

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 2005

Seasons Change, But God Does Not!

After Noah's maiden voyage on the ark, I suppose he must have longed for dry ground and the routine of the life he once knew. While our routines in life can become rigorous, they are nonetheless comforting when they are reliable. God made a promise: "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." (Genesis 8:22) While fluctuations occur within each of these, they are essentially as rhythmic as the ticking of a clock. The earth and its seasons remain as they are because the Lord has established them. He has ordained that it be so. Spring is here, and new growth will soon appear. The glory of God's decorated earth will blossom, and its colors will solicit from us an exclamation of praise. Callousness towards God was buried in the sea that lifted Noah's ark to safety. Death is never alive, so God in His mercy offers life. He offers us a place to live on His earth that, though fallen, has enough regularity that it keeps us from the insanity of chaos. And He offers promises that are not random but are rich in mercy.

Our stability in life is rooted in the promises of God. The environment that He has made with its consistency is not just so that nature can replicate ad infinitum, but it is an environment where nurture can take place. We are nurtured best when the Creator of our world becomes the Gardener of our souls. That Gardener has walked among us, tilling the soil of His world with the blood of His life. When we by faith are planted in Him, our lives will continue here and in the hereafter with as much certainty as the royal promise He made to Noah. "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." (Genesis 8:22) Be encouraged, my fellow believers. Continue to entrust yourself to your unchanging Heavenly Father. ❖



Time to Spring Forward!

Please be sure to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, April 2nd, in observance of **Daylight Savings Time**. Don't be late to church on Sunday morning!

All Hands on Deck!

There will be a work party at the new church property on **Saturday, April 9th**, beginning at 8:30am. All are welcome and needed.

Building Update Meeting

During the Sunday School hour on **Sunday, April 10th**, the building committee will present an informational meeting to update the congregation on the latest status of the building process. Please plan to be present!

Make a Joyful Noise!

The musical ensemble will sing together on **Sundays, April 10th, 17th, and 24th** from 8:45-9:20am. Newcomers are always welcome!

Earn Green Jacket at the Masters

Sign up now for the 2005 Good Hope Masters men's golf tournament—to be held at 11am on **Saturday, April 30th** at Patuxent Greens Country Club in Laurel. \$50 per player covers greens fees, carts, and prizes. To register yourself or your foursome, please see **Mark Hegerle**. Cash or check to Mark is due by Sunday, April 17th.

Focus on Our Missionaries: *The Brown Family in Cary, North Carolina*

Greetings from the Browns in North Carolina! We are grateful for the opportunity to say thanks for your partnership in the Gospel and to update you about our family and ministry of church planting through the PCA. We are excited about the things that are happening in our church plant, Christ Our Redeemer. But there is so much more to do! It is easy to feel discouraged at times. We are not adequate to the task in ourselves, but Christ qualifies us for what we cannot do by our own strength. **We need your prayers!**

Recently we began a home Bible study. God has doubled the attendance of this group in the past six weeks! Other families have indicated an interest in joining our work. Only God knows who He is calling to join with Christ Our Redeemer, but we can challenge these folks and see how God answers! We need holy and loving boldness for the kingdom. Please call on the Lord with us as we also need: (1) Those who are talented in music that will fit our style of worship as we envision it. We already have some of these folks! (2) People who love children and want to serve them through the ministry of Christ Our Redeemer. (3) Those gifted in evangelism, lovers of non-Christians. People are what we need. God graciously uses sinner/saints like us!

One of the things we want to do from the outset is try to make things simple at Christ Our Redeemer. (If we can't be idealistic now, when will we!?) We want to avoid reinventing every wheel with multiple committees and long meetings. Very little ministry happens in a committee. One of the reasons for this is so folks can spend family time. Our family is important to us!

Alan, our son, turned 18 in March. He is home-schooled (a junior). He begged us to do this! He has been great about getting up early and starting his work on his own. Alan loves to fish and walk in the woods. He misses travel and the animals of Africa. Pray for his continued adjustment to life here. **Our daughter Katie just turned 20!** It's hard to believe that our daughter is no longer a teenager. She is a sophomore at East Carolina University and is very involved with Campus Crusade for Christ. Katie's dream is to open a clinic in Africa. She is also raising support to work with Campus Crusade in Myrtle Beach, SC this summer. She spent all of last summer in Uganda with a mission team.

Gail is my lovely wife of almost 28 years! She is busy substituting in the public schools two days a week and teaching piano at home. Both have been good avenues to meet new folks and show them hospitality. Pray for these doors to continue to open. Gail is also involved in simply loving her family as a homemaker. Eddie is focusing on keeping in touch with and meeting with folks through various means. He is working with teammate Doug Peterson on what the church should look like in its worship and work. Doug and Eddie are considering what launch team ministries we need to be in before we begin public worship. Eddie preaches occasionally at nearby churches and leads the Friday Bible study.

May the Lord continue to bless Good Hope. Thank you for being a blessing to us!

Eddie for the Browns – Gail, Katie, and Alan

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 9:30am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday
 www.goodhopepeca.com

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Musical Ensemble - 8:30am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	28	29	30	31 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	1	2 Don't forget to change your clocks one hour forward tonight!
3 Daylight Savings Time Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm	4	5 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	6 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	7 Sunday School Meeting at Jim & Kathy Haber's 7:30pm	8 French GG - 7:30pm	9 Building Committee Meeting - 7:30am Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
10 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Building Meeting - 11am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	11	12 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	13 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	14 Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:30pm	15 French GG - 7:30pm	16
17 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Communion To Be Served Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	18	19	20	21	22 Missions Conference Dessert Fellowship at Craig Higgins' 7:00pm	23 Missions Conference at Briggs Chaney Middle School 5:30-8:00pm
24 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Missions Conference 9:30am-12noon	25 Info for May newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	26 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	27 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	28	29 French GG - 7:30pm	30 Good Hope Masters Golf Tournament at Patuxent Greens 11am

2005 Missions Conference, Take Two...

After a false start in February, the 2005 missions conference really will take place during the weekend of April 22nd - 24th, with the theme of "The Many Faces and Many Places of the Great Commission." Back by popular demand, **Eddie Brown** will return from Cary, North Carolina to be our conference speaker, and **Gene and Luann Bowman** are coming all the way from El Paso, Texas to update us on their work with Border Evangelism and Mercy Ministries (BEAMM). Our schedule will follow the pattern that we have used in previous conferences. **Craig and Wendy Higgins** will host a dessert at their house on Friday, April 22nd at 7:00pm, a dinner and service will be held at Briggs Chaney Middle School on Saturday, April 23rd from 5:30-8:00pm, and then we'll conclude on Sunday morning with worship and use of the Sunday School hour to focus on missions. Be sure to sign up for Friday and Saturday night's events by Sunday, April 17th.



Other participants in this year's conference will include **Mike and Jen Costanzo, Keith and Lori Hoekman,** and the "Ouagadougou Four" (**Joseph Haber, Ian Macdonald, Tim Rowan, and Jack Waller**) in retrospect. We will also introduce three upcoming short-term mission opportunities. The Lord has a great heart for the Great Commission. Come and let us share His heart! ❖

*Building Permit
Granted At Long Last!*

by Ian Macdonald, Building Chairman

Praise the Lord for a major milestone finally reached towards our building process—as of March 31st, **Matt Malanoski** now has a Howard County building permit in hand and can begin the construction phase of our new church home! **Steve Gerwin** reports that the erosion control project is well underway, hence the heavy machinery currently digging at the site.

An informational meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 10th** following the worship service to bring the congregation up to date on where we are and where we are headed next. Praise the Lord with us! ❖

