitude is the natural response to such grace. Gratitude in action.

Rev. Cindy Cushman, who works at the PCUSA headquarters in Louisville connecting new seminary graduates with small churches, explored how grace and gratitude are related to the efforts by so many churches to engage in revitalization and renewal. In particular, Rev. Cushman believes that growth and renewal are dependent on three critical hallmarks: spiritual energy, openness to change, and *a sense of call*.

Churches that have lost their spiritual energy have an extremely difficult time recovering and revitalizing. The article recognizes that in many small churches a handful of people commonly do the lion’s share of the necessary work and ministry of the church, and they can and do easily become worn down and discouraged. One remedy is twofold: church members need to remember and celebrate all that God has done in the past for them individually and as a congregation, rather than lamenting all that has been lost; and the leadership of the church needs to engage in spiritual leadership and discernment, rather than concentrating on continued management of programs and administration.

Rev. Cushman notes that the church exists to promote change: change in the lives of its disciple-members, change in the ways the church reaches out to its community, and change in the world itself. When we recognize the work that God is doing in us individually, through grace, we will be much more eager to transform our churches so that they may also be instruments of God’s grace.

Churches, like WCPC, are also able to sense and respond to God’s call, acting out of gratitude for so many blessings, so much grace, evident by such a long history of worship, fellowship, and service in this rural community. Did you know that about 100 years ago WCPC was the largest rural mainline congregation in America? Presidential candidates came here to speak! People gathered here for all kinds of social fellowship and worshipful service. If the church is to continue to serve God-in-Christ here for more than another few years, I believe it must celebrate its history, acknowledging God’s grace to us, and in particular the many gifts and assets God has given and continues to give us.

The question is, how can we express our gratitude now by serving others in the name of our risen Lord? How can we break out of the tomb of the past, and discern the new life, the new beginnings to which God is calling us to live and worship and serve in our world today.

Spiritual energy, openness to change, and sense of call are all produced more easily, fully, and joyfully when we as individuals, and as a church family, respond to the unmerited favor and gifts of God with gratitude. I know a few of you heard my eagerness to find my next call (in the 4/19/15 sermon) and wondered if I was looking for another church. Well, I am! And, I sincerely hope that I find it here. I am grateful for all the blessings God has given me through Willow Creek, and I intend to respond with gratitude by leading you all to New Life in Christ this year!

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ~ 1 Corinthians 5:17

Grace and Peace, Pastor Judith

STEWARDSHIP RECOGNITION



The first presentations of the ABCD award were made on Sunday, April 19, John Reid and Jim Ralston were the recipients. Both are so very deserving of the award, as are many other Willow Creek "family" members. In the future perhaps you will want to nominate someone. Nominations can be made directly or anonymously to members of the Mission, Membership and Stewardship Committee (David Ensminger, Adam Finley, Sherri Finley, Pat Nortch, Delores Hall, Jim Hall) or Pastor Judith.

YOU HAVE MADE A DIFFERENCE

A generous sized envelope was filled with Education Box Tops that you clipped and brought to Church. These were sent to Kemmerer Village. They will add them to the others that they receive from other churches and do great things for the children in residence there. Thank you.

The carton is empty and waiting for more Box Tops.

Thank you for participating!



Fellowship

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to bring refreshments for Fellowship. There are still Sundays available, please sign-up at the Refreshment Table.

Willow Creek has received the CWS School Kits Challenge once again. We will have more information soon.





And you answered with donations of \$650.89 to ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING! It is still trickling in, according to Diane. As you might remember, one of the areas that are funded by One Great Hour of Sharing is the Presbyterian Disaster Fund. How were we to know that the horrible tornado would hit Fairdale and Rochelle, almost neighbors so soon after taking the offering?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.



It's A Birthday Party

You are invited, it is for everyone!

- When:** Sunday, May 17, 2015 during Fellowship.
Where: Fellowship Hall, Willow Creek Presbyterian Church
What: Find the table decorated just for the month of your birthday. Join those who share your month.

Enjoy special cupcakes and other goodies.

Gifts will be what you give to the Birthday Offering in the Mission Envelope in your bulletin. Those gifts will be forwarded to the Birthday Offering PW to be combined with other gifts and given out in Grants for very Special Projects.

We hope you will all be there! MMS Committee

**GOD, FROM MY YOUTH
YOU HAVE TAUGHT ME**

Psalm 71:17



Pentecost Offering

Investing in our Greatest Resource

Offering 6/14/15

A gift to the Pentecost Offering helps the church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children.



Dear Friends at Willow Creek Presbyterian,

Thank you for the two truckloads of groceries which your church youth brought to drop off for our Food Pantry. It was impressive to see your young people bring in so much food that it nearly bent the table top we put it on! In fact, it was too much to actually put on one table!

Your youth leader shared with me the photos of the can creations you created with everything collected. It was a creative way to collect the food and get kids of all ages involved in the food drive you organized. I was also grateful to have the chance to talk with everyone present and share more of the story of the Pantry and whom we serve.

Thank you for participating in this ministry formed in the name of Jesus Christ to help people in our area who are in need. We are grateful for the blessings and commitment which your church has shared along with all the other churches, individuals, school groups, businesses, and civic groups. Together we offer help in the simplest of forms: a few bags of groceries to assist people in their times of need.

I wish you God's blessings in the year ahead. Sincerely, The Rev. Dan Herman

Thank you Willow Creek, for all of the donations for this year's Construction Project.

As indicated in the letter above, the donations went to the Old Stone Church Food Pantry.



Dear Friends:

Thank you for your kind donation of 31 School Kits and 1 Emergency Clean-up Bucket to Church World Service. Your compassion has given individuals and families touched by disaster the tangible evidence that they matter. That someone cares. And they are not alone.

Disasters can strike anywhere, anytime. And they can take many forms: tornadoes, earthquakes, civil conflict, drought, hurricanes and more. But with the support of caring people like you - who understand the urgency of responding after a disaster - people in crisis receive help when they need it, and hope for the future.

For updates on our most recent work, visit cwsglobal.org. Or, to find out more about the CWS Kit Program, visit www.cwsglobal.org/kits

Here at home or overseas, when tragedy strikes your donations ensure that help is never far behind. With Deepest Gratitude, Rev. John L. McCullough, President and CEO



Dear Willow Creek Presbyterian Church,

Thank you for bringing grace to the lives of our members, residents and children who rely on the programs at Shelter Care

Ministries to provide shelter, awaken hope and honor their dignity as the wonderfully created children of God. Without your generous gift of **\$12.50** (Cash from coffee hour) **to support the work we continue after the Walk to Washington**, the work we do would be that much harder.

The board and staff of Shelter Care Ministries continue to work towards creating a world free from poverty, homelessness and despair. Your gift makes a difference to the many adults and children who rely on the support and hospitality offered through our programs. Truly without our wonderful volunteers, donors and community support we could not continue to serve families who are homeless and adults suffering from a chronic mental illness.

You give more than gifts ... you give the miracle of Grace. Thank you for thinking of Shelter Care Jubilee Members, Housing Residents, Careers & MORE clients and the many children who are served through MA Y A'S House. Your generosity will not be forgotten.

Many Blessings to you, Lousett M. Ness M. <ed., ORSCC

Since Lou Ness wrote this note, WCPC has sent an additional \$607 to support Shelter Care.

Dear Willow Creek Presbyterian Church,

Thank you so much for your recent donation of \$20.00 to help support the Belvidere Boone County Food Pantry. Your support means more than we can express and it is so appreciated.



The Belvidere/Boone County Food Pantry is a non-profit organization established in 2004 that provides food, non-food products, clothing, and other household products to those facing challenging economical situations in Boone County. We desire to be a bridge to help transition those facing hard times until they become self-sufficient. Our goal is to give people hope and make a difference in their lives. We are currently serving 1,500 to 2,000 clients per month that fall below the poverty level income guide-lines as established by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

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. Thank you for caring.

Sincerely, Nicole Colon, Director of Administration

**WCPC Operating Statistics
March, 2015**

Income	12,731.00
Expenses	15,170.00
Previous Month - Excess/(Deficit)	(5,006.00)

May 24 is Pentecost Sunday. We are asking that all church goers wear flame colored clothing on that day to help celebrate this important event on the church calendar!



May 3

Chancel choir rehearsal 8:30
Chancel choir sings for worship
Children's choir rehearsal 11:00

May 10

Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:30
Children's choir sings for worship
no children's choir rehearsal

May 17

Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:30
Chancel choir sings for worship
Children's choir rehearsal 11:00

May 24

Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:30
Chancel choir sings for worship
Children's choir rehearsal 11:00

May 31

Bells play for worship
no Chancel choir rehearsal
Children's choir rehearsal 11:00

June 7

Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:30
Chancel Choir sings for worship
Children's choir rehearsal 11:00

June 14

Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:30
Chancel Choir sings for worship
Children's choir rehearsal 11:00

June 21

Chancel Choir rehearsal 8:30
Children join us at 9:15
Both choirs sing for worship

No choir from June 28-
September 6.

Special music will be provided
each Sunday.

Bell Choir Schedule:

Thursdays, May 14, 21, June 18, and July 23 @ 6:30 pm
Bells ring for Worship on Sunday, May 31

Bell Choir



JuBell-ee
Handbell Festival

Saturday, May 2, 2015
4:30 PM
11th Annual
JuBell-ee Handbell Festival Concert
Benefiting: Carrie Lynn Children's Center
Tickets: \$5.00

Concert location is:
Rockford Christian High School

Handicap Accessible

For tickets or info contact:
Rob at 815-637-6963
JuBell. eeFestival@hotmail.com

Handbell choirs from all over the area will join together under the direction of Cathy Moklebust to present a program of massed handbell ringing. Come join us for an afternoon of music and fun, to benefit Carrie Lynn Children's Center.



Six Flags Great America Trip Thursday, June 11

The congregation is invited to attend. RSVP to church office (815-885-3455) by Sunday, May 17. If we have a big enough number attending, tickets will be half off!

Join us for **Worship in the Park on Sunday, July 19th** in Rock Cut State Park at the Lions Club Pavilion (which has handicap parking and is completely accessible). A potluck picnic will be planned afterwards.



Traveling Day Camp July 20-24, 2015

A message from the Christian Education Committee...

Instead of Vacation Bible School this summer, Willow Creek will be hosting the Traveling Day Camp run by Stronghold staff. They have many fun-filled faith activities planned for children entering 1st grade through 5th grade. The camp will be July 20-24 from 8:30-3:30. The cost will be \$50 per child, with a \$125 maximum per family. Lunch will be brown bag. Willow Creek will be running a Bible School for preschoolers and those entering Kindergarten the same week. It will run 8:30-11:30, and the cost will be \$15 per child. Even though Stronghold staff will be running the Traveling Day Camp (TDC), we will still need several volunteers to assist them, as well as help out with the preschool Bible School. Please contact a member of CEC (Rebekah Landi, Maren Reid, April Rottman, Karli Rankin, Denise Felton) if you are interested in helping that week. Registration forms and more information will be coming soon!

3rd Annual Community-Wide Picnic date is set for Sunday, August 16.
Mark your calendars and be prepared to have a good time.



Registration for Summer Camps is now open online:
www.strongholdcenter.org



Sunday, September 13, Kirkin' o' The Tartans

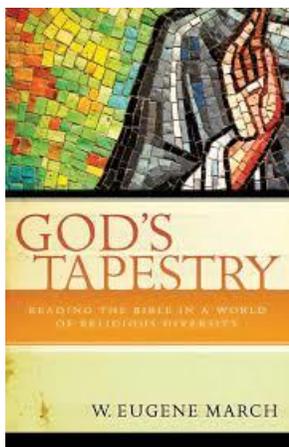
The planning committee met this past Sunday, April 19th. Present were: Tom Andrew, Les Hamilton, Judith Hardie, Herb Greenlee, Lucas Greenlee, Steve Picken,

and Jim Ralston. Excused were Jane Greenlee and Steve Paulson.

We are planning a special worship service on Sunday morning, the 13th of September, commemorating this church's Scottish heritage by using a Kirkin' o' the Tartans theme. We will surely see and hear kilts and bagpipes and drums and tartans! Family representatives will process with their family flag into worship following the Beadle (a person carrying in the Bible) and the pipes. After worship, we are calling for a Family Potluck fellowship dinner, a mini Highland Games for the kids, and some other Scottish entertainment.

While this is called a Kirkin' of the Tartans, we realize that all our families are not Scottish, and even many who are come from the Lowlanders who did not have family tartans. Therefore, we are asking folks to make Family Flags. These might be a certain tartan pattern, or a certain clan symbol, or even a flag of your families favorite team colors. We want to use this service as a way to bless **all** our families, to celebrate **all** the different heritages, and to honor the **many different ways** we enjoy being family together.

We are currently working on a flag or two as samples and a pattern to share. Please plan to stay after worship on June 14th (Flag Day) to see the samples, get a pattern, and even begin working on the design of your own family flag! We also plan to have flag-making stations set up after church on July 19th at Rock Cut (after we worship in the park) and on August 16th during our 3rd Annual Community-Wide Picnic. Willow Creek has long been known as a long-standing church of Scottish heritage; may it now be known as a long-standing place where all can know and be blessed by God!



Reader's Review:

This month we met and discussed Part One (A New Context: Opening Our Eyes) of a book my father wrote about 5 years ago. We had wonderfully enlightening conversations about the world we once knew, and how it has changed. We talked about positive and negative ways to look at diversity and focussed not on political correctness, but on understanding reality with some theological clarity. Some of us worried we might be "burned at the stake" for our curiosity. All of us agreed that our curiosity is a God-given gift and felt God's grace and blessings upon our explorations in the faith and the diverse world in which we live. The second part of the book (A New Word: Opening Our Ears) will guide us to delve into the Bible and learn just what it says to us (which may or may not be what the church has always told us) in today's world. Please, if you would like to join us, come. If you need a book, let me know soon so that I can order one for you. We will finish the book with a discussion of the third part (A New Mission: Learning and Sharing) sometime in June (we'll set that date together at our next meeting). Our next book review discussion will be Wednesday, May 20th, at 6:30. We will meet at Mary's Market, 2636 McFarland Rd. All are invited!!

Office Summer Hours Effective Monday, June 1

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday

8:30 am to Noon



Congratulations Gordon and Pat Bindenagel

Gordon and Pat Bindenagel have been members of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church since May 1989. During that time Gordon has been a choir member, served as Deacon and as an Elder. Pat has been a member of PW, serving as secretary several years, a member of Friendship Circle, a Deacon, a member of the Adult Sunday School Class and now a member of Martha Ruth Circle. We believe Gordon is the oldest man in our church (95 in August 2015). The couple celebrated 73 years of marriage, and in their honor all six of their children came home for the week-end of Marth 28th and 29th.



Children from left to right:

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| J.D. Bindenagel | currently of Bonn, Germany. Member of the U.S. State Dept. for 27 years. Vice President of DePaul University for 6 yrs. Now teaching a course at Bonn University. |
| Curt Bindenagel | of Winnebago, Illinois. Assistant Manager of Seward Screw Products Inc. |
| Denise Sorensen | of Hudson, Wisconsin. Customer Service Lead for Interplastic Corps of St. Paul, Minnesota. |
| Claudia Crabb | of Beloit Wisconsin. Homemaker |
| Nancy Keen | of Roscoe, Illinois. Life and Health specialist for Tricor Inc. of Beloit, Wisconsin. |
| Steven Bindenagel | of Saluda, South Carolina. Was Area Manager for Com Ed at Elgin, Illinois. Now horse farmer at Saluda, SC and Assistant County Superintendant in South Carolina. |

Easter at WCPC



WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE**

Actual vs Budget

FOR THE THREE MONTHS ENDED MARCH 31, 2015

		Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:				
	Contributions - General	33,775	29,591	(4,184)
	Contributions - Special	250	120	(130)
	Other Income	1,088	2,822	1,734
	Endowment	-	-	-
	School & Event	125	-	(125)
	Total Revenue	35,238	32,533	(2,705)
EXPENSES:				
MINISTRY OF:				
	Personnel	28,744	28,108	636
	Christian Ed & Youth	1,256	63	1,193
	Music & Worship	744	780	(36)
	Member & Stewardship	294	376	(82)
	Building & Grounds	11,767	14,539	(2,772)
	Session	1,441	1,599	(158)
	Deacons	50	-	50
	Missions - Budgeted	300	-	300
	- Unbudgeted	-	-	-
	Total Expense	44,596	45,465	(869)
	Change in cash from operations	(9,358)	(12,932)	(3,574)
OTHER:				
	Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School & Liabilities	-	304	(304)
	Net Cash Transfers To/(From) Investments	-	-	-
	Change in cash since January 1, 2015	(9,358)	(13,236)	(3,878)

May 2015 All Church Calendar

Fri 5/1	3:30-5:30 pm	Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
Sun 5/3	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School
	10:00 am	Worship w/ Trad. Communion; Choir sings; Baptism- Emma Landi
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	1-3 pm	Youth Group
Mon 5/4	7-9 pm	Session Meeting
Wed 5/6	11:00 am	Preschool End of Year "Sing"
Thur 5/7	---	National Day of Prayer
Sun 5/10	---	Mother's Day
	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	9:00 am	Sunday School (Last Day before Summer Break)
	10:00 am	Worship; Children's Choir Sings; Youth Sunday School Recognition of Students & Teachers; Baptism Isabelle Olivia Hamilton
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Mon 5/11	3:30 pm	Pastor/Music Director Meeting
Tue 5/12	11:30 am	<i>Mariners (Halls Hosting)</i>
Thur 5/14	---	Ascension of the Lord
	1:00 pm	Deacons
	6:30 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Fri 5/15	3:30-5:30 pm	Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
Sat 5/16	8:00 am	Music & Worship
	2-5 pm	Londo Piano Recital (Sanctuary & Fellowship Hall)
Sun 5/17	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship; Birthday Offering; Choir Sings
	11:00 am	Fellowship It's a Birthday Party!
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
	---	Reservations for Great America Trip Due to Church Office
	1-3 pm	Youth Group
Mon 5/18-5/30		Secretary Carol on Vacation
Mon 5/18	---	Last Day of Preschool 4 Year Old Program
	7:00 pm	Membership/Stewardship/Mission
Tue 5/19	---	Last Day of Preschool 3 Year Old Program
	8:00 am	Buildings & Grounds Committee
	9:30 am – Noon	<i>Spong Retreat (Fellowship Hall & Argyle Room)</i>
Wed 5/20	11:30 am	Pastor Presby Lunch
	6:30 pm	Reader's Review (God's Tapestry-Part 2)@ Mary's Market, 2636 McFarland Rd
Thur 5/21	6:30 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 5/24	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship Pentecost Sunday (Congregation wear flame colored clothing; Choir Sings)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Mon 5/25	---	Memorial Day Office Closed
Tue 5/26	9:30 am	<i>Martha Ruth Circle</i>
Thurs 5/28	<i>Late Afternoon til ?</i>	<i>Jack's Graduation Party across the street</i>
Fri 5/29	3:30-5:30 pm	Girl Scouts-Fellowship Hall/Kitchen
Sun 5/31	10:00 am	Worship Trinity Sunday (Bells Ring)
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal

June 2015 All Church Calendar 4/24/2015

Mon 6/1	7-9 pm	Session
Sun 6/7	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship w/ Trad. Communion; Choir sings
	11:00 am	Fellowship
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Mon 6/8	3:30 pm	Pastor/Music Director Meeting
Tues 6/9	---	Presbytery Meeting in Winnebago (Pat Nortch attending)
Wed 6/10	11:30 am	<i>Mariners</i>
Thur 6/11	---	<i>Six Flags Great America Trip</i>
	1:00 pm	Deacons
Sat 6/13	8:00 am	Music & Worship
Sun 6/14	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal
	10:00 am	Worship; Pentecost Offering
	11:00 am	Fellowship (Family Flag Day – Kirkin' o' The Tartans)
	11:00 am	Children's Choir Rehearsal
Tue 6/16	8:00 am	Buildings & Grounds
Wed 6/17	11:30	Pastor Presby Lunch
Thur 6/18	6:30 pm	Bell Rehearsal
Sun 6/21	8:30 am	Choir Rehearsal; Children's Choir joins @ 9:15 am
	10:00 am	Worship; Both Choirs Sing
	11:00 am	Fellowship
Mon 6/22	11:30 am	Pastor Mtg @ Stronghold
	7:00 pm	Membership/Mission/Stewardship
Tue 6/22	9:30 am	<i>Martha Ruth Circle</i>
Sun 6/28	10:00 am	Worship (Pulpit Supply)
	11:00 am	Fellowship



Clean Out Your Medicine Cabinet

Free!

Medication Disposal

Bring in all your unused over-the-counter

And prescription medications

Accepting

Prescription Medications
 Non-Prescription Medications
 Aersal Inhalers
 Veterinary Medications

Belvidere Township Building

8200 Fairgrounds Rd.,
 Belvidere

Saturday June 13, 2015

9 a.m. - Noon

Not Accepting

Needles & Sharps
 Medical Waste
 Biohazard Materials



This is a combined May/June Streamer (to accommodate office vacation schedule). The deadline for the July streamer is June 20. Announcements prior to the July streamer, have the option to be included in the weekly bulletin and/or sent as an email announcement.