

Calendar of Ministries

✚ Friday, February 20

Morning Prayers at 8

✚ Saturday, February 21

Evening Prayers at 8

✚ Sunday, February 22

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

Morning Worship at 11 with Majesty of the Son Jesus

Session meets for lunch after worship

Teens to ski at Snowshoe after worship if the weather permits

✚ Monday, February 23

Morning Prayers at 8

✚ Tuesday, February 24

Morning Prayers at 8

Millboro Presbyterian is sponsoring a pancake supper, 4-7, with donations to go to Relay for Life

✚ Wednesday, February 25

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✚ Thursday, February 26

Morning Prayers at 8

✚ Friday, February 27

Morning Prayers at 8

✚ Saturday, February 28

Evening Prayers at 8

✚ Sunday, March 1

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Teens meet at Millboro Elementary at 5

We still have room for some Haiti Team members. Contact Rob Sherrard—the sooner the better!



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
February 19, 2015**

Lent Begins

Amidst February's cold and snow, the Season of Lent began at Windy Cove on Wednesday, February 18. A modest number of worshipers gathered for Evening Worship, a Service of Prayer and Penitence. This service introduced our Lenten theme: The Majesty of the Son Jesus.

During the course of worship, the congregation sang three familiar hymns. First, in praise to God, worshipers proclaimed, "Blessed Be the Name." After the evening message, the congregation began a time of repentance with "Beneath the Cross of Jesus." As worshipers prepared to receive the sign of the cross in ashes, they sang "Just As I Am."

Mr. Sherrard introduced the theme for Lent with a brief meditation on Hebrews 1:1-2.

Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets. And now in these final days, He has spoken to us through His Son.

This message centered on the idea, "God has spoken; what did Jesus say?" He drew out the implications of this idea with four sayings of Jesus.

At the beginning of Jesus' ministry, he proclaims in Galilee, "The time is

fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." During Lent we still hear this call to repentance, to change our hearts and minds and reorient our lives toward God.

During his ministry, Jesus steadfastly declared that he was the open door to a right relationship with God. He told his disciples, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me." Jesus drew those disciples closer and closer to himself and thereby to the Father.

As Jesus grew closer to the time of his arrest and crucifixion, he spoke to his followers about discipleship. He told them, "If anyone would come

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Take Note!

Feb 22—second of the informal gatherings in Sunday School to discuss denominational issues and the process for discernment begins at 9:45

February 22—Session meets for lunch and with the Listening Response Team at 1:30

Feb 24—Millboro Presbyterian Church sponsors a pancake supper from 4 to 7 with donations to benefit Relay for Life, rescheduled from last Tuesday.

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Lent (Cont.)

"after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." This call to committed discipleship was more than even Jesus' closest disciples could handle at the time. Later, however, after Jesus' resurrection and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, disciples of Jesus can respond positively to this call.

At the crucial moment of Jesus' agony on the cross, he testifies to his accusers, to his abusers, and to his disciples that he has not abandoned them to their own misery and destruction. He prays, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do." By these gracious words, Jesus explains his amazing work of sacrificial forgiveness evident in his crucifixion and resurrection.

Following the message, parishioners used a Litany of Penitence to prepare to hear the words of forgiveness again. Both aloud and silently, people confessed their sins and sought God's forgiveness. Then, one-by-one they came forward to receive the sign of the cross in ashes and hear afresh the words of Jesus' forgiveness.

Our Lenten journey will continue through the next six weeks as we consider other aspects of God's revelation in the Son Jesus. The schedule includes:

Feb 22: Jesus is heir of all things.

Mar 1: Jesus is the agent of creation.

Mar 8: Jesus radiates God's glory.

Mar 15: Jesus expresses the character of God.

Mar 22: Jesus sustains all things.

Mar 29: Jesus cleanses our sin. (Part 1)

Apr 2: Jesus cleanses our sin. (Part 2)

Apr 5: Jesus sits at the right hand of God.

If you missed the service on Ash Wednesday, we still hope to see you during the rest of this special season. See you Sunday!

Informal Gatherings

On Sunday, February 15, Windy Covians held the first of the informal gathering arranged by the Session to discuss challenges that the church and our Presbyterian denomination are facing at the present time. The discussion took place during the Sunday School hour after the usual opening worship.

Mr. Sherrard outlined the process that the Session had initiated in October. At that time the Windy Cove Session notified Dr. Roy Martin, the Transitional Presbyter for Shenandoah Presbytery, that they did have some areas of "serious disagreement" with the denomination.

In accord with the Presbytery's Policy for Discernment toward Reconciliation or Gracious Separation, the Presbytery initiated the appointment of a Listening Response Team (LRT) to consult with the Windy Cove Session and congregation. That

team has been appointed and trained and is scheduled to meet with the Session on Sunday, February 22. LRT members include Deb Klein of Lexington Church, Bonny Wilson of Fairfield Church, Skip Hastings of Collierstown Church, and Martin Stokes who recently retired as Pastor of New Monmouth Church.

Following presentation of the procedure involved, those at the informal gathering discussed several issues currently challenging the denomination. These issues included the ordination of gay and lesbian persons to offices in churches of the denomination and a pending amendment which would allow but not compel pastors and churches to participate in same-gender marriages.

This proposed amendment was passed by the 2014 General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and was submitted to the 171 presbyteries for their approval or rejection. Our local presbytery, Shenandoah Presbytery, voted "yes" on this amendment on February 14. The totals in Shenandoah were 99 in favor and 79 opposed to the amendment. In the denomination as a whole, the current vote is 53 in favor of the amendment while 23 have opposed it. A majority of 86 presbyteries is necessary to pass such an amendment to the Book of Order.

Our gatherings will continue on February 22 during Sunday School. Now is the time to stay informed as we face challenges of how to minister in and to our modern society.

To Postpone or Not?

The recent advent of very cold and snowy weather raises the perennial issue of when to postpone or cancel events at church and in the community. For at least 35 years, Windy Cove's policy has been not to cancel worship on Sunday. This policy has served well to eliminate uncertainty and to avoid the hassle of trying to spread the word in our rural setting.

At the same time, we have advised our worshipers to use their own good judgment about coming out in bad weather. We realize that side roads are not always in the same cleared or clearing condition as Routes 39 and 42. We do try to have our sidewalks cleared, but it is sometimes not possible to eliminate all the ice and snow. So be careful!

The postponement or cancellation of other events at the church depend on those responsible for a particular event. For example, we did cancel our Teen Meeting last Sunday night when we realized that some teens were away and some could not make it to the meeting. Teen coordinator, Sharon Sherrard, then called and texted all those involved to spread the news.

Millboro Presbyterian Church did postpone their Pancake Supper from Tuesday, February 17, to Tuesday, February 24. This postponement should allow more people to attend the supper and thereby benefit our local Relay for Life. Supper will be served at the church from 4 until 7.