

## Calendar of Ministries

### ✠ Saturday, November 9

Evening Prayers at 8 p.m.

### ✠ Sunday, November 10

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 including the ordination and installation of elders and a remembrance of veterans

### ✠ Monday, November 11

Veterans Day

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✠ Tuesday, November 12

Morning Prayers at 8

Food Pantry, 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Women's Bible Study at 6:45 p.m.

### ✠ Wednesday, November 13

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School, 8:08

Super Pantry Nutrition Program, 11 to 1

Choir at 7 p.m.

### ✠ Thursday, November 14

Morning Prayers at 8

Men's Group Meeting at 7 p.m.

### ✠ Friday, November 15

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✠ Saturday, November 16

Game Night at 6:30 p.m.

Evening Prayers at 8

### ✠ Sunday, November 17

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Teen Group at Millboro Elementary at 5

### Things to Come

Game Night on November 16 with snacks, desserts, and fun begins at 6:30 p.m.

Community Thanksgiving Service at Millboro Presbyterian at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 24.



# The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church  
November 7, 2013

## Thanks for your Kindness

Dear Windy Cove Family,

I am deeply grateful for your varied expressions of appreciation during October's Pastor Appreciation Month. Some of you sent emails or cards that expressed wonderful sentiments for the ministry that Sharon and I have had in you midst. Others gave gifts of appreciation including two cakes, a book, and monetary offerings. As many of you know, the church as a whole gave us a gift certificate to our favorite restaurant (Longhorn Steak House) and a round of golf at the Homestead. These gifts meant the world to Sharon and me.

Even beyond these expressions of kindness, Sharon and I truly do appreciate the opportunity that we have of living and ministering with you. A few years ago as I was attending Hugh Gwin's funeral at Warm Springs Presbyterian Church, the Lord gave me the overwhelming sense of how blessed I was to live in Bath County and just how much I loved the people here. That revelation was an amazing confirmation of the life that our family has enjoyed for more than thirty years.

You have accepted us into your hearts, and you surely occupy a very

deep and special place in our hearts. The connection that we have made with each other has only been possible through the love of God poured into our lives through Jesus. Even after all these years, you are kind to listen to stories that I have undoubtedly told before, to take seriously the call of God upon your lives, to care for individuals in the church and community who are in need, and to respond to the grace of God in our lives together.

"Now may the God of peace make you complete in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever." With love,

### Take Note!

**Ordination and installation of elders on Sunday, November 10. The Session will convene at 10:45 to prepare for the service.**

**Game Night at Windy Cove on Saturday, November 16 at 6:30 p.m. Bring a dessert or snack to share and a willing spirit of fun.**

**Community Thanksgiving Worship at Millboro Presbyterian on Sunday, Nov 24 at 7:30 p.m.**

Windy Cove Pres. Church  
102 Windy Cove Road  
Millboro, VA 24460  
Address Service  
Requested

U. S. Postage  
Non-profit Org.  
Permit # 2  
Millboro, VA 24460

Phone: 540-997-5395  
Pastor: Rob Sherrard  
Email: wcpccp@cfw.com

## The Jerusalem Council

Perhaps the most important decision in the early history of the Christian Church was made at the Jerusalem Council around the year 50. That decision was the subject of consideration in worship at Windy Cove on November 3.

Here's what happened at the Council. The Christian faith was spreading rapidly beyond its original territory around Jerusalem. The missionary efforts of Paul and Barnabas and others in the church at Antioch in Syria circulated the gospel of Jesus to a wider audience. And, people responded to the gospel. Many of the new folks being attracted to the Church were not Jews as nearly all of the original believers had been. So, the growing Christian Church had to confront this question: Will non-Jews who want to become Christians first have to become Jews before they can become Christians?

Since the beginning of Judaism around 2400 BC, it had been possible for people not born into Jewish families to convert to Judaism. However, since the sign of God's covenant with Abraham and his descendants was circumcision, males who converted to Judaism had to be circumcised. For practical reasons this fact meant that many who were seeking God were attracted to Judaism but did not actually become members of a Jewish synagogue.

Some early Jewish Christians were saying that males joining the Church must be circumcised. Furthermore, everyone would have to observe the dietary laws laid out in the Jewish Scriptures (i.e., the Old Testament). The Jerusalem Council decided that non-Jewish converts to Christianity did not need to become Jews before becoming Christians.

However, the Council did insist on three practices for those non-Jews who became Christians. First, these new converts must give up any form of idolatry. In the Roman Empire the worship of many gods was widespread. Yet, Judaism and Christianity insisted that there is only one true God. That belief in one God is central to the Christian faith even today.

Although modern people do not usually worship statues or trees or sacred places as was the case long ago, we do still allow things other than God to take first place in our lives. One could make a list of things like possessions, money, power, security, pleasure, and many more that in reality become our idols. These things displace the worship of God in our lives. We, like the Christians of the first century, need to be careful not to lapse into idolatry of any kind.

Secondly, the Jerusalem Council advised new Christians not to interfere with God's authority over life. At the time many people believed that the life force of animals and humans resided in the blood. So, Jews were very careful not to eat or drink blood. Animals that were

slaughtered for eating had to have their blood thoroughly drained before being eaten. That practice was a way of respecting God's prerogative over life itself.

Again the wisdom of the Jerusalem Council teaches a valuable lesson for us. As Christians, we need to be careful that we do not usurp God's prerogative over life itself. Sometimes, in our modern scientific age, we begin to think that we know all things and can even control life. We have to be very careful with such a view. For example, at least two states in the United States have adopted laws allowing doctor-assisted suicide. Such practice borders on a fine line between God's prerogative over life and a human arrogance to believe we know what is best in life and death.

Finally, the most practical advice from the Jerusalem Council for our society is to refrain from sexual immorality. The Bible's standard for sexual morality is clear: purity (chastity) before marriage and fidelity after marriage. That was not the standard found in the Roman Empire, nor is it often the standard found in our modern American culture. In fact, our society is highly over-sexualized. Advertisers promote nearly every product with some sort of covert or overt sexual reference. In such a society, Christians find it difficult to live up to the standard of purity and fidelity.

However, sexual sin is not unforgiveable. Rather, with forgiveness

and with the powerful aid of the Holy Spirit, Christians can truly hear and respond to God's message of purity and fidelity.

## People and Prayers

Michael Tennant who had been incarcerated for a year at the Rockbridge Regional Jail was transferred recently to the Powhatan Correctional Center. Powhatan serves as a processing center for inmates entering the Virginia Department of Corrections system. Within the next month or so, Mike will likely be reassigned to another unit based upon his classification within the system. In the meantime, Mike's address is:

Michael Tennant  
# 1327855  
3600 Woods Way  
State Farm, VA 23160

Mike and his family were surprised by his transfer, and your encouragement would help.

Clara Tennant is recuperating at home from surgery on her foot. She expects to be off from work for a while, but she says that it will be difficult for her to limit her normal activity as the doctor has requested. Is Jimbo doing the cooking?

Bea Clark testifies to the Lord's grace in the recent death of her father, Harold Deitz. Bea's prayer had been that her father would pass directly from his home in Millboro to his heavenly home without a stay in a nursing home. The Lord answered that prayer as Mr. Deitz made the trip in the final week of his 101 year.