

Calendar of Ministries

✠ Friday, March 18

Morning Prayers at 8

✠ Saturday, March 19

Evening Prayers at 8

✠ Sunday, March 20

Palm Sunday

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Teens meet at 5 at Millboro Elementary

✠ Monday, March 21

Morning Prayers at 8

✠ Tuesday, March 22

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard will resume his classes.

✠ Wednesday, March 23

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✠ Thursday, March 24

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard teaches today.

Communion Worship at 7:30 p.m.

✠ Friday, March 25

Morning Prayers at 8

Good Friday Worship at Piney Grove at 7

✠ Saturday, March 26

Evening Prayers at 8

✠ Sunday, March 27

Easter Day!

Sunrise Worship at 7 atop the hill on Windy Cove Farm

Community Breakfast at Calvary Baptist Church following the Sunrise Service

No Sunday School on Easter

Morning Worship at 11 with a Celebration of the Lord's Supper



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

March 17, 2016

Saint Patrick's Day

Although it seems as if we just turned the calendar over to the New Year of 2016, we are already publishing this week's newsletter on Saint Patrick's Day. Yes, there really was a Christian saint named Patrick, but many of the other stories about Patrick are more fiction than fact.

So far as we can tell, he didn't drive the snakes out of Ireland; and we doubt that he drank green beer as some now do on the day that bears his name. In fact, Saint Patrick was not even Irish. However, in Patrick's case, the true story is even more exciting than the legend.

Patrick actually grew up on the west side of England. When he was sixteen years old, Irish raiders took him captive, carried him to Ireland, and made him a slave. He was forced to look after the flocks of the landowner who had bought him. He was ill-clothed and ill-fed, and he hated his Irish captors. However, the Lord came to him in a dream, and he began to pray. He even prayed for those who held him as a slave.

When he had been a slave for six years, he had another dream which told him that his ship had arrived. He understood that to mean that he was

to escape and travel to the coast. He ran away the next day and managed to make it to the east coast of Ireland without being recaptured. There was indeed a ship in the harbor preparing to sail, but the Captain would not take him aboard. However, one of sailors encouraged him to come on board anyway.

After an arduous trip, the ship made land in England; but the ship's crew was nearly out of food. The Captain chided Patrick that, if his God was so good, why did he not help them when they were about to starve. Patrick prayed and suddenly a whole herd of pigs came over the horizon into the field. The crew was saved, and Patrick's faith grew strong.

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

Sunday, March 20

Teens meet at 5 p.m. at Millboro Elementary.

Thursday, March 24

Evening Worship at 7:30 with Communion

Friday, March 25

Evening Worship at 7 at Piney Grove Baptist Church in Hot Springs

Sunday, March 27

Sunrise Service at 7 followed by breakfast at Calvary Baptist Church

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Saint Patrick (Cont.)

Patrick returned to his family who were overjoyed to have him back with them. Yet, he could not keep the Irish from coming to his mind. He knew that they suffered under the cruelty of their rich overlords and were kept in spiritual darkness by the pagan Druid priests in the country. Patrick had a dream that the Irish were calling to him to return, and he determined to go back to Ireland with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Patrick's family begged him not to go. "Surely," they said, "you have suffered enough." But, the Lord's call was more compelling than even the cries of his family. Patrick first went to France to study in a monastery. Then, he did indeed become a missionary to the Irish who had treated him so harshly.

Upon his return to Ireland, he established a church in a barn that one of the land barons gave to him. People responded to the message of the Good News of Jesus. However, everyone was not hospitable. Patrick was often arrested and beaten and suffered greatly for his dedication to bring the light of Jesus into the spiritual darkness of the land. He ministered to the Irish from 432 until his death in 461 and is justly regarded as a true Christian saint. Happy Saint Patrick's Day!

Easter Approaches

Why does Easter keep moving around? Last year Easter came on April 5; two years ago on April 20. Then, in 2013, Easter fell on March 31; and, way back in 2011, Easter did not arrive until April 24. The reason for this "movement" is because Easter is tied to the celebration of the Jewish Passover, and Jewish celebrations are calculated according to a lunar (moon) calendar rather than our usual solar (sun) calendar.

So in the early history of the Christian Church, the church leaders determined that the celebration of Easter should fall on the first Sunday after the first full moon following the Spring equinox (when the sun officially crosses the equator on its northward journey because of earth's orbit and rotation). The Spring equinox comes on March 20/21 each year. The latest possible date for Easter is April 25 which last occurred in 1943 and will not occur again until 2038.

So, this year Easter arrives on March 27. As usual, we have many extra events during this very special season of the Christian year. On Sunday, March 20, we celebrate Palm Sunday remembering Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Along with the pilgrims who welcomed Jesus, we will say, "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest!" Mr. Sherrard will continue his present series on Why We Need Jesus.

On Thursday, March 24, Windy Covians will share the traditional Communion Worship on Maundy Thursday. That evening service will begin at 7:30 p.m. Maundy is actually an older English form derived from the Latin word meaning "a command." It refers to Jesus' new commandment at the Last Supper to love one another as he has loved us.

On Good Friday, March 25, Piney Grove Baptist Church in Hot Springs has invited Mr. Sherrard to speak on one of the Seven Words of Jesus from the Cross. Each of the pastors involved will take one of the seven words. That service begins at 7 p.m. We hope many of you will join our brothers and sisters in Christ at Piney Grove.

Easter Day begins with our Community Sunrise Worship atop the hill on Windy Cove Farm. Mr. Sherrard will preach the sunrise service this year. Worship begins at 7 a.m. Following the service, folks are invited to breakfast at Calvary Baptist Church.

Our glorious celebration of Easter on March 27 continues at Morning Worship at 11 in the Windy Cove sanctuary. Of course, each Sunday of Christian worship is a "mini-Easter" as we meet on the first day of the week, the day of Jesus' resurrection. However, our annual Easter celebration is central to our remembrance of the great blessing of worshipping a risen savior. We hope to welcome you at these events.

A Dear Saint

The Millboro community lost a dear saint last week as Frances Manion passed from this earthly life to enjoy her blessed eternal life with Jesus in heaven. Her funeral was conducted at Nicely's Funeral Home in Clifton Forge last Sunday at 3 p.m.

Pastors John Haney and Lloyd Via led the funeral worship. The service included a singular family remembrance delivered by Keith Manion, one of Frances's eight children. Keith shared remembrances from the family and also spoke of the simple but powerful faith in Jesus that resided in Frances and is still available through Jesus today.

Mrs. Manion served as Windy Cove's faithful nursery attendant for twenty years. She welcomed a generation of children into the nursery and eventually on out into their childhood and adult life. A verse that summarizes her patient care of these young ones is Jesus' own words, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." Frances cared for each child as if they were one of her own. In fact, she insisted that we have one or more helpers with her so that all of the babies would have individual and personal attention.

She was utterly devoted to her Lord, to her family, and to her extra children in the nursery. Truly, "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."