

Calendar of Ministries

- ✚ **Saturday, January 27, 2018**
 Session Training begins at 9 a.m.
 Evening Prayers at 7:30
- ✚ **Sunday, January 28**
 Sunday School at 9:45 with refreshments around 9:30
 Signing Ceremony at 11
 Morning Worship following ceremony
 Teen Ski Trip after worship
 Session meets for lunch and training
- ✚ **Tuesday, January 30**
 Morning Prayers at 8
 Mr. Sherrard meets his classes today.
- ✚ **Wednesday, January 31**
 Morning Prayers at 8
 Bible Club at the High School at 8:08
 Choir at 7 p.m.

- ✚ **Thursday, February 1**
 Morning Prayers at 8
 Mr. Sherrard meets his classes today.
- ✚ **Saturday, February 3**
 Evening Prayers at 7:30
- ✚ **Sunday, February 4**
 Sunday School at 9:45
 Morning Worship at 11 celebrating the Lord's Supper
 Super Bowl party at the Dairy Barn in Warm Springs with fun, food, and fellowship
- Remember our winter policy for worship at Windy Cove. We will not cancel worship on Sunday because of the weather. However, we do recommend caution when venturing out during inclement weather.**



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
January 25, 2018

Signing Ceremony

Arrangements have been made for the signing of the official documents necessary for dismissing Windy Cove from Shenandoah Presbytery (P.C.U.S. A.) to the East Central Presbytery of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO). The Signing Ceremony will occur on Sunday, January 28, 2018 at 11 a.m. prior to Morning Worship. These legal documents are the last details necessary to implement Shenandoah Presbytery's action of November 28 dismissing Windy Cove to ECO effective December 31, 2017.

Here's what will happen on Sunday morning. First, Annette Loan, Clerk of the Circuit Court for Bath County, will swear in Windy Cove's three trustees. These trustees are Leo Shanks, Sam Hepler, and Jon Eaton. Leo, Sam, and Jon were recently confirmed at a congregational meeting as the trustees of the newly formed legal entity, Windy Cove Presbyterian Church, Inc. This corporation was formed to hold title to the church's property.

The trustees will promise to

faithfully perform their duties in accord with the purposes of the church as described in the articles of incorporation. Leo, Sam, and Jon will then sign the deed relating to Windy Cove's real property. This deed will be recorded later at the court house.

Additionally, Clerk of Session, Nancy Peery, will sign the bill of sale relating to other assets of the church besides Windy Cove's real property. This bill of sale relates to personal property such as church furniture and liquid assets such as bank accounts.

Rickey Armstrong will be present on Sunday to notarize both

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Take Note

January 27-28, 2018
Saturday: Session meets for training from 9 to noon

On Sunday, the 28th
Sunday School at 9:45
Signing Ceremony at 11 a.m.
Morning Worship following Ceremony
Teen Ski Trip after worship
Session meets for lunch and training

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Signing (Cont.)

the bill of sale and the deed to the real property of the church.

Both documents will be returned to attorney Jeff Lenhart in Harrisonburg. Mr. Lenhart has been handling the legal details for Windy Cove since the Presbytery and church agreed upon a final settlement.

We believe this event is historic in the life of Windy Cove. We invite all our readers to be present for the occasion.

Jesus' First Message

In worship on Sunday, January 21, the Windy Cove congregation returned to its reflection on the Characters and Characteristics of the Kingdom of God. They focused on Jesus' first message as he began his ministry in Galilee, the northern region of Israel during the first century of the Christian era. The lesson can be found in Mark 1:14-15:

"After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. 'The time has come,' he said. 'The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!'"

In the structure of Mark's Gospel, Jesus has been prepared for this opening message by his baptism in the Jordan River [notice

the reference to the Baptist's imprisonment] and by Satan's temptation of Jesus in the wilderness. John's baptism focused on the confirmation of Jesus as the Messiah, one anointed by God for that unique ministry. The temptation prepared Jesus to withstand the wiles of Satan trying to distract or pervert Jesus from that Messianic ministry.

So, Jesus comes to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God. First, the time has come. For centuries faithful people had prayed for the coming of the Kingdom through the Messiah. Jesus says, "Now is the time." An interesting Greek word for time is used here. It's not regular clock time. Rather, it's time defined by its content and potential. It's the time of opportunity and hope. Jesus is proclaiming that the plans of God have now come together and are ready to move forward. Jesus calls upon his hearers to seize the opportunity.

Secondly, Jesus proclaims that the Kingdom is near. Like many modern believers, Jesus' hearers often conceived of the Kingdom as a place, like heaven, and usually far off. Not so says Jesus. The Kingdom is right here, right now, anywhere that a person accepts and welcome the reign of God in their hearts and lives and perceives the activity of God going on around them.

Then, Jesus advocates two positive responses to the presence of the Kingdom and the King: 1. Repent, and 2. Believe the good news. Repentance is often such a misunderstood concept. Repentance may suggest people's tearful acknowledgement of their wrongful and hurtful actions. That scenario can certainly be part of repentance. However, the broader idea of repentance is a true change of heart and mind which causes people to reorient their lives away from anything that separates them from God and back toward God's loving embrace and guidance. Thus, changing one's mind and heart about the nature of God's Kingdom and the call upon the individual to live responsibly in that Kingdom is true repentance.

Finally, Jesus calls people to believe the good news. The terms "believing" or "having faith in" as used in the Bible are never limited to a mere intellectual acceptance of a proposition. It's not just head knowledge. Believing means to put your life in sync with the direction and principle that called forth your attention. So, for example, as Jesus travels through Galilee, he calls to Peter and Andrew, "Come, follow me." Believing is when they get out of their fishing boat and follow Jesus.

On Sunday, January 28, our lesson on the Kingdom will focus on Matthew 11 and the activities of the Kingdom mentioned there. We hope to see many of you here in worship.

Coming in February

We will begin a **new learning adventure on Sunday, February 18**. We encourage everyone to register for the series: **Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus**. We believe that you will find this video and discussion material helpful for deepening your own faith in Jesus. In addition, these lessons will promote your understanding of life in the Muslim community. **We need folks to register for the class so that we may order the appropriate materials for it.** This series will present a significant Lenten opportunity for the entire congregation.

We began to sign folks up last Sunday for this event. Look for the sheet to be passed around again and add your name to the list. You will glad you did.

Session Mini-Retreat

The Session will hold a mini-retreat on Saturday and Sunday, January 27-28. One focus will be a smooth transition from the PCUSA to ECO. We will also be looking to install recently elected elders soon.