

Calendar of Ministries

✝ Friday, March 11

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, March 12

Clean Up Day begins at 8:30 weather permitting, lunch around noon

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, March 13

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 focusing on Why I Need Jesus

✝ Monday, March 14

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Tuesday, March 15

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard is on Spring Break.

Food Truck, 10:30 a.m. until noon

✝ Wednesday, March 16

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ Thursday, March 17

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard is on Spring Break.

✝ Friday, March 18

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, March 19

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, March 20

Sixth 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

March 10, 2016

A Miracle in the Making

Each year around Christmas, Ruth Cauley usually visits her daughter and son-in-law, Phyllis and Greg Persinger, who live in Murfreesboro, TN. When Ruth returned from her trip this year, she carried back with her the story of a miracle in the making. It's the story of her great-grandson, James Persinger.

James is the son of Liz and Nick Persinger, and James's brother is named Sam. Windy Cove's ministry with this family began even before Liz and Nick were married. Many Windy Covians will remember praying for Nick when he was deployed to Iraq. Each month we signed up specific people to pray for Nick each day during that month. Then, we sent those names to Nick and his mother so they would know that certain people whom they knew were praying each day particularly for Nick. We were glad when Nick finished his tour of duty and came safely home to Murfreesboro from the war.

When Nick and Liz were married, we rejoiced with them. Our joy increased as they welcomed their first child Sam. About two years ago, we heard that Liz was pregnant again with their second son, James. Around the 20th week of Liz's pregnancy, her

doctor discovered that the developing baby had a condition called spina bifida. When we got this word at Windy Cove, we joined with others praying for James and his family.

Spina bifida is a birth defect that occurs when the covering that ordinarily surrounds the brain and spinal cord does not develop normally. The defect allows the nerves in the spine to bulge out in a way which can cause different kinds of neurological problems once the baby is born. Modern treatment for the condition can include prenatal surgery. Only three hospitals in the United States routinely practice this surgery. However, one of those was Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN. The surgery

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Take Note!

Saturday, March 12

Clean Up Day begins at 8:30, Lunch served around noon, Bad weather date is March 26.

Sunday, March 13

Regular schedule but Daylight Savings Time begins on this Sunday. Spring forward one hour or come late to church.

Tuesday, March 15

Food Truck at Windy Cove from 10:30 until 12, helpers only before 10:30, call Bea Clark at 996-4117 in case of bad weather

Windy Cove Pres. Church
102 Windy Cove Road
Millboro, VA 24460
Address Service
Requested

U. S. Postage
Non-profit Org.
Permit # 2
Millboro, VA 24460

Phone: 540-997-5395

Pastor: Rob Sherrard

Email: wcpccp@cfw.com

Miracle (Cont.)

must be performed before the 26th week of pregnancy, and it involves significant risks for the mother and the baby. However, prenatal surgery has shown to have better outcomes than waiting to perform the surgery until after the child has actually been born. The first part of James's miracle was his successful surgery and his mother's continued pregnancy until the time of James's birth.

In cases of spina bifida, prenatal surgery repairs the bulge in the cover surrounding the spine, but the surgery does not repair damage caused by the original defect. Doctors expected that James would have some of the problems associated with spina bifida including trouble with hearing and speaking, with motor skills like walking, and with sensitivity to certain conditions and foods.

James has had some of these problems, but they led to the second part of his miracle. In Murfreesboro, there is an amazing center for the treatment of children with problems similar to James's. It's called Special Kids Therapy and Nursing Center (<http://www.specialkidstn.com>). Special Kids is Christ centered. Their website boldly declares, "We're professionals who are trained and licensed, but first,

we're Christ followers with a God-sized mission that is only met through Him."

James goes to the Center several times each week for therapy, and he has made considerable progress. Originally, the doctors thought that his hearing had been affected. However, after using hearing aids for a while, it became clear that he could hear well without them. James was also receiving therapy to increase his chances of walking. He wore braces to strengthen his legs.

Then, one day while his great-grandmother was in Murfreesboro, James's mother was getting him ready to go to therapy. As she was putting on his clothes, she told him to sit still while she retrieved an item from another room. Before she returned, Liz heard a commotion in the hallway. When she looked, she saw James rambling down the hallway without his braces or any other help. Liz cried tears of relief and joy to see her son walking unassisted for the first time.

When Great Grandmother Ruth returned home after her visit, she testified that her family had truly received a miracle from the Lord. As she said, "You can read about miracles in the Bible; but when it happens in your family, that makes it real." And, Ruth testimony to the Lord's grace made it real for us as well.

James's grandmother, Phyllis, reports that James is growing stronger each day. His speech is improving, but he still goes to the center for help. Right now, they are working on James's sensitivity to certain foods. Phyllis also adds that even with all of his struggles, James has always been a loving and peaceful child.

We thank you, Lord, for your kindness to this family and for answering prayers on their behalf. We give you glory for this miracle in the making!

Peace, Peace

Our Lenten series on What We Really Need continued on Sunday, March 6, as we focused on the peace of God. The lesson for the day was Philippians 4:4-9 where Paul describes the peace of God which passes all understanding. Paul is very specific about the steps leading to this peace of mind and heart.

First, such peace comes from a joyful relationship with Jesus. People who don't know Jesus may have peaceful moments, but these times are often interrupted by the circumstances of life. Those who have developed a deep relationship with Jesus find peace even in the midst of the changing circumstances of life.

Secondly, Paul exhorts the Philippians to think about others, not just themselves. He says, "Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do." Focusing on others gets us

out of the worry or pity party that we may be having for ourselves.

Thirdly and not surprisingly, Paul reminds us not to fret but instead to pray about everything: to tell God what we need, but also to give thanks for how God has blessed us. Perhaps at times, we spend too much time in prayer asking and little time giving thanks. If we pray and give thanks, God's peace will become evident to us and will keep us focused on Jesus.

At the point where we have cleared our minds of worry and experienced peace, we need to fill our minds with wholesome thoughts. Paul says to think about things that are true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. These thoughts should spur us to action and confirm the peace of God to us.

On Sunday, March 13, we will examine what it means to belong to God's family. We hope to see you there!

People and Prayers

We were delighted to welcome some friends to worship in recent weeks. Last Sunday Sharon and Ricky Fry were present with daughter Lori and her children. Jim Ailstock was also in worship with friends and relatives. Jim's care of his son, Dallas, often prevents him from attending worship. Two Sundays ago, the Koroneos family from Lynchburg filled up a pew. It was their second visit to our worship.