

Calendar of Ministries

- ✝ **Friday, December 4**
Morning Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Saturday, December 5**
Evening Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Sunday, December 6**
Second Sunday of Advent
Sunday School at 9:45
Morning Worship at 11 focusing on the Good News in the Gospel of Mark
Teens meet at 5 at Millboro Elementary
- ✝ **Monday, December 7**
Morning Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Tuesday, December 8**
Morning Prayers at 8
Food Pantry, 1:30 to 4 p.m.
- ✝ **Wednesday, December 9**
Morning Prayers at 8
Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

- Choir at 7 p.m.
- ✝ **Thursday, December 10**
Morning Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Friday, December 11**
Morning Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Saturday, December 12**
Evening Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Sunday, December 13**
Third Sunday of Advent
Sunday School at 9:45
Morning Worship at 11 focusing on the Good News in the Gospel of Luke
- Out-of-Town readers, please let us know if taping the edge of the *Weekly Word* makes a difference in the condition of your newsletter when it is delivered. We will try our experiment for several more weeks.**



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
December 3, 2015**

Thanksgiving into Advent

Thanksgiving was a lovely day in Millboro Springs with especially warm, nice weather for the end of November. Our local TV station noted that Thanksgiving 2014 was overcast with a high temperature in the 40s while Thanksgiving 2015 had hazy sunshine with a high in the 60s. What a difference a year can make!

Windy Covians had prepared for Thanksgiving with two services on Sunday, November 22. In Morning Worship at the church, the congregation focused on Psalm 145. The main body of the psalm is bracketed with calls to give thanks, praise, and extol God. In between these brackets are the reasons for such praise and thanksgiving. After explaining the structure of the psalm, Mr. Sherrard came down from the pulpit to hear the worshipers express thanksgiving and praise for God's greatness, God's goodness, God's faithfulness, and God's righteousness. The service concluded with the singing of "Count Your Blessings."

Later that day, Christians from the Millboro community gathered at Calvary Baptist Church to offer thanks to God at a Community Thanksgiving

Service. After a welcome by the deacons of Calvary, Pastor David George of Woodland Church offered an opening prayer.

Della Napier played the keyboard organ for congregational singing of traditional hymns of praise and thanksgiving. Pastor Rob Sherrard led the congregation in community prayers. Pastor John Haney of the Presbyterian Parish of the Pastures carried a bag to the pulpit. He pulled out a turnip which he related to Thanksgiving dinner before using it as an object lesson for the congregation. Pastor Haney invited the worshipers to "turn up" their lives in several different ways during the Thanksgiving season. For example,

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

Sunday, December 6

Teens meet at Millboro Elementary at 5

Tuesday, December 8

Food Pantry, 1:30 to 4 p.m. at the church

Check inside for further details about our Angel Tree Ministry. Look for the Tree in the vestibule on Sunday.

Offerings for Christmas poinsettias are being received by Tammy Lindsay, Traci Herscher, and Bruce Cambata.

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Thanksgiving (Cont.)

he encouraged folks to “turn up” their hearts to God in praise and thanks. As the turnip continued to lie on the pulpit, worshipers did receive God’s message to “turn up” their lives to him. Pastor Lloyd Via of the Millboro Christian Church closed the worship with a prayer and blessing.

Most people stayed after worship for a wonderful time of fellowship with refreshments provided by the good folks of Calvary. Those present certainly appreciated the warm welcome they had received from their neighbors at Calvary and thanked them for hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service.

Then, On to Advent

The following Sunday, November 29, marked the beginning of Advent at Windy Cove. During this season of Advent and Christmas, the congregation will work together to paint a Portrait of Jesus from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. On each Advent Sunday and on Christmas Eve church bulletins will feature the following picture representing the four Gospel writers. The picture comes from an ivory carving once used as a cover for a compilation of the Gospels in an ancient manuscript.

The top left corner portrays the Gospel of Matthew; the top right depicts the Gospel of Mark. The bottom left represents the Gospel of

Luke; the bottom right shows the Gospel of John.



The winged creatures come from a description of the revelation of the glory of God found in Ezekiel 1. The wings of each creature represent the fact that the Gospels are inspired by God as if sent down by heavenly beings. Each holds a book denoting the written Gospels. The different faces are associated with certain characteristics that apply to that particular Gospel.

Matthew’s Gospel begins with the human lineage of Jesus. Jesus’ incarnation as a real person and as the Messiah is confirmed by his genealogy. Mark’s Gospel begins with John the Baptist roaring like a lion in the wilderness. The Gospel of Luke emphasizes the sacrificial nature of Jesus and his association with sinners. Oxen were beasts of burden and also

used in the sacrificial ministry described in the Bible. John’s Gospel reads differently from the other three with a soaring explanation of the person and work of Jesus. Thus, the eagle is used as an apt symbol. The symbolic figure in the middle of the panel, which looks like a horse but is not, is a lamb portraying Jesus as “the lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world.”

On the 29th the congregation looked at three key features of the Gospel of Matthew: its presentation of Jesus as the fulfillment of God’s plan for the Messiah, its extensive teaching as in the Sermon on the Mount, and its emphasis on the ministry of Jesus’ disciples as seen in the Great Commission of Matthew 28:16-20.

Mr. Sherrard encouraged worshipers to understand what difference each of these points from the Gospel makes in their lives today. For example, the fulfillment of God’s promises means that we can still count on God. God’s teaching still remains the solid rock upon which a person can build a meaningful life. Finally, God issues a call to us as disciples not simply to pass our time waiting to go to heaven. Instead, we are to “go” and to “make disciples,” to “baptize,” and to “teach” others to obey Jesus’ teaching. All the while, we know that Jesus is with us.

On Sunday, December 6, we will reflect on three aspects of the Gos-

pel of Mark. These facets will include the immediacy of the good news, the crucifixion and resurrection as central to our faith, and the necessity of a suffering Messiah to accomplish God’s work.

Christmas Ministries

Our teens are assisting in worship during this Christmas season. Last Sunday, Nevada and Utah Kershner combined for a choral reading of the Beatitudes from the Gospel of Matthew. On December 6, Gabry Herscher and Aislinn Ryder will be reading from the Gospel of Mark.

Our annual Angel Tree Ministry is ready for your participation. We had bulletin inserts on November 29 that outlined eleven different categories for helping individuals or groups. Some of these categories had multiple opportunities for your Christmas giving to others. Check out the tree and its ornaments in the vestibule.

Our Worship Ministry Team has ordered poinsettias to adorn the sanctuary for Christmas. You may contribute an offering to this ministry by seeing Tammy Lindsay, Traci Herscher, or Bruce Cambata. If you want to designate a memorial or to honor a friend, please write down the information so that we may recognize these special gifts during the Christmas season.

Windy Cove Food Pantry meets on Tuesday, December 8 with the Blue Ridge Food Bank Truck on the 15th.