

STREAMER

November 2011

From the Pastor

Dear Willow Creek Friends and Family,

First, a story:

There was a shipwreck. Two men survived. They washed ashore at night. At dawn, when they could see their predicament, one of them started to panic, screaming and yelling, "We're going to die! We're going to die! There's no food! There's no water! We're going to die!" He looked around and saw the second man was propped up against a palm tree and acting so calmly it seemed to agitate the first man even more. "Don't you understand?!? We're going to die!!!"

The second man replied, "You don't understand, I make \$100,000 a week....Don't worry, we'll get found soon."

The first man looked at him quite dumbfounded and asked, "What difference does that make?!? We're on an island with no food and no water! We're going to DIE!!!" But the second man seemed not to even blink an eye.

After a bit. The second man answered, "You just don't get it, do you: I make \$100,000 a week, and I tithe. ----I give \$10,000 each week to my church."

The first man, still worried, said, "I still don't understand! Why are you just sitting there, relaxing? So you've had your house built in Heaven...are you ready to die?!?"

To which the other man chuckled, "Listen, I said to relax, we are not going to die just yet. I TITHE \$10,000 a week to my church, BELIEVE ME, the Stewardship Committee will find us!"

Well, we may not all make a hundred thousand a week, or even have found a way to tithe to the church, but I think especially at this time of the year we can all empathize with our Stewardship Committee! They have quite a job to do; the difficulty of the job might just be somewhat akin to finding someone missing on an uncharted island! We might all be able to identify with the first man in his panic as we look out at an economy that doesn't appear to be getting any better, as we look out at a culture that doesn't appear to value church commitments, as we struggle with the myriad of worthy causes and important responsibilities that threaten to wipe away our resources of time, talent, and treasure.

It is important, however, to find that sense of calm (though perhaps NOT the smugness) of the second man in the story. It is important to have faith. Faith that there is someone out there looking out for us. You know Jesus never did command us to tithe (his only incidental remark was critical--Mt. 23:23; Lk 18:12), and the Gospel he proclaimed transcends the entire legalistic understanding of God on which the ancient custom of tithing rested. Tithing is "Biblical" in the sense that it is enjoined in the Old Testament, but so are remitting debts, leaving the ground fallow every seventh year, leaving grain in the field to be gleaned by the poor, and much else that was suitable stewardship for early Hebrew society. Christians may, however, use this ancient device as a helpful means for a steady expression of their faithfulness to God. Tithing certainly can and does serve to prepare the way and provide the opportunity for a wholehearted commitment to Christ, but that Christian commitment, that life of faith, is the goal. It is this response to God in good stewardship and Christian living that give us the sense of purpose, of security, and of joy. Together, let us focus on the many gifts God has given our family here at Willow Creek. Let us trust in God's divine economy. Surely God has placed in and

around us all that we need to grow and deepen in faith and in service. Let us search out, discern, and joyfully offer back to God our time, talent, and treasure. Have Faith! Give! And, you will find yourself leaning on the palm tree, thankful, calm, and probably tired (but for good reason!).

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Judith

Pastor Judith's Installation

Pastor Judith's Installation service will take place Sunday, November 6, 2011 at 3:00 P.M. at Willow Creek Presbyterian Church. Please plan on attending to show support for our new Pastor. A reception will follow the installation service.

Thank You

We at the Belvidere/Boone County Food Pantry would like to extend a warm thank you for your generous donation. We are feeding approximately 2,000 people each month. This number has grown exponentially in recent years. Your donation will allow us to continue to help those who need it most. It is deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,
Linda Seaver

Thank you for your gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing offering. We are grateful for your generosity. When you give to OGHS, you are making a conscious decision to bring the joy and love of Christ to some of the most vulnerable and desperate places and people around the world.

In Christ's grace and peace,
Margaret Hall Boone
Special Offerings
PC(USA)

Thank you for having a heart for the homeless! That is the sincere message we send you from Carpenter's Place. We are deeply grateful for your kind generosity and donation of backpacks and spiral notebooks. May God bless you abundantly for your kindness and compassion for those who are homeless.

Sincerely,
Diane Lyon
Community Outreach Associate

Mariners

Willow Creek Mariners will meet Wednesday, November 9 for lunch at 11:30 am at Hawk's View restaurant.

For more information please contact Wilbur and JoAnne Reid at
779-423-1196

STATEMENT OF INCOME and EXPENSE

Actual vs Budget

FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

	Budget	Actual	Variance
REVENUES:			
Contributions - General	107,325	94,600	(12,725)
Contributions - Special	450	377	(73)
Other Income	9,242	3,888	(5,354)
Endowment	750	617	(133)
School & Event	3,113	895	(2,218)
Total Revenue	120,880	100,377	(20,503)
EXPENSES:			
MINISTRY OF:			
Personnel	90,116	64,667	25,449
Christian Ed & Youth	4,050	1,020	3,030
Music & Worship	3,589	4,161	(572)
Member & Stewardship	1,838	1,425	413
Building & Grounds	31,875	25,575	6,300
Session	12,467	7,777	4,690
Deacons	225	175	50
Missions	4,500	3,092	1,408
Total Expense	148,660	107,892	40,768
Change in cash from operations	(27,780)	(7,515)	20,265
OTHER:			
Dedicated Accounts, Pre-School			
& Liabilities	-	6,008	(6,008)
Net Cash Transfers To/(From)			
Investments	-	-	-
Change in cash since January 1, 2011	(27,780)	(13,523)	14,257

Annual Congregation Meeting

The Annual Congregational Meeting will be held Sunday, November 20, 2011 following the morning worship service. We will be voting on the slate of officers for 2012 presented by the Nominating Committee and the changes, which are pending Session approval, to the Church's bylaws are listed below. If you have any questions feel free to contact Pastor Judith or Janet Hyland.

03 November 2011 -- Proposed Change to:

BYLAWS

WILLOW CREEK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ARGYLE Caledonia, Illinois

ARTICLE IV MEETINGS

- Section 2: Special meetings of the congregation shall be called by the Session, by the presbytery, or by the Session when requested in writing by one-fourth of the members on the active roll of the church. (G-1.0502)*
* was – (G-7.0303)
- Section 6: The pastor shall be the moderator of all meetings of the congregation, and shall preside over the election of ordained officers, the election of the congregational chairperson, and other ecclesiastical business. (G-1.0504)* The chairperson** of the congregation shall preside over corporate business matters at the congregational meeting, and over whatever other business is deemed appropriate. In the event of his or her absence, the chair of the Personnel and Finance Committee shall chair the corporate meeting.
* was – (G-7.0306)
** was – president
- Section 7: The clerk of the Session shall be the secretary of all congregational meetings. If the Clerk is unable to serve, the congregation shall elect a secretary, according to The Book of Order. (G-1.0505)*
* was – (G-7.0307)
- Section 8: The following shall be the order of business at all annual meetings of the congregation:
Calling to order, by chairperson
Devotional service
*
Reports
Review of the Pastor's Compensation Package **
Election of officers
Unfinished business
New business
Adjournment and prayer
* was -- Reading of minutes, for information
** was -- Review of the Pastor's Salaries
- Section 9: Scott Foresman Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised edition*, shall govern the proceedings of the meetings.
*Was -- Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the proceedings of the meetings.

ARTICLE VI
ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Section 3: Four elders and no less than two deacons shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve a three year term, and may be eligible for reelection of one additional term. However, no ruling elder or deacon shall be eligible to serve more than six consecutive years, and a ruling elder or deacon who has served six consecutive years shall be ineligible for election to the same board for at least one year.* (G-2.0404)

*Was -- Four elders and no less than two deacons shall be elected at each annual meeting to serve three years, and shall not be eligible for reelection until one year after the expiration of their term of office.

ARTICLE VII
DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 6: The Assistant Financial Secretary:
shall count the weekly offerings with the Financial Secretary or another duly authorized person. (G-3.0205-a)*

* was – (G-10.0401-a)

ARTICLE VIII
COMMITTEES

Section 1: There shall be a Nominating Committee consisting of seven representative members. Two members shall be appointed by and from the Session, one of whom shall be named by the Session as chairperson; one member shall be designated by and from the Board of Deacons; and three* members shall be elected by the congregation at the annual meeting. In addition, the pastor shall be a non-voting member. The Nominating Committee shall present a slate of nominees for the offices of the church and for the succeeding Nominating Committee.**

* was – and four members shall be elected by the congregation at the annual meeting.

** was – The Nominating Committee shall select for presentation one nominee for each office and for the succeeding Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE X
REPORTS

Section 1: The pastor, Session, Board of Deacons, each organization of the church, and all congregational committees shall submit a report to the congregation at the annual meeting. In addition, the reports of all church boards, committees, and organizations shall be reviewed and approved by the Session.*

* was – (G-10.0102-i)

Irma Niemann

Dear Members:

I am writing today because I am not able to get to church very well, I am not ill, just have problems walking and using a cane takes time and effort as well as steady legs.

I still drive and get groceries where I can drive a cart (like at Woodman's), and I get along just fine. Still independent, but do get help from some wonderful neighbors and friends. I can use a cane while around the house and am doing fine for a 91 year old gal.

My family is all gone except my children in California and Arizona. They keep in touch a lot.

My prayers are with the members and the church.

Sincerely,
Irma Niemann

Care Packages for Soldiers

This fall we will be remembering our Church members and family who are serving in our Armed Forces with care packages. Currently we have seven men and women who are serving our country. If you know of anyone that has been missed, please advise one of the Deacons or the church office.

It was decided to have the care packages delivered by Thanksgiving this year. With that in mind, we would like all donations by noon November 9th. Please bring your donated items and place them in the container provided in the Fellowship Hall.

A list of items...DO's and DON'Ts is posted in the Fellowship Hall. Remember when buying your items, that we have one gal serving our country.

Some suggested items are coffee, hot chocolate, drink mix packets, granola bars, trail mix, dry soup, nuts and oatmeal packets. Toiletries i.e. shampoo, conditioner, body wash, baby wipes.

For questions, please contact one of the Willow Creek Deacons or Barb Johnson, Deacon.

We will be dedicating the care packages during our Veteran's Day Celebration during worship Sunday, November 13, 2011.

Operation Christmas Child

The Sunday School children and their families invite you to join them again this year with the mission project Operation Christmas Child sponsored by Samaritan's Purse. They will be filling shoe boxes with various children's items to send to needy children around the world. Our deadline is The week of November 14. Please stop by the display table in Fellowship Hall for more details.

PW News

Fall Festival Report - \$1531.24 for PW 2012 Mission Budget

Many thanks to everyone who contributed “trash/treasure”, baked goods, crafts, food or produce, but especially to those who volunteered hours of labor to make our “first?” annual Fall Festival a great success. Our committees worked hard under the direction of “trash/treasure” expert Donna Hamilton and food guru Delores Hall. When some of us saw the Fellowship Hall on Friday before the big event and the difference on Saturday we were truly amazed. It took a lot of effort and planning and we are now looking forward to having another next fall. The committees have already talked about possible changes, so look forward to cleaning your closets again in 2012.

Thanksgiving Dinner—Immediately following the church service and Congregational Meeting Sunday, November 20th.

Our Committee Chair this year is Barb Greenlee.

Join in on the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner November 20th following the morning worship and congregational meeting. Bring your own table service including silverware and for a family two dishes to pass and one dish to pass for a single person. Meat, potatoes and beverage will be provided. This is always a great fellowship time with lots of good “eats” so mark your calendars now.

Event Calendar— At the November PW/CT meeting we hope to finalize out 2012 November event calendar. Once this is complete we will be posting a sign-up board for chair and sub-committee positions. Avoid the rush and sign-up before the end of November. We hope to have the directory information to Kathy so she will have time to print them before the first of the year. Also be sure your name, address and phone (land and cell) numbers, your birthday (not year), are in the directory. Information can be given to Kathy in the office.

Correspondence— PW receives newsletters and thank you notes from the various missions we support. We want to share these with everyone by posting them, for about a month, on the bulletin board. Please feel free to remove them or copy any of them.

2012 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women
of Hope

River

Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center
Orlando, FL July 18-22, 2012

Those of us who have privileged to attend one of these triennium events have been truly blessed. The booklets listing programs, and registration forms, which may be copied, are under the bulletin board. The following is an excerpt from the booklet.

Think about the possibilities . . .

Close your eyes. Imagine a place overflowing with thousands of Presbyterian women. They are celebrating in prayer, song and worship while participating in workshops and lively discussions. Do you see yourself in the midst of this celebration? We hope so!

Psalm 46 reminds us that God is in our midst. You are invited to experience God’s presence among us at the 2012 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women.

When we gather to celebrate the “River of Hope,” there will be opportunities for you to enrich your soul through plenary and workshops. You can nurture and affirm your faith in prayer and uplifting song during worship services. You can “live the PW purpose” through mission projects, advocacy work and Bible study. You can recharge and rejuvenate as you connect with other women of faith, including global partners. The possibilities for renewal and transformation are endless!

You can experience all of this (and more!) under one roof at the Gaylord Palms Resort and Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.* Bring your friends and family—there is much to explore and enjoy.

Discover your “River of Hope” at the 2012 Churchwide Gathering of Presbyterian Women. We want you in our midst.

Yours in peace and Christ,

Marta Rodríguez, Alice Wyatt and Chris Wolf

Moderatorial team of the 2009–2012 Churchwide Coordinating Team of Presbyterian Women

Thanksgiving Offering


November 20, 2011 is a special day in the life of Willow Creek Presbyterian Church. It is "Thanksgiving Sunday". At another spot in the Streamer you will find an announcement/invitation to the annual "Thanksgiving Potluck Dinner" to be held that day. It is also the day PW receives the Thanksgiving Offering. Envelopes will be provided for you to use to participate in this offering. PW uses the Thanksgiving Offering to participate in the Thank Offering in the larger church and to support their local mission giving. Bring the envelope with you to worship on November 20 and stay for the "Thanksgiving" potluck.

**Thanksgiving
Offering**

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

AMOUNT: _____

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Photo by Nancy Matthews

Poinsettia Order Form

Would you like to order a poinsettia in memory of loved one or in honor of a special person? The cost is \$10.00 and they are available in white, pink or red.

Just 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, December 5.

Please make checks payable to Willow Creek Presbyterian Church

Number _____ Color _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Your Name as you would like it to appear in the bulletin:

Are you in need of a few hours without your children to work on that to-do list?

If so, let Willow Creek Presbyterian Church help you out!

On Saturday, November 12th from 1:00-4:00 Willow Creek will provide child care for children ages 1 and up. We will have activities planned for all ages and provide a snack. A donation of \$5 is suggested to help cover cost of materials. Make sure you sign up early to reserve your spot! Call the church office at 815-885-3455.

Child's name: _____

Age: _____

Parent/Guardian's
name: _____

Number you can be reached at during the
afternoon: _____

Medical conditions or
allergies: _____

Daylight Savings Time

Daylight Savings Time Ends Sunday, November 6, 2011.

Remember to “fall back” and set your clocks back an hour before you go to bed on Saturday, November 5.

November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2 Nominating 7:00pm	3 Session 7:00pm	4	5
6 Stewardship Sunday	7 Presbytery	8 Presbytery	9 Mariners 11:30am @ Hawks' View Rest.	10 Budget Mtg. 9:00am	11	12
Judith's Installation 3:00PM						
Youth Group 3-5:00 PM						
13	14 Membership/Stewardship & Mission 10:00am	15 B&G 9:00am	16	17	18	19
20 Congregational Mtg.	21	22	23	24 Happy Thanksgiving	25 Church Office Closed	26
Thanksgiving Dinner				Church Office Closed		
Decorate the Church						
Youth Group						
27	28 Finance & Personnel 9:00am	29	30			

Annual Christmas Cookie Sale: Looking for a fun and yummy way to participate in the Holiday Season, help fulfill our mission for giving and welcome neighbors in the surrounding community to visit our beautifully decorated Church? What better way than a Cookie Sale! WCPC is having their Annual Cookie sale on Saturday, December 10, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Visitors exhausted from cookie shopping can stop at the coffee shop to rest and chat with friends over cookies and coffee/tea/wassail. Proceeds from the sale will benefit local charities. The success of this project is dependent on the participation of the entire church family. Every family will be contacted and asked to contribute homemade Christmas cookies. Those who are unable to bake may wish to team up with others for a baking party. While donations in lieu of cookies are welcome to offset cost of supplies, the primary need is for cookies so that we have adequate product for a successful event. You may contact anyone on the Cookie Sale committee (Barb Greenlee, Carolyn Miller, Carolyn Wheeler or Donna Hamilton) for more information.

