

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 2002*

Our Sunday School Teachers: Serving Our Church, Serving Our Children

by Kathy Haber, Sunday School Correspondent

One of our membership questions is: "Do you promise to support the church in its worship and work to the best of your ability?" **Amy Higgins** answered, "Yes," to that question when she became a member at Wallace Memorial Presbyterian Church. One way she has fulfilled her promise is by teaching Sunday School. She has been teaching, with only a few breaks, for 17 years. Amy enjoys working with children, and she also wants to serve her church.

She began her Sunday School teaching career while still in high school, assisting **Jan Adams** with a class of toddlers. Jan is an accomplished teacher, and Amy benefited from watching her teach. Amy still follows Jan's example as she organizes and manages her own classes.

Many children at Good Hope have been blessed by having Amy as their teacher. The class she currently teaches, with the help of **Kate Haber**, consists of 4 to 6-year olds. Their young students are **Patrick Chandler, Joseph Hegerle, Becca Higgins, and Maria Lyon**.



Kate Haber, Maria Lyon, Patrick Chandler, Becca Higgins, Joseph Hegerle, and Amy Higgins enjoy having Sunday School together each week.

Amy's preparation for Sunday School begins early in the week. She begins by reading through the teacher's manual and selecting the activities that are the best fit for her students. She also collects the supplies that she will need. Later in the week, she focuses on the Bible passage and how to present it. Sometimes she feels that her time for preparation is just too short!

Amy wants her students to learn the Bible stories she teaches each week, but she also wants them to "go beyond just learning the stories and begin to understand how the Bible relates to them." She receives real joy as she sees her students eager to learn more about God.

The class usually begins with a fun activity, either an illustration or a game, which introduces an idea or expands the children's understanding of a concept. After the introductory activity, the students are ready for the Bible lesson. Amy tells them the Bible story, and she reinforces the lesson and checks the children's understanding by asking them questions about it. Next, the children repeat the memory verse. Usually they sing together. Some of the songs that Amy teaches are ones that she learned while working with other teachers, and sometimes Kate leads the singing. Finally, Amy and Kate help the children complete the worksheet. The introductory activities and the Bible story are the favorite part for some of the children, while the worksheet is the highlight of the class for others.

How can we help Amy? As with any teacher, Amy appreciates most the help and interest of parents and others. Specifically, she appreciates parents taking an interest in the worksheets and helping their children learn the memory verse. There are times when a substitute is needed if both Kate and she have to be away.

Good Hope is blessed to have Sunday School teachers as faithful, as conscientious, and as successful as Amy Higgins and Kate Haber. ❖

Focus on Our Missionaries: The Brown Family in Nairobi, Kenya

We are so thankful for your interest in what the Lord is doing here in Kenya. While we still miss our family and friends in the States very much, we're really grateful to be ministers of grace both to the church here, as well as to those yet to come to faith in Christ.

Eddie continues to enjoy teaching several pastors on a weekly basis in Kajjido, a town an hour and a half south of Nairobi. This term, he is focusing on preaching skills. One of these pastors walks 8 hours (round trip) to attend these classes! We are humbled by such desire to grow in the Lord and to pass onto his people what he learns. Eddie is also in the middle of co-teaching an intensive 3-week course on marriage and family at the Nairobi International School of Theology (NIST). Since one of his Renewal Team responsibilities is to write a course on marriage and family in an African context, this time at NIST is a great opportunity for Eddie to gather some useful material for the course. Eddie has also been serving on an oversight committee at our church, New City Fellowship, in Nairobi. He helps plan and critique the services, and he also preaches on occasion.

Gail enjoys being simply a wife and mom. There's always wash, meals, dishes, and homework to be done. On the side, she has been brushing up on her Kiswahili language skills, participating in Moms in Touch, studying the Gospel with a former neighbor, teaching Sunday School, and teaching English to an Indian family. On Tuesday afternoons, Gail and Esther (our teammate) co-teach Sonship, a discipling course, to a group of women (Kenyan, Korean, and American). Teaching forces her to stay focused on the Gospel as, by her admission, it's so quick to slip off of her hear! We praise God that several of these women are being greatly impacted by this study.

Katie, a senior at Rosslyn Academy, is in the throes of filling out college applications. She appreciates prayer for God's guidance in regard to her future. Her desire is to study pre-medicine. She loves living down the street from the school (we moved in May), as it enables her to be more a part of school life. In her spare time, Katie enjoys working out at a local fitness center.

Alan, 15, is "hooked" on ocean fishing. He sees himself down the line as a captain of a sport fishing boat. He and Eddie have been able to do some fishing at Mombasa on the Kenyan coast. He is also trusting the Lord to provide a job for him next summer in the States. In his "down time," Alan enjoys computer games, watching videos on ocean fishing, and visiting game parks.

As part of World Harvest's Africa Renewal Team, it is our privilege to disciple Kenya's church leaders in the Gospel, its truths and ramifications. As their hearts are renewed, they serve as agents of renewal in their churches, which in turn affect families, communities, the country, continent, and world! Thank you for praying that the Gospel would go deep into the heart of Africa. Jesus is their only hope.



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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December 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Chandler GG - 6:00pm	2	3	4	5 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	6	7
8 Worship Service - 9:25am Communion To Be Served Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group GG - 2:30pm Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	9	10	11 Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:30pm	12	13 Christmas Party at Macdonalds' House 7:00pm	14
15 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Children's Christmas Play at Briggs Chaney 7:00pm	16	17 Missions Committee Meeting at Waller's House - 7:30pm	18	19 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	20	21
22 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am	23 Info for January newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	24 Christmas Eve Service at Tim and Beth Rowan's House 5:00pm	25	26	27	28
29 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am	30	31	1	2	3	4

Today in the Town of David, A Savior Has Been Born to You!

On the night of Jesus' birth, an angel of the Lord said to the shepherds who were living out in the fields nearby, "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:11) "Today" was that day, yet that "today" makes every day a today. Every day becomes an opportunity for anyone who does not have the Savior to have this Savior. Through His Gospel, His birth, death, and resurrection are proclaimed. Christ was born to give His life as a ransom for many, and those who put their faith in Him in this day are rescued by the Savior.

Every day becomes an opportunity for anyone who does not have the Savior to have the Savior. And it is an opportunity for everyone who does have the Savior to celebrate their great prize in the Savior. Christians recognize Him as the Christ, the Anointed One of God, so designated as the only One who

is Savior, can be Savior, and will be Savior. We are saved, and our salvation is so secure that nothing can separate us from our present life with our Savior and future life with Him as well. We have a Savior who remains our Savior and is able to save us to the uttermost.

Typically as each year rolls by, we celebrate December 25th as the birth date of Jesus. Whether it actually was the 25th of December, we do not know. There are only 365 possibilities, and establishing the 25th of December as recognition of His certain birth has served us well as a reminder of His birth. The "today" of His birth can become our joy in this day and every day. Remember, "Today in the town of David, a Savior has been born to you." ❖



Mark Your 2003 Calendars Now!

Annual Bonfire

Allen and Tina Bailey's House
 Friday, January 17, 2003

2003 Missions Conference

This year's missions conference will focus on the work of Gene and LuAnn Bowman on the border of Mexico and the United States, also helping our congregation learn more about ministering to Mexico and Latin America.
 February 21-23, 2003

Communion Schedule

We will celebrate communion with our Lord on **Sunday, December 8th** during morning worship. Let us together be strengthened in Him.

Christmas Party

The Macdonalds' home is a treat to visit during Christmastime. They will once again host our annual Christmas party on **Friday, December 13th at 7:00pm**. Please bring your favorite finger food and fork-free desserts to share. Coffee and punch will be provided, and **John Horst** will provide live music for our enjoyment. Thank you, Macdonalds!

Christmas Eve Service

Our candlelight Christmas Eve service will be held on **Tuesday, December 24th from 5-6pm** at the home of Tim and Beth Rowan. We will gather to sing carols and marvel as we listen to the Scriptural story of Christ's birth. Join us in this beautiful setting as we come together to worship Christ.

In Search of Christmas..

This year's Christmas play is entitled, "In Search of Christmas." It begins in the year 3003! The characters find a time machine and decide to find the true meaning of Christmas. Their travels take them to 2002, the 1950s, colonial times, and finally to Bethlehem, where the reason we celebrate is discovered.

Our children work hard on the play each year in order to share this message with our church family and with their family and friends who come to watch our play. Please pray that the children will learn their lines and effectively communicate the Gospel through the means of this play.

We will be using the stage on December 8th and December 15th for practice during the Sunday School hour. Adults can help by quickly vacating the space for our use on those dates!

The play will be performed on **Sunday, December 15th at 7:00pm** at Briggs Chaney Middle School. Each family is asked to bring a plate of Christmas cookies or finger foods to share after the play. ❖

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