

Calendar of Ministries

✝ Friday, October 23

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, October 24

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, October 25

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with our Four Cents Hunger Offering

Session meets for lunch after worship

✝ Monday, October 26

Morning Prayers at 8

Men's Bible Study with supper at 6:30

✝ Tuesday, October 27

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard will be teaching in Clifton Forge at 11 and Buena Vista at 2

Women's Bible Study at 7 p.m.

✝ Wednesday, October 28

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ Thursday, October 29

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard will be teaching his college classes today.

✝ Friday, October 30

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, October 31

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, November 1

Daylight Savings Time ends. Sleep in an extra hour with God's blessing!

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
October 22, 2015**

God's Original Intention

On Sunday, October 18, the Windy Cove Congregation pondered God's original intention for marriage and family life. The Biblical passage under consideration was Matthew 19:3-9 where some Pharisees confront Jesus with questions about marriage and divorce. Jesus responds to their questions by speaking of God's original intention for marriage.

In the opening of his message on Sunday, Mr. Sherrard acknowledged the delicate nature of any discussion of marriage and divorce. Most churches have worshipers who have experienced the pain and grief of failed marriages and divorce. Any mention of marriage and divorce may bring such strong feelings to the surface again. However, understanding God's intention for marriage should provide an entry for the Holy Spirit to heal past hurts as well as prepare people for future decisions.

Mr. Sherrard also disavowed any intention to deal directly with the legal or political aspects of marriage which have been in the news during the past year or so. Rather, his intent was to reflect on God's plan for marriage as expressed in Jesus' conversation with the Pharisees.

The high rate of divorce and the heated debate on same-sex marriage are not the causes but are only symptoms of current deeper problems of the breakdown of marriage and the disintegration of family life. While numerous causes might be assigned to these family problems, three come easily to mind: self, sex, and sin.

Our present culture is one that focuses on self: self-fulfillment, self-promotion, self-satisfaction, self-love, and the list goes on. A frequently asked question is, "What's in it for me?" God did not design true life to be a selfish life. Instead, God created individuals to love God and to love each other in community, to focus on others rather than on self.

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

Sunday, October 25

Bring your pennies for our Four Cents a Meal Hunger Offering.

Session meets for lunch after worship

Monday, October 26

Men's Bible Study, Supper at 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday, October 27

Women's Bible Study at 7 p.m.

Sunday, November 1

Daylight Savings Time ends—back one hour

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Intention (Cont.)

Our society is also saturated with sex. We live in a way in which even younger children become sexualized at an early age. Sexual content is used to sell everything from cars to clothing to hamburgers. In his message on Sunday, Mr. Sherrard referred to recent Hardee's commercials in which a young woman is clearly using sexual content to sell hamburgers.

God is not against sex understood and used in its proper context. In fact God created men and women and commanded them to be fruitful and multiply. However, God did not countenance an overly sexualized society for the community of faith.

Such emphasis on self and sex brings to mind the overarching trouble with marriage and family life: sin. Like people through ages past, we are prone to sin. As a society, we get together and contemplate all kinds of decisions without reference to God. That contemplation is the essence of temptation and sin.

In our current society, Christians have not been much different from people in general when it comes to marriage and divorce. Presently, Christians divorce at about the same rate as non-Christians do. Certainly, there are some valid reasons for divorce such as mental, spiritual, and physical abuse. However, the present divorce rate among Christians suggests that we have adopted society's view that, if things are not going just right in our marriages, we

will divorce and try again with a new partner. Statistics disprove such efforts. For example, the divorce rate for third marriages is more than double that of first marriages.

For Christians, the beginning of a solution to these problems resides in understanding God's intention for marriage. Jesus reminds the Pharisees not to focus on how you can get divorced, but on what marriage means and how you can stay married. The Apostle Paul gives guidance on these issues in Ephesians 5 where he reminds couples: Wives, respect your husbands; husbands love your wives. Husbands and wives submit to one another out of your reverence for Christ.

God did create marriage for one man and one woman. Genesis records the story of God's search for a person who could complement Adam. Another man would not do; instead God made another person somewhat different from Adam, a woman. Adam's cry of joy reverberates today in many successful marriages: "This at last is bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man."

God also affirms in creation that a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife. Together, they can form such a close bond that can even be described as becoming one with each other. In such a union, sexual behavior is entirely appropriate to fulfill God's command to be fruitful and multiply.

On October 25, the congregation will take up the equally difficult moral issue of suicide. Add your prayers and your presence to that consideration.

Two Educational Events

Bath County Schools and Rockbridge Area Community Services are sponsoring two important educational events for the community. The first is a Mental Health Training Class scheduled for Millboro Elementary School on October 29 and 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The training is free, but the class is limited to the first 30 people who apply by contacting Jane Hall at 839-5307 by Monday, October 26.

The second event is a Suicide Intervention Training Class scheduled for Valley Elementary School on November 12 and 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Again, the training is free and lunch will be provided. To register, you may call Jane Hall at 830-5307 by Monday, October 26. Registration is limited to 30 people.

In Case You Wondered

Sharon Madison reported that there were 137 tickets given out to individuals at the Windy Cove Community Jamboree on October 10. And, there may have been one or two people who came late enough that they did not receive a ticket.

We appreciate the community support that we received for the Jamboree, and we applaud the work of the congregation in preparing for such a big and successful event.

Bible Studies in Progress

Windy Cove currently has two evening Bible Studies going on. On Tuesday evenings at 7, the women are studying the idea of hope. Hope is one of those concepts that is central to Christian faith. Paul says, "So now faith, hope, and love abide, these three; but the greatest of these is love."

One crucial idea for the women is that hope is often misunderstood today. People says things like, "I hope to win the lottery someday." Or, "I hope to visit Antarctica." Such expressions of hope are unlike Biblical hope because they lack the confident assurance that these future events will ever happen.

Biblical hope is the confident assurance that the promises of God for the future will indeed become present realities. The writer of Hebrews says, "Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Hope is what gives our faith a future orientation that keeps us going in the present.

On Monday evenings at 6:30, the men are studying spiritual leadership. That concept includes not just leadership in the church, but it also applies to Christian leadership in every area of life: the family, work, community, and church. The men have particularly enjoyed the fellowship of having supper together. They have dined on lasagna and on pancakes so far. October 26 has been set aside as pizza night. That ought to attract some Bible scholars!