

Calendar of Ministries

✚ Friday, May 13

Morning Prayers at 8

✚ Saturday, May 14

Evening Prayers at 8

✚ Sunday, May 15

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with a message for celebrating Pentecost with the Great Cloud of Witnesses

Session meets for lunch followed by a meeting with the Listening Response Team from Shenandoah Presbytery

✚ Monday, May 16

Morning Prayers at 8

✚ Tuesday, May 17

Morning Prayers at 8

Food Truck, workers around 9:30 with distribution around 11

✚ Wednesday, May 18

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✚ Thursday, May 19

Morning Prayers at 8

✚ Friday, May 20

Morning Prayers at 8

✚ Saturday, May 21

Evening Prayers at 8

✚ Sunday, May 22

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 continuing the Great Cloud of Witnesses

Remember your Four Cents Offering on this 4th Sunday of the month



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

May 12, 2016

Windy Cove and Bath County History Day

Windy Cove will participate in a Bath County History Day on Saturday, May 14. Windy Cove will be one of several historical sites in the county open to visitors that day. Mr. Sherard will be available from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. to review the history of the church with visitors who are making the circuit on this historical tour. Windy Covians have also agreed to provide lunch for those who might desire to linger for extra minutes during the middle of their tour.

So, we thought our readers might like to relive some of the history of the church and the county even if they are not able to tour the sites on May 14. Bath County was authorized by the Virginia Legislature on December 14, 1790 with land coming from the then existing Virginia counties of Augusta, Botetourt, and Greenbrier (now in West Virginia). The official convening of court in Bath County came on May 10, 1791 in the home of Margaret Lewis in Warm Springs which became and remains the County Seat of Bath County. Thus, our May 14, 2016 History Day will celebrate the 225th anniversary of official government organization in Bath County.

Of course, Native Americans and pioneer settlers had been in the area long before the creation of the county in 1790/91. The pioneer settlers brought their religious convictions with them as they settled the frontier area now comprised by Bath and other counties. The records of the earliest preaching along the Cowpasture River indicate that the Reverend John Craig was ordained in 1740 by Donegal Presbytery near Philadelphia to accept a call to what would become Tinkling Spring Presbyterian Church in Fishersville. After consolidating the work around Tinkling Spring, Mr. Craig undertook extensive journeys to outlying areas farther west including preaching to other

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Take Note

Bath County History Day, Saturday, May 14, from 9 to 3 at Windy Cove. See the article above.

Session meets with the Listening Response Team on Sunday, May 15, at 1 p.m. If you have questions or comments, talk to a Session member.

Session will meet for lunch prior to meeting with the Listening Response Team.

Windy Cove Pres. Church
102 Windy Cove Road
Millboro, VA 24460
Address Service
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Permit # 2
Millboro, VA 24460

History (Cont.)

Scotch-Irish (or Scots-Irish) settlers along the banks of the Cowpasture and Calfpasture Rivers. These two preaching points would later become the Presbyterian Churches of Windy Cove and Rocky Spring.

Following upon these early efforts, the Reverend Alexander Craighead, who had been ordained by Donegal Presbytery in 1736, settled along the Cowpasture in the 1740s and organized Windy Cove by 1749. Mr. Craighead remained as the pastor of Windy Cove until 1755 when he moved with a number of people from the congregation to the Charlotte, NC area. There he founded the Sugar Creek Church.

His departure from Virginia was likely caused by the conflict between the pioneer settlers with the Native Americans and his constant friction with Virginia colonial officials. This latter difficulty arose from his unwillingness to accept any restraint by the Episcopal (Established) Church of the Virginia colony. For example, marriages performed by Mr. Craighead were not recognized by the Virginia authorities until these unions had also been blessed by Episcopal Church officials. After his move to Charlotte, Mr. Craighead died in 1766 and is buried there.

These early settlers met in a log building located about a mile south of Millboro Springs just off the Cowpasture River Highway. Around

1766 the congregation moved to a second log structure about a hundred yards west of the present location. A third wooden church was made of hewn logs and rested on the site of the present Windy Cove Church. That third building was torn down in 1838 to make room for a new brick church which included the present church and session house. These brick buildings, manufactured from bricks made and burned on the site, have stood the test of time. Both the present sanctuary and the session house were repointed between 1993 and 1995.

The construction of the brick church came during the lengthy tenure of Pastor Samuel Brown who labored at Windy Cove from 1832 to 1862. His father had been the pastor at New Providence Church near Brownsville, and his mother, Mary Moore, had in earlier years been carried off as a captive in the Abb's Valley raid. Mr. Brown had a wide-ranging ministry in the frontier area that included Bath County. Up the Cowpasture River, he preached at Williamsville, McDowell, and Doe Hill. To the west his ministry extended to Warm Springs, the Jackson River, and Back Creek as well as to Monterey, Crab Bottom, and Franklin. To the East, he ministered for 20 years at Lebanon Church near Craigsville. Mr. Brown retired due to ill health in 1862. However, he returned to Windy Cove in 1875 to preach an amazing sermon on the history of the church.

Session to Meet with LRT

The Listening Response Team from Shenandoah Presbytery has scheduled a meeting with the Windy Cove Session for 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 15. This meeting will continue the conversation of the church with the LRT concerning reconciliation with the Presbytery or possible dismission to another Presbyterian denomination. This Discernment Process has been ongoing since the beginning of 2015.

If members or attenders at Windy Cove have questions or comments, be sure to talk to a Session member before May 15. Otherwise, be in prayer for the Lord's direction and a good outcome of this Process for the church and for the Presbytery.

Mary the Mother of Jesus

Windy Covians celebrated Mother's Day on May 8 with several special features of Morning Worship. Perhaps for the first time, the congregation celebrated Communion on Mother's Day. The Session had scheduled this observance of the sacrament because of the early date for Easter in March. The next regular observance of the Supper will not come until July 3. Additionally, Mother's Day is one of the main family celebrations during the year which seemed a particularly appropriate time to observe the meal of the Christian family. During Communion Mr. Sherrard closed the Prayer of Thanksgiving with a slight

variation of the oft-used family mealtime blessing: "God is great; God is good. And, we thank him for our food. By his hand must all be fed, give us, Lord, your holy bread."

During prayers the congregation took time to thank God for those women who had been especially important in their lives. Many of the wonderful women associated with the families of Windy Cove were mentioned in these special prayers. We are sure that there were some real tears of joy shed at the remembrance of these women.

Mr. Sherrard's message focused on Mary, the mother of Jesus. On a recent test, he had asked his college class: Which do you think was harder: to be the Messiah or to be the mother of the Messiah? Somewhat surprisingly, most students said it was harder to be the mother of the Messiah. After this introduction, Mr. Sherrard recounted some of the difficulties that Mary had faced as Jesus' mother. He included the unique virgin birth, the preteen Jesus lost and found in Jerusalem, the reluctant Jesus who turned water into wine, the Jesus whom some thought was crazy, and especially the crucifixion scene in John where we see Mary at the foot of the cross. Mary's faithful service includes her transition from being Jesus' mother to being Jesus' disciple as recorded in the early chapters of Acts. Instead of directing Jesus, she has submitted herself to the risen savior and Lord. What a woman!