

# 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 2004

## Our Hearts' Longing for Eternity

The writer of Ecclesiastes states that God "set eternity in the hearts of men." (Ecclesiastes 3:11) We all long to live, even when we become infirm, old, and even when we are facing death. We may come to a point where we say that we are ready to die, but I think we mean that we are ready for our suffering to be over with. We want to live. We want to be with our loved ones, and we want to engage in the activities of life which we enjoy. We want to live because God has put that desire within us. It is part of His design.

Yet, we die. God has told us why we die. Our first parents, Adam and Eve sinned and, in so doing, they doomed all of their sons and daughters to death. In spite of this, God who is rich in mercy provided a Savior who could and would redeem us from the clutches of death. As Hebrews 2:14-15 tells us, Jesus, the Son of God came to "destroy him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."

The grand recognition of the historical death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ occurs again this month. The glad refrain of those who have Him as their Savior will resound again. Eternity has been set in our hearts and that desire will be granted by His atoning grace. The grip of death which once held us by the throat is taken away. Because Jesus was raised from the dead and lives forevermore, we who are by faith united to Him will be raised as well. Our present bodies which are returning to the dust will at His second coming be transformed into new glorious eternal bodies, ready to be reunited with our eternal souls.

Christian, the eternal God has put eternity in your heart, and the eternal God has become your eternal Savior so that you might be eternally with Him and with all those who have trusted Him for their eternal salvation. May we praise Him who placed the desire for eternity in our hearts, and may we praise Him for fulfilling the desire for eternity through His Son. ❖



## Getting Close, But Not Quite There

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

At the building committee meeting held on March 27<sup>th</sup>, the following items were discussed:

- (1.) The Developer's and Forestation Agreements will be submitted to Howard County's Department of Planning and Zoning as soon as **Bill Davis** has the Letter of Credit from the bank. There should be no problem here, although the amount of cash needed to secure the letter was more than anticipated.
- (2.) After this is submitted, the county should issue a receipt which will go to **Rob Vogel**. He will then schedule a meeting with Howard County and submit his final mylar site plan drawings.
- (3.) The cost estimates are not complete, but they are running higher than anticipated. The cost of the site development work (now estimated at close to \$450,000) has been the biggest surprise.
- (4.) **Steve Gerwin** will continue to work with site contractors and will ask **Rowan Landscaping** for a bid on the landscaping. Steve has also agreed to put together a spreadsheet on budget projections and to work with **Jim Haber** on cash flow projections for the next few years.
- (5.) **Jack Waller** agreed to present a budget for furniture and fixtures.
- (6.) **Matt Malanoski** estimates that he is 75% of the way finished with his construction estimates.

A building committee meeting has been scheduled for April 10<sup>th</sup>. A meeting of the congregation will be called when the cost estimates are completed enough to lay out the whole project and to ask for approval and support.

The whole deal is exciting and a bit scary. We cannot pray too often for the Lord's help in what we are doing. ❖

### Visit Our Revised Church Website

Our church website, [www.goodhopepca.com](http://www.goodhopepca.com), now includes a weekly calendar, updated every Monday. What else would make the church website more useful to you? Please send any suggestions to [goodhopepca@comcast.net](mailto:goodhopepca@comcast.net).

## Focus on Our Missionaries: *The Showalter Family, Burkina Faso, West Africa*

Stuart is in Obire this week, revising the translation of the book of Acts with Yao, Nadoome, and Gloria. We've been really pleased with their progress—not only that the chapters are coming more quickly, but that the quality of the drafts is getting better and better. Stuart has done a lot of the revising here in Ouaga, but it is always best when the team can work together face to face. They'd like to finish the revision this week while he is there in the village. Then, if all goes as planned, Acts should be consultant-checked, corrected, and ready for publication before the end of the year, and the book of James will not be far behind.

Meanwhile, here in Ouaga, I am consulting with some of the national Bible translation teams who are working on the other languages of Burkina Faso, to help resolve their remaining linguistics questions. This past week I studied Bwamu-Cwi with Ezekias, looking at which consonants and which vowels need to be represented in the alphabet and choosing symbols to represent them. Sometimes it's not at all straightforward, and the decisions need to be tested to see if they hold up across dialect differences.

At the end of this week, the kids will be three-quarters of the way through their school year. Nathanael has the SAT coming up in May, and he will also take the French AP test. Esther is serving as Student Council president this semester, and she is looking forward to starting high school in the fall. Jesse is doing great in school, but he lives for the afternoons and weekends when he can get together with his friends at the SIL center. The last big hurdle for each of them (and for us!) is a science fair coming up the end of May, where each student has to do a project.

The vernal equinox last week marked the official beginning of the hot season here, and it truly has arrived. It's the season that makes this area memorable. Actually it's not a lot different from Washington in July and August—just add more dust and take away the air conditioning. We are always aware of, and grateful for, the prayerful support of our home team, which keeps us going here.



*Cathie for the Showalter Family*

## *Good News from Good Hope!*

Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church  
 Current Meeting Location:  
 Briggs Chaney Middle School  
 1901 Rainbow Drive  
 Silver Spring, MD 20905  
 Post Office Box 164  
 Burtonsville, MD 20866  
 (301) 236-4151

Join us for Worship at 9:30am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday  
 www.goodhopepca.com

April 2004						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>28</b> Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>31</b> Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	<b>1</b> Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:00pm	<b>2</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>3</b> Don't forget to change your clocks one hour forward tonight!
<b>4</b> Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Maundy Thursday Service at Briggs Chaney Middle 7:00pm	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b> Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
<b>11</b> Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>14</b> Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>21</b> Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>24</b> Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
<b>25</b> Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	<b>26</b> Info for May newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	<b>27</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>28</b> Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>1</b>

## *Gauntlet Thrown Down for Golfers*

*by Mark Hegerle, Fellowship Committee*

**O**n the eve of the 2004 Good Hope Masters men's golf tournament, **Peter Haber** has laid down a challenge that cannot be ignored by his fellow golfers. Peter, perhaps the best young golfer in the field never to have taken home a trophy, unabashedly declared that his team **WILL** win the championship this year. As if that wasn't enough, he also staked a claim to the other prizes up for grabs—trophies for the longest drive and the tee shot closest to the pin.

Golfers, now's the time to call all of your buddies who play, build your foursome, and answer Peter's challenge! Remember, you don't have to be **Tiger Woods** to compete in this tournament, which is staged simply as an excuse to get out and have a good time together. Nevertheless, to give all teams a more equal chance at taking home (Peter's) trophies, we play a "scramble," which allows all four team members to position their balls at the spot of the team's best shot after each player hits.

Tee time for all players is 1pm on **Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>** at Patuxent Greens Country Club in Laurel. \$50 per player covers greens fees, carts, and prizes. To sign up your foursome or just yourself to be placed in a foursome, please see **Mark Hegerle**. Cash or check to Mark is due by **Sunday, April 25<sup>th</sup>**. ❖

### *Daylight Savings Time*

Please be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, in observance of Daylight Savings Time. Don't be late to church on Sunday morning!

### *Communicants Class Continues*

The communicants class will continue to be held during Sunday School throughout the month of April (Sundays, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup>). Please contact **Jack Waller** with any questions.

### *Maundy Thursday Service*

A Maundy Thursday service will be held at Briggs Chaney Middle School on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. This service will include the Lord's Supper.