

## Calendar of Ministries

### ✚ Saturday, December 16, 2017

Evening Prayers at 7:30

### ✚ Sunday, December 17

Third Sunday of Advent

Sunday School at 9:45 with refreshments around 9:30

Morning Worship at 11

Teens at Millboro Elementary at 5

### ✚ Tuesday, December 19

Morning Prayers at 8

Food Truck arrives around 10 with distribution around 11:30

### ✚ Wednesday, December 20

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

### ✚ Sunday, December 24

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Candlelight Communion at 7:30

### ✚ Monday, December 25

Merry Christmas!

### ✚ Sunday, December 31

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Watch Night Communion at 10:30 p.m.

### ✚ Sunday, January 7

Sunday School at 9:45 with refreshments around 9:30

Morning Worship at 11 with Erik Korneos filling in for Mr. Sherrard

No Teen meeting until January 21



# The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

December 14, 2017

## God's Christmas Pageant

Dear Friends,

As another Christmas with you approaches (my 38<sup>th</sup> at Windy Cove), my mind has drifted back to my younger days growing up in West Virginia. My family attended Gerrardstown Presbyterian Church in a small community about 10 miles from where we lived in Martinsburg. Some of my fondest memories of those early years are the numerous Christmas programs, plays, and pageants that I participated in

We had our pieces to say: standing in a line, holding one of the letters that spelled out C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S. Perhaps you remember similar parts like, "C is for the Christ child, who on a bed of hay, slept so meek and mild, where he safely lay."

Once, in the fifth grade, I had one of the main parts in a Christmas play. I was the innkeeper who turned Mary and Joseph away. I still remember the first few words, "It was I. I turned them away." Unfortunately, I caught the flu and missed the whole program that year.

Besides the Children's Program, our church usually had an adult pageant reenacting the night of Jesus' birth. One of those pageants portrayed a shepherd telling the Christmas story to a young child as people performed the story with actions and songs. A young man in our congregation was the shepherd, and I was the little boy. What a treat it was to be in the adult pageant even if I had only a few lines!

All these reflections have got me thinking about God's Christmas Pageant. Actually, God is involved in more than a pageant. God is producing and directing

*(Continued Inside)*

### Take Note

December 17, 2017

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11:00 celebrating the Third Sunday of Advent focusing on Daniel, the Visionary Prophet

Teens meet at Millboro Elementary at 5

Today's issue of the *Weekly Word* is the last one of the year. Our staff will take a break until the middle of January. Have a Blessed and Merry Christmas!

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## Pageant (Cont.)

a remarkable drama. We might call it the Drama of Redemption. This drama began with the creation of the world, and it will continue until the consummation of history when God creates a new heaven and a new earth that reflects all of God's original intentions for human beings and for the world in which we live.

The most important act of that drama might be called the Advent and Mission of Jesus the Messiah. Prior to that act, in Act 1, Scene 1, God's original intention for human beings and the world had been perverted by the willful disobedience of the human actors. Everything was completely out of sync. At the time of Noah, "Every imagination of their hearts was only evil continually."

In Act 1, Scene 2 God began the preparation for the coming of the Messiah with his promises to Abraham and his descendants in Genesis 12. The rest of the Old Testament traces out this part of the drama down through Isaac, Jacob, Moses, David, and various others who played different roles in this scene. In Act 1, Scene 3 God sent prophets into the picture to remind the actors of the parts they were

playing and to warn them to do a better job with their roles.

Finally, after a brief intermission, Act 2 began with the birth of the child Jesus in Bethlehem. In Scene 1, the child is born, threatened, delivered, and grows up. In Act 2, Scene 2 Jesus reappears as a grown man ready to play his part as the Messiah who exhibits God's Kingdom to the world and promises new life to all who repent and believe the good news which he embodies and preaches.

Act 2, Scene 3 has a dark side to it. Jesus goes to Jerusalem. He is confronted by the religious and secular authorities. Jesus is arrested and tried and executed as a common criminal, suffering a cruel death on a Roman cross. This Scene closes with Jesus dead and buried in a stone tomb.

Act 3 begins with a shocking surprise: the tomb is empty. No one knows exactly what to think until the resurrected Jesus appears to his close followers and eventually to great numbers of people. This Scene continues for forty days until Jesus ascends to heaven, taken up on the clouds in the very sight of his disciples.

Act 3, Scene 2 begins with Jesus' disciples gathered in Jerusalem waiting for the promised

Holy Spirit of Jesus to come to them. That Spirit does descend in Acts 2. This Scene which involves the mission of Jesus through the church now continues. It's the Scene in which we as modern believers have been called upon to play our parts.

For the last thirty-seven years, we Sherrards have been privileged to play our parts in God's great Drama of Redemption with our church family at Windy Cove and with our friends in Bath County and the surrounding area.

Being included in God's drama is always a privilege, but we do not always have easy parts to play. For the last three years at Windy Cove, we have struggled to maintain a faithful witness to the good news of Jesus amid cultural forces that would deny the saving and reconciling power of the Messiah. At the end of this year, however, we are experiencing the unique opportunity to see our ministry reborn as we become part of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians.

Along with this change in our church role in the Drama, we also continue to share the joys and concerns of our individual roles. Again, some of these parts are enjoyable, and some are quite challenging. Babies are born and bring delight; kids

grow up and make us proud. Yet, sometimes people are afflicted with life-threatening illness or accident. And, our loved ones do leave us to assume their final roles in the heavenly Kingdom of God.

We do not know how long this Scene will continue before Christ comes again. Only God knows. While we wait with eager longing for that day, we also know that we have meaningful work to do now. Sharon and I continue to rejoice in that work and especially in the fact that we have been called to share this unique scene with you.

May we together act well the parts that God has assigned to us, and may God receive all the glory for his magnificent Christmas and Easter Pageant.

With much love,

*Rob*

## New Address

We had a wonderful opportunity to say a bittersweet good-bye to Kim and Paul Lancaster at the beginning of this month. They want you to know that their address for the foreseeable future is:

1064 Homestead Garden Ct.  
Apt. 6  
Forest, VA 24551

May the Lord bless them as they make this transition!