

## Calendar of Ministries

- ✚ **Saturday, February 25, 2017**  
Evening Prayers at 7:30
- ✚ **Sunday, February 26**  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship at 11  
Session meets for lunch after worship
- ✚ **Monday, February 27**  
Morning Prayers at 8  
Men's Bible Study with supper at 5:45  
and study at 6:30
- ✚ **Wednesday, March 1**  
Morning Prayers at 8  
Bible Club at the High School, 8:08  
Choir at 7 p.m.  
Ash Wednesday Worship at 7:30 p.m.
- ✚ **Thursday, March 2**  
Morning Prayers at 8  
Mr. Sherrard teaches today at 1

- ✚ **Friday, March 3**  
Morning Prayers at 8  
Mr. Sherrard teaches at DSLCC at 10
- ✚ **Saturday, March 4**  
Evening Prayers at 7:30
- ✚ **Sunday, March 5**  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship at 11  
Teens meet at Millboro Elementary at 5
- Men's Bible study begins on Monday, February 27 with supper at 5:45 p.m. and the study around 6:30. Contact Mr. Sherrard if you are interested. He needs a count for fixing the first meal. First passage will be 1 Timothy 1:1-17 focusing on verse 15.**



# The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church**  
**February 23, 2017**

## Identity Crisis

"Identity Crisis" is a term first used by psychoanalyst, Erik Erikson, to describe the transition of a young person from adolescence to adulthood. Identity crisis also plays a huge role in Ted Dekker's book, *The Forgotten Way*, which Windy Covians have been using since the start of the new year.

In the introduction to his book, Dekker points out the identity issues that he struggled with for many years beginning in early childhood when he was sent to boarding school. In fact, he attributes much of his success as a secular writer to his wrestling with these identity issues. He believes that many people who bought his books were struggling just as he was and were intrigued by his description of characters who were experiencing life just as they were.

However, the mere journey to find his true identity was not ultimately satisfying to Dekker. Describing the crisis was not enough for him. Dekker wanted to solve his own identity crisis which only happened through the love of Jesus and the intimate relationship that Jesus' love makes possible with God the Father.

The Biblical witness, especially in the New Testament, of what it means for a person to be "in Christ" was what really changed Dekker's life. In *The Forgotten Way*, Dekker records his insight into that identity which Christians gain when they realize that they are united with Christ and share all Christ's blessings.

On Sunday, February 19, in worship, Windy Covians celebrated that identity in Christ. They looked together at various aspects of their own identity in Christ. Genesis 1 proclaims that human beings were created "in the image of God." Although many explanations have been given for the expression, *image of God*,

*(Continued Inside)*

### Take Note

**Sunday, February 26, 2017**

Sunday School, 9:45; Worship at 11  
Session meets for lunch after worship.

**Monday, February 27**

Men's Bible Study begins with supper at 5:45 p.m. with the study beginning around 6:30.

**Wednesday, March 1**

Ash Wednesday Service of Prayer and Penitence begins at 7:30 p.m.

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## Identity Crisis (Cont.)

the most apparent is that which follows the expression in Genesis 1:26. There, God declares that human beings would be representatives on earth of God's divine sovereignty. God would be King, but human beings would exercise his power in the earthly realm. In other words, humans would be stewards of God's created order. What a magnificent beginning to the general understanding of human identity!

A consideration of Jeremiah 1:4-5 indicates that individual human beings also have specific purposes in God's plan. God tells Jeremiah that he had been marked out as a prophet even before his birth. Again, this understanding of specific purpose helps trace out the important identity that people can realize as daughters and sons of the Father God.

Another problem that many people encounter in their search for identity is a feeling of condemnation. Such condemnation may be experienced as guilt or shame or alienation or even as worthlessness. In Romans 8:1 Paul reminds his Christian readers, "There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death." Life in and through

Jesus is one of freedom and victory not agony and defeat. Later in that same chapter, Paul declares that people who are united with Christ are "more than conquerors." What an incredible way to speak of our human identity in Christ!

In *The Forgotten Way*, Dekker does not wish away the troubles that people experience during their earthly lives. He is not living or writing in denial. What Dekker does say is what Jesus affirms to his disciples in the Upper Room, "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." Any honest person knows that people have struggles in this world. Things go wrong; unavoidable tragedies do occur. However, in Christ a peace which "passes all human understanding" can be found.

If you are watchful, you can see that peace in hospital waiting rooms, in funeral parlors, in living rooms where families face a crisis together, and in a pastor's study. That peace is part of our identity in Christ.

On Sunday, February 26, Mr. Sherrard will conclude his present series of messages coordinated with *The Forgotten Way*. The message will center on claiming our identity in Christ.

## Negotiating Team

The Negotiating Team established by the Windy Cove Session to facilitate Windy Cove's dismissal from Shenandoah Presbytery has been meeting to formulate a response to an offer received on January 29 from Presbytery's Administrative Commission (AC). The Negotiating Team will present its counter proposal to the Session for their input at the monthly meeting on February 26. Following Session approval of the offer to the Presbytery, the Negotiating Team will continue to work with Presbytery's AC to find an acceptable solution. When a more definite form of the solution becomes available, there will be an informational gathering of the congregation to outline the plan that has been negotiated with the Presbyter's AC.

## People and Prayers

In an unusual state of affairs, Windy Cove currently has two members at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Several weeks ago, Mary Durham suffered a burst abdominal aneurysm while residing at the Springs Nursing Center. She was transported to Bath Community Hospital and subsequently flown by helicopter to Roanoke.

Mary had very serious emergency surgery there. After surgery, she was kept sedated and hooked to a ventilator to help maintain her breathing. Her vital signs stabilized, but she still needed the ventilator to

help her breathe. Just this week, she began to be more alert and finally to begin breathing on her own. The doctors were then able to remove the ventilator, a very good sign. Mary has a long road of recovery ahead, but we praise God for her current progress and pray for continued strength and health.

Last Saturday, February 18, after a long week of being sick at home, Ruth Cauley was transported to Bath Community Hospital by the Millboro Rescue Squad. Ruth had some intestinal distress which she initially interpreted as the flu. She became very dehydrated when her symptoms lingered.

Ruth was diagnosed with a perforation in her intestines which required her transfer to Roanoke Memorial. She is replenishing her fluids with IVs and awaiting the doctor's judgment about whether her intestines might heal on their own or whether surgery is necessary. Ruth's daughter, Phyllis Persinger, arrived on Sunday to be with her mother at the hospital.

On a more cheerful note, many of our young people are with the Bath County High School Band this week at Disney World. Besides playing a concert, band members are taking full advantage of the attractions there. They travelled on two tour busses to accommodate the large number of band members and chaperones. They are due to arrive home on Sunday.