

## Calendar of Ministries

### ✠ Friday, October 30

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✠ Saturday, October 31

Evening Prayers at 8

### ✠ Sunday, November 1

Daylight Savings Time ends. Sleep in an extra hour with God's blessing!

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Teens meet at 5 at Millboro Elementary

### ✠ Monday, November 2

Morning Prayers at 8

Men's Bible Study with supper at 6:30

### ✠ Tuesday, November 3

Local Election Day

Morning Prayers at 8

Women's Bible Study at 7 p.m.

### ✠ Wednesday, November 4

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

### ✠ Thursday, November 5

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✠ Friday, November 6

Morning Prayers at 8

### ✠ Saturday, November 7

Evening Prayers at 8

### ✠ Sunday, November 8

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

**Our Election Day is Tuesday, November 3. As part of our heritage of freedom, we have the opportunity and responsibility to pray for our leaders and vote for the candidates that we support**



# The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church  
October 29, 2015**

## The Hard Subject of Suicide

In worship on Sunday, October 25, Windy Covians confronted the very difficult subject of suicide. This topic is especially hard because many folks in our small community have been touched personally by the suicide of a friend or family member. Just the mention of suicide brings to the surface all sorts of strong underlying feelings. On Sunday the congregation began to work through some of the issues related to a Christian understanding of suicide.

Mr. Sherrard began by dealing with some preliminary questions that people often have about suicide. For example, "Is suicide the unforgivable sin?" The answer is "No." Jesus clearly says that the only unforgivable sin is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. The context of this pronouncement by Jesus indicates that he is talking about a person who is so spiritually confused that the person attributes the works of God to Satan. Some of the religious leaders of Jesus' time did this very thing when they said that Jesus' own power came from Satan. So, suicide is not the unforgivable sin.

People also ask, "Is it possible for a Christian who intentionally commits

suicide to still go to heaven?" The answer is "Yes." This answer rests on the firm foundation of Jesus' redemption of those who have faith and follow him. When Jesus bore the sins of people as a sacrifice on the cross, that sacrifice was effective for past, present, and future sins of those who believe. Suicide cannot overturn what Jesus has already done. Paul says clearly in Romans 8 that nothing can separate us from the love of God that has been made known in Jesus.

Additionally, any person who dies at any time and for any reason is very likely to have unconfessed or even unsuspected sin in one's life. In that sense, no one is different from the person who commits suicide.

*(Continued Inside)*

### **Take Note!**

#### **Sunday, November 1**

Daylight Savings Time ends—set your clocks back one hour

Worship continues the examination of suicide  
Teens meet a 5 at Millboro Elementary

#### **Monday, November 2**

Men's Bible Study, Supper at 6:30 p.m.

#### **Tuesday, November 3**

Local Election Day

Women's Bible Study at 7 p.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

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

## Suicide (Cont.)

However, answering these preliminary questions does not give a complete picture of a Christian's moral stance toward suicide. Suicide is a problem in the United States.

41,149 people committed suicide in the United States in 2013. Suicide was the third leading cause of death in people ages 15 to 24 and the fourth leading cause of death in children 10 to 14 years old. To add some perspective to these figures, in 2013 there were 611,105 deaths from cancer in the United States.

As Christians we naturally turn to the Bible as we seek to understand suicide and develop a moral stance toward suicide. There are seven suicides recorded in the Bible:

1. **Abimelech** (Judges 9:52-54) was a son of Gideon. Abimelech was wounded when a woman hit him with a millstone. Rather than having it said that he was killed by a woman, he had a young man kill him with a sword.

2. **Samson** (Judges 16:25-30) pulled down the pillars of the Philistine temple to Dagon killing himself and the many Philistines who were worshiping. This action would not necessarily be considered a suicide.

3. **King Saul** (1 Samuel 31:4) purposefully fell upon his own sword after he had been grievously wounded in battle.

4. **Saul's armor bearer** (1 Samuel 31:5) fell on his sword after seeing his master and king kill himself.

5. **Ahithophel** (2 Samuel 17:23) hanged himself after his counsel had been rejected by Absalom when Absalom and his father David were involved in a civil war to rule Israel.

6. **Zimri** (1 Kings 16:15-20) burned down his home in Tirzah killing himself when he was under siege from another claimant to the throne of Israel.

7. **Judas Iscariot** (Matthew 27:3-5) was seized with remorse over the condemnation of Jesus and hanged himself.

In none of these cases is suicide presented in a completely positive light.

On the other hand, the entire scope of the Bible speaks of God as a God of life and not of death. In the beginning God is a marvelous creator God. After creating the world and all living things, God breathes into human beings the breath of life. When Jesus comes into the world, he proclaims that he is God in the flesh bringing true and abundant life to people. After Jesus' resurrection and ascension, he sends the Holy Spirit to guide and sustain those who follow him. From beginning to end, the Bible tells of a God who favors life and not death. Suicide speaks of death, but God speaks of life.

Secondly, along with life, the Bible teaches that hope is an abiding characteristic of God and God's people. Indeed, an expression which people often use in connection with difficult life situations including suicide, "It's

hopeless," finds no support in the Bible. Instead, the angel's answer to Mary, "Nothing will be impossible for God," is the antidote to hopelessness. To believe that any situation is hopeless is to believe a lie of Satan and to contradict the expressed Word of God that God is a God of hope.

On Sunday, November 1, Windy Coveans will continue their consideration of suicide and its implication for living a mature Christian life.

### Women Extend Bible Study on Hope

The women who have been studying hope on Tuesday evenings at 7 have agreed to extend their original plan of study. The study was supposed to end after four weeks, but it will now continue for about three more weeks. Gosh, those ladies must be having a good time! It's still not too late to join this group since each week is generally independent of the prior material.

### Two Timely Events

With Windy Cove's Sunday morning study on suicide, it's providential that our local mental health folks are offering two classes related to this topic. You can still take advantage of the following opportunities.

Bath County Schools and Rockbridge Area Community Services are sponsoring two important educational events for the community. The first is a Mental Health Training

Class scheduled for Millboro Elementary School on October 29 and 30 from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The training is free, but the class is limited to the first 30 people who apply by contacting Jane Hall at 839-5307 by Monday, October 26.

The second event is a Suicide Intervention Training Class scheduled for Valley Elementary School on November 12 and 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Again, the training is free and lunch will be provided. To register, you may call Jane Hall at 830-5307 by Monday, October 26. Registration is limited to 30 people.

### Daylight Saving(s) Time

Since Sunday, **November 1, is the day we set our clocks back one hour**, we wondered about Daylight Saving or Savings Time. Even the name is controversial. The subject is more complicated than we imagined, and we don't have space to explain everything.

We did learn that Benjamin Franklin was one of the first to suggest an adjustment to time based upon longer summer evenings. However, in Canada and the United States the real impetus to establish a standard time came from the railroads so that people in various locations could make sense of railroad schedules. It wasn't until the early 1900s that there even was a standard time. The first U. S. law on Daylight Saving Time was enacted in 1918. You can find **far** more information at [www.webexhibits.org/daylightsaving](http://www.webexhibits.org/daylightsaving).