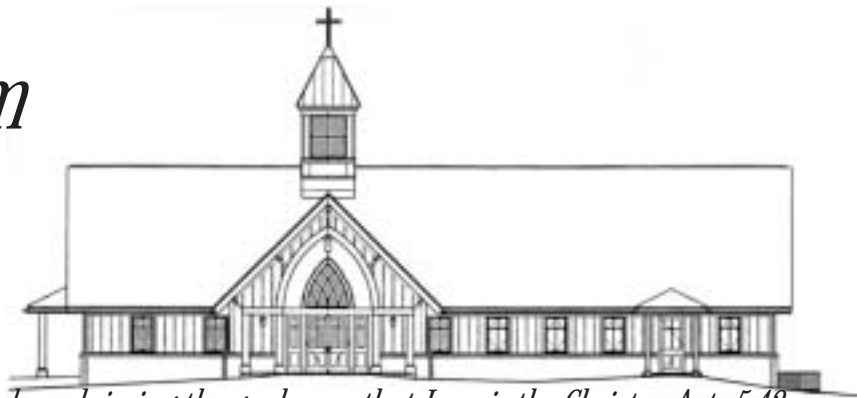


Good News from Good Hope!



*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 2009*

I Will Glory in My Redeemer—He Is Risen, He Is Risen Indeed!

Easter brings an annual emphasis on the resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as the resurrection of every person who knows Him as their Redeemer. Even with all of the opportunities and excitement of this life, we know that we are on a downward spiral. The rate of descent varies with each individual. We fight the downdraft, but just like a plane that loses its speed, we lose the lift in our wings, and ultimately we come down and are torn apart by the impact. Despite the inevitability of being brought back to earth with a thud, Christians don't view their lives as futilely ending with a crash-and-burn event. On the contrary, Christians possess great expectations. If your expectations are low, you probably don't look forward to much. If your expectations are high, your anticipation level rises to meet your expectations.

When Paul thought about his ultimate future he expected to see glory, and seeing it filled him with rejoicing. He wrote, "we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God. Not only so, but we also rejoice in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. And hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out His love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom He has given us." (Romans 5:2-5) Not only did Paul expect to see the glory of God and be transformed by His glory, but he also expected that the flight of his life would be beneficial. Turbulence often comes with flying. Learning how to handle it makes you a better pilot. Trials and trouble not only teach, but they also train. Enduring trials improves your ability to fly the plane of your life. As I mentioned, Easter brings an annual reminder of the rising up from the dead of Jesus Christ and ours as well. It also reminds us that in this life we fly with purpose, and even though we crash, we will rise to fly again. So rejoice! ❖



Focus on Our Missionaries: The Huber Family in Kiev, Ukraine

Europeans and Americans flock to churches by the thousands! Wouldn't that be a great headline to read? And I tell you that it is true! I have seen it with my own eyes. I have waited in the lines as the people streamed in. Of course, the only problem is that they were visiting church buildings to see the marvels of the past rather than to worship the living God—tourists instead of worshippers. The European cityscape is dominated by churches. If you have a chance to visit, it hardly matters which city you go to—your tour will no doubt make stops at several magnificent churches that typically provide the focal point of the city.

The same thing can be said of Kiev. We may not be as high on the list of tourist destinations, but if you come, you will no doubt take a tour of the city's marvelous, historic Orthodox churches. In fact, at one time Kiev was known as the "city of 300 churches." The communists destroyed some of them, but many remain, and still others are being built and rebuilt. The story goes that when the ruler of Kiev-Rus was trying to decide which religion to embrace, he sent out emissaries to the main world religions. When the emissary to Eastern Orthodoxy returned from visiting Istanbul, he was convinced that surely this must be the true religion because of the magnificence of St. Sofia. The prince agreed with the emissary's assessment, and thus the Slavic people became Orthodox. Something of a model of that church was built here in Kiev, and it still stands some 1000 years after the construction.

Even more so than the Catholics, the Orthodox place a particular emphasis on the importance of buildings as a place to worship, pray, and meet with God. But the reality is that church buildings are central in all European countries, whether those countries are predominately Orthodox, Catholic, or Protestant.



So what is a missionary and a young Protestant church to do in a culture that prizes "sacred space" so highly? Should we reject the idea and emphasize the biblical reality that people of God are not restricted to any special places and that all of the earth belongs to the Lord? To a certain extent, the answer to that is "yes." Jesus spoke very clearly of that to the woman at the well.

On the other hand, the church has recognized the value of buildings as an aid to her calling for millennia. At Good Hope, we/you were content to begin and grow in a rented facility for many years, and yet we always thought about something more permanent. We prayed for it, and you worked hard to make it a reality. And God has blessed you with a terrific place to call your own. (And yes, I agree with you and rejoice that it is really "His," but you understand what I am saying.)

As a mission team, we are convinced that some level of planning for church facilities is essential for the long term stability of this young Ukrainian denomination. They cannot yet afford to build their own (at least in the larger cities), and we, as the church in the west, are in a position to assist them, at least to some extent.

I know this sounds like a preface to ask you to give to a building project, but believe it or not, it isn't. (At least not yet!) I would like to ask you to pray for Holy Trinity Church here in Kiev. Through some generous friends, we have received a significant gift that will move us a few steps along in this process. We don't have enough to build a church building or some kind of worship facility, but we are planning to purchase a large apartment in the city center that could be used as a strategic ministry center for the church. We are thrilled to have this opportunity and glad to stake our claim to a little part of this city for the glory of the name of Christ. I think it will be a great help to the church as she seeks to mature, grow, and do good in this city.

So pray for us as we seek the right location and facility for the church ministry center. Pray that God would lead us in a wise way and that the center really would increase fellowship opportunities for the church, as well as opportunities to reach out and do good. The economic crisis has hit Ukraine hard and, ironically enough, that is helping us as we are in a position to buy. But it is also hurting many people in the church as they struggle to make ends meet. I am convinced that Holy Trinity would be blessed to have a small place in this massive city to call their own.

Grace and peace to you,
Eric for the Hubers

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 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:15pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm College/Career Group at the Rowans - 7:30-9:30pm	30 April Deacon of the Month: Tim Rowan	31 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	1 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	2 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	3	4 High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm
5 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Friends & Family Luncheon Choir Rehearsal - 5:15pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm College/Career Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm	6 Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	7	8 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm	9 Maundy Thursday Communion Service at the church 7:00pm	10	11
12 Easter Sunday Early Worship Service - 8:30am Fellowship Hour - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am	13	14 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	15 McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	16 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	17	18 High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm
19 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm College/Career Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm	20	21 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	22 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	23 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	24	25 High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm
26 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm College/Career Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm	27 Info for May newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	28 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	29 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	30 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	1	2 High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm

Daily Schedule of Bible Readings in April

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

Friends & Family Luncheon

Plan to stay for lunch and fellowship together after morning worship on **Sunday, April 5th**. And bring a friend!

Easter Week Schedule

Growth Groups will not be held during the week before Easter.

Join us on **Thursday, April 9th** at **7:00pm** for a Maundy Thursday service, where the Lord's Supper will be served.

An additional morning worship service will be added at **8:30am on Easter Sunday, April 12th**, followed by an hour of fellowship beginning at 9:45am, in lieu of Sunday School. Our regular worship service at **11:00am** will be held as usual on Easter Sunday, but there will be no evening worship service or other evening activities on Sunday, April 12th.

2009 Missions Conference—June 5-7

A sign-up sheet will be available beginning on Sunday, April 5th for the June 5-7 missions conference events. See **Faye Gerwin** to sign up and for more details.

Also, are you interested in a missions trip to **Burkina Faso** from June 22-30? See **Craig Smith** or **Stuart Showalter** for more info, and sign up to indicate any interest by April 19th.