

Calendar of Ministries

✝ Friday, November 6

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, November 7

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, November 8

Fellowship Breakfast at 9

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

✝ Monday, November 9

Morning Prayers at 8

Men's Bible Study with supper at 6:30

✝ Tuesday, November 10

Morning Prayers at 8

Food Pantry, 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Women's Bible Study at 7 p.m.

✝ Wednesday, November 11

Veterans Day

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ Thursday, November 12

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Friday, November 13

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ Saturday, November 14

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ Sunday, November 15

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Teens meet at 5 at Millboro Elementary



The Weekly Word

**Windy Cove Presbyterian Church
November 5, 2015**

Suicide, Part 2

On Sunday, November 1, the Windy Cove Congregation continued its consideration of the Christian view of suicide. Those attending first reviewed some of the principles developed during worship the previous week. These principles included:

1. Suicide is not the unforgiveable sin.
2. Suicide alone does not prevent a person from going to heaven.
3. Suicide does not make life easier for family and friends left behind.
4. God's regard for life and hope argues strongly against suicide.
5. To believe that a situation is hopeless is to contradict the nature of God for "nothing will be impossible for God."

After this review of the previous week, the congregation moved on to reflect on why people commit suicide. There is wide agreement among professionals who have studied suicide that untreated depression is by far the main cause of suicide. This level of depression is more than just having a bad day. According to Dr. Alex Lickerman in an article posted to the *Psychology Today* website, suicidal depression includes "a

pervasive sense of suffering as well as the belief that escape from it is hopeless."

The onset of such depression can come from severe life experiences such as the death of a loved one, divorce, other serious losses including job, house, or money, serious illness, chronic pain, and many others. Left untreated, either medically or spiritually or both, this kind of depression can lead to suicide.

God does offer spiritual hope for people who are in such a depressed state of being. However, Christians should take preventative action to combat depression. Since depression, by its very nature, distorts thinking, the wise path is to be prepared ahead of time. Focusing on

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

Sunday, November 8

Don't miss the Fellowship Breakfast which begins at 9.

Tuesday, November 10

Food Pantry meets from 1:30 until 4 p.m.

Wednesday, November 11

Veterans Day celebrated. Pray for those who have served or are serving as well as for our country.

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Suicide, Part 2 (Cont.)

several ideas of how God works is key to this preventative approach.

First, searching the Bible reveals that people have faced difficult life situations accompanied by depression; these folks have survived and even flourished. The psalms from Psalm 30 to Psalm 40 include many instances of people in deep distress crying out to God. Two things are noteworthy here. Obviously, these folks are crying out to God. They do not abandon God even if they feel as if God has abandoned them. Also, their conversation with God is not completely dominated by their current depression. Instead, they alternate between that depression and the remembrance of God's care, comfort, and blessing.

Secondly, Romans 5:1-5 reminds us as Christians that even suffering can bring about a good result in the long run. As Paul puts it, suffering can produce endurance; endurance can produce strength of character; and character can produce hope. This hope which comes from God does not disappoint us because God's Holy Spirit pours the love of God into our lives.

Finally, all Christians should contemplate that God's redemption through Jesus came as a result of his willingness to suffer on our behalf. The suffering of Jesus had a redemptive quality to it. Jesus' suffering on the cross brought us back into a right relationship with God. What if Jesus had committed suicide in the

Garden of Gethsemane? He did not, thank God! Instead, he persisted in the Father's will in spite of the great suffering he endured.

Likewise, our human suffering can have a redemptive quality to it. For example, foster parents often suffer greatly as they seek to help neglected and abused children. These parents often ride the roller coaster of emotions from the elation of seeing such children begin to flourish to the despair of seeing them trapped in seemingly hopeless circumstances. The suffering that foster parents are willing to endure can lead to redemption for some of the children whose lives they touch.

A story originally reported in *Guideposts* offers another example. Two sisters had been alienated from each other for years. They refused to have anything to do with one another. When their mother lay sick in the hospital, she called for each of the sisters to come to her side. At the bedside of their suffering mother, these sisters were reconciled to each other as God desired.

Suicide may often cut short the promises and purposes that God has for people. In contrast, the Bible teaches the Christian trait of perseverance in the face of difficulty, depression, and despair. The very word "perseverance" includes the idea of "going through" (per) "severe" times. Yet, in such times Christians continue to depend on the God of hope for whom "nothing will be impossible."

Breakfast Anyone?

Sunday, November 8, is your opportunity to get a good breakfast. We are serving breakfast at Windy Cove at 9 a.m. this Sunday. The breakfast will be our fellowship event for November.

If you have not had a chance to sign up for something the past two Sundays, just bring a breakfast dish and your family on Sunday. Then, you can plan to stay for Sunday School afterwards.

Spiritual Leadership

A sturdy group of men from Windy Cove have been meeting on Monday evenings to study the Biblical view of spiritual leadership. The focus of the study has been a book by Henry and Richard Blackaby called *Spiritual Leadership: Moving People on to God's Agenda*.

The men have learned that spiritual leadership does not just mean leadership in the church. Instead, such leadership includes leadership in the family, at work, in the community, as well as in the church.

Besides this understanding of spiritual leadership, the men have looked at what qualities a good leader should have. They have also explored how their different life experiences have prepared them for leadership. Last Monday the guys looked at how leaders develop a vision that will invite people to follow.

Much of the focus of this lesson on vision was understanding the difference between a man-made vision

and God's revelation. People can create visions as evidenced by the many vision statements of schools, companies, hospitals, and other institutions. However, only God can give revelation of who God is and what God is doing in the midst of people and the world. Proverbs 29:18 concludes, "Where there is no revelation, the people cast off restraint." This verse stresses God's role in understanding true vision.

The men then looked at ways a leader can communicate such revelation to followers including through symbols and stories. For example, the Lord's Supper uses symbol and story to powerfully communicate the saving grace of Jesus to believers. In Paul's preaching one sees how he used the story of his own life to speak powerfully of Jesus and invite people to follow Jesus.

The men have also enjoyed having supper together each week. So far the menus have included lasagna, pancakes, pizza, and vegetable soup and sandwiches. What a treat!

Advent Approaches

Now that we have crossed into the month of November, Advent is only about two and a half weeks away. The first Sunday of Advent this year is November 29. During Advent worship will focus on creating a Portrait of Jesus from the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. We will examine the distinctive picture of Jesus in each Gospel to make our Portrait rich in its understanding of him.