

Calendar of Ministries

- ✚ **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.
- ✚ **Monday, December 26 through
Wednesday, December 28**
The Sherrards will be in Richmond visiting family.
- ✚ **Saturday, December 31**
Watchnight Worship with Communion begins at 10:30 p.m.
- ✚ **Sunday, January 1**
No Sunday School today
Morning Worship at 11
- 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.

Mr. Sherrard will be teaching a class on Religions of the World at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College beginning on January 13. The class will meet each Friday morning in Clifton Forge from 10 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. If you sign up for the class, Mr. Sherrard can provide transportation.

This issue of the Weekly Word will be our last for 2016. We expect to publish again around the middle of January. We wish all our readers a Merry Christmas and many blessings for the New Year. Thanks for your encouragement.



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
December 22, 2016**

Family

As most of you know, we Sherrards place great value on family. It's no wonder that we do. Sharon and I both grew up in solid Christian families. Sharon's Mom was a strong Christian woman who led many to the Lord; Sharon's father was a caring and effective Christian pastor. Their home was indeed a house of prayer. In fact, Sharon's Christian commitment was one of the main reasons I was attracted to her in high school.

My mother was a consistent Bible reader and very good Bible teacher. My father was a strong, level-headed Presbyterian elder. His special ministry was to take care of the pastors and their families who ministered at Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church. Even after our pastors moved on to other ministries, my Dad would take our family to visit them in places like Broadway, VA, in Vineland, NJ, in Virginia Beach, VA, and even in Minneapolis, MN.

I was recently reflecting on my own journey of faith. As I wrote down a few things, the first was that I could not remember a time in my life when I did not know that Jesus loved me. That love was mainly communicated to me through my parents and other

members of my extended family: grandparents, aunts, uncles, and even my cousins.

Then, when Sharon and I established a family of our own, we experienced the added blessing of children and eventually grandchildren. I have no greater joy than to see our children and their spouses firmly committed to the Lord Jesus and to see them gently leading our grandchildren to make that same commitment. As you know, we had the unique delight this year of adding an adopted grandchild to our family when Katy and Chip adopted little Alyshah whom they had been fostering for two years.

(Continued Inside)

Take Note

Saturday, December 24

Christmas Eve Communion at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 25,

No Sunday School today
Morning Worship at 11, informal service with casual clothes recommended

Saturday, December 31

Watch Night Worship at 10:30 p.m.

Sunday, January 1

Worship at 11, no Sunday School today

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

Family (Cont.).

For those of us who are Christians, it should not be surprising that families are such an important part of our lives. After all, God has chosen throughout history to work primarily through families.

The first eleven chapters of Genesis include the story of how human beings disrespected and rebelled against God's intention for creation and the order of human relationships. So much so, that in Noah's day when God looked upon human beings, God saw, "Every imagination of their hearts was only evil continually." By Chapter 11 people were building a tower to demonstrate their ingenuity to God and perhaps try to take over heaven. So, God confused their communication and scattered them across the earth.

But, God did not destroy or give up on his creation including human beings. Instead, God initiated a plan that will eventually reconcile people to himself and redeem all of creation to serve God's purposes. And, God began that plan with Abraham **and his family**. So, the story of Abraham and his family comprises the rest of the Book of Genesis and really the rest of the Biblical story.

In Exodus Abraham's descendants become the Hebrews and later the Israelites and even later the Jews. All the while, God is working

out his plan and purpose for history. King David and his family played a large part in that history. In 2 Samuel 7 God promises that a descendant of David would always rule God's people.

Though there were fits and starts along the way, God's promise to David and his family held true. At the beginning of the New Testament in Matthew 1:1 we read, "This is the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham." In Jesus God was still working through Abraham's and David's family to bring God's purposes for history to their ultimate fulfillment. Jesus is that King!

And, what about Jesus? He was born into a real family. His mother Mary had been chosen to be the mother of the Messiah though she was a virgin. His father, Joseph, was obedient to God's plan when he adopted Jesus into his family. Jesus' parents raised him in a pious family until the time came for Jesus' own unique ministry as the Messiah of God.

Jesus' ministry as the Messiah included his call to form a new family, a spiritual family of God which we call the true church. As one resource puts it, "The one true church is the universal body of believers everywhere who have given their hearts to Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord."

For nearly thirty-seven years, the Sherrard family has been part of

the Windy Cove family where together we have been trying to live as God's family in our time, place, and situation. For the Sherrard's, this family journey at Windy Cove has often been an exciting, rewarding, and enjoyable one. One highlight during the past year was in September when I had my picture taken at Peter and Erica Goings' wedding in Kansas City, MO. The picture included seven couples over two generations from the extended Goings/Simmons family whose weddings I have participated in. What an incredible blessing from the Lord!

At the same time, I also remember difficult moments in hospitals, nursing homes, funeral homes, and in cemeteries where I learned a deeper meaning of being part of God's family in order "to weep with those who weep." There were occasions when I stood or sat with a family as they watched a loved one struggle to take that last earthly breath before passing on to a glorious life with the heavenly family of God. Those moments I treasure also, but in a different sort of way. I treasure them because you, our family at Windy Cove, have trusted Sharon and me enough to share the deepest part of your lives with us. Both Sharon and I appreciate that trust.

Our lives, like that of Jesus, are a mixture of Christmas, Good Friday, and Easter. There are times when we do hear the angels sing, "Glory

to God in the highest! And, on earth, peace, good will to all." At other times from the depths of despair, we cry, along with Jesus, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" Yet, because of Jesus' messianic ministry for and with the family of God, we await with patience our own resurrection day there to enjoy our most blessed family reunion.

Until then, "Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."

To my family,
/s/ Rob

A Start for the New Year

We have an excellent resource to get you off to a good start in the New Year. It's not a tread mill or a gym membership; it's something even better; it's a way to draw closer to Jesus.

We are offering you Ted Dekker's guided meditations called *The Forgotten Way*. It will lead you through 21 days of reflection on and deepening of your relationship with Jesus. We will have the books available at worship on December 25 and January 1 to begin your journey on January 2. It's not just one more thing to do. It's what will keep everything else in its proper perspective.