

## Calendar of Ministries

### ✝ 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

### ✝ Monday, December 14

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✝ Tuesday, December 15

Morning Prayers at 8

Food Truck, around 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

### ✝ Wednesday, December 16

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

### ✝ Thursday, December 17

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✝ Friday, December 18

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✝ Saturday, December 19

Evening Prayers at 8

### ✝ Sunday, December 20

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Sunday School at 9:45

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

**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 10, 2015**

## Advent Continues

December 6 marked the Second Sunday of Advent at Windy Cove. Worshipers comfortably filled the sanctuary for a service of praise and thanksgiving to God. The congregation included visitors from Richmond and also from Lynchburg. The visitors from Richmond were Bob and Norma Jean Taylor who attend Windy Cove on a regular basis even though they drive from Richmond when they come. Norma Jean and Bob were married at Windy Cove a number of years ago, and Mr. Sherrard officiated the ceremony. Norma Jean is kin to the Heplers and used to spend summers in Bath County visiting her Aunt Sue Hepler Venable.

The couple from First Presbyterian Church in Lynchburg, Erik and Trenea Koroneos, had been celebrating their wedding anniversary at the Homestead. They located Windy Cove through our website and made a connection with the church when they noticed that Mr. Sherrard was a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College. As it happens, Erik also graduated from Hampden-Sydney a few years after Mr. Sherrard. They have already made plans to have lunch together this week to enhance their friendship.

The center of consideration for the day was the Gospel of Mark. Gabry Herscher read a selection of verses from Mark each of which contained the phrase “right away.” Sarah Eaton read the story of Jesus’ entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday from Mark 11. The third lesson from Mark 8:31 was the first of Jesus’ three predictions of his own sacrificial death.

In elaborating on “right away,” Mr. Sherrard pointed out that Mark’s Gospel has a sense of immediacy or urgency about it. In fact, the Greek word, εὐθύς, appears 47 times in the Gospel being variously translated as right away, immediately, at once, or then. Mark uses this word to indicate that the good news of Jesus carries

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### **Take Note!**

#### **Tuesday, December 15**

Food Bank Truck at Windy Cove, arrives around 10 with distribution around 11 a.m.

#### **Sunday, December 20**

Our Fellowship Event for December will be a Birthday Reception for Jesus following worship. We will have a birthday cake and time just to linger with one another.

#### **Thursday, December 24**

Our Candlelight Communion Worship begins at 7:30. Bring your family and friends.

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Millboro, VA 24460  
Address Service  
Requested

U. S. Postage  
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## Advent (Cont.)

a sense of urgency with it. Those who came in contact with Jesus recognized the urgent need to respond to the good news of the coming of the Kingdom of God. For example, when Jesus calls Peter and Andrew, Mark says that they **immediately** left their nets to follow him.

At times, we modern folks have lost this sense of urgency in the gospel. When many things compete for our attention, the good news of God can simply become one of the many. It may lose its demand for a current decision. Yet, in an uncertain world, there is no more important or pressing need than to make sure that we are reconciled to God through Jesus. It's not a decision to be put off to some future time.

When we do respond to the gracious invitation of Jesus, we have peace of mind and heart. No matter what our circumstances may be, we rest secure in knowing that God is with us and will take care of us.

The reading from Mark 11 reminds us of the importance of Jesus' death and resurrection to a full understanding of Jesus and his ministry. Mark devotes 16 chapters to the life and ministry of Jesus. Of those 16, six tell of Jesus last week including his passion, death, and resurrection. In other words, Mark considered that the end of Jesus' earthly life and his resurrection were so important that he used over one-third of his book on that one week.

Actually, that emphasis helps us to interpret the rest of Jesus' life. It is only in Jesus' death and resurrection that we clearly understand who Jesus was and is. This ending puts God's stamp of approval on how Jesus lived his life and how he taught others to live theirs.

Finally in Mark, Jesus gives three prophetic predictions of his passion and resurrection. Most people of Jesus' day did not understand that God's Messiah, the Anointed One, must suffer in order to accomplish God's mission of redeeming the world. Peter even tried to say that such suffering would never come to Jesus, but Jesus rebuked him. The suffering death of Jesus was indeed part of God's plan of salvation.

These passion predictions are coupled with three explanations that Jesus gives of true discipleship. True discipleship may well involve suffering. In other words, being a disciple of Jesus is not just a badge of honor. True discipleship is about service to others, and such service to others may include sacrifice and suffering.

We appreciate Julie Wagoner who filled in as our pianist on Sunday on very short notice. Tammy Lindsay discovered on Saturday that she is suffering from shingles and would not be able to play on Sunday. Julie graciously substituted for Tammy.

On December 13 we will take a look at the Gospel of Luke. As we indicated last week, Luke's Gospel is portrayed on the following ivory

carving in the lower left panel as a winged creature with the face of an ox.



Oxen were beasts of burden and also used in the sacrificial ministry described in the Bible. We will explore Luke's emphases on writing an historically reliable narrative, on his concern for the disadvantaged in society, and on the Holy Spirit.

## Christmas Flowers

Our lovely Christmas poinsettias were delivered last Saturday and graced the sanctuary on Sunday. We had a mixture of red and white poinsettias surrounding the Communion Table and Pulpit. Then, there were a few more in the vestibule with our Angel Tree and Welcome Table. If you would like to help with this ministry, you may contribute an offering

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 at Christmas.

## Angel Tree and Christmas Cards

Our annual Angel Tree Ministry is still available for your participation. We had bulletin inserts on November 29 that outlined eleven different categories for helping individuals or groups. While many of these opportunities have been filled, we still have some angels left for individuals as well as broader ministries. We especially hope that all the individuals will be selected from the Angel Tree. Check out the opportunities in the vestibule on Sunday.

In the vestibule you will also see the mailbox for your local Christmas cards. If you have your cards here soon, we will see that they get sorted so that they can be picked up by Christmas.

## Christmas Eve and Watch Night Worship

We are also pointing toward our special services on Christmas Eve at 7:30 and on New Year's Eve at 10:30. Christmas Eve will feature lots of Christmas carols and candles. Watch Night is more informal with videos and testimonies. Both services will offer the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Mark your calendar!!