

Calendar of Ministries

† Saturday, May 17

Mr. Sherrard is conducting a wedding at the Hot Springs Presbyterian Church at 5 p.m.

Evening Prayers at 8

† Sunday, May 18

Sunday School at 9:45
Morning Worship at 11

† Monday, May 19

Morning Prayers at 8

† Tuesday, May 20

Morning Prayers at 8

† Wednesday, May 21

Morning Prayers at 8
Bible Club at the High School, 8:08
Choir at 7 p.m.

† Thursday, May 22

Morning Prayers at 8

† Friday, May 23

Morning Prayers at 8

† Saturday, May 24

Evening Prayers at 8

† Sunday, May 25

Sunday School at 9:45
Morning Worship at 11 with Elder April Miller leading worship

In case of an emergency during the Sherrard's absence this week, please call Elder Fran Hobbs or contact a Session member. The Sherrards will have cell phone and email service at their hotel in PA.



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
May 15, 2014**

How Does Your Garden Grow?

In Bath County it's the time of year when many people begin to make gardens and when our serious farmers are plowing and planting fields. [Of course, people still have to be a bit concerned about a late frost. Elder Carl Plecker often told the story when there was actually a frost in June and in early September—in the same year!] On Sunday, May 11, the Windy Cove Congregation was taking a serious look at spiritual gardening.

The Bible passage under consideration was Paul's familiar list of the fruit of the Holy Spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. The Apostle Paul himself is using a gardening analogy. He says that the natural result of having a personal relationship with Jesus through the presence of the Holy Spirit shows up in the production of spiritual fruit in a person's life. Such fruit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control.

Just as in growing fruits or vegetables in a garden, there is a certain natural process by which this fruit of the Spirit grows when a person does have a relationship to Jesus. However, just as in gardening where growth depends on the planting of a

seed and the nurture of the seedling, so also must spiritual fruit arise from the seed of the gospel in a person's life and its nurture.

Without Jesus in a person's life, these qualities of life do not naturally result. In fact, the Bible makes clear that human nature has been so infected by sin that "weeds" will be the result of such an unredeemed life. Paul has a long list of such weeds in Galatians 5:19-21 including such things as sexual immorality, moral corruption, idolatry, hate, fighting, losing your temper, selfishness, jealousy, and others.

The good news of Jesus' gifting believers with the Holy Spirit is that a new way of life is possible.

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

May 18—Mr. Sherrard will continue the present series of messages on the Holy Spirit

May 19—May 25—The Sherrards will be on vacation bicycling in PA

May 25—Elder April Miller will lead worship at Windy Cove.

We will not publish a *Weekly Word* next week. We'll be back on May 29.

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Garden (Cont.)

Christians can actually cooperate with God in the production of worthwhile fruit in their lives. By building their relationship with Jesus in the Spirit, Christians can nurture the fruit as it grows in their lives. Such nurture involves spiritual disciplines like the regular worship of God, like reading the Bible frequently, like praying often, and like a willingness to live in obedience to the word of God.

An inventory of one's progress in producing fruit can be helpful. So, how is your garden growing?

In love—the ability to put aside self-interest and act for the benefit of another person, even someone you don't much care for;

In joy—not just living a happy life without trouble, but resting confidently in your relationship with Jesus no matter the circumstances;

In peace—a tranquil flow of life in which there is confidence in God's care;

In patience—uncommon persistence in the face of active opposition without spite or revenge;

In kindness and goodness—the virtues of helping others as the opportunity arises;

In faithfulness—a characteristic of God highlighted in the entire story of the Bible, being reliable and trustworthy;

In gentleness—submissive to the will of God and teachable in spirit;

In self-control—often associated with athletic success allowing one to master self in order to serve others.

Our emphasis on the Holy Spirit will continue until we celebrate Pentecost on Sunday, June 8. For May 18, we will look at the work of the Holy Spirit to promote truth in our lives.

The Vision Group

The Vision Group appointed by the Windy Cove Session has met three times. This group was charged by the Session to evaluate the present ministry of the church and to develop a vision for its future ministry. The group consists of current Session members Sharon Madison, Traci Herscher, Kim Lancaster, Sharon Sherrard, and Justin Shanks. Also included are Elders Jon Eaton, Gary Nair and Paul Lancaster who are not currently serving on the Session. Congregational members are Mikayla Miller and Bruce Cambata. Pastor Rob Sherrard serves as an advisor to the Vision Group.

At its first meeting, the Vision Group shared favorite scriptures and prayed together. They listened to a message on working together under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. They also discussed the overall scope of their task including the relation of the church to our community, to our Presbytery, and to our denomination. The Group also took note of the fact that the Sherrards are nearing retirement age although they do not at present have any definite

plans to retire from the work at Windy Cove. However, at some point in the future a transition in leadership will be necessary.

At its second meeting, the Vision Group began to discuss the process by which it might accomplish its task. Several resources were mentioned including the Purpose Driven Life/Church, a seminar called Why Nobody Wants to Go to Church Anymore, and an article by Daniel Brown which highlights certain dynamics of church growth. In the article Dr. Brown shows how churches often get "stuck" at a certain level of participation and either plateau at that level or decline from it. He suggests some ways that such churches might get "unstuck." This second meeting also including some general discussion of different ideas for improving the church's ministry.

The Vision Group met again on Monday, May 12. This meeting was devoted mainly to a review of the Worship Ministry of the church. Ideas were discussed about what we have done, are doing, and might do.

The work of the Group will continue until a final report to the Session sometime later in the year. Before that report to the Session, the Vision Group intends to devise a way to get the input of the entire congregation on various issues. The Vision Group decided that the congregation's input would be more valuable once the Group itself had a better view of its overall task.

People and Prayers

Mr. Sherrard officiated at the wedding last Saturday of Samatha Grist and Nate Stein in Warrenton, VA. The wedding took place at the Black Horse Inn, a delightful Bed and Breakfast and wedding venue in Warrenton.

The outdoor wedding itself was scheduled for 4:30 in the afternoon. Around 2:30 a thunderstorm passed through with rain continuing until about 4 p.m. The sky grew somewhat lighter, so the decision was made to keep the wedding outdoors. Around 4:15 ushers including Adam Grist began to seat guests who had been waiting out the rain inside the Inn. As the bride descended a set of stairs down the natural amphitheater to the wedding gazebo, the sun began to break through the clouds. By the time of Mr. Sherrard's call to worship, the sun was shining brightly. We pray God's blessing upon this couple as they begin their married life together.

Elder Jon Eaton's mother has been undergoing some tests during the last few weeks. She spent some days in the hospital at Augusta Medical, but the family expected her to be home this week.

Food Pantry met on Tuesday and served about 60 households. This ministry of the church continues to provide some positive help and encouragement to individuals and families. Our Four Cents a Meal and other offerings sustain the program.