

## Calendar of Ministries

### ✚ Saturday, April 21, 2018

Evening Prayers at 7:30

### ✚ Sunday, April 22

Lenten Study at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with emphasis on the Core Values of ECO

Spring Fling Lunch following worship Session Meeting, if necessary, after lunch

### ✚ Monday through Friday, 23<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>

Mr. Sherrard ordinarily begins his day around 8 with Morning Prayers.

### ✚ Tuesday, April 24

Morning Prayers at 8

Mr. Sherrard teaches his college classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays

### ✚ Wednesday, April 18

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

### ✚ Friday, April 27

Morning Prayers at 8

East Central Presbytery meets for supper and worship in Gloucester, VA this evening

### ✚ Saturday, April 21

Presbytery Meeting continues in Gloucester, VA

Evening Prayers at 7:30

### ✚ Sunday, April 29

Lenten Study at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with emphasis on our Core Values

**The Sherrards will be Kingsport, TN on April 20 and 21 for their granddaughter's birthday.**



# The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

April 19, 2018

## Core Values

On Sunday, April 15, in worship, Windy Covians began an exploration of the Biblical basis for the Core Values of the Covenant Order of Evangelical Presbyterians or ECO. Windy Cove became a covenant church of ECO on January 1, 2018 when the church was transferred from Shenandoah Presbytery of the PCUSA to the East Central Presbytery of ECO. One of the founding principles of ECO was to concentrate on the Core Values of Christian faith and practice. Thus, the denomination adopted a simple mission statement: **To build flourishing churches that make disciples of Jesus Christ.**

In further explanation of this mission statement, ECO has adopted nine Core Values. The first of these Values focuses on Jesus-shaped identity. This Value reads: **We believe Jesus Christ must be at the center of our lives and making disciples of Jesus at the core of our ministry.**

Mr. Sherrard's message on Sunday began with a short video about the Polish astronomer, Copernicus. In the 1400 and 1500s,

Copernicus revolutionized the study of astronomy by proposing that the sun and not the earth was the center of the universe. Using Copernicus as a metaphor, the challenge to the congregation was to examine their own lives to see what was at the center of their existence.

Mr. Sherrard offered some plausible suggestions while admitting that asking such a question in worship practically guaranteed that Jesus would have to be the answer. However, it is true that folks do focus on other priorities like happiness, pleasure, work, money, power, what

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### **Take Note**

Sunday, April 22

Last class of our Lenten Study begins at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with an emphasis on ECO's Core Values

Spring Fling Lunch after worship

If necessary, the Session will hold a brief meeting following lunch

<p>Windy Cove Pres. Church 102 Windy Cove Road Millboro, VA 24460 Address Service Requested</p>	<p>U. S. Postage Non-profit Org. Permit # 2 Millboro, VA 24460</p>
<p>Pastor: Rob Sherrard Email: <a href="mailto:wpcpcp@cfw.com">wpcpcp@cfw.com</a> Phone: 540-997-5395</p>	

## Core Values (Cont.)

other people think of them, what society considers important, and even more possibilities than these.

Mr. Sherrard then asked the attenders to think about how they show what is at the center of their lives. He offered suggestions such as time spent on a particular item, the priority given to that thing in relation to others in life, or the money spent on that activity or interest.

With this background, the congregation considered Jesus' Great Commission to his disciples found in Matthew 28:16-20. The passage begins with the bold statement of Jesus, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me." If a person is going to make something or someone the center of existence, it's natural to want that something or someone to have incredible importance to it. That's what Jesus is claiming. He has the authority and power of all creation backing him.

Because of that power and authority, Jesus bids his disciples to **Go**. For what purpose are they to go? **To make disciples of all nations**. What exactly does that mean? **Baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of**

## the Holy Spirit and teaching them to observe all that Jesus had commanded his disciples.

Jesus' commission concludes with his promise to be with them until the close of the present age.

Jesus' Great Commission is in fact a call upon people's lives to put Jesus himself and his work in the world at the center of who they are and what they do. It's from verses like these and others like them that ECO's emphasis on a Jesus'-shaped identity has arisen. As Christians we do have a nobly shaped identity and purpose in life which also guides our work as a church.

On April 22, we will continue this series with a look at the need for Biblical integrity in our lives and churches.

## Spring Fling or Spring Storm

Our Fellowship Ministry Team has things moving forward to our Spring Fling Fellowship Lunch on Sunday, April 22. The Spring Fling will include sandwiches, salads, and desserts for lunch. So, make plans to bring a dish to share on that Sunday!

It does look like the weather is going to cooperate with moderating temperatures and no threat of the kind of storms we experienced last Sunday. At the

church we missed the main part of the nasty weather. However, the heavy rainfall over the larger area sent the Cowpasture River out of banks on Sunday night and Monday.

At Windy Cove the River backed up through the small culvert at the far end of the cemetery flooding the lower end of the cemetery and parking lot behind the church. The water never did reach the church itself. The crest of the rising water was about noon on Monday with the water receding quickly during the afternoon. One local report said that the Jackson River in western Bath County was the highest it had been since 2007.

## Video Series to End

Windy Cove will bring its Lenten series, *Seeking Allah, Finding Jesus*, to a close on Sunday, April 22, during the Sunday School hour. There will be a short video of Nabeel Qureshi filmed during his hospital treatment shortly before his death.

For the last two months, this video series has given Windy Covians the opportunity to learn more about the Islamic faith and the ordinary life of Muslims. The series also challenged folks to examine how much they really know about their own Christian faith. Sunday's discussion will help us process what we have learned together.

## People and Prayers

We have been focusing on a very special request for prayers this week. Bob and Norma Jean Taylor sent the request to pray for Norma Jean's, brother in-law, Dr. William Odom. Bill was being relocated to the memory wing of the retirement community in Memphis, TN where he and Norma Jean's sister, Carol, reside. That's a hard transition for a couple who has hardly been apart in over sixty years of married life.

Norma Jean and Carol used to spend time in Bath County with their Aunt Sue Hepler Venable and the larger Hepler family. Later in life, Norma Jean and Bob were married at Windy Cove in a ceremony over which Mr. Sherrard presided and in which Katy Sherrard sang. The Taylors attend worship at Windy Cove about every six weeks or so even though they live in Richmond.

To complete the unusual nature of this prayer circle, Dr. Bill Odom was one of Mr. Sherrard's lecturers and small-group leaders in his Humanities Class at Hampden-Sydney College in the late 1960s. Only a compassionate and all-knowing God could orchestrate the providential circumstances to bring together this circle of prayer. Lord, hear our prayers!