

Calendar of Ministries

† Saturday, February 2

Evening Prayers at 8

† Sunday, February 3

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with Communion

Community Choir at 3 p.m. at Woodland Union Church

Teen Super Bowl Party at the Old Dairy in Warm Springs at 6

† Monday, February 4

Morning Prayers at 8

† Tuesday, February 5

Morning Prayers at 8

† Wednesday, February 6

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School, 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

† Thursday, February 7

Morning Prayers at 8

† Friday, February 8

Morning Prayers at 8

† Saturday, February 9

Shenandoah Presbytery meets at Martinsburg, WV at 9:30

Evening Prayers at 8

† Sunday, February 10

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Teen Ski Trip after worship

We want to give you plenty of time to plan your schedule for our special worship on Sunday, February 24.

Elder Sonny Clark will give his testimony of faith, perseverance, and spiritual growth that day in Morning Worship at 11. We will follow worship with a Fellowship Lunch.



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
January 31, 2013

A New Commandment: Love One Another

The Windy Cove congregation continued its study of the new life in Christ on Sunday, January 27. Worshipers increased their understanding of Jesus' familiar words from John 13:34, "A new command I give you: Love one another." This command is straightforward providing one understands what Christian love really means.

However, in Jesus' day and in our own, the meaning of love is often not understood. In our present time, what passes for love is a deeply emotional high which causes a person to lose all control of the will and common sense. Added to that misunderstanding, our current practice is to use the word "love" in a wide variety of contexts. So we say, "We love pizza; we love a beautiful sunset; we love our children;" and we love when someone compliments us." These sayings represent a vast array of possible meanings for what love is.

The Biblical meaning of love is clear. Love means a conscious decision to act for the ultimate benefit of another person, even when such action comes at great sacrifice to one's own interests. Jesus him-

self said, "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." Many people at least have an inkling of that kind of love as they contemplate what Jesus did for human beings by his sacrificial death on the cross.

Hardly any of us will be called upon to sacrifice our lives for someone else. So, the real question becomes, "Are we prepared to make lesser sacrifices to benefit others when those sacrifices do indeed cost us something." For example, in John 13 before his crucifixion, Jesus took the role of a lowly servant and washed his disciples' feet. He showed us that real love involves not just the ultimate

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

Communion on Sunday, February 3, prepare your hearts for this sacrament

Fellowship of Christian Athletes Super Bowl Party for teens on February 3 at 6 p.m. at the Old Dairy

Food Pantry meets this month on February 12 at 1:30 p.m.

Lent begins on Wednesday, February 13, note our Evening Worship at 7:30

February 24: Elder Sonny Clark's testimony during Morning Worship

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Love (Cont.)

sacrifice of one's life, but also involves lesser acts of sacrificial kindness toward others.

Mr. Sherrard closed the message on Sunday with an illustration from the life of Dr. Gary Chapman, author of *The Five Love Languages*. At a conference in Nashville, Dr. Chapman told the personal story of how his wife nearly always left a drawer open in their bathroom when she was getting dressed in the morning. He confessed that seeing the drawer open day after day irritated him especially since he had spoken to his wife about her habit.

Dr. Chapman had to decide what to do. He could continue to complain to his wife hoping to change her behavior, or he could love his wife by closing the drawer himself. He decided to love his wife. Without anger or resentment, he did a small thing in life to communicate his love for his wife. He closed the drawer.

Session Meets

The Windy Cove Session met for lunch following worship on January 27. After their fellowship and prayers, the Session made plans and established some dates for the 2013 year of ministry at Windy Cove.

Some significant events are approaching in February. The congregation will celebrate the Lord's Supper on Sunday, February 3, at Morning Worship. On February 3, our teens will also participate in the

Super Bowl Party sponsored by the local chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. The Super Bowl Party will begin at 6 p.m. at the Old Dairy in Warm Springs. Our FCA is also a sponsor of the weekly Bible Club at the High School. The Club meets each Wednesday at 8:08 in the Band Room for devotions and prayer before school begins.

February 13 marks the beginning of Lent with Ash Wednesday. We will have an evening service of worship at 7:30. The service will include an opportunity for confession of sin and receiving forgiveness with the mark of the cross in ashes on the back of the hand. With the beginning of Lent, Mr. Sherrard will start a new series of messages on the Seven Signs from the Gospel of John.

In another ministry associated with Lent, the Session endorsed a special emphasis for Sunday School and the congregation to join World Vision and Group Publishing to supply malaria nets for children in underdeveloped countries. The acronym for this emphasis is KISS or Kindness Initiative for Sunday School. Our Worship Ministry Team is also looking for Lenten devotional books for the congregation to use.

One very special event is planned for Sunday, February 24. Elder Sonny Clark will speak at Morning Worship about his spiritual growth as a result of his tractor accident and subsequent recovery. Following worship that day, we will rejoice with Sonny at a Fellowship Lunch.

In addition to their planning, the Session took some other significant actions at the meeting. As part of our Discipleship Ministry, Elder Gary Nair outlined a plan to enlist helpers for our ministry with Dallas Ailstock and for our nursery. Letters are being sent to alert folks to the need and opportunity to put these two ministries on a more solid footing.

In an action that has been considered for some months, the Session decided to have new, energy efficient windows installed at the manse. Arrangements have been made through the Lowe's store in Lexington for the purchase and installation of these new windows. This work should be completed within the next month or so.

Homecoming Reflections

For our Homecoming last September, we asked folks to reflect on their experiences at Windy Cove. We published some of those reflections last year, and we will continue with more this year. One person who wrote a substantial reflection on her life at Windy Cove was elder Sharon Sherrard. She began with a Bible passage from 2 Corinthians 3:

"Clearly, you are a letter from Christ showing the result of our ministry among you. This "letter" is written not with pen and ink, but with the Spirit of the living God. It is carved not on tablets of stone, but on human hearts. We are confident of all this because of our great trust in God through Christ. It is not that

we think we are qualified to do anything on our own. Our qualification comes from God."

Sharon continued:

As I've been thinking about what to write for my Windy Cove memories, this scripture came up in my morning devotions. Oh, how I know I am not qualified to do any of this on my own. But I'm amazingly aware of how this church has blessed us to minister in this community with hope and love for all these years. You are our letter of recommendation; this congregation of God's people is our letter of memories!

When I think about Windy Cove memories, my first thoughts are of all the children who have passed through our youth ministries and the fun and joy it has been to do that ministry. I was in Washington, DC recently and it brought back so many memories of Youth Club trips – going to the zoo, visiting the FBI, sleeping on the church floor, seeing the museums – pointing out how much of our faith in God is expressed in the monuments and history of our country, singing God Bless America on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial – illegally, we later found out! They said we were demonstrating – but we didn't get arrested!

We will continue next week with more of Sharon's reflections on Youth Club and her other significant memories of life at Windy Cove. We hope that you will join us for this wonderful trip down memory lane!