

## Calendar of Ministries

✝ **Friday, November 20**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, November 21**

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, November 22**

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Session meets for lunch

Community Thanksgiving Service at Calvary Baptist Church at 7:30 p.m.

✝ **Monday, November 23**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Tuesday, November 24**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Wednesday, November 25**

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ **Thursday, November 26**

Happy Thanksgiving!

✝ **Friday, November 27**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, November 28**

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, November 29**

First Sunday of Advent

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 focusing on the Good News in the Gospel of Matthew

**Our Angel Tree Ministry will be ready soon. In the next few weeks, check out the opportunities on our tree.**

**We will not publish a *Weekly Word* next week, but we will be back with you on December 3.**



# The Weekly Word

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

## Community Thanksgiving

The Millboro area community will give thanks together on Sunday evening, November 22, at 7:30 at Calvary Baptist Church in Millboro Springs. Pastor John Haney of the Presbyterian Parish of the Pastures will preach the message of thanksgiving that evening. Mr. Haney's Parish includes Millboro Presbyterian Church, Goshen Presbyterian Church, and Rocky Spring Presbyterian Church in Deerfield.

This Thanksgiving Service has a long history in our community. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Bath County Ministerial Association sponsored a countywide Thanksgiving Service on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. Participation was often affected by those not wanting to venture across Warm Springs Mountain at night, and bad weather was an issue as well.

By 1983 Millboro area churches were hosting a Thanksgiving Service of their own. The service was moved to the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving to accommodate families who planned to travel over the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Thanksgiving Service now rotates between the different churches

in the Millboro area. On average churches host the service once in seven years. In recent years host churches have been comfortably filled with worshipers, and churches have provided an opportunity for fellowship following the worship itself.

In addition to this Community Service, Windy Covians will focus on Thanksgiving at Morning Worship on November 22. Psalm 145 will furnish a basis for their reflection on the nature of God and reasons for giving thanks to God. The psalm celebrates God's greatness, God's goodness, God's faithfulness, and God's righteousness. All of these areas give ample reason for God's people to pause and give thanks. Join us this week to give thanks to God.

### Take Note!

**Sunday, November 22**

Session meets for lunch after worship  
Community Thanksgiving Service at Calvary Baptist Church at 7:30

**Thursday, November 26**

Happy Thanksgiving Day! Enjoy a day of giving thanks to God and spending time with family and friends

**Sunday, November 29**

Advent begins with a look at the Gospel of Matthew. Read ahead!

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## The Commands of God

Windy Covians finished their current series on significant moral issues on Sunday, November 15. Their concluding reflection centered on the place of the commandments in the Christian life. The Bible lesson included the Ten Commandments from Exodus 20.

Christians are often confused about the relationship between the Old Testament and New Testament and especially about the relationship between the law and the gospel of Jesus. Sometimes people speak of the Old Testament as a covenant of laws while the New Testament is a covenant of grace or love. Closer examination reveals that God's covenant of grace actually began with the call of Abraham in Genesis 12.

That covenant then worked its way out through Abraham and his descendants including King David who was descended from Abraham through Isaac through Jacob and through Jacob's son, Judah. In 2 Samuel 7, God refreshes the covenant with King David promising that one of David's descendants would always rule. Matthew's Gospel picks up this covenant theme in his genealogy of Jesus by presenting Jesus as the son of Abraham and the son of David (Matthew 1).

Some folks, however, have mistakenly claimed that if God saves people through grace, then there is no reason to follow the commands of God. These folks promote God's grace as an excuse for sinning. The

Apostle Paul deals with this very issue in Romans 6.

So, how do grace and the law fit together for Christians? First, keeping the law which reveals the will of God is a way to express gratitude to God for the grace that God offers through Jesus. Living a good life is an expression of thanksgiving for what God has already done for us in Christ. When someone gives us a gift, we often say, "How can I thank you?" God shows that we can give thanks for the gift of salvation by being obedient to the will of God revealed in the law.

Secondly, the law is a positive reminder or alert to what it means to be part of the community of God's people. People living in the community of God's grace often have a tendency to stray. The commands of God warn folks that they are in danger of moving outside of that covenant community of God's grace.

Just as a fence warns children not to play in the street, the commands of God warn Christians that trouble lies ahead when they go outside certain boundaries of behavior. The purpose of these commands is not to restrict freedom but to enhance the freedom that Christians find in their relationship with Jesus. First Peter says, "You are free, but still you are God's servants, and you must not use your freedom as an excuse for doing wrong." God's commands help us to enjoy the abundant life that Jesus has promised to us as we trust God's grace.

## Advent Arrives on November 29

Since we will not publish a *Weekly Word* next week due to Thanksgiving, we want to direct your thinking toward Advent which begins on Sunday, November 29. Advent is typically the beginning of the Christian year. Advent comprises the four Sundays preceding Christmas. Advent highlights the themes of hope, anticipation, remembrance, prophecy, and fulfillment.

Our celebration this year will focus on the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. During Advent and Christmas, the church sometimes merges these separate books into one seamless story. For example, we have a pageant that shows the shepherds and the wise men arriving at the manger scene on the same night. Even a casual reading of Matthew and Luke reveals that these two groups did not show up at the manger at the same time. The wise men certainly arrived in Bethlehem months after the actual birth which the shepherds attended.

This Advent season we will endeavor to give each Gospel its due. We will explore the particular themes of each to paint a complete Portrait of Jesus with the varied colors of his preexistence, his birth, his life and teaching, his ministry of compassion, and especially of his death and resurrection. Begin now to read through the Gospels, and

make a point to be present each Sunday to help with our Portrait.

## A Worthy Experiment

For some time the staff of the *Weekly Word* has been distressed that many of our out-of-town readers often receive the newsletter in a mutilated condition. We have spoken to our local post-office personnel who tell us that the machines that scan out-of-town addresses are the primary cause of the problem.

In order to provide these readers with better service, we will try an experiment for the next four issues of the newsletter. For our out-of-town addressees, we will close the open side of the *Weekly Word* with a small adhesive sticker to see if that change will resist or lessen the damage caused by the machines. Of course, we will need feedback from you out of towners to see if our experiment does make a difference. In a few weeks, drop us a card or leave a message on the phone.

At the same time, we remind all of our readers that the *Weekly Word* is routinely posted to our website. Usually the staff finishes composition around noon on Wednesday. We then send an email copy to our printer at the UPS Store in Lexington. Next, we post a copy to the website at [windycovechurch.org](http://windycovechurch.org). On Thursday we retrieve our 250 newsletters from Lexington, affix the labels, and mail them early Friday morning to our loyal readers.