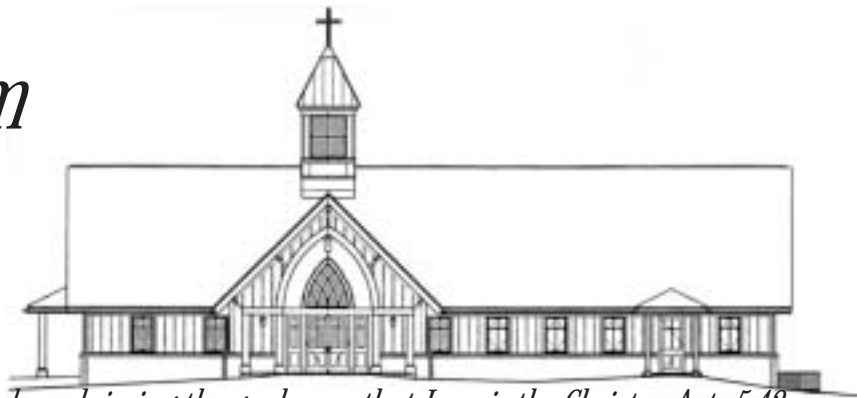


# Good News from Good Hope!



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 ❖ December 2006

## Our Mission—Reaching Out to Others for Christ's Sake

by Ian Macdonald, Coordinator of Outreach Efforts

After three Sundays in our beautiful new church home, all systems are go. There are still bugs to be worked out, but the feel of the place is warm and welcoming and very conducive to worship. The sermons and the music have been outstanding, as has been the fellowship in the sanctuary and fellowship hall. It will be easy to get comfortable here. BUT is comfort the goal?

The last words of our Lord prior to His ascension were, "...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Last Sunday, we sang a hymn that had these words: "Send Your victorious Word abroad, and bring the strangers home," followed by, "We long to see Your churches full..." We built this church to serve our Lord and to witness to others.

All of this should be clear. Our job is outreach. We have not been asked to settle in and get comfortable and then reach out. We must begin now. To accomplish our mission, we must find souls, welcome them when they come, and invite them into our lives. We must provide a home for believers and for those who are still searching.

Here is our current plan:

1. **Finding Souls (Outreach):** Invite your friends, neighbors, fellow workers, and others to come and see our beautiful new church. An invitation to attend our Christmas Eve service will be mailed to people who live in the area, and let me know if you have friends who should be invited too. Our first-class website ([www.goodhopepca.com](http://www.goodhopepca.com)) is supplemented by our ad in the telephone book.

### Candlelight Christmas Eve Service

Don't miss the first candlelight Christmas Eve service to be held in our new church building on **Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>** at 5:00pm.

2. **Welcoming:** Help is needed especially in the few moments before worship begins, because that is when most visitors tend to arrive.
  - a. Greeters will be needed at both doors. In addition to just welcoming all those who enter, the greeter will introduce visitor(s) to a nearby "shepherd," who will lead them into the narthex, introduce them to others, and point out our fellowship hall and invite them in there. The goal will be to make our visitors feel welcome and wanted.
  - b. Ushers at the sanctuary doors will greet everyone, pass out bulletins, and supervise seating. This job will be made easier if members use seats that are less accessible and leave the back few rows for late arrivals.
  - c. Everyone should make themselves available to greet newcomers and return visitors after the worship hour, with the caveat that it is not our intention to overwhelm people and make them feel uncomfortable or overly pressured.
  - d. Using information gathered on visitor cards and from shepherds and others, **Jack Waller** will call each visitor.

Please contact **Joseph Haber** ([josephhaber@gmail.com](mailto:josephhaber@gmail.com) or 301-317-0250) if you would like to serve as an usher, greeter, or shepherd.

3. **Inviting them into our lives:** A number of us were led to join Good Hope because **Kathy Haber** (or others) invited us into their house for dinner. We should all remember this and think of ways that we can open our own lives and our homes.

Most importantly, we must remember that our best efforts will fail without the help of the Holy Spirit. Jesus instructed his disciples to "go and make disciples of all nations," (Matthew 28:19) but cautioned them to "stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high." (Luke 24:49) In other words, we need Him, and only with His help can we accomplish what needs to be done. Please contact me ([dimaconnald@comcast.net](mailto:dimaconnald@comcast.net) or 301-598-4544) if you have thoughts on how our outreach can be more effective. ❖

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

In early October, Stuart was on a plane flying back to Burkina Faso, to spend a month there working on the translation of the New Testament with the Kaansa translation team. He was able to spend 19 days in the village of Obiré, working with Gloria, Yao, Nadome, and Raphael. Together they finished work on the Epistle of James to prepare it for publication, and they made major revisions to the first draft of First Corinthians.

To finish up the work on James, we invited all of the Kaansa-speaking pastors in the region to attend our final read-through. All six of them showed up, and we appreciated their feedback on the work we had done. We also had a good time together—this was the first time we had all been together for some years. While Stuart had a very productive time in the village, the most fun and exciting event took place after he left. On November 6<sup>th</sup>, our Wycliffe colleague Gloria Scott and the Kaansa Literacy Team organized the first-ever public reading competition in central Obiré. His Majesty the Kaan Iya (king of the Kaan people) was the official Patron of the event, showing his support of our literacy efforts in yet another important way. He and three other community leaders were the judges for the competition. 48 people signed up as contestants to read passages from either the Gospel of Luke or from a recently published collection of folktales. The winner was a teenager named Matthieu Farma, who, ironically, had never taken any of our literacy classes. Instead he had taught himself how to read at home by borrowing his father's reading primers. The grand prize was a shiny new trail bike brought over from the US by Gloria this past summer. It will be the envy of the village for this young man and, we hope, good publicity for our reading classes next year.

Cathie and the kids held out well enough while Stuart was gone, but we're glad to be back together again for the holidays. Cathie will be doing the layout for the publication of James as a separate booklet, and she'll start the word-for-word back translation of the first half of First Corinthians to prepare for consultant checking next spring. Stuart is still working on revising the rest of First Corinthians, which will be our major project for his next visit to Burkina Faso in January.

Please pray for the literacy team as training begins in preparation for classes in the new year. We hope to hold classes in 20 villages again this year. Also pray for **Mac and Bobbie Macdonald** and **Tim and Beth Rowan**, who will be visiting us in the village in late January. For lots more up-to-date information, prayer concerns, ministry blog, and photos, visit our ministry website at [www.showalterfamily.net/ministry](http://www.showalterfamily.net/ministry). The username is "supporter," and the password is "bsbtlawpfn" for access to most of the information.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers!  
*Stuart and Cathie*

### Church Christmas Party

Mark your calendar for the church Christmas party on **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>** at 4:00pm at Mac and Bobbie Macdonald's beautifully decorated home (14505 Gilpin Road, Silver Spring). Since this will take place during the dinner hour, everyone should bring non-messy appetizers or heavy hors d'oeuvres to share. Please feel free to drop in at any time during the evening, if you're not able to arrive at 4:00pm, as this is an open house.

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.goodhopeca.com

## *Good News from Good Hope!*

# December 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am High School Youth Group at Higgins' - 4:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> Work Party at the church - 8:00am
<b>3</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am High School Youth Group at Higgins' - 4:30pm Middle School Youth Group at Wallers' - 5:00pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b> Deacon Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am <b>Christmas Party at Macdonalds' - 4:00pm</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Christmas Play Dress Rehearsal at the church 9:00-11:00am
<b>17</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am <b>Christmas Play at the church - 7:00pm</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am <b>Candlelight Christmas Eve Service at the church - 5:00pm</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Info for January newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

## *Repeat, Repeat the Sounding Joy!*

**"R**epeat the sounding joy; repeat the sounding joy; repeat, repeat, the sounding joy!" In Isaac Watts's adaptation of Psalm 98, he includes this refrain in the second verse of his well-known carol, "Joy to World! The Lord is Come." The song begins, "Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King; Let every heart prepare Him room, and heaven and nature sing; and heaven and nature sing; and heaven, and heaven, and nature sing. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and plains, repeat the sounding joy; repeat the sounding joy; repeat, repeat the sounding joy!"

Repetition can be boring or it can be beautiful. It depends on what is being repeated. Sometimes our vocabulary is tired because we do not dress it up with colorful and insightful language. At other times, the words we use and the stories we tell cannot be improved. They are so astounding and compelling that we have not yet plumbed the depths of contemplation.

"The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call Him Immanuel"—which means, 'God with us.'" (Matthew 1:23) How marvelous! "You are to give Him the name Jesus, because He will save His people from their sins." (Matthew 1:21) Incredible! Is there more to this story? Are there more details? Do you think you could tell me the story one more time? When did it happen? Where did it happen? How did it happen? Why did it happen? Repeat it. Repeat it. Repeat it until my mind and heart and mouth are filled with sounding joy! ❖



### *"Moving Day" Is Coming Soon!*

**W**hat an exciting day it was when we finally moved into our new church building! Moving can be stressful at times, however. This year's Christmas play will look at both responses to moving, and we'll also consider the most important move of all—when God's Son left heaven to be born as a babe in a manger. Don't miss "Moving Day" on **Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00pm. An important dress rehearsal will take place on Saturday, December 16<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-11:00am. Please be in prayer for our thespians and our audience, and let **Chris Waller** know if you are able to help with remaining details!

Our annual Christmas play promises to be a delight for all members, visitors, and other friends who attend on December 17<sup>th</sup>. Please bring a plate of Christmas cookies to share afterwards! ❖