

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 2005

My Soul Praises the Lord!

After Mary received the news from the angel Gabriel that she would be the mother of Christ, she went to visit her cousin Elizabeth. Upon Mary's arrival, Elizabeth spoke these words to Mary, moved by the Holy Spirit. "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished." (Luke 1:42-45) It is natural for babies to move in the wombs of their mothers. It is unnatural or supernatural to accurately credit a pre-born baby's movement as an expression of joy, and yet Elizabeth does so.

Mary's response to Elizabeth's heavenly influenced reception is to say, "My soul praises the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is His Name." (Luke 1:46-48)

The joy that Elizabeth's unborn baby felt is not confined to the inner space of her womb. This joy is shared by Mary in the inner place of her spirit. Yet, both feel compelled to let it out—Elizabeth's unborn baby leaping to express his joy, Mary speaking to express hers. The unborn baby of Elizabeth's displays gladness to be in the presence of the unborn Christ and His mother and, seemingly, supernaturally understands the implications of His coming. Mary celebrates that she has not been forgotten nor those who share her similar faith. God reaches across natural barriers to allow an unborn child to rejoice in Him. He also invigorates the spirit of Mary so that she rejoices in the knowledge that He knows her need and the needs of those who look to Him, and He has come to meet those needs. If an unborn child rejoices in Christ and His salvation, and if Mary rejoices too, should we not adopt their joy as well? Rejoice! ❖



It's Almost "Time For Christmas!"

Plan to enjoy the 2005 Christmas play, "Time For Christmas," on Sunday, December 18th at 7:00pm. The thirty-three children involved are working hard to express this year's theme—even in troubled times, we should celebrate the birth of Christ who came "at just the right time." (Galatians 4:4) We don't deserve His greatest gift! The children enact characters who receive gifts—but also troubles—that they don't deserve. Our hope is that the play will help you reflect on receiving a gift that none of us deserve, God's gift of salvation, at just the right time!

The children are enthusiastically memorizing lines and learning songs. The eleven middle schoolers are adding their own touches to their lines, and they have contributed to the actual script this year! Elementary and preschool children are earnestly working, and five high school girls are helping with music and costume changes.

How can you help? First, please pray for our play to be a blessing in the lives of the children and their audience. Secondly, there are costume and prop details that still need help! Thanks goes to **Mark Hegerle**, **Linda Malanoski**, and **Tracy Young** for stepping up to help. If you can lend a hand, please see **Chris Waller**. Finally, and very importantly—the cast will be moving to the stage for practice in the month of December. It is a huge help if adults vacate the larger room quickly so that the children can concentrate on their practice. It is extremely distracting to have adults in the room, so please help by moving on to Sunday School quickly!

Our annual Christmas play promises to be a delight for all members, visitors, and other friends who attend on December 18th. We look forward to seeing you there, and please bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share afterwards! ❖

Church Christmas Party

Don't miss the church Christmas party on **Saturday, December 10th** at 5:00pm at Mac and Bobbie Macdonald's beautifully decorated home! Since this will take place during the dinner hour, everyone should plan to bring heavy hors d'oeuvres or appetizers to share. Finger food desserts are welcome in addition to appetizers, but not as a substitute! Please feel free to drop in at any time during the evening, if you're not able to arrive at 5:00pm, as this is an open house.

Focus on Our Missionaries: *Jill DeVere. Formerly in Kiev, Ukraine*

On August 19th, I returned to the United States from Kiev, Ukraine. Last year, God led me to a new type of service in Kiev. It was a blessing to teach first grade in a Christian school for children of missionaries and other expatriates. This gave me time to step back and see if God was calling me to a different area in Ukraine.

By the end of the school year, it was clear that God was calling me out of Ukraine. After talking with the team leader and Mission to the World, it was decided for me to return to the United States for home ministry assignment. This gives me time to travel to different churches and also time to pray about where God will have me serve Him next.



Right now, Mission to the World has informed me of teams in Eastern Europe and Central America that need more people to join their teams. We have been in contact. I am learning about each team to see if there is a place for me.

It has been a wonderful opportunity to serve in Ukraine. What a wonderful blessing to see so many people come to know Christ and to see the church grow! The team has been like a family to me. It has been difficult saying good-bye to this chapter of my life, but God has given me peace that this has been the right decision.

In Christ,
Jill DeVere



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 9:30am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.
www.goodhopepca.com

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December 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Communion To Be Served Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm	28	29	30	1	2	3 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
4 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm	5	6	7	8	9	10 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am Christmas Party at Macdonalds' House 5:00pm
11 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group Trip to DC	12	13	14	15 Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:30pm	16	17 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
18 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Children's Christmas Play at Briggs Chaney 7:00pm	19	20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Service at Macdonalds' House 5:00pm
25 Worship Service - 9:30am	26	27	28 Info for January newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	29	30	31

Praise the Lord for Progress!

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

Things are really happening visibly at our new church property on Route 216. The majestic beams that peak above the sanctuary are up, and they will have a roof over them within the next two weeks. The windows have arrived and will be placed shortly after the roof is completed. **Tim Rowan** already has stone in place and has begun the process that will lead to the decorative lower walls of the church exterior.

Those who attended the November church picnic got a good view of all that is happening inside of the structure and what they saw continues to progress. The retaining wall is complete, the huge water tank for the sprinkler system is in place, the 800-Amp electrical panel is functioning, and the gas lines are in.

Matt Malanoski and his crew are hard at work. When he is pressed, Matt will predict that June occupancy is realistic. Praise the Lord. ❖

Focus On Our Missionaries

Plan to stay for Sunday School on Sunday, December 11th to hear from **Linda Karner**, missionary to Chiba, Japan, as she updates us on the Lord's work abroad.

Youth Group Excursion Into DC

The youth group will venture into DC on **Sunday, December 11th** for an afternoon of ice skating and Christmas sightseeing by tour bus. We will meet at Briggs Chaney Middle School at 2pm and return around 8-9pm. (Stay tuned for more details!) Bring \$10 for ice skating and additional money for snacks, if desired.

Seating on the bus is limited, so be sure to sign up with **Jack or Chris Waller** right away!

Holiday Cancellations

There will be no Sunday School on **Sunday, December 25th** or **Sunday, January 1st**. However, the worship services will be held at the regular time of 9:30am both weeks.

Winter Weather Advisory

Snow, ice, and sleet are sure to be coming soon. If there is bad weather on a Saturday or Sunday, listen to the radio, television, or check online at www.schools-out.com for Montgomery County school closings. If Montgomery County schools are closed, we will not meet. Church cancellations or other changes will also be posted to the church website at www.goodhopepca.com.