

Calendar of Ministries

✝ Friday, February 26

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, February 27

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, February 28

Third Sunday in Lent

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 focusing on
Why I Need Jesus

Soup and Sandwiches after worship fol-
lowed by the LRT presentation

✝ Monday, February 29

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Tuesday, March 1

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard meets his classes today.

✝ Wednesday, March 2

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ Thursday, March 3

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard meets his classes today.

✝ Friday, March 4

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, March 5

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, March 6

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 focusing on
Why I Need Jesus



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
February 25, 2016

Soup and Sandwiches on Sunday

Our fellowship event for February is a Soup and Sandwich lunch this Sunday, February 28. We will eat lunch right after worship. If you didn't have the opportunity to sign-up for this meal, don't worry about that. Just come and share the blessing of not having to cook on Sunday.

Around 1:15 members of the Listening Response Team (LRT) from Shenandoah Presbytery will share their observations with the congregation. The LRT 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 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.

Windy Cove is one of several churches currently engaged in the reconciliation or dismissal process. Each of these churches has a different LRT appointed by the Presbytery. In similar proceedings to date, three churches have remained in the denomination and two churches have been dismissed to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

We hope to see you Sunday.

Take Note!

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.

Monday, February 29

Elders Sharon Sherrard and Traci Herscher will return from California to Dulles Airport late in the evening and then drive home.

Sunday, March 6

Teens will meet at Millboro Elementary at 5.

Windy Cove Pres. Church
102 Windy Cove Road
Millboro, VA 24460
Address Service
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What We Really Need Is Jesus

In worship on Sunday, February 21, the Windy Cove congregation continued their Lenten reflection on what we really need in life. The particular topic for consideration was: We need Jesus in order to live a purpose-filled life.

Mr. Sherrard began the message with a clip from the baseball movie, *The Natural*. *The Natural* is the story of a phenomenal baseball prospect, Roy Hobbs, whose life is interrupted by an unexpected and tragic turn of events. When Roy is about 35, he reconnects with a woman that he knew in high school. As they are catching up, Roy says, "My life didn't turn out the way I expected."

Many folks can identify with the longing that resides in Roy's comment. Often times, life takes turns that we didn't expect and perhaps could not foresee. Circumstances in life sometimes overtake us even when we don't want them to do so. Even predictable changes in life like adolescence or mid-life or becoming a senior citizen can create crises that we did not anticipate.

Beyond these predictable changes, people often experience dramatic, unexpected events such as severe illness, family problems, loss of a job, and other similar interruptions. At these times people do question whether life has meaning or purpose. If life does not turn out

as we expect, does that show that our lives lack meaning?

No! Christians do not draw purpose from the circumstances that surround them; rather in Christ people invest meaning and purpose into the circumstances that surround them. The main lesson for the day, 1 Corinthians 15:58, affirms this idea: "Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain." No matter what circumstances life brings to us, we can live with purpose and meaning so long as we are in Christ doing God's work.

Mr. Sherrard closed the message by referring back to *The Natural*. In a scene late in the movie, Roy Hobbs expresses regret that he was not able to achieve the baseball greatness that he had envisioned. He says that, had his life not been interrupted, people would have declared, "There goes Rob Hobbs, the best there ever was."

Christians, however, are seeking another affirmation of their purpose in life: "Well done, good and faithful servant. You have been faithful over a little. I will set you over much. Enter into the joy of your master." Knowing Jesus and doing his work is what gives true purpose to life.

Our series on what we really need in life will continue on Sunday, February 28, as we move through Lent.

Grateful Thanks

Windy Covians have expressed grateful thanks to God following an incident at the church last Thursday, February 18. Around 7:15 that evening, Rod Landreth, a teacher from the High School, called Mr. Sherrard at home. Mr. Landreth tutors a student at the church after school. He called to say that there had been some damage in the sanctuary.

Mr. Sherrard went immediately to the church and found that the end of one of the cushions on a back pew in the church had been burned. There were several tea candles around that area as well open hymn books. There were other signs that someone had been in the church for an extended period of time.

After talking with Sheriff's Deputy Rexrode and several other folks, we have pieced together the following likely narrative. On Thursday morning, numerous people saw a passerby riding and pushing a bicycle in the community. In fact, around 9:15 that morning on his way to school, Mr. Sherrard passed the man in Millboro Springs. Several kids on the buses saw this man enter the church around 9:45 when the buses were changing at Windy Cove. (School was two hours late that particular day.)

Later in the afternoon around 3:30, Bea Clark came in the back door of the church; and the man was taking his bicycle out the backdoor. Just a few minutes after that, Ruth Cauley passed by the church and

saw the man at the end of our circle drive trying to get back on his bicycle. So, most likely, the man spent the day in the church

We do not know why the tea candles were lit, but one of those candles was on the pew cushion and the metal bottom of the candle caused the cushion to begin to smolder. Mr. Landreth has said that the smoke smell was heavy when he came in the church at 4:05. The good news is that our visitor had gotten the fire extinguisher from the kitchen and put out whatever fire there was. We certainly believe that the minor damage to the church was unintentional. Everything was back in order and cleaned up when Ruth Cauley finished her thorough job of cleaning on Friday.

We do thank the Lord for his protection and appreciate the visitor's good sense to put out the fire. We pray that he got some hours of rest, that he enjoyed some food from the kitchen, and that his time in the church might bring him to know the Lord in a deeper way. We are also grateful for the many friends in the community who helped us piece together the story. Many folks beyond those mentioned above sent word that they had seen the man pushing the bike in the community and around the church.

Some might say that this response indicates what a sleepy community we live in. We think of it as good neighbors looking out for each other. Thank you, Lord!