

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 2006

Serving the Body of Christ—The Most Excellent Way

by guest columnist *Mark Hegerle, Chairman, Board of Deacons*

One day long ago (longer for some of us than others), many of us enthusiastically responded “yes” to the following question: “Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?” We answered affirmatively, because on that day we made a profession of faith in Jesus Christ and officially joined the church. As Romans 12 says, “in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.” We have different gifts, according to the grace given us, and we are called to use those gifts, whatever they might be, for the good of the Body of Christ.

For some, opportunity to find a place in the Body of Christ comes easily. Perhaps a love of toddlers led someone to volunteer in the nursery; a hospitable heart led another to host a growth group. Maybe one had a truck and could haul the church trailer, or another had a gift for music to help us all worship a bit better with song.

I remember coming to Good Hope (then Wallace North), freshly graduated and newly married. Diane and I didn’t have a clue how we might serve the church. So we came and worshiped and built friendships. We didn’t know it then, but the Lord was strengthening our bonds to the body in preparation for service. After a while, a wise and caring elder (I’ll call him “Fred”) befriended and encouraged us and led us to service opportunities. We taught one of the children’s Sunday school classes for a while, I joined a set-up crew, and Diane began to loosely arrange cut flowers.

Teaching middle-schoolers turned out not to be the best way for us to serve, but Diane still arranges flowers, and I still set up (for a little while longer, anyway...). We’ve served in other ways

over the years, and I am sure we’ll find a few new things to do in the coming days and years. The key to all of it, though, was following the encouraging lead of another, taking a step of faith, and serving to the best of our ability, as we promised to do.

Good Hope has always been a family of hard-workers who share each others’ burdens. But at times, any of us may find ourselves on opposite sides of a divide—some of us are too burdened and can’t find relief, while others are looking in from the outside, wanting to serve but not seeing a fitting place to do it. Either it seems that all of the jobs are filled or we can’t possibly do the job as well as the veteran who has been doing it forever. Often I think it is tougher for newer members of our church body to feel that they have been fully grafted into the vine with the “charter members,” particularly if they haven’t found the part of the Body where they feel they belong.

We need to find the right balance so that all members of the Body are contributing to the best of their ability. That does not mean that everyone will carry an identical load. God has gifted and tasked each of us differently, so my full contribution today may be only a fraction of yours. At times we carry a double-load; at times someone carries us.

I Corinthians 12:12-31 describes the church body in terms of our physical body. Paul writes that the seemingly weak parts of the body are indispensable, and the less honorable parts are treated with special honor. He’s telling us that while there may be many jobs, some are visible, some are behind the scenes, some white collar, and some blue. Nevertheless, he notes that if one part suffers, every part suffers with it, and if one part is honored, every part rejoices with it. In God’s eyes,

changing diapers and loading the church trailer rank right up there with preaching the sermon or singing in the choir! All are needed, honorable, and indispensable.

Interestingly, in both the Romans and Corinthians “body” passages, Paul follows up his analogy with admonitions to love one another, calling it “the most excellent way.” He’s reminding us that we exercise our gifts with the express purpose of loving one another.

The day when we open the doors to our new church home quickly draws near. With it will come lots of new opportunities to serve together. We won’t need “set-up” crews, but we’ll need greeters and supply-shoppers, donut-buyers and coffee-makers, ushers and nursery workers, Sunday school teachers and worship leaders, singers in the ensemble and clean-up crews, lawn-mowers and snow-shovelers, deacons and elders, and on and on. You get the idea. Not only will we need to love one another with our gifts, but we’ll need to show the love of Christ to (Lord-willing) lots of new friends and neighbors who we hope will become integral parts of the body just like we are.

I close with this—someone approached me long ago to serve the body, and it was the very encouragement I needed to step out in faith and serve our Lord and His people through the church. Take some time now before we open the doors of our new building, and consider what part of the Body He has equipped you to be, so that when you are asked to serve, you will be ready to answer the call!

PS: Thanks to Jack for letting me “borrow” his newsletter column this month. ❖

Focus on Our Missionaries: *Steve and Kelly Marusich, University of Maryland*

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at the University of Maryland is going well. The biggest news is that this is the Marusichs’ last semester at Maryland. Our replacement, **Chris Garriott**, has already been called by the Presbytery. He is a native of Baltimore and grew up at Liberty Reformed PCA. He is a graduate of Covenant Seminary and has been working in youth ministry for the last 8 years.

Kelly and I will be taking the next year to transition and fundraise for our new call to England to start RUF there. We first began to look into going to the United Kingdom 2 years ago, and this past summer we accepted a call from Mission to the World to go to southwest England to start the first of what we hope will be many RUF chapters. The need in England is huge. Reports from there claim that only 1% of people under 40 attend any church on a regular basis.

Back at Maryland, we are looking into the idea of glorification—how does looking ahead help us to live now? The women have begun to meet bi-weekly to share, encourage one another, and pray together. Overall, I am extremely encouraged by the students that will be here next year when Chris begins. Thank you for your continued prayers for RUF at Maryland and for Kelly and me as we prepare for ministry in England.



Congratulations to Kelly, Steve, Eli (almost 4), and Jackson (6) on the addition of Savannah to the Marusich family on February 21st!

Steve Marusich

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 Post Office Box 164
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 (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.goodhopepca.com

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Daylight Saving Time Begins Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm Rowan Growth Group - 6pm	3	4 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	5 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	6	7 Haber Growth Group 7:30pm	8 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
9 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm Rowan Growth Group - 6pm	10	11	12	13 Maundy Thursday Service at Briggs Chaney Middle 7:00pm	14	15 Building Committee Meeting - 7:30am Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
16 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	17	18 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	19 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	20 Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:30pm	21 Haber Growth Group 7:30pm	22 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
23 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm Rowan Growth Group - 6pm	24	25 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	26 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	27 Info for May newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	28 Haber Growth Group 7:30pm	29 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
30 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm Rowan Growth Group - 6pm	1	2 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	3 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	4	5 Haber Growth Group 7:30pm	6 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am

Coming This June...

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

Our new sign says it all—Coming this June. After a long and often frustrating wait, we now have a target date that is not too far off. Hallelujah!!!

The construction site is a beehive of activity. Volunteer workers, led by the hyper-energetic **Steve Gerwin**, are out in great number each weekend. The fire-sprinkler people, electricians, plumbers, and HVAC crew have completed their rough-ins, and a county inspection has been ordered. Following this, it will be time for insulation and dry wall, then **Glenn Taylor** with the floors. Outside, **Tim Rowan** has delivered hundreds of trees and shrubs that are set to be placed in their final homes. The expansion of Route 216 for our access lane will begin this week, with paving of the parking lot and entrance drives to follow.

If you have not visited the site recently, treat yourself and have **Matt Malanoski** or **Jack Waller** give you a tour of our new home. Continue to pray for the success of this venture to be a magnet for souls. ❖

Maundy Thursday Service

A Maundy Thursday service will be held at Briggs Chaney Middle School on Thursday, April 13th at 7:00pm. This service will include the Lord's Supper.

