

Calendar of Ministries

✠ Thursday, September 25

Morning Prayers at 8
Mr. Sherrard's college classes meet at 11 and at 2

✠ Friday, September 26

Morning Prayers at 8

✠ Saturday, September 27

Evening Prayers at 8

✠ Sunday, September 28

Sunday School at 9:45, special lesson on Islam and Christianity
Morning Worship at 11

✠ Monday, September 29

Morning Prayers at 8
Vision Group at 7:30 p.m.

✠ Tuesday, September 30

Morning Prayers at 8
Mr. Sherrard's college classes meet at 11 and at 2

✠ Wednesday, October 1

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08
Morning Prayers at 8
Choir at 7 p.m.

✠ Thursday, October 2

Morning Prayers at 8

✠ Friday, October 3

Morning Prayers at 8

✠ Saturday, October 4

Evening Prayers at 8

✠ Sunday, October 5

Sunday School at 9:45
Morning Worship at 11 celebrating Communion on World Communion Day followed by grave marker dedication in the cemetery

**Coming on Sunday, October 12:
Fellowship Pancake Breakfast at the church beginning at 9 a.m.**



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
September 25, 2014**

Congregation Resumes Travels with Paul

On Sunday, September 21, the Windy Cove Congregation resumed their travels with the Apostle Paul. Windy Covians began traveling with Paul in September of 2013. They were with Paul at the stoning of Stephen and at his conversion experience on the road to Damascus. Over the course of the next year, worshipers traveled with Paul on his first two missionary journeys. During that time there were side trips to other portions of the Bible for the special seasons of the church year like Advent and Lent.

So, after Homecoming the congregation caught up with Paul again as he began his Third Missionary Journey as recorded in Acts 18:23. The initial stage of this third journey includes travel through the interior of the Roman regions of Galatia and Phrygia in what is now the nation of Turkey. Paul was heading toward Ephesus which was one of the leading cities of Asia Minor in Roman times.

Along the way Paul "helped followers there to become stronger in their faith." In the meantime, Apollos had come to Ephesus and was preaching and teaching about Jesus. When Priscilla and Aquila heard Apollos,

they took him into their home and "helped him understand God's Way even better." Having received this instruction, Apollos traveled on to Corinth in Greece.

When Paul arrived at Ephesus, he found twelve believers who had trusted in Jesus but who did not realize the need to have the Holy Spirit in their lives. In fact, they said, "We have never even heard of the Holy Spirit." So, Paul baptized these men in the name of Jesus, and they received the Holy Spirit.

These events at the beginning of Paul's Third Missionary Journey all illustrate the need for continued Christian growth. Experiencing the saving grace of Jesus is the beginning of a

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

September 28

Sunday School at 9:45—Lesson on Islam in the Adult Class

Morning Worship at 11

October 5

**World Communion Day
Dedication of a grave marker after worship**

October 12

Pancake Breakfast at 9 a.m.

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

Phone: 540-997-5395
Pastor: Rob Sherrard
Email: wcpccp@cfw.com

Travels with Paul (Cont.)

of a Christian's life, not the culmination. Whether we are highly intelligent like Apollos or just regular folks like the twelve men in Ephesus, we have the opportunity to grow in Christ throughout our lives.

These stories from Acts and other Bible stories make clear that the release of the Holy Spirit in our lives is the key to Christian growth. Part of the power of our relationship with Jesus is that ability of the Spirit to foster Christian growth in us. How can we promote this growth?

We can grow in Christ by developing our friendship with the Holy Spirit. For example, as we pray we are building that relationship and opening our lives to what God has in mind for us. The Holy Spirit even guides our prayers as we seek God's best for others and ourselves.

We can also experience growth as we read and study the Bible. Again, the Holy Spirit enlivens our understanding of the Bible and its implications for our lives. Many Christians can testify that, as they faithfully read the Bible, God reveals truth to them in a brand new way.

Finally, one key to Christian growth is to practice obedience to the guidance of the Holy Spirit. In *Experiencing the Spirit* Henry and Melvin Blackaby note how important obedience is to Christian growth. For example, suppose you feel the nudge of the Spirit to teach Sunday School. If you don't respond

to that nudge, you have at least temporarily missed an opportunity for growth. The Lord must then arrange another opportunity to teach you the lesson that you could have learned. If you had responded with obedience, then the Lord could move you on to the next lesson that would be essential to your further Christian growth.

The Bible is very clear that even Jesus continued to mature in his devotion and obedience to the Father as he fulfilled his earthly mission. The author of Hebrews is especially clear on this point when he says that Jesus became mature through his obedient suffering on our behalf.

The Holy Spirit does indeed help us to grow in our faith as the Spirit makes our relationship to Jesus personal to each one of us.

On Sunday, September 28, we will return to Ephesus with Paul and see how the Holy Spirit was mightily at work through his life.

Sunday School Returns

After a hiatus of two and a half months, the congregation returned to its regular schedule on September 21 with Sunday School at 9:45. Elder Kim Lancaster led the opening worship which included the commissioning of teachers for the new Sunday School year. Those attending also enjoyed refreshments before their classes began.

The Adult Class began a study of Islam and a comparison of its beliefs

and practices with those of Christianity. The class on Sunday started with questions from its members about Islam. The first item discussed was the fact that Muslims trace their heritage back to Abraham just as those who practice Judaism do. However, Muslims come from the line of Ishmael the son of Abraham by Hagar while Jews come from Isaac whose mother was Sarah.

The class discussed the recent rise of the group calling itself the Islamic State (either ISIS or ISIL). News reports of ISIS usually refer to this group as Islamic radicals or Islamic extremists or just terrorists. The group is certainly on the radical fringe of Islam if indeed they should be called "Islamic" at all. In fact on the CBS Evening News on Monday, September 22, King Abdullah of Jordan said that this terrorist group should not be mentioned in the same sentence with the word Islam. He did not consider that ISIS represented Islam in any way.

A member of the class also asked whether Muslims worship the same God as Christians. That issue is complicated by the fact that many Muslims refer to God as Allah which is simply the Arabic word for God. Most Muslims would say that they do worship the same God as Jews and Christians. However, Muslims do not accept Jesus as the perfect revelation of God as the New Testament proclaims him to be. So, one might better say that Muslims have an incomplete understanding of who

God really is. In fact, Muslims believe that God himself is unknowable and that Muslims must submit to the revealed will of God as set forth in the Qur'an, their sacred book.

Mention of the Qur'an raises the issue of one real difference between Muslims and Christians: Who or what is the final authority in matters of religious faith and practice? Christians have always answered that the revelation of God in Jesus Christ and the testimony to that revelation in the Bible is the authority for faith and practice. Muslims hold that the Qur'an which allegedly records the recitations given by the angel Gabriel to the prophet Muhammad is their supreme authority in all matters.

Muhammad lived in the region which is now Saudi Arabia between 570 and 632 AD. In 610 during a private religious retreat, he believed that Gabriel began to speak to him with the Arabic word "Recite." These revelations continued until the end of his life and were eventually recorded in the Qur'an.

Muhammad's initial proclamation of these recitations was not well received in his home town of Mecca. He was forced to flee to Medina where his teachings were received favorably. Later he returned to Mecca which is now the chief holy city of Islam.

Next Sunday we will continue our discussion. We hope to see you there with your questions.