

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 ❖ December 2001*

Building Plans Progressing Well

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

The Howard County Planning and Zoning Board will soon schedule a date to hear the petition for Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church's Special Exception. Conversations with the staff person responsible for the presentation and with **Rob Vogel** confirm earlier comments that there should be no problem with its passage.

When this milestone is successfully passed, we hope to present the county with an application for a building permit. Finishing all of the work needed to be done in a short time frame will be a stretch, but good people are hard at work. **Gus Kotting** will lead this team. On Monday, November 26th, we learned that **Ron Higgins** and his associate **Matt Malanoski** will work with us as our general contractor consultants. Gus is charged with coordinating the work of **Karl Riedel**, Ron and Matt, and the other members of the construction committee: **Steve Gerwin, Jim Rowan, Tim Rowan, and Jack Waller**.

Carlette Rowan is pulling together a group to make recommendations and present a budget for fixtures and furnishings. They are charged with such tasks as outfitting the sanctuary, the classrooms, and the pastor's office. They will also look at facilities for social occasions. Carpets, lighting, acoustics, interiors, and more will fall under their domain.

Continue to praise God and to ask His guidance in this complex effort. ❖

Don't miss the Congregational Christmas Party!

Ian and Bobbie Macdonald's House
Saturday, December 8th - 6:52pm
Please bring finger foods to share, and come to enjoy good fellowship, beautiful music, and Bobbie's Christmas trees!

Time Keeps Marching On - Can It Be December Already?

We enter the twelfth month of 2001. Time consistently marches on. Never failing, never tiring, never exhausting, magnetically drawing the future into the present and then transforming it into the past. Time— all its moments are of equal length, yet those moments may differ in value or meaning according to what occurs during them. Take the twelfth month of the year—it seems to be different than the others. This month alerts us to the fact that another year is drawing to a close.

As we reach the end of the year, we must arrive at and pass through the 25th of December. Many celebrate the birth of Christ on this date, whether or not it is the actual date. Regardless of the date, the person whose birth we celebrate was born, and His birth was a most significant event. In fact, our present calendar is calculated from His birth. December 25, 2001 AD is the twenty-fifth day of December in the two thousand and first year of our Lord.

But, our calendar was really adjusted to recognize God's calendar. As Paul wrote in Galatians, "but when the time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, born under law, to redeem those under law, that we might receive the full rights of sons." All time is of equal length, but not all time is sprinkled with equal events. To recognize the birth of Christ and the work of Christ on your behalf is a gracious blessing. To use a portion of the year and one day of the year to intensify our focus on the birth of Christ and the work of Christ on our behalf is gracious blessing relived. As we journey on in time toward the new year and come to the 25th of this month, may the significance of that historic event capture your heart again and fill you with love toward God and one another. ❖



Focus on Our Missionaries: The Showalter Family in Burkina Faso, West Africa

Greetings from Burkina Faso, where we have settled back into our "other" life. Since our return to the village of Obire in early October, there has been no lack of opportunities to invest in people's lives. Many people have had a difficult year, with poor crops and little income, and the grain they are harvesting now promises to run out way too early. At least a dozen village friends have come to us already to ask for work, loans, or even food. We are working at getting our cereal bank up and running again, to buy grain now so that there will be food in May and June when the period of famine begins. The ongoing battle against hunger here takes a big chunk of everyone's time and energy, and we struggle to steward our time so that we accomplish our main goal as well— translating God's Word.

In early November, we enjoyed two weeks dedicated to Bible translation, working on Luke 18-20. An SIL schoolteacher came from Ouaga to teach Esther and Jesse for a week, so I was able to take part in the first week of the translation session. Sometimes the work is routine, but there are moments of illumination where the truth and wisdom of God's Word blows us all away. Please pray with us that this truth and wisdom would come through in the Kaansa language, by the power of the Holy Spirit, and that it would result in changed lives and renewed minds.



Translation in Action: Nadoome Farma (left) and Yao Farma, members of the translation team in Burkina Faso, ponder the correct wording of Luke 19 in the Kaansa language.

As I write this today (Wednesday, November 21st), Stuart is in Bouake in the Ivory Coast, picking up Nathanael from school. A mistake found at the last minute on our visas kept us from going as a family. Stuart had already renewed his, so he was free to go, making the 7-hour trip alone, while the rest of us went to Bobo Dioulasso to wait. They will arrive the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day, and we will celebrate Thanksgiving together at a little French-African restaurant we discovered here in Bobo. We look forward to being together as a family again for a few weeks. Nathanael will be with us until January 2, when he returns for the second trimester. After a somewhat rocky beginning, he seems to be adjusting well and is starting to enjoy the new school. Please continue to pray for the Ivory Coast, where uncertainty remains the status quo.

We think of you often, always thanking God whenever we remember you, with joy, because of your partnership with us in bringing the good news of God's Word to the Kaan people. A special thanks to those of you who have written to us. We enjoy hearing from you so much.

Cathie Showalter

Join us for Worship at 9:30am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.
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December 2001

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25	26	27	28	29	30	1 Men's Breakfast at Fran Rowan's House - 7:30am
2 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	3	4	5 Session Meeting at Wallers' House 7:30pm	6 Missions Committee Meeting at Wallers' House - 7:30pm	7	8 Christmas Party at Macdonalds' House 6:52pm
9 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	10	11	12	13 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	14	15
16 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Christmas Play at Briggs Chaney - 7:00pm	17	18	19 Info for January newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	20	21	22
23 Worship - 9:30am Sunday School - 11am	24 Christmas Eve Service at Tim Rowan's 5:00pm	25	26	27	28	29
30 Worship - 9:30am Sunday School - 11am	31					

"Christmas Peace in a Troubled World" To Premier December 16th

The children are making great progress in learning their lines and songs for the 2001 Christmas play. Our play is titled "Christmas Peace in a Troubled World" and is scheduled for Sunday, December 16th at 7:00pm. Don't miss it!

Many, many thanks to **Allison Taylor**, who is helping **Chris Waller** direct the play this year. Another big thank you goes to **Victoria Chandler** and **Karen Crago** for sewing some more costumes! Thanks also to the Sunday School teachers who have assisted during song practice: **Becky Haber**, **Kate Haber**, **Kathy Haber**, **Amy Higgins**, **Wendy Higgins**, **Joanna Lyon**, and **Tracy Young**.

The children will continue practicing songs in the choir room at 10:55am each Sunday, then practicing lines in their Sunday School classes. On December 9th, the practice will move to the stage, and adult Sunday School will take place in the choir room. Costumes will be distributed for the dress rehearsal on December 16th. Remember, this is a "closed" rehearsal. Parents can help by not distracting the actors with their presence!

We still need three boy's robes for one scene. If you can lend or donate one, please let Chris Waller know. Please also continue to pray that our play will bless the hearts of both audience and participants. ❖

God Is Faithful to Our Children!



We thank the LORD for the group of Good Hope children who professed their faith in Christ before the congregation on October 28, 2001 after completing the Communicants Class: (front row, from left) **Morgan Crago**, **Abi Waller**, **Kristen Higgins**, **Candice Black**, **Anna Pepe**, **Travis Bailey**, and **Dean Rowan**; (back row, from left) **Edward Chandler**, **John French**, **Tim Higgins**, **Matthew Hegerle**, **Marshall Gerwin**, and **Mitchell Gerwin**. We also thank the LORD for the sacrament of baptism, which was administered to Morgan Crago on this same date. ❖