

Calendar of Ministries

✝ **Friday, April 22**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, April 23**

Haiti Mission Team meets for supper and orientation at 5:30

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, April 24**

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11 with a message on the Cloud of Witnesses

After worship, we will have lunch as our monthly Fellowship Event

Session meets following the meal

✝ **Monday, April 25**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Tuesday, April 26**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Wednesday, April 27**

Morning Prayers at 8

Bible Club at the High School at 8:08

Choir at 7 p.m.

✝ **Thursday, April 28**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Friday, April 29**

Morning Prayers at 8

✝ **Saturday, April 30**

Evening Prayers at 8

✝ **Sunday, May 1**

Sunday School at 9:45

Morning Worship at 11

Mother's Day is approaching on May 8. We will have Communion that day as well as honoring the mothers of the congregation.



The Weekly Word

Windy Cove Presbyterian Church

April 21, 2016

Abraham and Sarah

On Sunday, April 17, Windy Covians in worship reflected on Abraham and Sarah as examples of those that the Book of Hebrews calls the “great cloud of witnesses.” That phrase appears in Hebrews 12:1 as the conclusion to a list of such witnesses in the 11th chapter. This list, of course, includes Sarah and Abraham.

The list contains Abraham and Sarah because of their incredible trust in the promises of God. These promises included land, descendants, that God would bless them, and that through them and their family God would bless all the nations of the earth. A close inspection of their life story reveals several aspects which can easily be applied to our current living of the life of faith in Jesus.

First, Sarah and Abraham encourage us to trust in God’s promises even when the circumstances of life may make those promises seem unlikely or even impossible. The Bible makes clear that Sarah was beyond the normal child-bearing years when she became pregnant and eventually bore her son Isaac. There is a human tendency to doubt God’s promises when the circumstances of our lives contradict those promises. Perhaps

we shouldn’t be surprised. Faith or trust nearly always develops in the context of fear and doubt. If it were always easy to trust God or someone else, how could our faith grow stronger? Strong faith is built in resistance to the opposing forces of doubt and fear.

Secondly, the story of Abraham and Sarah suggests that human wisdom and God’s wisdom don’t always match up with each other. Along the course of their lives, Abraham and Sarah made several decisions which they thought would further the promises of God. For example, Abraham suggests that his family might be traced through a distant relative, Eliezer of Damascus. Later on, Sarah

(Continued Inside)

Take Note!

How much peanut butter was there? Bea Clark reported that 130 lbs. of peanut butter had been donated to Food Pantry. The amount was enough to distribute this month and next month as well.

The Session will meet with the Listening Response Team from Shenandoah Presbytery on Sunday, May 15, at 1 p.m.

Pray for our college kids who will take exams soon. Mr. Sherrard’s classes have exams on May 5.

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Abraham and Sarah (Cont.)

suggests that she and Abraham have a surrogate child through her maid, Hagar. Abraham agrees and a son Ishmael is born to Hagar. But, God says that the promised children would come through Sarah, not through her maid. Our attempt to “fix” the problems with God’s promises may mirror the limited wisdom of Sarah and Abraham, but not the wisdom of God.

Finally, the story of Abraham and Sarah helps us to understand that God’s sense of timing does not necessarily correspond to ours. One of the interesting aspects of their story is to reconstruct a timeline. In Genesis 12 we learn that Abraham was 75 years old when he left Haran headed for Canaan. He was 86 when Ishmael was born to Hagar. He was 100 when Sarah at age 90 bore Isaac. In the New Testament we learn that God had first called Abraham when his family lived in Ur of the Chaldees prior to his time in Haran. For Abraham and Sarah, God’s promises seemed to take a long time to come to fulfillment.

Yet, God is not confined by time as we experience it. For God the past, present, and future that we experience are apparently all part of God’s present. In other words God is beyond or above our concept of time. Or, as the psalmist

puts it, to God a thousand years is like a day.

We humans who live in the generation of people who “pace in front of the microwave” are often impatient for God to deliver on his promises. However, the time that God chooses is the right time for fulfillment to come. As Jesus begins his ministry, he speaks a word about time: “The time is fulfilled; the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel.” That lesson of God’s perfect timing comes through in the story of Sarah and Abraham as well.

On Sunday, April 24, we will continue our consideration of the Great Cloud of Witnesses as we contemplate the woman who anointed Jesus with oil shortly before his crucifixion. You can find the story in Mark 14.

Fellowship Meal

On Sunday, April 24, the Windy Cove Congregation will hold its monthly Fellowship Event with a lunch after worship. These fellowship events are part of the ministry of our Fellowship and Service Ministry Team to help our congregation experience a deeper level of fellowship with God and with each other. We do expect some out-of-town visitors that Sunday since the Haiti Team will have its first orientation on Saturday the 23rd. Also, some of Mr. Sherrard’s family expect to be present that day. So, make a point

to welcome new faces in worship and enjoy the time at lunch with family and new friends.

Haiti Orientation

The 2016 Haiti Mission Team from Windy Cove will hold its first orientation meeting on Saturday, April 23. Eight people have made a commitment to be part of the team this year. The eight include Debbie Darcus (daughter of Sandra and Don Porter), Catherine Chestnut from Hot Springs, Dallas Reynolds and his friend Josh Herndon who organized the Bible skits at the Windy Cove Jamboree last October, Tyler Bryant from Calvary Baptist Church, Aislinn Ryder who currently keeps our nursery at Windy Cove, Chip Anderson who is the Sherrards’ son-in-law, and Mr. Sherrard who will head up the team.

This orientation will begin the preparation for the team’s trip to Haiti on July 18 through July 26. Travel arrangements have already been made with the team leaving from Washington’s Reagan National Airport on the 18, staying overnight in Fort Lauderdale, FL and flying on to Haiti the next day. The team will return on the 26th flying from Port-au-Prince through Miami and on to Reagan National.

The three orientation meetings in April, May, and June will help to build the spiritual unity of the team as well as make the necessary physical preparations for the trip. These

meetings will include an introduction to Windy Cove’s longstanding ministry with the Haiti Education Foundation founded by Frances Landers in conjunction with Father Jean-Wilfrid Albert. The team will probably work with children at several of the HEF schools including Notre Dame School sponsored by Windy Cove.

The team will also monitor the feeding program at Notre Dame which has been in place during the 2015-16 school year. This ministry is under the care of Trinity-Hope, a group that specializes in feeding children in Christian schools in Haiti.

Bible School Director

We hope that folks have been searching their hearts and praying about becoming the Bible School Director for this summer. Mr. Sherrard was scheduled to meet with Denise Eaton this week to insure a smooth transition from Denise to the new Director. Mr. Sherrard with Denise’s help will begin the recruitment of teachers and helpers for Bible School in preparation for the new Director’s coming on board.

We will be using literature from Group as we have done the past few years. The same model will structure Bible School with age groups moving through Opening Worship, Story Time, Bible Video, Crafts, Music, and Recreation/Snacks. Bible School meets June 20-24 with the program on Sunday, June 26.