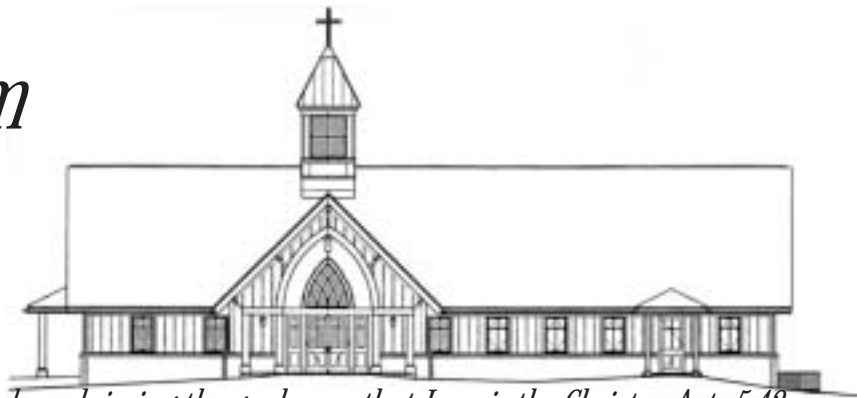


Good News from Good Hope!



Day after day... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. ❖ Acts 5:42
Good Hope Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ April 2008

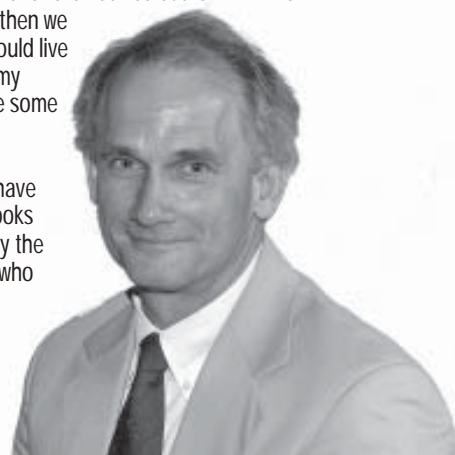
Let Us All Be Compelled By the Love of Christ!

How compelling is the love of Christ? A very casual consideration of Christ's love may not yield much. Without personally embracing the love of Christ, the words "Jesus loves you" are merely a slogan. The knowledge that Jesus loves me carries more weight when I am convinced that this is so, but even this confirmation needs the power of conviction. I need a conviction that Jesus loved me enough to die for me. He was so compelled by His love for me that He would deny Himself the comforts of heaven for the agonies of hell on the cross.

How compelling is the love of Christ? Some have been moved by it. All should be. The apostle Paul wrote, "For the love of Christ compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again." (II Corinthians 5:14-15) If Christ was not self-centered but other-centered, then we should not be self-centered but other-centered. The first "other" that I should be centered upon is Christ. We should live for Him. By being Christ-centered, I am compelled by His love so that I might not live just for myself, my wants, my needs. When I am affected by Christ's love, I am interested in the needs of others. I should make sure that I have some role that promotes the good news of Christ's love.

"Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another." (Romans 13:8) It is good to have your financial situation on a good footing. It is good when you are out of debt. However, we have cooked the books when we think that we have satisfied our love quota towards Christ or others. When we are no longer compelled by the love of Christ, we will find ourselves living for ourselves alone. May this never be so! Rather may we live for Him who died for us.

There are many opportunities every day to express how we are compelled by the love of Christ. One such opportunity will take place throughout the weekend of April 11-13 at our missions conference. There we will learn of ways to take steps to spread the love of Christ to those who live near and far from us. Let us all be compelled by the love of Christ! ❖



Focus on Our Missionaries: *Linda Karner in Chiba, Japan*



I left Chiba just as the weather was turning towards spring. The plum trees were in full bloom, the air was chilly, and there were breezes and blue skies. I am always amazed at how quickly the time comes for me to take another Home Ministry Assignment (HMA). This time I will be in the United States from April through June, reporting to churches and raising support. **Please pray that God, who owns the cattle on a thousand hills, will take me back to Japan in His perfect timing.**

I am delighted to report that Mr. Arakuri, the older man who was baptized in 2006, has come back to church! He attends regularly again and often stays for lunch or snacks. His wife is still quite opposed to his faith, and none of us have met her. **Please pray for his continued growth in Jesus and for his family.** He has two adult sons.

The fall semester was very difficult for me. I started out quite tired, and the 12-hour days soon took their toll. In December I became very depressed and was unable to regain my equilibrium, although I somehow managed to soldier on. When January rolled around, a dear friend on the team offered to take my classes one day a week, which freed up an afternoon that I could use to prepare for HMA and, most importantly, meant one less day of getting home at 9:30pm. In January I also began taking medication for depression, which has been a great blessing.

During the winter semester (January through March) I was able to combine my two advanced women's classes, allowing me to leave the center at 7:30pm on Fridays

(for a while... more on this later). At first I was apprehensive about this merger, particularly since this would put two ladies together who had experienced friction in their relationship. But whether due to the Japanese ability to maintain harmony or whether it is genuine, the combination has exceeded my expectations. With six ladies in the class we often don't even have time for the text, because they love to talk so much. I started a new technique of unobtrusively writing the corrected version of sentences they were saying on the board as the conversation progressed, and I found that they took their own "time outs" to discuss grammar and solidify their command of English. So even without the text I felt like they got a great class.

Another aspect of the winter semester that brought me joy was the Bible time series on Peter, written by yet another team member. Each week we looked at the events in Peter's life, and in this framework we explored a facet of the grace of God. I was very pleased to see how engaged the students were, and Bible time ran late more than once, even with me giving them clear opportunity to stop.

Please continue to pray for the work in Japan. There is so much more I could tell you, and I will have that chance soon during your upcoming missions conference. I am looking forward very much to being among you again! Ask me then why I didn't end up leaving right at 7:30pm on Fridays this winter...

See you soon!

Linda Karner

Join us for Sunday School at 9:45am and Worship at 11:00am each Sunday.
Evening Worship is held each Sunday at 6:30pm.

Good Hope Presbyterian Church
12131 Route 216
Fulton, MD 20759
(301) 317-1398
www.goodhopepeca.com

Good News from Good Hope!

April 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm	31 Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm	1 Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm	2 James Growth Group 7:30pm High School/College Bible Study - 7:30pm	3 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	4 <i>April Deacons of the Month:</i> Ron Goodrich Joseph Haber	5
6 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	7	8 Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	9 High School/College Bible Study - 7:30pm	10	11 Missions Conference with Pizza Dinner and Movie 6:30-9:30pm	12 Missions Conference with Catered Dinner 5:00-7:30pm
13 Sunday School with Missions Emphasis - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Friends & Family Luncheon Evening Worship - 6:30pm	14 Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm	15 Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm	16 James Growth Group 7:30pm High School/College Bible Study - 7:30pm	17 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	18	19
20 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	21 Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm	22 Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm	23 James Growth Group 7:30pm High School/College Bible Study - 7:30pm	24 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	25 Info for May newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	26
27 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	28 Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm	29 Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm	30 James Growth Group 7:30pm High School/College Bible Study - 7:30pm	1 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	2	3

2008 Missions Conference

Don't miss the events of our upcoming missions conference! The weekend will kick off with a pizza dinner at 6:30pm on **Friday, April 11th**, followed by an introduction to Rob & Carla Rose, a slideshow from Guatemala, and a missions movie. On **Saturday, April 12th** from 5-7:30pm, Linda Karner and Gene & Luann Bowman will update us on their work after a catered dinner. Sunday school and morning worship on **April 13th** will also feature our missionaries. If possible, RSVP to **Faye Gerwin** or **Marissa Rogers** by this Sunday, April 6th for all missions conference meals.

Friends & Family Luncheon

The April Friends & Family Luncheon will be held in conjunction with the missions conference on **Sunday, April 13th**. Plan to stay, and bring a friend!

High School and College-Age Bible Study

All high school and college-age students are invited to a Bible study on Wednesday nights at the church from 7:30-9:30pm. Please contact **Joey Smith** or **Caleb Waller**.

Daily Schedule of Bible Readings in April

April 1 - Luke 6	April 16 - Luke 24
April 2 - Luke 7	April 17 - John 1
April 3 - Luke 8	April 18 - John 2-3
April 4 - Luke 9	April 19 - John 4
April 5 - Luke 10	April 20 - John 5
April 6 - Luke 11	April 21 - John 6
April 7 - Luke 12	April 22 - John 7
April 8 - Luke 13	April 23 - John 8
April 9 - Luke 14-15	April 24 - John 9-10
April 10 - Luke 16-17	April 25 - John 11
April 11 - Luke 18-19	April 26 - John 12
April 12 - Luke 20	April 27 - John 13-14
April 13 - Luke 21	April 28 - John 15-16
April 14 - Luke 22	April 29 - John 17-18
April 15 - Luke 23	April 30 - John 19

Serving Our Little Ones

Our congregation has been blessed with many children! Take advantage of the chance to spend time with these little ones by signing up for nursery duty with **Bill** or **Marcy Davis**.