

Calendar of Ministries

✠ Saturday, March 1

Evening Prayers at 8

✠ Sunday, March 2

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Teens meet at 5 p.m. at Millboro Elementary

✠ Monday, March 3

Morning Prayers at 8

Stepping Up Men's Study at 6:30

✠ Tuesday, March 4

Morning Prayers at 8

✠ Wednesday, March 5

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School, 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

Ash Wednesday Evening Worship at 7:30

✠ Thursday, March 6

Morning Prayers at 8

✠ Friday, March 7

Morning Prayers at 8

✠ Saturday, March 8

Evening Prayers at 8

✠ Sunday, March 9

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Soup and Sandwich Lunch after worship

We are beginning to point forward to the Season of Lent. Lent begins this year with Ash Wednesday on March 5. Our evening service that day will introduce our theme for the season so it will be important to get started in Lent that evening.



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

February 27, 2014

Ten Men Step Up

On Monday evening, February 24, ten men stepped up together to join the new men's Bible study: Stepping Up, A Call to Courageous Manhood. As things turned out, there were exactly ten men present for the first part of the study. One person who had planned to attend had been called to work that evening and had sent word that he could not make this first meeting, but should be able to join the group next week.

The men arrived around 6:30 to share supper together. They had table conversation while enjoying spaghetti, fruit salad, buttered toast, and cookies for dessert. When the men introduced themselves, they heard a number of encouraging stories about how the Lord was active in their lives.

At the beginning of the Bible study video, the men considered the question: *A boy becomes a man when. . .* From their own personal experiences, the ten men had some interesting completions for this sentence. To conclude this section, the men saw answers that people interviewed on the street had given to the same question. One intriguing idea was that there are some adult males who

are in effect still "boys." How might you have completed the sentence?

The next section of the study was a brief message encouraging men to "act like men," a reference to 1 Corinthians 16:13-14. These characteristics of manhood included exercising leadership, offering protection for wives, and losing the drama focused on self. These points were emphasized with a video skit about a man interviewing for a job with a lumber mill. How appropriate for our area!

Finally, the men considered a Biblical comparison between Adam and Jesus to emphasize that a man rejects passivity, accepts responsibility, leads courageously, and expect a greater reward. Stepping Up will continue next Monday at 6:30.

Take Note!

March 3: 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.

March 9: First Sunday of Lent with our theme, Like Sheep without a Shepherd

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Session Meets

After worship on Sunday, February 23, the Windy Cove Session held its monthly meeting. The Session took several actions concerning financial matters. First, the Session decided to establish a separate Haiti Team Account to receive money for folks paying for travel and expenses as members of the mission team. This account will be totally separate from the money given for the actual mission projects like scholarships, feeding of the children, and school benches. The project money will continue to be kept in our current Haiti Mission Project Account. The reason for establishing this separate account was the larger number of offerings to the Project Account owing to more scholarships and the feeding program. The Session believed that the better practice was to keep the monies totally separated.

The other financial matter considered by the Session was the account of the Windy Cove Cemetery. During the last two years, Elders Sam Hepler and Rickey Armstrong have done the church and the community a great service as they agreed to manage the Windy Cove Cemetery. Together they organized the information that had been turned over to them. Rickey made a new plot of the entire cemetery, and Sam has arranged the cemetery finances. The Session decided to invest \$32,000 from the cemetery account with Shenandoah Presbytery Corporation.

The reason for this change was because the return on investment from the Presbytery Corporation will be more than the return on Certificates of Deposit at the bank. Sam will continue to maintain a local balance of about \$2500 in order to pay for mowing and other incidental expenses for the cemetery.

Our Discipleship and Evangelism Ministry Team reported that Mikayla Miller has agreed to be our paid Nursery Attendant. Mikayla will be available to keep our nursery during Sunday School and Worship each Sunday. The Team will line up volunteers to help Mikayla should she have more children than she can handle. These volunteers will also be on stand-by should Mikayla have to miss a Sunday or two for school or family responsibilities.

The Session also received a report on the increasing cost of propane due to the much colder temperatures this winter than last. The Session took under advisement the future need for a new copier. Our copier currently has logged more than half a million copies. The Session agreed to monitor the situation.

Paul Preaches in Athens

On February 23 the congregation journeyed to Athens with the Apostle Paul on his Second Missionary Journey. Athens was the center of the intellectual world of that day. The city still maintained the legacy of the great philosophers Socrates,

Plato, and Aristotle. However, the main philosophies of the day were Epicureanism and Stoicism, both of which are mentioned in Acts 17:18.

Preaching in Athens was a challenge for Paul. In most of the other cities that Paul visited, there was a Jewish synagogue. Since Paul himself was a Jewish Pharisee, services at the synagogues gave an excellent opportunity for him to speak about Jesus as the Messiah. While those attending the synagogues did not always receive Paul's message of the gospel, he at least had a point of entry with them.

In Athens finding such a point of entry was harder because he was preaching to pagans who had no Jewish background at all. Yet Paul found several points of contact with his listeners as evidenced by his address in Acts 17. First, he appeals to their feeling of spirituality by mentioning that they appear to be very religious even having a statue inscribed "To an Unknown God." Paul says he will reveal that God to them.

Secondly, he calls attention to their regard for nature. As most people do, even the Athenians found nature to raise questions about the origin and nature of the universe. Thirdly, Paul connects with a common Greek conception of God as a spiritual force which is more powerful than human beings.

Finally, Paul links up with the nearly universal need to relate to something or someone larger than

oneself. That sense, Paul says, often causes people to reach out to God, to relate to a higher power. Paul then goes on to speak of God as the one who has testified to these things by raising Jesus from the dead. Some rejected the message; some wanted to hear more; some believed in the gospel.

Paul's example is a good one for the modern church. We often operate in an environment where many people have little or no knowledge of the Bible, Christian belief and practice, or the history and purpose of the church. So, we also must tailor the presentation of the timeless gospel to the changing times of our culture and society.

Several points of entry suggest themselves. First and foremost is people's concern for relationships. Facebook is a testimony of just how much people want to have some kind of relationship with others. They want "friends" and "likes" or perhaps birthday wishes to show up on their pages. Relationships are a natural connection for Christians. After all, Jesus went to great lengths to renew and maintain our relationship with God and with each other.

Another point of connection is with people's desire to find peace and happiness. Again, Jesus is the one who promises peace and, perhaps rather than happiness, joy. It's still a challenge today to make such connections, but at least we have Paul's example to follow.