

Calendar of Ministries

✝ Thursday, December 11

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Friday, December 12

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, December 13

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, December 14

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 focusing on Anna the prophet

✝ Monday, December 15

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Tuesday, December 16

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Wednesday, December 17

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ Thursday, December 18

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Friday, December 19

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, December 20

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, December 21

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 focusing on Anna the prophet

Teen Group at Millboro Elementary at 5

Our children will bless us during the remainder of Advent with their joyful bells in worship. Their enthusiasm for worshiping in this way is absolutely contagious. Come, catch some of that zeal in the next few weeks.



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
December 11, 2014**

Wise Man Visits

As the Windy Cove Congregation continued the program Perspectives on Advent and Christmas, a Wise Man visited during worship on Sunday, December 7. During this portion of worship, a nearly blind Wise Man (portrayed by Rob Sherrard) entered the sanctuary. The Wise Man was followed closely by a young boy (Clayton Wagoner) who questioned the old man about his condition.

The Wise Man said that he could not see well and wondered if the stars were still shining in the sky. The boy said that they were certainly still shining brightly over the desert. This introduction prompted the Wise Man to recount several significant events of his life.

The Wise Man told how he and some friends had seen an unusual star moving across the constellation that represented the land of Judah. Their training as astronomers/astrologers told them that a new king was being born in Judah. In his mind's eye, he recounted how, as a young man, he and his friends (These young Wise Men were portrayed by Utah and Nevada Kershner and their cousin Malorie Oakley) had set off on

the journey to Jerusalem. There they met with King Herod (Leo Shanks).

After finding out that the new king was to be born in Bethlehem, the Wise Men went there to find him. However, the situation was not what they expected. They found a young family (Justin Shanks and Kara Kauffman) with a toddler named Jesus (Izak Brown), not in a palace but in a regular home. As the Wise Men worshiped the new king, they presented gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They did not return to Herod, but went home by another way.

After the presentation of this Biblical story, the congregation conversed about the journey of life. Several worshipers related stories of times

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

Perspectives on Advent and Christmas continue each Sunday in Worship

Dec 14—Spotlight on Anna the prophet

Dec 21—Highlighting Simeon who responded to Jesus with a song

Dec 24—Christmas Eve Worship at 7:30

Dec 28—Elder Sonny Clark to lead worship

Dec 31—Watch Night Worship at 10:30

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Wise Man (Cont.)

when they were certain that God had been active in their lives. Clyde Hively spoke of an incident when, as a teenager, he was nearly electrocuted. Without understanding what he was doing, he managed to break the circuit which was using his body as an electrical ground. Clyde gave thanks to God for intervening in that dangerous situation.

Our Perspectives on Advent and Christmas will continue on Sunday, December 14, by focusing on the prophet Anna. Fran Hobbs and Gabrielle Herscher will assist with our playlet as we present this story.

Congratulations, Leo!

After worship on the 7th, the congregation enjoyed the fellowship and celebration of Leo Shanks' 80th birthday. The occasion was fit for the king which Leo had just portrayed in worship minutes before.

Thanks to Leo's gracious family, everyone enjoyed a mixed potato bar meal. To begin with, there were home-grown sweet potatoes as well as regular potatoes. And, besides the usual condiments, there were five or six different crock pots of chili to heap on your potato. After singing happy birthday to Leo, folks enjoyed cake and ice cream to celebrate.

We appreciate the kindness of the Shanks family for providing such a delicious occasion for us.

Christmas Flowers, Memorial Donations

Each week the church has received more decorations for the season of Christmas. At first there were the Advent Candles on the Communion Table and the Angel Tree in the vestibule. Then, several garlands appeared in the sanctuary along with a Christmas tree in the fellowship hall.

Now, it's time for the Christmas poinsettias to appear. Our Worship Team will place the flowers this week. If you would like to remember or honor a special person in your life with a donation for these flowers, contact Traci Herscher or Tammy Lindsay. It's better to write the information down so that we can acknowledge these unique gifts in an appropriate way on Christmas Eve and later in the *Weekly Word*.

Coming Up

Don't forget the excellent opportunity to invite family and neighbors to our Candlelight Worship on Christmas Eve. The service begins at 7:30. Another unique opportunity to hear the gospel comes on New Year's Eve at our Watch Night Service. That one begins at 10:30 and concludes with Communion in the New Year and the ringing of our church bell.

Speaking of bells, the children will be ringing joyful bells in worship during the rest of the season.

Food Pantry and More

The Food Truck which had been postponed last Tuesday because of weather served 100 households on Thursday, December 4. Then, our monthly Food Pantry met on December 9 providing additional help for families.

You will recall that we began the story of Darlena Cunha last week. She recounted her very successful life as a radio and TV journalist. We continue her thought-provoking and very personal story below.

*This is What Happened
When I Drove my Mercedes
to Pick Up Food Stamps*

By Darlena Cunha

2007 was a grand year for me. I moved back home from San Diego, where I'd produced 'Good Morning San Diego.' I quickly secured my next big gig, as a producer in Boston for the 6 p.m. news. The pay wasn't great, but it was more than enough to support me. And my boyfriend was making good money, too, as a copy editor for the Hartford Courant.

When I found out I was pregnant in February 2008, it was a shock, but nothing we couldn't handle. Two weeks later, when I discovered "it" was actually "they" (twins, as a matter of fact), I panicked a little. But not because I worried for our future. My middle-class life still seemed perfectly secure. I just wasn't sure I wanted to do that much work.

The weeks flew by. My boyfriend proposed, and we bought a house. Then, just three weeks after we closed,

the market crashed. The house we'd paid \$240,000 for was suddenly worth \$150,000. It was okay, though — we were still making enough money to cover the exorbitant mortgage payments. Then we weren't.

* * *

Two weeks before my children were born, my future husband found himself staring at a pink slip. The days of unemployment turned into weeks, months, and, eventually, years.

Then my kids were born, six weeks early. They were just three pounds each at birth, barely the length of my shoe. We fed them through a little tube we attached to our pinky fingers because their mouths weren't strong enough to suckle. We spent 10 days in the hospital waiting for them to increase in size. They never did. Try as I might, I couldn't get my babies to put on weight. With their lives at risk, I switched from breast milk to formula, at about \$15 a can. We went through dozens a week.

In just two months, we'd gone from making a combined \$120,000 a year to making just \$25,000 and leeching out funds to a mortgage we couldn't afford. Our savings dwindled, then disappeared.

So I did what I had to do. I signed up for Medicaid and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children.

[Next week we will continue Darlena's story. She describes not only her changed circumstances but also the reaction of her friends and her own feelings about her new situation.]