

Calendar of Ministries

✝ **Friday, May 22**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, May 23**

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, May 24**

Celebration of Pentecost

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 continuing a series on the Holy Spirit

Session Lunch at 12:30

Fellowship of Christian Athletes at Faith Covenant Church at 5 p.m.

✝ **Monday, May 25**

Memorial Day Holiday

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Tuesday, May 26**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Wednesday, May 27**

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ **Thursday, May 28**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Friday, May 29**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, May 30**

Haiti Team meets at 5:30 p.m.

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, May 31**

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Since Memorial Day is on Monday, the 25th, we will have special prayers for our veterans on May 24. Honor them with your presence on Sunday.



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
May 21, 2015**

Encouraging and Not Hindering the Spirit

For the last two Sundays, worshippers at Windy Cove have continued their journey toward Pentecost. On May 10 they looked at Jesus' teaching on prayer found in Luke 11. Jesus' advice there presents the A-S-K formula: Ask, Seek, Knock.

One can easily see the progression contained in these terms. Asking in prayer is a relatively passive way of opening a channel for the Holy Spirit to come into your life. Seeking implies a much more active approach to building a relationship with God through the Holy Spirit. Knocking is a very active way to pursue God. This last metaphor has an echo in Revelation 3:20 where Jesus says that he stands at the door and knocks as he longs for people and churches to open the door for him to come in.

Believers have the encouragement from Luke 11 that, when they do pursue a deeper relationship with God, the Holy Spirit will be given to provide such a relationship. Persistence lies behind the A-S-K formula; as we persistently seek God, we meet the God who is already seeking us.

On Sunday, May 17, the congregation considered several roadblocks

which might hinder or even block a person's search for a deeper relationship with God. The New Testament contains three admonitions concerning the Holy Spirit: 1. Do not quench the Holy Spirit (1 Thessalonians 5:19), 2. Do not resist the Holy Spirit (Acts 7:51), and 3. Do not grieve the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 4:30).

Quenching the Spirit might include hindrances such as unresolved conflicts in relationships with others or believing that God must fit our expectations or thinking that God would not ask us to do anything which might make us feel uncomfortable.

Resisting the Holy Spirit might involve neglect of our spiritual lives. It might include not looking to see

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

Oops! We goofed! We forgot to tell you that we would not be publishing last week. We were delighted when one person sent an email to find out why she had not received her *Weekly Word*. It is nice to be missed but even nicer to be back with you this week.

May 24—It's the celebration of Pentecost; red is the traditional color for the day. We'll look for your red accents on Sunday.

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Encouraging (Cont.)

where God is actually working in our life or in the lives of those around us. Resisting the Holy Spirit might indicate a complacent attitude toward sin and injustice.

Grieving the Holy Spirit is very serious. The Spirit grieves when people continue to sin, especially when they know the truth of the gospel. Such behavior throws up a roadblock against the Spirit who is trying to bring Christians to maturity. The solution to this situation is confession to God and true repentance.

What we need to do in order to deepen our relationship with God through the Holy Spirit is to use the positive behaviors like asking, seeking, and knocking and avoid the negative behaviors like quenching, resisting, and grieving. When the Holy Spirit invites our help in ministry, we can respond with obedience. That obedience builds our character and prepares us for even greater service in to God.

On Sunday, May 24, we will celebrate Pentecost. As we think about the birth of the early Christian church, we will focus on revival in our own lives and in the church.

Wedding # 2

Cara Kauffman and Justin Shanks are the second of our four couples to be married this spring and summer. They will wed on Saturday, May 23, at 5 p.m. at Four Winds at North Mountain near Buffalo Gap. As you might expect with Cara and Justin,

the wedding venue is a working farm/ranch which specializes in outdoor activities.

After all, their first real date was a four-wheeler trip in the woods. Cara was a little cautious about that invitation; so, she checked with her friend, Jamison Strasser. Of course, Jamison's brother, Daniel, was a very good friend of Justin. Jamison assured Cara that Justin really was a nice guy who just liked to be outdoors.

Cara was startled another time when she was invited to visit Justin's family for the first time. Justin made arrangements to pick her up at the end of Mill Creek Road to take her to the Shanks' home on Dixie Drive. Justin showed up with his nephew, Camden, in the vehicle; only Cara didn't know Camden was a nephew. Seeing the resemblance between Camden and Justin, she assumed that Justin had neglected to mention a son. To make matters worse, as they arrived at the Shanks' home, Camden pointed out his brother Clayton in the yard and proclaimed that his sister Kayla was inside the house. By this time Cara was thinking, "O my, what have I gotten myself into!" Everything cleared up when they got into the house and Cara met Justin's sister, Julie, and found out that all three of the children were hers.

Fortunately for Justin, Cara is also an outdoor girl. She works for the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries. We are not surprised

then to learn that Justin proposed marriage to Cara while they were kayaking down the Cowpasture River together.

After the wedding on Saturday, Cara and Justin will honeymoon in North Carolina and Tennessee. They have planned several nights at the Biltmore Estate in Asheville and a few nights at a cabin in the Smoky Mountains near Gatlinburg.

Upon returning home, Justin and Cara will live above Millboro Mercantile where Justin has been living. At some future time, they may relocate to the Churchville area as a more central location for their work places.

Fellowship Lunch and Informal Gathering

Following worship on May 17, the congregation enjoyed a fried chicken lunch together. We are not sure how many people stayed for lunch, but we do know that seventy-five pieces of chicken were consumed along with generous portions of salads and desserts. Speaking of dessert, one delight was a variation on the popular "Dirt" dessert. Instead of "Dirt," it was called "Sand." It had variety of puddings and cookie crumbs mixed together, and, oh boy, was it tasty.

After the fellowship meal, the congregation had an informal gathering with the four members of the Listening Response Team (LRT) from Shenandoah Presbytery. That meeting included reflections by LRT members

Bonny Wilson, Deb Klein, Skip Hastings, and Martin Stokes.

A number of folks from the worshipping congregation at Windy Cove shared their perspective on some of the issues facing Windy Cove and the larger denomination of the Presbyterian Church (USA). While some of these issues are difficult to talk about, each person who spoke did so with the respect, kindness, and dignity that the circumstances called for. The LRT will consider what they heard from the congregation on Sunday and report back to the Windy Cove Session in the near future.

You're Invited

Jim Ailstock wants you to know that you are invited to celebrate Dallas's graduation from Bath County High School on Saturday morning, June 6, at 11 at the school. It hardly seems possible that it has been that long since Jim and our beloved Diane returned with their children to Bath County from Indiana.

Little Dallas who used to watch Barney videos in our nursery at Windy Cove is now ready to graduate. We give thanks for the tender and watchful care that Dallas received as a special needs child from his family and from his teachers at Millboro Elementary and the High School. We are especially grateful for the loving care from teacher April Miller who began with Dallas at Millboro and continued with him at the High School. Congratulations, Dallas, you made it! Praise God!