

## Calendar of Ministries

### ✚ Saturday, March 3, 2018

Evening Prayers at 7:30

### ✚ Sunday, March 4

Lenten Study at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 focusing on elected officers in the church

Reception following Worship

Teens at Millboro Elementary at 5

### ✚ Monday through Friday, 5<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Sherrard will be on Spring Break from his classes at the college.

### ✚ Wednesday, March 7

The Sherrards will be taking a few days of vacation to keep their grandchildren in Kingsport, TN

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

### ✚ Thursday, March 8

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✚ Saturday, March 10

Evening Prayers at 7:30

### ✚ Sunday, March 11

Lenten Study at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with Elder Erik Koroneos leading worship and preaching.

**Erik Koroneos will return to the pulpit at Windy Cove on March 11. He has filled in for Mr. Sherrard several times in the last two years. Erik and his wife, Treena, live in Lynchburg.**

**We will not publish a *Weekly Word* next week. Our next issue will be on March 15. See you then!**



# The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

March 1, 2018

## Session Receives Retirement Request

At its meeting on February 25, the Windy Cove Session received a request from Pastor Rob Sherrard for his retirement to be effective after Windy Cove's Homecoming on September 9, 2018. Mr. Sherrard noted that he had intended to retire in 2015, but he had promised to remain with the congregation should the Session decide to enter the Reconciliation or Dismissal Process with Shenandoah Presbytery. Subsequently, Windy Cove did enter that process with the church being dismissed from Shenandoah Presbytery to the East Central Presbytery of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians on December 31, 2017.

Mr. Sherrard pointed out in his request that the time between now and September can be used by Windy Cove and the Sherrards to adjust to their departure. Also, there are several significant ministries that will take place in the intervening months including Easter, the annual Haiti Mission, and Bible School all of which will run more smoothly with the Sherrards being present.

The Sherrards requested an extra six weeks after Homecoming to complete their move from the Windy Cove Manse to their new home in Lexington. His letter closed with the following word of thanksgiving, **"Truly, you and the congregation have been so very gracious to us during our 38 years of ministry in your midst. We want to conclude that ministry in the very best way to honor the Lord Jesus, to show our appreciation and love for you, and to prepare the church as well as Sharon and me for the bright future that God has in store for all of us. With much respect and love,"** /signed/ Rob

### Take Note

On Sunday, March 4

Windy Cove will install elders on the Session, welcome a new covenant partner to the congregation, and celebrate its new relationship with the Covenant Order of Presbyterians with a reception following worship. Make plans to stay a few minutes to enjoy the celebration and fellowship of this important day in the life of the church.

Windy Cove Pres. Church  
102 Windy Cove Road  
Millboro, VA 24460  
Address Service  
Requested

U. S. Postage  
Non-profit Org.  
Permit # 2  
Millboro, VA 24460

Pastor: Rob Sherrard

Email: [wpcqp@cfw.com](mailto:wpcqp@cfw.com) Phone: 540-997-5395

## Installation Scheduled

The Windy Cove Session has completed the training and examination of six recently elected elders and scheduled their installation for Sunday, March 4.

At a congregational meeting on December 31, Windy Cove made several changes to its organizational structure. The church reduced the size of the Session from 12 ruling elders to 9, serving three years terms in three different classes. To effect this change, the congregation elected six people to serve as elders including Heather Newmarker, Nancy Peery, and Larry Entsminger for a two-year term in the Class of 2019, and Vicki Grist, Jay Newmarker, and Jimbo Tennant for a three-year term in the Class of 2020. These six elders, all of whom have been previously ordained, will be installed on the Session during Morning Worship on March 4.

These six elders will join current members of the Session, Jon Eaton, Bruce Cambata, Tammy Lindsay, and Mary Margaret King to govern during 2018. During this year, a Nominating Committee will be formed to nominate three elders and a trustee for the future Class of 2021. The election and installation of that class will complete the transition to the new 9-elder Session.

## First Covenant Partner Welcomed

In another action at its February meeting, the Session welcomed its first Covenant Partner to Windy Cove. The Session received Bonnie Lee by reaffirmation of her faith in Jesus as Lord and Savior. Bonnie recounted her spiritual journey with the Lord including significant influence at several different churches and a noteworthy answer to prayer concerning her husband's health fifteen years ago.

Bonnie became the first person received at Windy Cove since its transfer to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO). As we reported last week, "members" in ECO are referred to as Covenant Partners. This designation highlights the emphasis of ECO on the active nature of membership. That active membership includes a promise to be involved in the mission and service of the church, not simply the joining of an organization. Members are Covenant Partners with the Lord Jesus and with each other in the great mission of the church in the world. Take time to welcome Bonnie into the fellowship of believers and ministers at Windy Cove.

## Lenten Study Continues

Windy Covians continued their Lenten Study on February 25. During the Sunday School hour, they watched the second video of the series, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*. This video focused on the integrity of the New Testament. Many Muslims, many secular people, and even some Christians have doubts about the reliability of the Bible. Muslims in particular have been taught by their parents or imams (leaders of prayer at a local mosque) that the New Testament is unreliable. On the other hand, Muslims have been taught that the Quran is completely reliable.

In fact, the New Testament has wealth of historical evidence that guarantees its reliability when compared to the Quran. Over 5,000 early manuscripts of portions of the New Testament still exist and are in basic agreement about what the original text had to say. On the other hand, in the early period of Islam, manuscripts of the Quran which contained variations were collected by the Caliph Uthman to make an authorized version. Once the authorized version was decided upon, the variants were all destroyed. So, the Quran is more uniform than the New Testament, but there is less evidence of its ultimate reliability.

## What's Up with ECO?

*(Along with Windy Cove's transfer to the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians (ECO), we will run some articles about our new denomination.)* As a Presbyterian denomination, ECO has a representative form of government. In fact, the word "Presbyterian" comes from the Greek word "presbuteros" meaning elder or governing by elders. In Acts 14:23 where it says that Paul and Barnabas "appointed" elders in each of the churches they had visited, the Greek word for "appointed" refers to a showing of the hands indicating the congregation's involvement in electing their own elders. Many historians believe that the representative system of the United States government was borrowed from the Presbyterian form of church government.

So, local ECO churches are governed by elected elders and the pastor (also elected by the congregation) composing the Session. The local church is then related to the regional governing body, the Presbytery, composed of member churches and pastors. Windy Cove is in the East Central Presbytery with churches in Maryland, Virginia, and West Virginia. ECO's highest governing body is the Synod which takes in churches across the United States.