

Calendar of Ministries

- ✝ **Saturday, November 19**
Evening Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Sunday, November 20**
Sunday School at 9:45
Morning Worship at 11
Teens meet at Millboro Elementary at 5
Community Thanksgiving Worship at
Woodland Church at 7:30
- ✝ **Monday, November 21**
Morning Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Tuesday, November 22**
Morning Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Wednesday, November 23**
Morning Prayers at 8
Choir at 7 p.m.
- ✝ **Thursday, November 24**
Happy Thanksgiving!

- ✝ **Friday, November 25**
Morning Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Saturday, November 26**
Evening Prayers at 8
- ✝ **Sunday, November 27**
Sunday School at 9:45
Morning Worship at 11, bring your pennies for our hunger offering
Soup and Sandwich Lunch followed by decorating party at the church

The Millboro Ruritan Club is sponsoring their annual Hunters' Supper on Sunday, November 20, from noon until 6 p.m. at their Club House in Millboro. It's a luscious menu for \$10. If you ordered a Ruritan Calendar, you will be able to pick up your calendar at lunch as well.



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
November 17, 2016**

Thanksgiving

“So long as we are receivers of mercy, we must be givers of thanks.”

This famous quotation comes from Charles H. Spurgeon's well-known commentary on the Psalms, *The Treasury of David*. Spurgeon is commenting on Psalm 100, verse 4: “Enter his gates with thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name!”

The Psalm and the comment by Spurgeon speak to the truth of our faith in God. We have received many merciful blessings from the Lord, and these blessings should bring a response of praise as we receive them. The same thought lies behind Matt Redman's song, “10,000 Reasons.” As Christians we have 10,000 or more reasons to bless the Lord each day.

Such literary and artistic expressions of our faith in God's care remind us of the historical celebration of Thanksgiving by the Pilgrims in Plymouth Colony. The hard winter of their first year in America had taken its toll. Less than 50 people remained of the original 110 who had sailed on the Mayflower.

After the spring and summer, this remnant celebrated with their Indian

friends that fall. Indeed, Indians like Samoset, Squanto, and Massasoit were the givers of mercy to the colonists during their early years in a new world. This celebration together laid the foundation for our current celebration of Thanksgiving.

Additionally, Redman's song reminds us that thanksgiving is not a one-day-a-year affair:

*The sun comes up,
It's a new day dawning.
It's time to sing Your song again.
Whatever may pass and
whatever lies before me,
Let me be singing
when the evening comes:*

(Continued Inside)

Take Note

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, we will not publish a *Weekly Word* on November 24. We expect to be back in circulation on December 1,

Community Thanksgiving Worship, Nov 20 at Woodland Church at 7:30 with Mr. Sherrard preaching

Fellowship Lunch and Decorating Day, Nov 27 after worship. After lunch we'll help our Worship Ministry decorate. Bring your pennies for the Food Pantry.

Windy Cove Pres. Church
102 Windy Cove Road
Millboro, VA 24460
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Thanksgiving (Cont.)

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

O my soul,

Worship His holy name.

Sing like never before,

O my soul.

I'll worship Your holy name.

Each day offers the opportunity for giving thanks to God for the many blessings we have received. And, despite the aggravations that some days bring, there are still good reasons to praise the Lord.

Community Thanksgiving

Just as the Plymouth Community took time to celebrate and give thanks, our Millboro Community has for many years set aside a special time of thanksgiving. Some of our readers may not know or remember the origin of our Community Thanksgiving Service. So, here's the story.

The Thanksgiving Service has a long history in our community. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the Bath County Ministerial Association sponsored a countywide Thanksgiving Service on the Wednesday evening before Thanksgiving. Participation was often affected by those not wanting to venture across Warm Springs Mountain at night, and bad weather was an issue as well.

By 1983 Millboro area churches were hosting a Thanksgiving Service of their own. The service was moved to the Sunday evening before

Thanksgiving to accommodate families who planned to travel over the Thanksgiving holiday.

The Thanksgiving Service now rotates between the different churches in the Millboro area. On average churches host the service once in seven years. In recent years host churches have been comfortably filled with worshipers, and churches have provided an opportunity for fellowship following the worship itself.

This year Woodland Church is hosting the Community Thanksgiving Service at 7:30 p.m. on Sunday, November 20. David George is the host pastor, and Mr. Sherrard will be preaching this year's service.

Messiah Series Continues

On Sunday, November 13, the current series of messages on Jesus the Messiah continued as the congregation explored Jesus as the cornerstone and firm foundation of Christian life. The reflection was an extension of the theme of one of the Messages of the Resurrection from the prior week. Jesus' resurrection validated Jesus' teaching about the true nature of a good life.

How does a person build a good life? First, there must be a true cornerstone that keeps life going in the right direction. The Bible proclaims that Jesus is such a cornerstone. A person's basic commitment to accept Jesus' love and forgiveness sets

the course of life just as a cornerstone sets the line for a course of blocks or bricks. Then, Jesus also provides a firm foundation on which to build a good life.

People do often try to build on other foundations. For example, some try to build on creature comforts: a nice home, modern appliances, a new car, fancy gadgets, and more. However, these items lack the permanent stability of a relationship with Jesus. In some cases, the more things we have, the more distracted we are from opportunities that truly help to build a good life.

Other people build their lives on expediency. They give little thought to the future and just react to circumstances as they occur. Often such people simply choose the easiest way or what seems appropriate at the time. These folks have no consistency of character.

Building a good life on the foundation of God's character provides the stability that people need to withstand the inevitable storms or challenges of life. The essence of God's character has been revealed to us in the person of the Messiah Jesus. That character is testified to in the Bible, and the Holy Spirit confirms the truth of God's character displayed in Jesus and the Bible.

It's not difficult to find words to describe this solid foundation. Words like humility, perseverance, compassion, forgiveness, loyalty,

honesty, integrity, kindness, generosity, discipline or self-control, peace, patience, joy, and many more come readily to mind. These are the solid building blocks for a good life set on the foundation of God in Jesus the Messiah.

Advent Begins

Advent begins this year on Sunday, November 27, immediately after the Thanksgiving holiday. That Sunday we are having a fellowship meal of soup and sandwiches followed by a decorating party at the church. Our Angel Tree should be in place for your selection of a special person or ministry to support.

During Advent we will continue our emphasis on Jesus the Messiah as we focus on the Servant of God foretold in the prophecies of Isaiah in Chapters 52 and 53. These prophecies are not the traditional ones associated with the birth of the Messiah. Rather, they are ones that highlight the difficult ministry of the Messiah as the Suffering Servant of God. Jesus' birth was cause for great joy in heaven and on earth; but the fulfillment of his mission was even more important and gave greater glory to God.

We will also be singing lots of carols and lighting a candle from our Advent Wreath each Sunday. Our expectation and worship will culminate with our services on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning which comes on Sunday this year.