

## Calendar of Ministries

✝ Friday, April 24

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, April 25

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, April 26

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 continuing a series on the Holy Spirit

Session meets for lunch

✝ Monday, April 27

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Tuesday, April 28

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Wednesday, April 29

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ Thursday, April 30

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Friday, May 1

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, May 2

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, May 3

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Teens meet at Millboro Elementary at 5

**We are anticipating several spring and summer weddings this year, and we hope to have an article in a future edition about these couples and their plans. We know that you will want to pray for them and wish them well. So, look for their plans in the weeks to come.**



# The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

April 23, 2015

## The Power of Pentecost

For the next six weeks, worshipers at Windy Cove will seek the Power of Pentecost as they concentrate on Bible lessons centered on the Holy Spirit. This new series began on April 19 with a consideration of Jesus' promise in John 7:37-39 that those who had faith in him would receive "life-giving water." John explains that Jesus was talking about the Holy Spirit whom Jesus would send after his return to the Father.

One very interesting part of this promise is its context. Jesus was attending the Feast of Booths in Jerusalem at the time of the pronouncement. This festival celebrated the joy of the harvest season and also remembered the time that the people of Israel had spent in the wilderness before entering and inhabiting the Promised Land of Canaan.

The wilderness had a dual reference for the Israelites. On the one hand, the wilderness was viewed in a negative light. It was a time when the people complained about God's care and Moses' leadership. It was a time when they refused to go immediately into the Promised Land despite its great wealth and beauty and

God's promise to be with them. Instead, they wandered for forty years in the desert until a new generation had come of age.

On the other hand, the wilderness was seen as a time when the people and God were very close to each other. It was a time when God nurtured them directly with manna and water and even with meat. According to Deuteronomy 29:9, their clothes and shoes had not worn out during this special time. This second reference for the wilderness period especially lies in the background of Jesus' statement about the Holy Spirit. For it is the Holy Spirit that provides the opportunity for people to have a direct and immediate relationship

*(Continued Inside)*

### Take Note!

**April 26—Adult Class begins a new study of *The Shack***

**April 26—Session meets for lunch following worship**

**May 3—Next meeting of the Teen Group at Millboro Elementary at 5 p.m.**

**May 10—Mother's Day**

**May 17—Fellowship Lunch followed by an informal congregational gathering with the Presbyterian Listening Resource Team**

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## **Pentecost (Cont.)**

with God. It is the Spirit of Jesus that brings the life-giving water that Jesus promises to his followers.

We will continue to explore the power and blessing of the Holy Spirit in our lives as we approach the celebration of Pentecost on Sunday, May 24. We will resume this journey on Sunday, April 26, when we will look at the power of relational living. Jesus commanded his disciples to wait until they had received the outpouring of the Spirit before they went out to minister in his name. You can preview this story by reading in Acts 1:1-8 and by praying for the Power of Pentecost in your own life and that of the church.

## **Great Encouragement and Blessing!**

Windy Cove was greatly encouraged and blessed recently. Mr. Sherrard received a kind note in the mail from a person who had visited the church on Easter. Our visitor was touched by the worship that day including a mention of Jack Sherrard's recitation of the Easter story, the "terrific choir," Communion, and the greeting that he received. Enclosed with this note of encouragement was an offering for \$25,000.

As the hymn says, the Lord does move in "a mysterious way his wonders to perform." We are very grateful for such a blessing and look forward to using this offering to bless others through the ministry of the church.

## **Sunday School**

Our Adult Class in Sunday School is making a transition this week. The class has spent several months studying the Book of Isaiah. Mike Grist has been leading the class through this study with occasional help from substitute leaders. That study has been concluded, and the class will begin a new series focused on the best-selling book, *The Shack*, by William Paul Young.

The series will begin on Sunday, April 26, with a video presentation in which the author talks about his life and his motivation and the occasion for writing the book. This video is expected to take several weeks to complete before the class undertakes the actual study of the book.

For those who have not been coming to Sunday School, now would be an excellent opportunity to start. Sunday School begins with an opening worship at 9:45, currently led by Sharon Madison. As the folks move to their classes, many take time for coffee and perhaps a snack. For some months we have consistently had around 15-20 in our adult class and 6 to 8 in our teen class as well as 4 or 5 in our younger elementary class. Sunday School always presents an exceptional prospect for spiritual growth.

## **Food Pantry, Food Bank, Food Truck**

Our Food Pantry met on Tuesday, April 14, and our specialty item for the month was peanut butter. For

about three weeks before the monthly pantry, peanut butter jars of various sizes had shown up in the special box in the vestibule of the church. Those items were united with some of our regular pantry items for distribution on the 14<sup>th</sup>. Many of the items that we give out on our Food Pantry are purchased in bulk at greatly reduced rates from the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank in Verona, VA.

Then, on April 21, the Blue Ridge Area Food Bank's Food Truck visited Windy Cove for its monthly visit. The Food Truck is a unique program sponsored by our area-wide Food Bank in Verona. The Food Bank cooperates with our local Social Services Board to provide extra food help to Bath County residents. This extra help comes because our area is designated as a "food desert" meaning that we do not have easy access to one of the larger grocery stores.

The Food Truck brings bulk items directly from the Food Bank in Verona. At Windy Cove the items are repackaged into household quantities for distribution. Meanwhile, folks who receive this assistance are lining up their cars around and behind the church. When the boxes are ready, the folks can just drive by to receive their allotment.

In total, 86 households were served by the Food Truck distribution last Tuesday. Each household received a supply of potatoes, carrots, cabbage, and grapes. Added to

these items were juice packs for children, apple sauce, and granola bars. The Homestead had given a special offering to the Food Bank to defray the cost of this visit of the Food Truck.

One interesting aspect of these ministries has been the increased fellowship between workers from the Food Bank with helpers from western Bath County recruited through Bath County Social Services and with our eastern Bath County Food Pantry workers. Of course, this fellowship also includes those who benefit from these food ministries.

Our Food Pantry meets on the second Tuesday of each month, and the Food Truck will continue to visit Windy Cove on the third Tuesday of each month. Have some fun; help with our food ministry!

## **People and Prayers**

The community laid to rest one of its beloved members this week with the passing of Stanley (Sonny) Douglas. Mr. Douglas was well known in the community for helping those in need and especially for his cheerful nature.

At one time or another, he visited most of the churches in our area; but he was devoted to his Mount Zion Baptist Church on Ridge Road. His son, Stanley, preached the main message of the funeral while others spoke highly of their friendship with Mr. Douglas. Mr. Sherrard attended the funeral and spoke briefly on behalf of friends from Millboro.