

## Calendar of Ministries

✚ **Saturday, March 4, 2017**  
Evening Prayers at 7:30

✚ **Sunday, March 5**  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship at 11

Caravan after worship to see The Shack in a matinee in Waynesboro, contact Sharon Sherrard for details

✚ **Monday, March 6**  
Morning Prayers at 8  
Men's Bible Study with supper at 5:45 and study at 6:30

✚ **Wednesday, March 8**  
Morning Prayers at 8  
Bible Club at the High School, 8:08  
Choir at 7 p.m.

✚ **Thursday, March 9**  
Morning Prayers at 8  
Mr. Sherrard teaches today at 1

✚ **Friday, March 10**  
Morning Prayers at 8  
Mr. Sherrard teaches at DSLCC at 10

✚ **Saturday, March 11**  
Evening Prayers at 7:30

✚ **Sunday, March 12**  
Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.  
Morning Worship at 11

The Sherrards will be away keeping grandchildren in Kingsport, TN

**Food Pantry item for this month is canned fruit. Put your donations in the box in the vestibule before our next Pantry on March 14.**



# The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church**  
**March 2, 2017**

## Romans 8: Identity in Christ

In last week's issue, we wrote about "identity crisis" a term coined by psychoanalyst Erik Erikson. The issue of human identity also plays a huge role in Ted Dekker's book, *The Forgotten Way*. Since the beginning of the year, Windy Covians have been studying what the Bible has to say about personal identity, especially a person's identity in Christ. That study reached a fitting conclusion on Sunday, February 26, as the congregation focused on Romans, Chapter 8.

The chapter begins with the startling message of good news in Jesus, "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." Because of Jesus' death and resurrection, people who accept Jesus as Savior and Lord are set free from the bonds of sin and death to live life as God has intended it to be lived. The identity of Christian believers is grounded in their relationship with God the Father through Jesus the Son.

Christians have left their old lives behind. In Paul's words, "Therefore, dear brothers and sisters, **you have no obligation to do what your sinful nature urges you to do.** . . . For all who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God." (Roms 8:12, 14) Instead, they live as daughters and sons of the Father God. Indeed, they are heirs prepared to receive all the rightful inheritance of God's blessing in their lives.

With their position as sons and daughters, true heirs, also comes responsibility. Sharing the glory of God in Christ may also include sharing in the suffering of Christ.  
*(Continued Inside)*

### Take Note

**Sunday, March 5, 2017**

Sunday School, 9:45; Worship at 11  
Caravan to see the movie, The Shack, leaves after worship. Contact Sharon Sherrard for details or reservations.

**Monday, March 6**

Men's Bible Study continues at 5:45 with supper (fried chicken) and the study beginning around 6:30. 1 Timothy 3:1 and following is the study this week.

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## Romans 8 (Cont.)

Jesus taught in the Sermon on the Mount, "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness sake for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." So, a Christian's identity in Christ does not exempt one from the normal ills of life nor from the specific distresses associated with being a follower of Jesus.

How does one cope while living out his or her identity in Christ? Paul suggests three answers to this question. First, a comparison between the afflictions suffered and the blessings gained is really no comparison. Sharing the very glory of God makes any and all suffering seem insignificant by comparison. He compares the situation to childbirth. The incredible joy of having a newborn far outweighs the pain of giving birth even though at the time the pain seems nearly unbearable. "Weeping may last the night but joy comes in the morning."

Secondly, as Christians we have the Holy Spirit to help us with our cares and tribulations. Indeed, when we are so pressed down that we don't know how to pray or can't muster the energy to pray, the Holy Spirit interprets our groanings as our prayers to God. Christians have a spiritual helper who is always with us.

Finally, and most importantly, God promises, "And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them." (Roms 8:28) God does not cause everything that happens to us, but God promises to use everything for our good when we find our identity in Christ. He has the wisdom and power to use even very difficult circumstances for our ultimate benefit and usefulness in Christ.

The conclusion of these considerations of our identity in Christ is that nothing can ever separate us from the love of God in Christ. At times, we may feel unloved, unwanted, and alienated from others and God, **but** Paul reminds us,

**". . . I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow--not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below--indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Roms 8:38-39)**

To which we say, "Amen!"

## Great Blessings in Answer to our Prayers

As we reported to you last week, Mary Durham and Ruth Cauley had serious conditions which caused both to be hospitalized in Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Mary had suffered a burst aneurysm which required emergency surgery; Ruth had flu-like symptoms resulting in the discovery of a perforated intestine.

We are delighted to report that both women are doing much better. Although Ruth's doctor had contemplated surgery, he decided to see if Ruth's intestine would heal without the intervention. The healing did take place (Thank you, Lord!), and Ruth left the hospital on February 23 to stay with her daughter Phyllis in Murfreesboro, TN.

Mary also made significant progress this past week. She was taken off the ventilator that had helped her breathing. She became more alert as her medicine was reduced. By the end of the week, she was able to get up out of bed. She continues her recovery in the hospital. Again, we praise God for her recovery from what was definitely a life-threatening situation.

On Sunday, February 26, Sharon Madison sat in for her mother as the congregation prayed earnestly for Polly Rector. Polly has been confined to her home with much pain in her back and hips. We continue to ask the Lord to bring relief to her.

## Session

The Team charged by the Windy Cove Session to negotiate terms of a dismissal from Shenandoah Presbytery presented their proposal to the Session at its monthly meeting on February 26. After forthright discussion, the Session approved this proposal and provided for it to be sent to the Administrative Commission (AC) of Shenandoah Presbytery. The proposal has been sent to the AC for their consideration and response. The Session hopes that this proposal will lead to a constructive resolution of the issues with the Presbytery.

When a more definite form of that resolution becomes available, there will be an informational gathering of the congregation to outline the plan that has been negotiated with the Presbyter's AC.

The Session also heard the good news that the Orkin Company had completed work on the crawl-space at the manse. This work eliminated the mold and mildew growing in the crawl-space, reinsulated the area, installed a sump-pump to mitigate seepage of ground water, installed a dehumidifier to control moisture, and encapsulated the crawl-space to prevent a recurrence of the problems.

The Session also authorized the purchase of several electronic devices to enhance Tammy Lindsay's ministry of worship and eliminate the use of bulky sheet music.