

Calendar of Ministries

✚ **Saturday, May 20, 2017**

Evening Prayers at 7:30

✚ **Sunday, May 21**

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship at 11

Band Concert at the High School at 6

✚ **Monday, May 22**

Morning Prayers at 8

✚ **Tuesday, May 23**

Morning Prayers at 8

✚ **Wednesday, May 24**

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School, 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✚ **Saturday, May 27**

Ruritan Chicken Barbecue

Evening Prayers at 7:30

✚ **Sunday, May 28**

Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Morning Worship at 11

Following up their community service on Mother's Day, the Millboro Ruritans are preparing for their Memorial Day Chicken Barbecue. You can use the sign-up sheet in the vestibule to order dinners for the Saturday of Memorial Day Weekend. It's May 27.

Bible School is just about a month away, June 19-23, with our Bible School Program and Picnic on Sunday, June 25. Nancy Peery and Rob Sherrard are currently recruiting willing workers for Bible School. We are especially looking for a person to manage the kitchen for Bible School. Don't wait to be called; talk to Nancy or Rob about how you can help.



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

May 18, 2017

What Does Love Really Mean?

In Sunday worship, Windy Covi-ans have been asking themselves this difficult question since the celebration of Easter. The question is complicated by the many ways that the word "love" is used in our current culture and the comparison of those ways with the Biblical value of love.

This discussion began with a consideration of Deuteronomy 6:4-5. The passage in Hebrew is called the "Shema," pronounced shem-ah. The name stems from the Hebrew word for "hear" which begins the passage in its original language:

"Hear[Shema], O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might."

The Shema represents the basic statement of faith for those who practice Judaism. Devout Jewish believers will repeat this confession of faith at least once each day.

For Christians Jesus endorses

this statement in the New Testament in Mark 12:30 in a conversation with a religious leader. However, the question remains: What does Jesus mean when he says that a person should love the Lord and love his or her neighbor?

In his book, *Loving God*, Chuck Colson addresses this very issue. After making a genuine commitment to be a follower of Jesus, Colson asked himself and others how he should live out that commitment in his daily life. The answer often came back: Love God and love your neighbor.

(Continued Inside)

Take Note

Sunday, May 21, 2017

Sunday School at 9:45; Worship at 11
The Bath County School Bands will present their Spring Concert at the High School on Sunday at 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 28

Sunday School at 9:45; Worship at 11
The Sherrards will be out of town this weekend attending the Alumni Banquet for their 50th High School Reunion.

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Love (Cont.)

When pressed for more specifics, people were often at a loss for words. That situation prompted Colson to address the idea from a Biblical perspective which culminated in his writing *Loving God*.

Colson's study of the Bible convinced him that the key to understanding Biblical love lies in the idea of obedience. The primary reference for this understanding is John 14 where Jesus says more than once, "'If you love me, you will keep my commandments.'" By these comments, Jesus emphasizes the importance of obedience to God's commands in loving God and loving one's neighbor.

That understanding leads directly to two other questions: 1. How can we obey God's commands? And, 2. What are the principles or substance contained in those commands?

The first question goes to the heart of the gospel of Jesus. In truth without the ministry of Jesus, no one can keep God's commands. Adam and Eve had only one command in the Garden of Eden, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil." Having been tempted, they did not keep that command. With sin in the world, no human being except Jesus has been able to be

completely obedient to God's commands.

But, Jesus changes the situation. Through his sinless life, he renews or redeems people's ability to be obedient to God's commands. Not only that, Jesus also sends the Holy Spirit to give us wisdom, guidance, and encouragement as we seek to be obedient to his commands in loving God and neighbor.

Jesus, the Gospel writers, the Apostle Paul, and other New Testament writers help us to put substance into the question of what the commands of love require. On Sunday, May 21, we will be looking at Paul's description of love in 1 Corinthians 12-13 to see the contours of a loving relationship with God and others.

We hope that you will join us for this uplifting culmination of our study of the Shema in Deuteronomy 6 and its implications in the Good News of Jesus.

Haiti Team

Windy Cove's 2017 Haiti Mission Team recently held its second orientation meeting. After sharing a meal together, the team broke into two groups to discuss plans for their projects for the trip.

The first group brainstormed ideas for conducting a series of four half-day Bible Schools at four

different Haitian schools supported by the Haiti Education Foundation. This group decided that they would focus on stories from the Book of Daniel especially the stories of the three men thrown into the fiery furnace and of Daniel in the lions' den. These stories have lots of action and multiple characters which the Windy Cove Team can use in acting out the stories and involving the Haitian children. Last summer the Windy Cove Team presented the story of the Good Samaritan in schools at Cherident, David, Trouin, and Jacmel.

The second group spent time looking at plans for simple church benches. While in Haiti, this group will be constructing pews for Saint Matthias Church in Cherident, Haiti. Saint Matthias was one of the two original churches in the mountain parish of Father Jean-Wilfrid Albert who partnered with Frances Landers to establish the Haiti Education Foundation with its schools. Saint Matthias has often used school benches for its pews. However, carrying the school benches back and forth from school to sanctuary shortens their useful lifespan. Simple pews will help with worship and with the school at Saint Matthias.

The team will travel to Haiti on June 26 and return on July 4. They will fly from Washington's Reagan National Airport via Fort Lauderdale, FL to Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee for the Windy Cove congregation will be meeting in the coming weeks. This Committee will have two goals. The Session has asked the Committee to bring a recommendation to the congregation about the present structure of the Windy Cove Session. The Session is currently comprised of three classes of elders with four persons in each class. Elders serve a three-year term with one new class of four being elected each year. The Session has discussed the idea of reducing the size of the Session to nine elders owing to the present size of our current worshiping congregation. The Nominating Committee will consider this idea as part of its work. Additionally, the Committee will present nominees for eldership based on its recommendation about the structure of the Session.

This Committee will be happy to receive guidance from the congregation about the structure of the Session as well as potential candidates to serve as elders. Qualifications for church offices appear in the Bible in several places including 1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1. Members of the Nominating Committee include Terry King, Paul Lancaster, Sharon Sherrard, Traci Herscher, and Justin Shanks. Speak to these folks with your ideas. Mr. Sherrard will soon have a series of messages on church offices; so, look forward to that as well as you pray about this matter.