

Westside Community Church

The Wisdom of Woodbine Willie

"Live with the men. Go everywhere they go. The line is the key to the whole business. Work in the very front and they will listen to you; but if you stay behind you are wasting your time. Men will forgive you anything but lack of courage and devotion... Take a great deal of love in your heart, and go up to them: laugh with them, joke with them. You can pray with them sometimes, but pray for them always."

Rev. Geoffrey Studdert Kennedy M.C. - a.k.a. Woodbine Willie

On the Western Front, in WWII, a man ran, unarmed, into No Man's Land, under heavy fire, to seek the wounded, of both sides, and bring them to be treated. He was constantly among the soldiers, consistently disregarding his own safety for their sake. He was admired in the trenches, and awarded the military cross for his bravery. He spent his wages on cigarettes, a small comfort he could take to the men on the front line. Rev Geoffrey Studdert Kenedy served as a chaplain with the British Royal Army from 1914 until 1919. In the peril of war, he didn't offer empty platitudes or pious speeches, instead, he offered his life, and the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus of the trenches, not Sunday Sermons. *"His commitment is to the God who is discovered in the heart of your own endurance and pain - not a solution, not a Father Christmas or fairy Godmother, but simply the one who holds your deeper self and makes it possible for you to look out on the world without loathing and despair."* Archbishop Rowan Williams, 2015

One famous story tells of him crawling out to a working party putting up wire in front of their trench. A nervous soldier challenged him, asking "Who goes there?" and he replied: "The church." When the soldier asked what the church was doing out there, he replied "Its job."

We may never see the front line of battle, but the church is in the trenches every day, and the wounded, those who follow Christ, and those who don't, are all around us. We can learn from Woodbine Willie, and leave a legacy as he did: meet them where they are, offer comfort, even if it costs you, show them Jesus, Who is there, in the chaos. And pray. With them, sometimes, for them, always.

W.O.W Glitz & Glam, Nov 19

Calling all ladies, timeless and divine! Join us once more for a night of Glitz & Glam, where merriment and finery entwine.

For in the company of such elegance grace, joy, and laughter shall surely embrace!

He says, "Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. Psalm 46:10-11 NIV

NOVEMBER EVENTS

Young at Heart

Nov. 13,
10:30am-12pm

Young Adults Get Together

Nov 30, 7-8pm

WoW Glitz & Glam

Nov. 19,
7 - 8:30pm

WEEKLY

Weekly Prayer Meeting

Mondays 7-8pm
Fridays 7:30 - 9am

Alpha

Mondays
6:30 - 8:45pm

Mothers and Munchkins

Thursdays
10-11:30am

WCC Youth

Fridays 7-9pm