

Calendar of Ministries

✝ **Saturday, December 17**
Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, December 18**
Sunday School at 9:45
Morning Worship at 11
Teens at 5 and Millboro Elementary
Bring your Angel Tree gifts today.

✝ **Monday, December 19**
Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Tuesday, December 20**
Morning Prayers at 8
Food Truck at 9:30 with pick up at 11

✝ **Wednesday, December 21**
Morning Prayers at 8
Bible Club at the High School at 8:08
Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ **Thursday, December 22**
Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Friday, December 23**
Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, December 24**
Christmas Eve Communion at 7:30 p.m.

✝ **Sunday, December 25**
No Sunday School today
Christmas Worship at 11
Look for your Christmas cards.

Spread the word about Christmas Eve worship at 7:30 p.m. celebrating the Messiah's birth with Communion. A personal invitation is often what brings people to church and precipitates a closer relationship to God.

On Christmas Day and New Year's Day, we will not have Sunday School, but Morning Worship will be at 11 a.m.



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
December 15, 2016**

Missing the Messiah

Since late September, worship at Windy Cove has focused on the Advent of the Messiah Jesus. That focus has intensified during the last three weeks with the arrival of the Advent Season of the church year. Each Sunday of Advent we have looked closely at a portion of Isaiah's prophecy concerning the Messiah in Isaiah 52:13 through 53:12.

When Christians read these verses, it's somewhat difficult to understand how people at the time of Jesus missed out on who he really was. After all, Isaiah's prophecies were written about 750 years before the time of Jesus; and we know that the expectation of a messiah had reached a fever pitch around the time of Jesus. So, how did people miss out when Jesus came as the Messiah, the one whom God had anointed with the Holy Spirit to achieve God's purposes?

As Messiah, Jesus was more complex than people realized. Jesus met some of their expectations for the Messiah, but he also contradicted some of their expectations. These expectations at the time of Jesus fit into three types: a political messiah, a religious messiah, and an apocalyptic

messiah. At times Jesus looked like a political messiah. He did not hesitate to stand up to the Roman authorities, but he did not lead a rebellion against them. At times Jesus looked like a religious messiah. He came from a pious family and taught like a rabbi, but he violated the Pharisees' understanding of the Sabbath and claimed direct authority from God. At times Jesus looked like an apocalyptic messiah (a person to destroy all evil and bring an entirely new world order). He spoke of a kingdom not of this world, but he dealt daily with the real problems of people in this world. The result was that many did miss the Messiah Jesus. What about us? Are

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Take Note

December 18

Regular Schedule of Sunday School at 9:45 and Worship at 11. Please bring your Angel Tree gifts to the church today. Our Christmas Card Mailbox is still open until the middle of the week.

December 20, Tuesday

Food Truck arrival at 9:30 and delivery around 11 a.m.

December 24

Christmas Eve Communion at 7:30 p.m.

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

Messiah (Cont.).

there circumstances that might cause us as modern people to miss the Messiah? What are some of the reasons that people today do miss Jesus as the Messiah?

Here are three common reasons why people do miss the Messiah. First, people sometimes suffer an offense or hurt in church. Maybe an unkind word is said, or someone feels left out of an activity. Their emotional system feels a jab of pain, and they leave the church. In so doing they risk missing out on deepening their relationship with the Messiah Jesus.

The church as the Body of the Messiah can learn from this situation. We do need to be careful how we treat people in and outside the church. At the same time, we know that life is full of hurts, some small and some large. Forgiveness is the remedy for such hurts. When we are hurt, we can pursue forgiveness and deepen our relationship with the Messiah.

Secondly, present-day life is filled with distractions that can lure us away from Jesus the Messiah. Many times, these distractions are good things in and of themselves. When kept in proper perspective, sports activities, travel, hobbies, home improvements, and many other things are all well and good. Yet, they have the potential to draw us away from our first allegiance to Jesus.

Finally, we see a definite trend in modern life to believe that the Messiah Jesus is only one way to spiritual growth and leading a fulfilling life. People often think that all religious choices are of equal value and lead to the same destination of a good life with a satisfying conclusion. In fact, not all the world's religions claim to be headed to the same conclusion; and Jesus himself makes radical claims when it comes to understanding the true nature of a good life. For example, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of the Messiah Jesus, take care not to miss out on who he really is. You can deepen that relationship with Jesus on Sunday, December 18, as we consider another aspect of Jesus' messiahship. Join us, won't you?

The Result of Answered Prayer

Last week we reported on the miracle of healing that Michael Simmons had experienced while waiting in the hospital to have surgery. Of course, Michael's story was also shared during worship on December 4. On December 11, we learned during our testimony time that Emily Bartholomew had received a measure of healing herself while hearing the testimony of Michael's healing.

Emily said that she had not been feeling well for quite a few weeks. She thought that she would come forward for prayer when we have our special prayer ministry at the front of the sanctuary after worship is finished. However, as Traci Herscher and Rob and Sharon Sherrard related the testimony of Michael's healing, Emily found that she already felt better than she had for weeks. The healing power of the Holy Spirit was released in the spoken testimony of Michael's healing.

This incident confirms what other Christians have experienced: the power of Jesus' healing released in the testimony of other mighty works of God in the midst of God's people. Thank you, Lord, for your continued presence with your people.

Christmas and Easter

Sometimes in the Church, we chuckle when we speak of C and E Christians, those who mainly show up at church at Christmas and again at Easter. In truth, we should not take lightly these excellent opportunities to impact people with the gospel of Jesus. The Bible reminds us that, when God's Word is spoken out into the world, that Word will not return void. Indeed, it will accomplish the purpose for which it has been sent.

So, we can expectantly invite family and friends to special opportunities for worship knowing that the Lord does use these opportunities to

move people closer to him. As you contemplate your own attendance at worship on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day which falls on Sunday, think about someone you might call to share that experience with you. You might just be the link that draws this person a little closer to Jesus. Even if you just make contact, the person knows that someone cares. See what the Lord can do!

People and Prayers

Our florist from Goshen, Bobbie Jo Roderick, delivered our Christmas flowers last Saturday. The deep red poinsettias are beautiful at the front of the sanctuary. During the delivery, Bobbie Jo mentioned that her mother was very sick and was scheduled for an important test last Monday. A couple of our folks had an opportunity to pray with Bobbie Jo and express our concern for her mother. We pray God's healing.

We learned this week that a Windy Covian, Naomi McCray, had been named the Millboro Ruritan of the Year. When Mr. Sherrard congratulated her on the honor, Naomi laughed and said, "I wouldn't have gotten the award if he (her husband James) hadn't dragged me around to all these places." Rob and James and Bea Clark who were there at the time got a good laugh at that explanation. If memory serves us well, not so long ago (maybe last year?), James himself received the same honor. Naomi and James, thanks for serving our community and church.