

Calendar of Ministries

† Saturday, April 5

Evening Prayers at 8

† Sunday, April 6

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 including our
Four Cents Hunger Offering

Fellowship of Christian Athletes event
at Fort Defiance High School at 6 p.m.

† Monday, April 7

Morning Prayers at 8

Stepping Up Men's Study with supper
at 6:30 and study to follow

† Tuesday, April 8

Morning Prayers at 8

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

† Wednesday, April 9

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School, 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

† Thursday, April 10

Morning Prayers at 8

† Friday, April 11

Morning Prayers at 8

† Saturday, April 12

Evening Prayers at 8

† Sunday, April 13

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Since we did not have the opportunity to mail the *Weekly Word* last week, we postponed our Four Cents Hunger Offering until this Sunday, April 6. So, bring your pennies with you on Sunday to support the important ministry of our monthly Food Pantry that ministers throughout Bath County. See you Sunday!



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

April 3, 2014

Meek Not Weak

On March 23, the third Sunday of Lent, the Windy Cove Congregation continued its journey through the Beatitudes in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. This famous teaching of Jesus extends through Chapters 5, 6, and 7 in the Gospel of Matthew. Similar teaching appears in the Gospel of Luke, and the wording makes clear that these were the usual precepts that Jesus taught during his ministry.

The congregation's attention was focused on Matthew 5:5: "Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth." This blessing of Jesus is one that is often misunderstood because of the misconception that modern people have of the Biblical characteristic of meekness.

Modern folks usually associate meekness with a person who is painfully shy or very embarrassed. At other times meekness may be linked to being a weak person, someone whom others can easily take advantage of in their daily dealings. Many persons might call a meek person names like namby-pamby or spineless, or ineffectual. Such characterizations of meekness can hardly be farther from the truth of what Biblical meekness actually entails.

Meekness in the Bible actually means inner strength. It involves a quiet resolve to do the right thing in God's eyes even when pressured to do the wrong one. Meekness especially includes the inner strength not to retaliate against a person who has committed a wrong against us.

The two primary examples of this quality in the Bible are Moses in the Old Testament and Jesus in the New Testament. Numbers 12:3 calls Moses the meekest man in all the earth. Yet, it was Moses who stood up to Pharaoh, the King of Egypt. At that time Pharaoh was certainly one of the most powerful men in the world. Yet, Moses repeatedly delivers God's word to him, even when that word

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

Many of our loyal readers will realize by this time that you did not receive the *Weekly Word* last week. Our publication schedule was interrupted by copier problems here in the office. We did post last week's edition online at the usual time of Wednesday afternoon. You can see that on our website at windycovechurch.org. In today's issue we will repeat most of the important news from last week in order to catch all our readers up to date.

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Meek (Cont.)

arouses Pharaoh's anger against Moses and the Hebrew slaves.

Especially interesting is the context of Numbers 12:3. Moses' sister, Miriam, and his brother, Aaron, are questioning Moses' authority to lead the Hebrews. Moses remains true to God's intention and does not retaliate in anger against his siblings. Instead, Moses lets God handle the sibling rivalry involved.

Jesus is the primary example in the Bible of meekness in action. Under the greatest provocation, Jesus refuses to give in to the usual human response to strike back in anger. Instead, he displays meekness. This quality is singularly evident in the story of Jesus' crucifixion. Jesus stays within God's will, resists the temptation to strike back against those who have wrongly accused, tried, abused, crucified, and mocked him. Rather, he prays, "Father forgive them for they do not know what they are doing."

Under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, modern Christians can also display such meekness. We can refrain from striking back at people by facial expressions, by harmful words, by hurtful actions, or by physical violence. When we do act with meekness, Jesus reminds us that we "shall inherit the earth."

That phrase is a long used metaphor for existing as part of God's Kingdom. We have a part in the

Promised Land that God provides for those who serve him as he has served them through his life, death, and resurrection.

On Sunday, March 30, the congregation will continue its journey by looking at Jesus' blessing, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied." What are you hungry for in life? Come, find out what Jesus says.

Session Appoints Vision Group

At its monthly meeting on Sunday, March 23, the Windy Cove Session took the significant action of appointing ten persons to a Vision Group. The task of this group is to discern the Lord's direction for the church as it moves into the future that God has in store for it.

These ten persons represent a cross section of active members in the church. Those serving on the Vision Group include Bruce Cambata, Jon Eaton, Traci Herscher, Paul and Kim Lancaster, Sharon Madison, Mikayla Miller, Gary Nair, Justin Shanks, and Sharon Sherrard. Pastor Rob Sherrard will serve as an advisor to the Vision Group.

Expectations are that the Vision Group will meet together during the months of April, May, and June to devise a plan for the future ministry of the church. This plan will be developed during the summer and presented to the Session for its action during September.

Other Session Actions

At its recent meeting, the Session also approved a working budget for 2014. The Session reviewed the financial situation over the past three years and looked at the money spent in 2013. One concern that arose during this review was the increased cost of heating the church because of the much colder winter this year.

Since November the church has spent \$6,237.32 on propane to heat the church. With the cold weather continuing into March, another substantial bill will no doubt arrive. In addition to using more fuel because of the cold, the cost of propane itself has greatly increased rising from last year's cost of around \$1.40 per gallon to the most recent price of around \$3.70 per gallon. This cost increase reflects not just on local usage but also includes price pressure from other locales farther north experiencing even colder temperatures. The Session will monitor the situation and devise a plan to moderate this expensive item of ministry.

Additionally, the Session set a congregational meeting for Sunday, May 4, to elect members to this year's Nominating Committee. That same day, Session ministries will report directly to the congregation on what they have planned for the year. Then, the congregation will share a fellowship meal at lunch.

Plans for Easter include Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 17, at Evening Worship, and at Morning

Worship on Easter, April 20. The Easter Sunrise Service was set for 6:15, and contact will be made with the new owners of Windy Cove Farm to secure permission to use Sunrise Hill on the Farm. Calvary Baptist Church will provide the community breakfast following the Sunrise Service. Pastor Darren Keithley will lead worship and Pastor Rob Sherrard will preach the message.

People and Prayers

We are mourning this week with the family of Paul Plecker who died unexpectedly on Monday morning at his home on Mill Creek Road. We trust that the comfort of God's Holy Spirit will enfold his wife, Jean, and daughters, Missy and Jill, during this experience of great loss.

Paul's funeral will be held at Windy Cove on Friday, April 4, at 2 p.m. Following the service Paul's ashes will be buried on the Plecker family plot at Woodland Cemetery. The family will receive friends at home on Thursday evening between 6 and 8 o'clock and on Friday at home prior to the funeral.

Mary Durham has moved from the Brian Center in Low Moor to the Springs Nursing Home south of Hot Springs. Mary continues to miss being at home with her husband Alvin, and she would welcome the visits of friends to help her pass the time of what she call her "long days." Mary enjoys hearing the Bible read to her as her eyes have not permitted her to read much on her own.