

## Calendar of Ministries

✝ **Friday, March 20**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, March 21**

Millboro School Reunion Committee meets at 10 a.m.

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, March 22**

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with the Majesty of the Son Jesus

Possible Teen Ski Day

✝ **Monday, March 23**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Tuesday, March 24**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Wednesday, March 25**

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ **Thursday, March 26**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Friday, March 27**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, March 28**

Clean Up Day at the Church at 9 with a light lunch served afterwards

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, March 29**

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Session meets for lunch and with the Presbytery Listening Response Team



# The Weekly Word

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

## Whose Soup Was That?

It was a question heard rather frequently at lunch on Sunday, March 15, "Whose soup was that?" What occasioned this question was the row of crockpots filled with different kinds of delicious soups as Windy Covians ate lunch together. To complement the soups, there were a variety of tasty sandwiches. And, of course, tucked away in the Fellowship Hall, people found a table of delectable desserts.

This fellowship meal followed a lively worship focused on the Lenten theme: The Majesty of the Son Jesus. With the congregation back to full strength after the winter weather, the sanctuary rang with the singing of "Majesty" as well as "Amazing Grace" and the choir's "Our God."

The message for the morning focused on two phrases from the opening verses of Hebrews. Speaking of the Son Jesus, Hebrews says that he created the universe and that he sustains all things through his powerful word. At the beginning of this consideration, worshipers shared their favorite spots in nature. Some spoke of local spots in Bath County. Others mentioned sites far away. All indicated how much they had been

touched by God's wonderful creation. While Christians often think of God the Father as creator, the Bible is clear that the Son Jesus was the agent of creation as the very Word of God. In his Gospel, John says all things were created by the Word. Paul reiterates the theme in Colossians as he reminds his readers that all things were created through the Son. Paul goes on to add that all things hold together in Jesus.

From this beginning the message moved to what we might learn about God from a contemplation of creation. There is certainly something of God's beauty in creation; there is also evidence of God's almighty power in creation; then, we see in creation

*(Continued Inside)*

### Take Note!

**Mar 22—Confirmation Class continues in Sunday School**

**Mar 22—Lenten worship centers on Jesus who radiates God's glory**

**Mar 22—Teens may go skiing, check with the snow lady, Sharon Sherrard**

**Mar 28—Clean Up Day at Church. We need a good turn out to get the yard and church ready for Easter. Light lunch to follow.**

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## Soup (Cont.)

that God in Christ is an orderly God. The planets rotate in their orbits; gravity keeps us anchored to the earth; we plant different seeds and they produce plants as expected. God's order is an extremely important part of making our lives more livable.

However, the mere mention of order raises the question of the chaos which at times invades our ordered existence. How do we deal with or even think about order when at times our lives seem to be flying apart? Several useful avenues of reflection present themselves.

First, when "disasters" interrupt the smooth flow of our lives, often they bring hidden blessings with them. Sickness may strike a family, but the outcome is that the family bonds closer together as a result of the illness. A tornado may devastate a town, but the town may rebuild physically and spiritually in a new and better form. Such results should remind us that Jesus often does bring good out of the disorderly disasters of our lives.

Secondly, we must reckon that **we** are creators or, at least, the sustainers of some of the chaos in our lives. When we live contrary to the teaching that Jesus has clearly given, why are we surprised when chaos results? For example, in the Old Testament, the Ten Commandments are clearly intended to tell the people of God how to maintain a healthy and

functioning community of people. So, we should not be surprised if our lives do not go well when we violate such commands. We are creating chaos or allowing it to prosper in our midst.

Finally, we should recognize that our lives would fly completely apart if Jesus were not holding them together. One stock phrase which reminds us of this blessing reads, "A day that is hemmed with prayer is less likely to come unraveled." The more that we put our trust in the Lord and live by his example and teaching, the less likely we are to be overcome by the chaos which threatens our existence.

In worship on March 22, we will move on to consider: Jesus radiates God's glory, and we soak it in.

## Same-Gender Marriage

By the end of Tuesday, March 17, more than a majority of the 171 presbyteries of the Presbyterian Church (USA) had ratified an amendment to the current Book of Order which will allow congregations and pastors to participate in same-gender marriages. This amendment was proposed by the General Assembly of the PCUSA at its meeting last summer. The amendment required ratification by a majority of presbyteries in order to become part of the denomination's constitution. As of March 17, the vote of the presbyteries was 87 in favor and 42 opposed.

The language of this amendment permits pastors to participate in

same-gender marriages where those marriages are legal in the state in which they are performed. The amendment does not compel pastors to participate in such marriages. Likewise the amendment permits, but does not compel, churches to host same-gender marriages where these are legal.

However, for many Presbyterians, the amendment authorizes a practice that the Bible plainly does not endorse and that is in clear conflict with the historic confessions of the church which are another part of the denomination's constitution.

As the *Weekly Word* has reported in prior issues, Windy Cove is currently involved in a process of discernment with its own Shenandoah Presbytery about this and other related issues. That discernment process will continue on March 29 when the Listening Response Team from Shenandoah Presbytery will meet with the Windy Cove Session.

## Lenten Reflection

For his morning devotions this year, Mr. Sherrard has been using the online site: <http://www.pray-as-you-go.org/home/>. One recent devotion centered on Jeremiah 7:22-28. Since Lent is supposed to drive a person to deeper penitence and a search for forgiveness, this prophetic passage fits as a Lenten Reflection.

### **Jeremiah 7:22-28 (NLT)**

*When I led your ancestors out of Egypt, it was not burnt offerings and sacrifices I wanted from them.*

*(23) This is what I told them: 'Obey Me, and I will be your God, and you will be My people. Do everything as I say, and all will be well!' (24) "But My people would not listen to Me. They kept doing whatever they wanted, following the stubborn desires of their evil hearts. They went backward instead of forward.*

*(25) From the day your ancestors left Egypt until now, I have continued to send My servants, the prophets--day in and day out. (26) But My people have not listened to Me or even tried to hear. They have been stubborn and sinful--even worse than their ancestors. (27) "Tell them all this, but do not expect them to listen. Shout out your warnings, but do not expect them to respond.*

*(28) Say to them, 'This is the nation whose people will not obey the LORD their God and who refuse to be taught. Truth has vanished from among them; it is no longer heard on their lips.*

That last indictment, namely, that truth has vanished from the community of the people of God, is particularly hard for Christians to hear. As followers of Jesus, we are to spread truth to transform the world. Jesus proclaimed, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." Before his human judge he boldly asserted, "In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

Lord, help us to know, live, and boldly proclaim the truth!