

Calendar of Ministries

✝ Friday, February 6

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, February 7

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, February 8

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Teen ski trip to Snowshoe after church

✝ Monday, February 9

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Tuesday, February 10

Morning Prayers at 8

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

✝ Wednesday, February 11

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ Thursday, February 12

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Friday, February 13

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, February 14

Happy Valentine's Day!

Shenandoah Presbytery meets at Westminster Church in Waynesboro

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, February 15

Sunday School at 9:45 with an informal gathering for discussion

Morning Worship at 11

Did you see the heavenly splendor of the planet Jupiter in the night sky next to the full moon this week? What an incredible display of God's creative beauty!



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
February 5, 2015

Finishing Romans 12:1-2

Windy Covians finished their month-long study of Romans 12:1-2 in worship on Sunday, February 1. This study encompassed Paul's understanding of the Christian life.

By referring back to the first part of his letter, Paul demonstrates that without Jesus all people are lost. People may be happy; they may be relatively moral people; they may be successful according to the measure of the culture they live in; they may even be even be spiritual or religious; but, without the Savior Jesus in their lives, they are not reconciled to God. Paul's purpose, of course, is to help people see that they need a savior.

Again, referring back to Chapters 1-11, Paul says that the good news of God has been offered to sinful human beings in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus. Those who accept this offer of salvation (Or, you can call it redemption, reconciliation, becoming part of God's family, etc.) have been born of God's Spirit into a new life.

Having reminded his readers of what came before, Paul proceeds in Romans 12 and beyond to explain what this new life is like. In general Paul reminds his readers and us to offer ourselves as living sacrifices to

God. He means that we should devote ourselves to God's service wherever we are in our journey of life. We offer ourselves, not to alleviate the anger of God toward us, but as a grateful response to what God has already done for us through Jesus.

Then, Paul gives advice on how best to express this service to God. First, we must not conform to the pattern of the world. God calls upon Christians to transform the culture in which they live, not just to be like everyone else. Secondly, we should be transformed by the renewing of our minds. Paul is telling Christians that they need to think differently. Christians through the presence of the Holy Spirit can have the mind of

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Take Note!

Feb 8—Teen Ski Trip after worship, let Sharon Sherrard know if you plan on going to Snowshoe

Feb 10—Regular Food Pantry Day in the afternoon, bring your items for soup by Monday the 9th so they can be arranged

Feb 15—first of the informal gatherings in Sunday School to discuss denominational issues and the process for discernment

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Romans (Cont.)

Christ. As individual Christians leave more habits of the world behind and grow more into the likeness of Jesus, they will have a greater understanding of what God's will for them is.

In Paul's language they will be able to "test and approve" what God's will is. The idea is simple: the more that people live out the Christian life, the better they become at realizing the plans God has for them. This kind of life testifies to God's good, pleasing, and perfect will.

This life is good because God intends only good for those who love him. This life is pleasing because God desires above all else people who live fully as he intended. This life is perfect in the sense that it fulfills God plan or destiny for the person as part of God's overall plan for the world.

On Sunday, February 1, the congregation had an opportunity to commit themselves to this vision of life by celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. In the Supper we experience again that saving grace of Christ. We hear the call of Jesus, "Come, follow me." And, we have the immediate opportunity as we partake to say, "Yes, Lord, I want to be your faithful disciple." We certainly appreciate the Lord's gift of the sacrament to strengthen our faith and give us an opportunity to celebrate our faith in and service to a gracious Savior.

Informal Gatherings

As we reported last week, the Windy Cove Session has made arrangements for two informal gatherings during the Sunday School hour. Those folks who are members of Windy Cove or who regularly attend worship here have been invited to these gatherings on February 15 and February 22. The purpose of these gatherings is to discuss recent developments as our Presbyterian denomination responds to the challenges presented to ministry in our modern culture.

One of the current challenges of the denomination is an amendment to our Book of Order now before our Presbyteries which would allow pastors and churches to bless marriages between two people of the same gender. The language of this amendment makes this action permissible but not compulsory. This amendment will be voted on at the meeting of Shenandoah Presbytery to be held at Westminster Church in Waynesboro on Saturday, February 14. The Session of Windy Cove appointed Elder Sharon Sherrard as their commissioner to attend this meeting.

For this amendment to become part of our Presbyterian Book of Order, it must be ratified by a majority of the denomination's 171 presbyteries. In other words, 86 presbyteries must approve the amendment before it becomes part of our denomination's Book of Order. At present, 29 presbyteries have voted in

favor of the amendment while 11 have voted against it. The rest of the presbyteries will vote at various times during the remainder of 2015.

In a matter related to our informal gatherings, the Windy Cove Session learned last week that a Listening Response Team (LRT) had been appointed by Shenandoah Presbytery to help Windy Cove work through its discussion of the challenges facing the denomination and the church. The LRT consists of two pastors and two elders from our area. Mr. Sherrard is scheduled to meet with the LRT this week to plan their work with the church. The listening process to be used by the LRT will also be explained at the informal gatherings on February 15 and 22.

Food Pantry

Bea Clark and James McCray made a trip this week to the Food Bank in Verona in preparation for our monthly Food Pantry scheduled for Tuesday, February 10. Bea reported that they had acquired about 1,500 pounds of food. Some of the items available at the Food Bank are free while others are sold for pennies on the pound.

In addition to these items, special donations of items to make soup have been arriving at the church these last two weeks. Our Fellowship and Service Team has sponsored this initiative for the February Food Pantry. The goal is to send home the ingredients for a pot of

soup with each household attending the Pantry.

We also received our four Cents Hunger Offering last Sunday. That special offering is dedicated to our Food Pantry ministry. The "Four Cents" idea comes from setting aside four cents per meal for each person in a family to give to those who need help with food and household items. And, we do take in a lot of pennies each month that we have the offering. Still, we see a good number of paper bills in the Four Cents Offering, and we are also grateful for that generosity as well!

People and Prayers

We have been praying urgently for several weeks for Mark and Luanna Gentry. The Gentry's have been best friends with Keith and Tammy Lindsay since their college days. Recently, Mark's heart began to fail. He was admitted to the hospital and then transferred to the Medical College of Virginia in Richmond because of the severity of his condition.

About a week ago with his heart failing, Mark received a mechanical heart. This temporary solution is an effort to stabilize his condition until a more permanent solution can be tried. During the very difficult days of last weekend, Keith and Tammy stood with their friends in the midst of this ordeal.

Please continue your prayers for both of these couples as they walk out their friendship together.