

## Calendar of Ministries

### ✝ Friday, February 12

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✝ Saturday, February 13

Evening Prayers at 8

### ✝ Sunday, February 14

First Sunday in Lent, Valentine's Day

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 focusing on  
Why I Need Jesus

### ✝ Monday, February 15

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✝ Tuesday, February 16

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard meets his classes today.

### ✝ Wednesday, February 17

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

### ✝ Thursday, February 18

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard meets his classes today.

### ✝ Friday, February 19

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✝ Saturday, February 20

Evening Prayers at 8

### ✝ Sunday, February 21

Second Sunday in Lent

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 focusing on  
Why I Need Jesus

Session meets at 5:30 for supper and  
conversation about ECO: the Covenant  
Order of Evangelical Presbyterians

**Food Pantry for February has been put  
on hold due to the recent uncertain  
weather pattern. Watch for info.**



# The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church  
February 11, 2016**

## Lent Begins at Windy Cove

Lent began in a very traditional way at Windy Cove on Wednesday, February 10, with Evening Worship devoted to penitence and forgiveness. These two aspects of the Lenten season were evident as worshipers came forward to receive the sign of the cross in ashes on the back of their hands.

The observance of Lent in the Christian Church has a long history. From the earliest days of the Church, the last week of Jesus' earthly life held a special significance. That week was the one which Jesus spent in and around Jerusalem prior to his death and resurrection. As time passed the Church extended this period of significance to include 40 days, that number being chosen because of Jesus' 40 days of preparation in the wilderness prior to his active ministry.

In the early Church, the 40 days of Lent were considered days for fasting and study as well as prayer and humility. The time was especially used for the training of baptismal candidates who would observe an Easter vigil at the end of the period before professing their faith and being baptized on Easter morn. These baptismal candidates would often enter a

baptismal pool at daybreak on Easter, confess their faith, be baptized, and receive a new white robe as they exited the pool.

In the early Church, fasting was used during Lent to focus one's spiritual energy on prayer and repentance. Since Sundays were never included as days of fasting in the Church, the 40-day period of Lent was extended to include six weeks and four days marking its beginning on what is now Ash Wednesday. The use of ashes carries the import of the frailty of human life along with the sorrow associated with human sinfulness and repentance.

Our particular emphasis at Windy Cove during Lent will be to answer

*(Continued Inside)*

### Take Note!

#### **Sunday, February 14**

Happy Valentine's Day! We will have a special gift for all who attend today.

#### **Sunday, February 21**

Session will meet for a light supper and for discussion at 5:30 p.m.

#### **Sunday, February 28**

We will have a Soup and Sandwich Lunch following worship. After lunch the Listening Response Team from Shenandoah Presbytery will make a presentation.

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## Lent (Cont.)

the question: What do you really need in life? The answer to that question will involve a deeper exploration of our personal relationship with God through Jesus the Messiah.

Our worshipers actually began that exploration on February 7 when we completed the affirmation, "I need Jesus in order to . . . be forgiven and reconciled to God." The truth of this affirmation begins with a recognition that as human beings we have done wrong; we have sinned. In other words, we have done or planned to do or harbored attitudes that were contrary to the will of God. These actions, attitudes, or thoughts have separated us from God. We need forgiveness and reconciliation with God.

The Good News of the Bible makes clear that such forgiveness and reconciliation comes only through Jesus. For example, in 2 Corinthians, Paul says, "For God was in Christ, reconciling the world to Himself, no longer counting people's sins against them." Or, Peter, in his message to Cornelius in Acts 10, says, "Every one of the prophets has said that all who have faith in Jesus will have their sins forgiven in his name." Having understood this grace of Jesus from the Bible, the congregation experienced it by celebrating the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The bread and the wine testify to the means and depth of Jesus' sacrifice for those who turn to him.

On Ash Wednesday we added the affirmation, "I need Jesus in order to . . . know who God truly is." People sometimes carry around in their minds a mistaken idea of God. For some folks, God is a stern judge waiting to condemn convicted wrongdoers. For others, God is a congenial grandparent whose grandchildren can do no wrong. For still others, God is the "man upstairs" who had something to do with the world we live in but who really makes no demands upon our daily lives. And, there are many other false notions about who God is.

The Bible clearly tells us that the only way to know who God truly is comes from knowing Jesus. In John 1:18 the Apostle writes, "No one has ever seen God. God the only Son, who is at the Father's side, has made God known." When we come to know Jesus through the scriptures and through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, then we know who God truly is. We find that God is a loving God who created us, who desires a relationship with us, who will forgive us when we turn away from that relationship, but who also holds us accountable for our sins, and who wants us to live a life holy and pleasing to him, and who provides the opportunity for that life through Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

We will continue our journey through Lent on February 14 as we consider the affirmation, "I need Jesus in order to . . . understand my purpose in life."

## Listening Response Team

The Listening Response Team (LRT) from Shenandoah Presbytery is ready to report to the congregation about the work that they have done with the Session and congregation of Windy Cove during the last year or so. The LRT will meet with the congregation on Sunday, February 28, following a Fellowship Lunch that day. The LRT was originally appointed by the Presbytery at the request of the Windy Cove Session to help Windy Cove work through important concerns that the church had with the Presbytery and with our larger denomination, the Presbyterian Church (USA).

The LRT conducted a series of listening meetings with the Session and the congregation during 2015. The LRT also sent out a survey to the congregation in the summer of 2015. Additionally, the LRT recently talked by telephone with many of Windy Cove's members and attenders about their concerns and the overall direction of the church. Now the LRT is ready to discuss their information with the congregation and to consider the way forward. This work of the LRT is all part of Shenandoah Presbytery's policy of Reconciliation or Gracious Dismissal.

On February 28 we will have a Soup and Sandwich Lunch following worship. Around 1:15 members of the LRT will share their observations with the congregation. We hope that you will be present that day!

## One More Financial Item

In last week's issue, we gave you a lot of financial information. We did not include one other fund that is important to our church and community, the Windy Cove Cemetery Fund. Elder and Trustee Sam Hepler submits the following report for your consideration.

Balance on 12/31/14	\$2839.80
Dividends from Shenandoah Presbytery Corp.	\$ 994.00
Donations	\$ 100.00
<u>Sale of Lots</u>	<u>\$ 20.00</u>
Total	\$3953.80
<u>Grass Mowing</u>	<u>-1170.00</u>
Balance 12/31/15	\$2763.80

Invested with Shenandoah Presbytery Corporation	\$32,000
Bequest from the estate of <u>Georgia McCray Windsor</u>	<u>\$5,000</u>
Current Investment Shenandoah Presbytery Corp.	\$37,000

We appreciate the faithful work of Sam Hepler and Rickey Armstrong since their appointment to work with our local community cemetery. On behalf of the congregation and community, we thank Rickey and Sam for their fine service in this ministry.

We do appreciate all those in the congregation and community who give extra time and effort to administer the finances of church and community services. May God bless you!