

## Calendar of Ministries

### ✠ Saturday, December 14

Evening Prayers at 8

### ✠ Sunday, December 15

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with our Christmas Program

Lunch and Birthday Party after worship  
Teen Group at 5 at Millboro Elementary

### ✠ Monday, December 16

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✠ Tuesday, December 17

Morning Prayers at 8

Shenandoah Presbytery meets at Massanutten Church at 9 a.m.

### ✠ Wednesday, December 18

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School, 8:08

Super Pantry, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Choir at 7 p.m.

### ✠ Thursday, December 19

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✠ Friday, December 20

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✠ Saturday, December 21

Evening Prayers at 8

### ✠ Sunday, December 22

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

#### Christmas Flowers

Our Christmas flowers were delivered and placed last week. If you would like to give a special offering for these flowers to remember or honor someone, please contact Julie Wagoner or Traci Herscher. We will acknowledge your offerings during the Christmas season and appreciate your generosity. Enjoy the beauty of the Lord's sanctuary.



# The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church  
December 12, 2013

## “Neither snow, nor rain . . .”

The unofficial motto of the United States Postal Service has long been the practice at Windy Cove for holding Sunday morning services during bad weather. That practice, of not cancelling Sunday worship, was tested again on Sunday, December 8, when Millboro Springs experienced rain, freezing rain, sleet, and a little bit of snow during Sunday School and Morning Worship. **Nevertheless**, there were thirteen hearty worshippers present for our service.

Since the bad weather had been rightly predicted ahead of time, Sharon Sherrard had downloaded music for worship. She reasoned that pianist Tammy Lindsay who lives on Airport Road should not risk coming down the mountain and then across Warm Spring Mountain to attend. So, the small congregation sang worship songs and Christmas carols as planned with computer music.

Mr. Sherrard simplified the message somewhat owing to the more informal atmosphere. The morning message focused on the angel's announcement to the shepherds of Jesus' birth found in Luke 2. That gospel story is the substance of the

Christmas carol that was being highlighted: “While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night.” Mr. Sherrard's main emphasis was on two phrases from the Common English Bible's (CEB) version of the story.

The first phrase was the traditional “good tidings of great joy” which the CEB translates as “I bring good news to you—wonderful, joyous news for all people.” Whether people realize it or not, Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection is “wonderful, joyous news” for all. That good news is announced in the second phrase, “Your savior is born today in David's city. He is Christ the Lord.” Some people insist or persist in the notion that they do not need a savior. However, the hard realities of life often do

*(Continued Inside)*

#### Take Note!

December 15, Christmas Program during Morning Worship followed by a light lunch and birthday party for Jesus

December 24, Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion at 7:30

December 27, Open House at the Manse begins at 6:30 p.m.

December 31, Watch Night Worship at 10:30 with Communion at midnight

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Pastor: Rob Sherrard

## “Neither Snow . . .” (Cont.)

challenge people to consider whether they can simply go it alone as they face these realities. People have problems, get sick, lose their jobs, can't seem to overcome personal faults, become depressed, and, in general, experience circumstances which stretch them beyond what they can handle on their own. The good news, “wonderful, joyous news,” is that Jesus comes to save people from such calamities.

That savior Jesus is also Christ and Lord. The title “Christ” often is used in such a way that it sounds like Jesus' last name. It is not. Christ is the Greek form of the Jewish title “Messiah.” Messiah means the “anointed one.” The title refers to the one especially anointed by God to bring the covenant community of God's people to the fulfillment that the community was meant to have from the beginning of creation. Thus, as Messiah, Jesus was the fulfillment of God's long-standing plan to accomplish what he had purposed in creation.

Additionally, Jesus is Lord. Many folks find this aspect of Jesus' ministry hard to accept and put into practice. The Lordship of Jesus means that every aspect of a person's life should be submitted to the service of the one who is Savior and Christ. A person's commitment to Jesus is not simply one part of life. That devotion should be the center of one's existence influencing all the other decisions and commitments of life.

Well, even if you missed the service on Sunday, you now have the recap. We pray that the weather will be better this Sunday. During Sunday School we will have practice for our Christmas Program which will be presented during Morning Worship. We will follow worship with a Fellowship Lunch and Birthday Party for Jesus. Our special Christmas Carol for this week will be “Hark! The Herald Angels Sing.”

## Angel Tree

We still have a number of opportunities on our Angel Tree, especially since we had a limited attendance last Sunday. You can check in the vestibule to see the angels on our tree. We also have an added request for Angel Cards for Michael Rhea and for Mike Tennant.

You can use our Windy Cove Christmas Card Mailbox to send Christmas cards to these two guys. Michael Rhea's address is:

P. O. Box 115  
Millboro, VA 24460

For Michael's cards you can indicate that you are a Windy Cove Friend if you do not know Michael personally.

Mike Tennant has been transferred to the Greensville Correctional Center. Mike's new address is

Michael Tennant # 1327855  
Greensville Correctional Center  
901 Corrections Way  
Jarratt, VA 23870-9614

Just place your cards in the Christmas Mailbox in the vestibule. We will provide the postage.

## Recent Ads

Two recent email ads caught our attention here in the office of the *Weekly Word*. The first was from Group Publishing (We have often used material from them mainly for Bible School.) Group was offering a new study, *Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore*, with the subtitle “And How 4 Acts of Love Will Make Your Church Irresistible.”

The second ad was from a direct marketing company called Truth Advertising. The company specializes in helping churches get their message out to the community that they serve. What caught our attention in the ad was the idea of why people make New Year's resolutions, namely, to make their lives better in different areas. People resolve to spend more time with family, lose weight, get out of debt, live a healthier life, etc.

The idea which ties the ads together is that the good news of Jesus which should be the message of the church is something that may be singularly appealing during the Christmas season and the first of the New Year. People who rarely attend church often do attend around Christmas, for example, on Christmas Eve. People making New Year's resolutions often need support to keep those resolutions, like the support that a good church family might give them.

If you combine these two ads together, one might conclude that

churches and their regular attenders have an opportune moment around Christmas and into the New Year to invite people to hear and experience the good news of Jesus.

Many folks would say that Christmas Eve Worship at Windy Cove is one of the best services of the year. So, if we can just get people to attend . . ., who knows how the Lord can use such an opportunity? Here's the deal: Christmas Eve Candlelight Worship begins at 7:30 p.m. There will be lots of Christmas carols, wonderful singing by our Choir, a gospel message, and Communion. As usual we will close with the lighting of candles and singing of “Silent Night, Holy Night.”

Your opportunity is to invite someone who might not otherwise be here. Then, we let God through the Holy Spirit take over. See you **and your friends there!**

## Open House at the Manse

The Sherrards invite you to share fellowship with them on Friday, December 27 at their Open House at the manse. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. with games, puzzles, ice cream sundaes, cookies, fruit punch, and warm friendship.

They hope that many from the congregation and community will take this opportunity to visit the lovely home that Windy Cove has graciously provided for them. The Christmas tree is already in the window. We'll look for you on the 27<sup>th</sup> to complete the picture.