

Good News from Good Hope!



Day after day... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. ❖ Acts 5:42
Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ April 2002

Building News: Pray for April 4th Meeting of Howard County Board

The Howard County Board of Appeals will meet on Thursday, April 4th at 7:30pm to discuss Good Hope's proposed building plans. Please be in prayer for this meeting!

- Pray that the Howard County Board of Appeals will approve our Conditional Use Proposal and our requests for acceptance of a few minor variances to the setback lines that have been already approved by the Howard County Planning and Zoning Board.
- Pray that the building committee will be given the wisdom to discover the best way to match current and anticipated funding with a construction plan that is realistic and doable.
- Pray that the congregation will continue to financially support the new house of worship for Good Hope. ❖

Don't Miss These April Events!

NCAA Basketball Championship Game

Jim and Kathy Haber's House
1201 Tanley Road, Silver Spring
Monday, April 1, 2002 - 8:45pm
Please bring a bottle of soda and a snack to share!

Men's Breakfast

Dick and Gayle Pepe's House
13234 Trebleclef Lane, Silver Spring
Saturday, April 6, 2002 - 7:30am
We will cover letters V-VIII in C.S. Lewis's *Screwtape Letters*.
Let Dick know if you are attending, so that he will know how much breakfast to prepare.
By the way, he's a great chef!

Earn Green Jacket at the Masters!

by Mark Hegerle, Fellowship Committee

Spring is here, and it's time to get out and pursue the greens for the green—the green jacket, that is! Yes, the time draws near for the 2002 Good Hope Masters golf tournament. We'll be teeing it up at 1pm on Saturday, May 4th at Patuxent Greens in Laurel, Maryland. The cost is \$45 per person, which includes greens fees, cart, and prize money. Refreshments will be available on the course, and, after the trophies and prizes are awarded, those participants who would like to will gather to catch a bite to eat and trade "Tin Cup" tales.

Now, why is the church organizing a golf tournament? Two reasons come to mind. The first is for fun and mutual encouragement. It's good for the body of believers to get together to strengthen the bonds of friendship around an enjoyable activity. Second, we do it so that we can invite others from outside of the church to be with the body of Christ and, hopefully, to be intrigued. Intrigued about what makes a Christian tick (so peacefully, we hope). Intrigued about what makes the Christian the same (we're people, too!) and yet so different (we have the peace of Christ through the assurance of our forgiveness and our salvation in Christ).

Yes, this tournament is about fun and mutual encouragement, and, for that purpose, the format will be a bit different this year. To add to the mutual encouragement, we will be playing a scramble. In a scramble, each foursome is a team, and the whole team plays their successive shots from the location of the best prior shot. In other words, all members of the foursome will tee off, then all will move their ball to the spot of the best tee shot. Later shots will be done the same way, and there will be one score for the team for each hole. The foursome with the lowest 18-hole score will win the tournament. By playing a scramble, foursomes will be working together and *encouraging* each other to produce the best possible score for the team.

Since the tournament is only a few weeks away, now is the time to consider who you'd like to invite to join us as part of your foursome. We had 26 golfers (hackers, duffers, whatever you prefer) competing last year for the 2001 title, several of whom, including the champion, were visitors. Let's bring in a bunch of your friends, neighbors, co-workers, and family members to play with us in 2002! To sign up an individual or a foursome, please see Mark Hegerle, or e-mail him at hegerle@erols.com. ❖

Focus on Our Missionaries: *Gene and LuAnn Bowman, Formerly in Jamaica*

In 1998, we felt that we had received a solid call from God to go to Jamaica and serve with the Caribbean Christian Center for the Deaf (CCCD). We remember back two years ago when we came to your church's missions conference, and you shared our excitement about working with the deaf at the Jamaica Deaf Village. However, over the last ten months, we have struggled with why God has not allowed us to have a productive ministry there. After all, we had planned to be in Jamaica for the next 15+ years! But, just as solid as the call was to come to Jamaica in 1998, we now feel that God is calling us to leave CCCD for another ministry that He is preparing for us.

Our shipping container was loaded last week, and it should have reached Baltimore by the time you read this (Lord willing). We have booked our plane tickets to leave Jamaica and are looking forward to seeing our family very soon. At this point, we are planning to go back to the United States and spend a few days with family and friends, then assess what to do next. We have been in contact with Mission to the World (MTW) about debriefing and counseling this month. LuAnn's parents have asked us to drive them to Florida to visit her sister, so we are trying to work our schedule around that. We figured we could drive them to Daytona, then head back up to Atlanta to debrief. And, if we can work in a few churches to visit, we will try to do that also.

When we were planning to come to Jamaica in 1998, we were familiar with the ministry of CCCD, knew what house we were going to live in, and were somewhat familiar with the culture. But now we are called to act on faith because there are so many question marks in our future. We don't know where we are going to live in the States or for how long, and we don't know what ministry God is calling us to next. We would covet your prayers for the ability to trust God one day at a time, because He knows what is best for us. We look forward with excitement and anticipation to where God is leading next. At this point, we have had several offers from different ministry fields with MTW, so we appreciate your prayers as we investigate these options further. One of the major concerns is that some of the fields require language study. Are we too old at 48 to learn a new language?

Thank you so much for your love and support over the past couple years, and we look forward to visiting with you within the next few months. Hopefully, by that time, we will know more specifics as to where God is leading us. Until then, we ask God's blessing for you as you seek to fulfill the Great Commission.

In Christ,
Gene & LuAnn

Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church
 Post Office Box 164
 Burtonsville, MD 20866
 (301) 236-4151
 Current Meeting Location:
 Briggs Chaney Middle School
 1901 Rainbow Drive
 Silver Spring, MD 20905
 Join us for Worship at 9:25am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.
 www.goodhopepepca.com

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April 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	1 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm NCAA BBall Final Game at Jim Haber's House 8:45pm	2 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	3 Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:30pm	4 Howard County Appeals Board Meeting - 7:30pm	5 French GG - 7:30pm	6 Men's Breakfast at Pepes' House - 7:30am Don't forget to change your clock one hour forward tonight!
7 Daylight Savings Time Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	8 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	9 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	10	11	12 French GG - 7:30pm	13
14 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	15 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	16 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	17	18	19 French GG - 7:30pm	20
21 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	22 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	23 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	24 Info for May newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	25	26 French GG - 7:30pm	27
28 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	29 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	30 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	1	2	3	4 Good Hope Masters Golf Tournament at Patuxent Greens 1pm

Is Your Conscience Clear This Year? Don't Forget April 15th

The Pharisees always seemed to be at odds with Jesus. They disapproved of His compassionate acts of healing. They recoiled at His statements of truth concerning Himself. They sought to trap Him in His own words. On one occasion, some of the Pharisees came to Christ, pretending to have a legitimate concern. They said, "Teacher, we know you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You are not swayed by men, because you pay no attention to who they are. Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay taxes to Caesar or not?"

Here the trap was laid... Whose side would Jesus be on? Who would He be loyal to—the Jewish nation or the Roman state? If He said to pay taxes, He would be supporting a government that dominated their Jewish nation. If He said to not pay taxes, He would be in rebellion against Caesar. The text (Matthew 22:15-21) further states, "But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, 'You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? Show me the coin used for paying the tax.' They brought Him a denarius, and He asked them, 'Whose portrait is this? And whose inscription?' 'Caesar's,' they replied. Then He said to them, 'Give to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's.'"

April 15th is known as "Tax Day." To pay our taxes is not necessarily to agree with everything that our government does. But it is to agree with Christ that we should give to Caesar what is Caesar's, or, as Paul stated in Romans 13:7, "Give everyone what you owe him: If taxes, then taxes; if revenue, then revenue." The last time I checked, the inscriptions on our money depict former government leaders. Ultimately, everything belongs to God. Governments, as well as individuals, are stewards of His possessions. Whether you wait until April 15th or have already paid your taxes, our own testimony and consciences are involved in this matter. Some of us might enjoy paying taxes and some of us might not, but regardless of our support of the government or lack thereof, the Christian has a testimony and a conscience to protect.

Someone has said, "Let your conscience be your guide." That's fine, if your conscience is guided by the Bible. Paying taxes is only one of many items that should stream before our conscience. How is your conscience on paying taxes or on other matters that you are making decisions and acting upon? Is your conscience clear? Paul said, "I strive to always keep my conscience clear before God and man," (Acts 24:16). Let us do the same, even when it costs. ❖

