

Calendar of Ministries

✚ Saturday, March 11, 2017

Evening Prayers at 7:30

✚ Sunday, March 12

Daylight Savings Time begins! Set your clocks forward one hour or be late for Sunday School and Worship!

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship at 11 with the Rev. Steve Cathcart filling the pulpit

The Sherrards will be keeping grandchildren in Kingsport, TN.

✚ Monday, March 13

Morning Prayers at 8

Men's Bible Study with supper at 5:45 and study at 6:30. Pizza is on the menu.

✚ Tuesday, March 14

Morning Prayers at 8

Food Pantry, 1:30 to 4 p.m.

✚ Wednesday, March 15

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School, 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✚ Saturday, March 18

Evening Prayers at 7:30

✚ Sunday, March 19

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Congregation meets at 11 to elect members to our Nominating Committee

Morning Worship following the congregational meeting

Teens meet at Millboro Elementary at 5.

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 9, 2017

Lent Begins at Windy Cove

Windy Covians began their observance of Lent with Evening Worship on Ash Wednesday, March 1. A small group of worshipers gathered to hear the message of good news, examine themselves before the Lord, and receive God's sign of forgiveness in ashes upon the back of their hands.

The theme for worship that evening came with the opening hymn, "Trust and Obey." The central Bible passage was Exodus 20:1-17. Those verses include God's affirmation that he has freed the chosen people from slavery in Egypt and now gives them commands which will enhance their service as a community of God's people.

These Ten Commandments became the means for our worshipers to repent before the Lord and begin Lent with a spirit of humility and service. Worshipers spent about half an hour reflecting on the broader implications of each of the commandments for their own lives and the life of the present-day community.

Then, during the singing of "Just as I Am," those gathered came forward to hear words of forgiveness pronounced as they received the sign of the cross in ashes on the back of their hands. The service concluded with the singing of the Doxology and the Benediction.

On Sunday, March 5, the congregation continued their Lenten emphasis with a consideration of Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." This verse will appear in the bulletin

(Continued Inside)

Take Note

Sunday, March 12, 2017

Daylight Savings Time Begins!

Sunday School, 9:45; Worship at 11

Rev. Steve Cathcart will fill the pulpit in Mr. Sherrard's absence.

Sunday, March 19

We will hold a Congregational Meeting at 11 to elect members to our Nominating Committee. Worship will follow.

Windy Cove Pres. Church
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Lent (Cont.).

each Sunday of Lent in a more contemporary translation: "I will bless you with a future filled with hope—a future of success, not of suffering." This year, during Lent, the congregation will be looking forward to their bright future under the guidance and blessing of God.

Historically, this prophecy of Jeremiah was sent in a letter to those Israelites who had been exiled to Babylon at a very dark time of Israel's history. Indeed, the overwhelming majority of Jeremiah's pronouncements for the LORD were filled with gloom and doom for God's people. Thus, it is particularly striking to find the pronouncement of hope in the middle of such darkness.

On Sunday, the congregation reflected that the same situation can be found in the final hours of Jesus' earthly life with his disciples. Judas betrayed Jesus; Peter denied Jesus three times; Jesus' closest disciples slept while he agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane. Nevertheless, a bright light shines amid this darkness. Jesus celebrates the Passover Meal with his disciples.

At that meal, Jesus reaffirms the covenant of love that God has with his people. Jesus proclaims that he is the lamb sacrificed to compensate for the sins

of the people. His blood represents the new covenant that promises forgiveness for all who are alienated from God. Amid the darkness of betrayal, denial, and disregard, Jesus shines the light of hope for his disciples and for all who believe in him because of their testimony.

The congregation made application of these promises of hope both in their personal lives and in the life of the congregation. Many folks pass through seasons of life when hope is diminished or may even appear to be extinguished. The real cry of agony is one that says, "It's hopeless." But, in such personal situations, the prophetic cry from Jeremiah and the messianic word from Jesus proclaim, "God has a plan for you. That plan includes blessing and a future."

The same is true of congregations. They go through hard times of stagnation, loss, perhaps even despair. But, God's powerful word is the same, "I will bless you with a future filled with hope." Truly, as individuals or as a congregation, our past does not determine our future. Even our present does not determine our future. Rather, the powerful and prophetic word of God is what determines our future. As Adoniram Judson said, "Our future is as bright as the promises of God."

Sad to Report

We are sad to report to you the death of Elder Mary McCoy Durham. Last week, Mary was making good progress in her recovery from serious surgery to repair a ruptured aneurysm. She had been confined for several weeks at Roanoke Memorial Hospital. Last Friday, March 3, her progress prompted her doctors to transfer her back to the Springs Nursing Home in Bath County.

On Saturday at the Nursing Home, she suffered a spell of stomach reflux which led to breathing difficulty and further complications with her heart. She could not overcome such complications in the weakened condition caused by her original surgery. The good news is that she was fully prepared to transfer to her life in God's heavenly kingdom.

Mary trained as a nurse at the former C and O Hospital in Clifton Forge; and she practiced at Bath Community Hospital and King's Daughters in Staunton. Mary was devoted to her husband Alvin and loved her sons Al and Randy, their wives, and her grandchildren. She was very close to her niece, Barbara Howell, who followed Mary's inspiration as a nurse. Mary had lovingly cared for her mother-in-law, Mary Brinkley Durham, prior to Mrs. Durham's death in 1993.

Mary served as an Elder at Windy Cove as well as Treasurer for the Windy Cove Women. Mary was an instrumental part of the Windy Cove

Youth Club program. She supervised the cooking and serving of meals for those kids for many years.

Her family and friends gathered to celebrate her life and to affirm the promise of her resurrection unto eternal life on Wednesday, March 8, at Nicely Funeral Home in Clifton Forge. May God bless this family.

Movies

Teens and adults from Bath County ate lunch together at Cici's Pizza in Staunton on Sunday, March 5, before viewing the movie, *The Shack*, at the Zeus Theater in Waynesboro. More than 25 people were included in the group.

The movie was an adaptation of the popular book by the same name which the adult class at Windy Cove had recently studied. *The Shack* explores Christian themes including the nature of God, the meaning of love, the difficulty of forgiveness, and the challenge of living in a world that includes good and evil. The Shack explores these issues through an engaging allegorical presentation.

In the previews on Sunday, the crowd saw that a dramatic adaptation of Lee Strobel's book, *The Case for Christ*, will be released shortly. Windy Covians have also used this book in Sunday School. *The Case for Christ* tells the story of Strobel's search as an investigative reporter for the truth about Jesus and the Christian faith. Look for the movie soon in theaters near you.