

# 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 ❖ August 2003

## Thank the Lord for a Very Successful Week of Vacation Bible School!

by Chris Waller, Vacation Bible School Director

**P**raise God for the blessing of Vacation Bible School, July 14-18! Many people prepared, prayed, and served the children, and God was glorified.

Much of the work of VBS goes unseen. For example, we can't see what God by His Holy Spirit does in the hearts of the children. However, I heard testimony from adults and children about how they mark VBS as the point where they received Jesus as Savior. The work done by our VBS workers has eternal results.

Preparation for VBS also goes largely unseen. We all enjoyed the fruits of **Joanna Lyon's** preparation for her amazing science experiments. The children benefited from **Tracy Young's** organization of beautiful and creative crafts, assisted by **Faye Gerwin**. Our teachers spent unseen hours preparing the Bible lessons. The truths of God's Word were faithfully presented by **Marcy Davis, Bonnie French, Kathy Haber, Amy Higgins, Wendy Higgins, and Linda Malanoski**, and assisted by **Diane Hegerle, Keith Higgins, Bobbie Macdonald, Sam Malanoski, Gayle Pepe, Caleb Waller, and Rachel Waller**. All VBS workers were strengthened, empowered, and encouraged by the 23 people who committed to pray daily before and during VBS.

Much unseen work was performed by **Diane Hegerle** as she coordinated registration. She was assisted by **Faye Gerwin, Bobbie Macdonald, Gayle Pepe, and Rachel Waller**. Publicity was carried out unseen as well. Many thanks to **Kate Haber** for flyer design and mailing. Distribution was also performed by **John and Becky Hadeed, the Gerwin family, the Hegerle family, and the Waller family**. Each day at VBS went smoothly, thanks to the technical assistance of **Jack Waller** and the faithful work of Snack Lady **Carol Taylor**.

One of the much-enjoyed aspects of this year's Bible School was the work of the youth group as they presented skits on stage every day. Participants included **Marshall Gerwin, Mitchell Gerwin, Matthew Hegerle, Keith Higgins, Kristen Higgins, Isaac Lyon, Suzanna Lyon, Abi Waller, Caleb Waller, Rachel Waller**, and special appearances by **Jeff Taylor** and future youth groupers **Alex Beach** and **Carter Davis**.

The part of VBS that was seen was delightful! Let us pray that the unseen work of God's Holy Spirit will continue in the hearts of all who attended. ❖



Skits were a very popular part of Vacation Bible School this year, as members and friends of the Good Hope youth group acted out excerpts of the story of Jonah for VBS attendees each day.

## Bless the Lord, O My Soul!

**T**he psalmist David wrote, "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." (Psalm 103:2) For Thanksgiving each November, we generally accentuate giving thanks to God. We thank Him during the year as well, but maybe not with the degree of emphasis that we give during Thanksgiving.

We know that we do not need to wait for November to thank our Heavenly Father, so let's stop and do so now. Make a mental list, and begin consciously to thank the Lord for what comes to mind. Let that list grow, and continue to thank the Lord! Say to your soul, "Bless the Lord." Say to your soul, "Do not forget all the benefits of being a redeemed child of Christ, a son or daughter of the Heavenly King."

"Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." ❖



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

**G**reetings from the Browns in North Carolina! Normally we would be writing from Kenya, but we returned to the United States on May 31<sup>st</sup>. We are glad to share with you a few things that are happening with us now.

We have returned to the States to pursue ministry here. Why are we leaving Kenya? While no one can ever say, "The work is done," and that certainly would include Africa of all places, we do believe that we have done what in a real sense we set out to do. "And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." (II Timothy 2:2) We have trained pastors who are reliable men and who will be able to teach others. The baton has been passed to some of these dear men. Pray that they will continue to have a powerful impact on their own churches and other churches.

But, if so much work remains to be done, why are we leaving? A major reason is that our daughter Katie graduated from Rosslyn High School in Nairobi and will begin college at East Carolina University this fall. (We are very proud of the good work that Katie has done!) We do not want to be so far from Katie. Settling into life back in the States will be a challenge, and we don't want her to do that apart from Mom and Dad.

Please pray for all of us as we have the adjustments of re-entry and reverse culture shock. The last few months in Kenya were also stressful as we dealt with many terrorist threats. At one point, we were not sure if the kids' school would or should remain open. Please know how very grateful we are to you for standing with us these past four years. We need you to continue to partner with us as we are on home ministry assignment for the next several months, visiting churches and donors to report personally on the work and to be able to say, "Thank you", face to face. God willing, we look forward to doing that with you. So our time with the mission is not over, even though we are back in the States. Eddie is also using this time for some study and is investigating what God has for us next. Pray that we will be able to trust our Heavenly Father and His good plan for us.

Blessings to you,  
*The Browns—Eddie, 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 9:25am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.  
 www.goodhopepca.com

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# August 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am	28	29	30	31	1	2
3 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am	4	5	6	7	8	9
10 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am	11	12	13	14	15	16 Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
17 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00pm	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 Worship Service - 9:25am <b>Communion To Be Served</b> Sunday School - 11:00am <b>Evening Service at the Macdonalds' - 6:00pm</b>	25 Info for September newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	26	27	28	29	30

## *Building Committee Continues to Press On*

*by Jim Haber, Building Committee*

The Building Committee continues to press for progress on many fronts. We received Howard County's response to our site plan last month. While the response was long and detailed, all in all the changes are quite doable. **Tim Rowan**, **Kathy Haber**, and I met with **Rob Vogel** to go over the response from the county, Tim's landscape plan, and other refinements and possible cost savings. The meeting with Rob was encouraging. Not surprisingly, he thought that Tim's ideas were wonderful. The revised site plan will be resubmitted around August 24<sup>th</sup>.

On July 24<sup>th</sup>, our new architect **Jim Palmer** spent the day at the church property, meeting with a variety of key figures and verifying his understanding of the current building. His work is moving along very well, and the expectation is that his plans will be ready for submission for the permitting process by October 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Kathy Haber** has been hard at work contacting companies that do site development work, sending them our site plan, and asking for conceptual estimates for the site work. Eight companies have been contacted. Initial responses indicate that earlier estimates for site preparation were unrealistically low.

**Bill Davis** continues to negotiate with Sandy Spring Bank, and all indications are promising at this point. Bill also has been charged with signing a formal contract with our building contractor, **Springbrook Home Improvement**.

The building fund is on pace to realize the pledging that was promised for this year. Thanks be to God that He blesses us materially and that He is blessing this congregation with the grace of giving. May the Lord guide us and bless us to do His will. ❖

### *August Youth Group*

The youth group will meet at the Wallers' house on **Sunday, August 17<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00pm.

### *Communion Schedule*

We will partake of the Lord's Supper during worship on **Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>**.

### *Evening Worship*

Everyone is invited to join together for worship and fellowship at the Macdonalds' house on **Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup>** at 6:00pm.

### *Session Meeting*

There will be no Session meeting during the month of August. The Session will meet next on **September 11<sup>th</sup>**.