

## Calendar of Ministries

### † Saturday, February 22

Evening Prayers at 8

### † Sunday, February 23

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Session meets for lunch after worship

### † Monday, February 24

Morning Prayers at 8

Stepping Up Men's Study at 6:30

### † Tuesday, February 25

Morning Prayers at 8

### † Wednesday, February 26

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School, 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

### † Thursday, February 27

Morning Prayers at 8

### † Friday, February 28

Morning Prayers at 8

### † Saturday, March 1

Evening Prayers at 8

### † Sunday, March 2

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

**We now have ten men committed to the Stepping Up Men's Bible Study. Our study begins on Monday, February 24, with supper at 6:30 and our Bible Study to follow.**

**We are beginning to point forward to the Season of Lent. Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday on March 5.**



# The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church  
February 20, 2014

## Stepping Out in Faith

Elder April Miller emphasized the importance of stepping out in faith as she led worship and preached the message at Windy Cove on February 16. April focused the entire worship around Matthew 14:22-33 where Jesus comes walking on the water to his disciples in the boat. Jesus invites Peter to come to him on the water.

Worship began with the familiar hymn, "Trust and Obey," sung by the Choir. This hymn has an interesting story to it. The story begins with the testimony of a young man at a Dwight Moody evangelistic meeting. The young man testified that he was not fully certain about his faith in Jesus; but the young man continued, "I am going to trust, and I am going to obey."

A musician, Daniel Towner, was so taken by the phrase that he sent it to a friend, John Sammis. Sammis wrote the words to "Trust and Obey," and sent them back to the Towner. Towner struggled to find the right tune for the now familiar words, but eventually he completed the music. The chorus of the hymn emphasizes the Biblical truth that deep faith can occur when we act upon the little

faith we do possess by trusting Jesus and acting upon his commands. In the context of Matthew's story, Peter had to trust Jesus' command to come to him walking on the water. In order to do so, Peter had first to get out of the boat.

In her message, April also used the Biblical examples of Abraham and Moses who, though somewhat reticent in faith, did trust God and were obedient to God's call. These two men became persons of great faith by exercising the faith they did have.

In commentary on this theme of increasing faith, John Ortberg has said, "The worst failure is not to sink in the waves. The worst failure is to never get out of the boat." Thanks, April, for this timely faith tip!

### Take Note!

**February 23: Session meets for lunch following worship**

**February 24: Stepping Up Men's Bible Study will meet for supper and fellowship at 6:30 with Bible study to follow**

**March 5: Ash Wednesday begins the season of Lent. We will begin the season with an evening service at 7:30. The focus of this worship will be penitence and forgiveness.**

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## Preparing to Prepare

Although much snow is still on the ground from last week's winter storm, there is a hint of spring in sight. That hint is the realization that Wednesday, March 5, marks the beginning of the Christian season of Lent. Lent itself is a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. So, at present we are "preparing to prepare."

That suggestive phrase reminds us that we don't want to miss out on any opportunity at the beginning of Lent that will eventually lead us into a deeper relationship with Jesus during the season of Lent. For example, Windy Cove has had a service of penitence on Ash Wednesday evening for many years. It's not one of our better attended services, but it is a service that the Lord has used to get folks to reflect on their human condition and to seek the Lord's forgiveness. We often do have a corporate confession of sin in our worship, but the Ash Wednesday worship gives the opportunity for a more personal confession and a more distinct offer of forgiveness.

Mr. Sherrard has already begun his own preparation for Lent. One phrase that the Lord has brought to his mind is from Matthew 9:36, "Now when Jesus saw the crowds, he had compassion for them because they were troubled and helpless, **like sheep without a shepherd.**" That verse and phrase

will become our theme for this Lenten season: Like Sheep without a Shepherd. Together Windy Covians will begin to explore that theme on Ash Wednesday. The study will then continue through Lent until Easter.

Included in this study will be a serious consideration of Jesus' teaching ministry with emphasis on the Beatitudes from the Sermon on the Mount found in Matthew 5-7. One way you can prepare is to begin to memorize the eight Beatitudes found in Matthew 5:3-10. During the study we will be looking in depth at each one of these ways of living that Jesus commends as God's way.

## Stepping Up

Another idea for preparation is our Stepping Up Men's Bible Study. The study will begin on Monday, February 24, with a fellowship meal at 6:30 p.m. The meal will allow those men attending to get to know each other better in the atmosphere of Christian fellowship. Following the meal, the men will begin their study of Biblical manhood. The study will continue each week for about 6 weeks or so.

## Praying for Snow, or Not!

One of the true legends of Windy Cove came to mind this past week with the heavy snowfall which occurred on Wednesday and Thursday. After Sharon Sherrard actually

learned to ski, *(For those of you who don't know all the legends, Sharon actually swore she would never ski again after going once with some of our young people who convinced her skiing was easy and that there was no need for a lesson. She came home so sore and bruised that she swore off skiing. She eventually reneged on her oath, took lessons, and has become quite an accomplished skier.)* she used to mention to people at church in the winter that she was praying for snow. Port McCray who passed away in 1994 often told Sharon that he was praying just as hard that we would not have snow.

Port had worked as the Superintendent of our local State Road crew for many years. He knew the hard work and long hours required to keep the roads open during heavy snows. Port wanted no part of that work after he retired either for himself or for those who worked on the local crew. He had had enough snow to last his lifetime. We do appreciate those who work to keep our roads open in bad weather. Most of us probably do not realize just how much effort is involved when we have bad weather affecting our roads. We just want them open and right now at that. So, when it does snow, say a prayer for our folks who have to work especially hard then.

Snow also affects the church and its ministry. Even before the big snow of last week which amounted to somewhere between 12 and 18 inches in our area, we have had a lot

of cold and mixed weather. Our Windy Cove Choir has had to cancel practice numerous times this winter, and it's hard to gain momentum when cancellations take place.

Since 1980 Windy Cove has maintained the policy of not cancelling Sunday worship due to the weather. However, we do advise folks to be careful coming out in severe weather when road conditions are not good and footing is unstable. Nevertheless, the consistency of our policy has proved itself through the years.

The fewest number of worshipers that we have had was January 7, 1996. A snow that began on Saturday morning was really piling up by Sunday morning. Mr. and Mrs. Sherrard along with their daughter Katy walked down from the manse. Fran Hobbs was also there. Pete was stuck in the snow up the road. So, we actually had 4 at worship, but Jim Tennant drove by as did Sonny Clark who was caring for Windy Cove Farm at the time. There were 21 inches of snow on the picnic table at noon, and it was still snowing heavily. The final total was around 30 inches in our area.

Most times, however, we have had a few more than a handful. In 2009 after several snows, we had about a dozen one Sunday; and folks said they were glad just to have somewhere to go to get out of the house for a while. So, Sharon, just take it easy with those prayers!