

Calendar of Ministries

✝ **Friday, April 29**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, April 30**

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, May 1**

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with a message on the Cloud of Witnesses

Teens meet at Millboro Elementary at 5

✝ **Monday, May 2**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Tuesday, May 3**

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard will be teaching a make-up day for one of the snow days this semester.

✝ **Wednesday, May 4**

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ **Thursday, May 5**

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard's classes have exams today at 10:30 and 12:45

✝ **Friday, May 6**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, May 7**

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, May 8**

Mother's Day

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with a message for mothers and Communion



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

April 28, 2016

What a Surprise!

As our worship leaders came through the doors at the front of the sanctuary right at 11 o'clock on Sunday, they looked toward the back to see Sonny and Bea Clark coming from the vestibule and finding a seat in the sanctuary. Our leaders knew then that our plan to **surprise** Bea with a unique service of worship and a Fellowship Meal had been successful. Everyone in the congregation had done a good job in keeping the secret. Of course, our *Weekly Word* Staff was in on the surprise, but we couldn't take a chance on letting our readers know since the *Weekly Word* is widely circulated in the community.

Bea was surprised. She said later, that after Mr. Sherrard's brief greeting and the invitation to greet others, she looked up and the first person she laid eyes on was her son, Larry. She thought, "What's he doing here?" Then, she was greeted by Larry and her other children: Charollette, Johnny, Ronny, Buddy, and Bobby. Quite a few of Bea and Sonny's grandchildren were also present to add their best wishes on this special day to honor Bea for her Christian character and service.

After the greeting time, Larry and Diana's children sang two songs which led the congregation into worship. During worship, each of the Clark's children testified to the blessing of growing up in a family headed by Bea and Sonny. At the time of prayer, the six children sang "I Know Who Holds Tomorrow."

Following worship, we did have our monthly fellowship event which we had publicized without the added information of the surprise for Bea. We had a lovely meal of fried chicken with lots of extras to go with it. The congregation provided a cake with Bea's name in the center surrounded by the different ministries that she has led or been part of at Windy

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

Teens meet at Millboro Elementary School on Sunday, May 1, at 5 p.m.

The Session will meet with the Listening Response Team from Shenandoah Presbytery on Sunday, May 15, at 1 p.m.

Pray for our college kids who will take exams soon. Mr. Sherrard's classes have exams on May 5.

Remember Mother's Day on May 8.

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Surprise (Cont.)

Cove including Food Pantry, the Samaritan Fund, Social Services Board, Clothing Days, and Meals on Wheels. During and after the meal, other folks had the opportunity to greet and thank Bea for her service to the Lord in and through the church.

The extended Clark Family lingered well into the afternoon as they caught up with each other at their unexpected (at least by Bea) family reunion.

Mary of Bethany and Bea of Millboro

Mr. Sherrard continued the current series of messages on the Great Cloud of Witnesses by focusing on Mary of Bethany while relating her story to Bea's service to family, church, and community. Mary of Bethany is the woman mentioned in Mark 14 and John 12 as having anointed Jesus' body for burial a few days before his actual crucifixion.

Jesus commends Mary in the most astonishing way in Mark 14:9 saying, "Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." Jesus thought that what she had done was so close to the heart of good news that the story would always be told as part of that gospel.

What was so remarkable about Mary that she should receive such

commendation from Jesus? First, Mary concentrated on relationships. She valued and cultivated her relationship with Jesus. Her life was not just about doing good deeds; it was about growing her relationship with Jesus. She once sat at his feet and listened to his teaching; then, as he neared his greatest trial, she showed her devotion by anointing him with an expensive oil.

Such a relational way of being appears throughout the Bible. God himself chose a people to call his own, to be related to him. John 3:16 says, "God so loved (a relational word) the world that he gave his one and only son (another relationship) that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life (a relationship with God).

In our daily lives, we often find that women, more than men, concentrate on relationships. Bea Clark has shown this characteristic in her ministry for Jesus. Raising a family is about developing and building relationships with one's children as Bea has done. Doing ministry is not just about getting a job done, it's about the building of relationships with the people who are helping in that job. Again, Bea is one of the best at encouraging people to be involved.

Secondly, Mary recognized an opportunity for service, and she seized that opportunity. Many folks are oblivious to the opportunities that they do have to serve Jesus. Like the parable, we may say, "When did we

see you . . ." We see and we hear, but we do not really comprehend the opportunities to minister that Jesus presents to us. So, we miss out on what Jesus has for us.

Finally, Mary was bold. In a culture often dominated by men, she is bold to step out of the shadows to do something for Jesus. Indeed, she was criticized for wasting such a valuable asset as the expensive oil. Yet, Jesus commends her actions. Bea spent many years at home raising her own family, but she has boldly stepped out in later years to serve Jesus in new ways.

Our consideration of the Great Cloud of Witnesses will continue on May 1 as we look at Moses. Then on May 8, Mother's Day, we will think together about Mary, the mother of Jesus.

God's Not Dead 2

On Sunday, April 17, the community teens and their adult leaders went out to lunch in Staunton prior to attending the movie God's Not Dead 2 in Waynesboro. Without giving away the whole plot, we can say that the movie depicts a fictional situation in which a high school history teacher is disciplined by her school board for speaking about the historical Jesus in a classroom setting.

Although fictional, the movie plot is not far from the challenge that some Christians face in expressing their faith in settings outside religious worship or their own homes.

The movie credits list a number of cases in which the limits of free religious expression have been tested.

The Christian Concern website highlights stories of several people in Great Britain who were disciplined in some manner for expressing their faith at work. One of these cases was a nurse who prayed for one of her patients. Another was a nurse who had worn a cross to work. Although the complete details of these cases are not available on the website, they do indicate a growing possibility of the effort to limit religious freedom in the marketplace.

The value of God's Not Dead 2 lies in its raising of awareness among Christians about the possibility of having to take a costly stand for their faith in Jesus Christ.

People and Prayers

Some bladder problems and waiting for back surgery and have kept Gary Nair at home for several weeks.

Ruth Cauley has gone to Murfreesboro, TN to be with her daughter. Ruth suffered a dizzy spell at work and was in the hospital several days before she left. She is having more tests in TN to make sure things are O. K. Ruth is ready to celebrate her 85th birthday on May 1.

Katy Sherrard Anderson's father-in-law, Larry Anderson, has been diagnosed with cancer. Katy and Chip appreciate your prayers for Larry and his wife in Chattanooga, TN.