

# 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 ❖ February 2002

## Good Hope Building Fund Surpasses the \$300,000 Mark

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

In late November 2001, the amount of money that had been added to our building fund surpassed \$300,000. At a time when our country was celebrating Thanksgiving, we at Good Hope once again had the opportunity to give thanks to our gracious God for the riches that He has bestowed on our country and all of us. Hallelujah!

At the end of 2001, the total that had been placed in the fund by individual contributions and from interest on the CDs that have been purchased was \$306,011.87. Again, hallelujah! From this amazing sum, expenditures of about \$13,000 have been made, leaving a balance of \$292,199 in the account on December 31, 2001.

That is the good news. The challenging news is that we do not have enough money to do what needs to be done. The first big bite will come when we complete the purchase of the property. That will probably happen sometime this spring, and the down payment will be \$95,000. It is too early to accurately guesstimate the building cost, but, whatever that cost is, we will need more than we presently have. In addition to "getting us into" the reconstructed house, we will have to think about raising money to handle the loan of \$380,000 that remains on the property.

We need money. There is no plan at this time to re-send solicitation letters to the congregation, but consider this an appeal to prayerfully consider continued giving to the Lord's church in Howard County. Last year, our donations totaled \$109,000. What a blessing it would be if we could pass the \$400,000 mark by Thanksgiving 2002. With God's help, it can be done! ❖

### Preparing for March Madness...

Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School  
Thursday, February 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>, 8-10pm

## Don't Miss "Christ for the World: Crossing Islamic Barriers"

Some years ago, the missions committee of Good Hope wrote a missions goal for our church, and the Session subsequently adopted it:

"The missions goal of Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church is to proclaim the gospel of Christ to those who are near to us and far from us. We understand missions to mean any endeavor outside our local congregation to fulfill the Great Commission of Christ (Matthew 28:18-20) by proclaiming the gospel of Christ, making disciples, and meeting the whole need of mankind—spiritually and physically."

Should we have a missions goal? Jesus had a goal. He came to do the will of His Father. What was that will? It was that His Son would come to seek and save the lost and to give His life as a ransom for many. Jesus gave a goal to His disciples: "Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:18, 19a). Our goal in missions should be the same goal that Jesus gave His disciples.

A missions conference is intended to help us focus on our missions goal, to stir us up with love and obedience for Christ so that we might desire to fulfill His goal for us, to reorient us toward the task that He has set before us, and to help us learn about the world that we are seeking to reach.

Dear friends, dear brothers and sisters, our missions conference this year highlights Islam. It is titled "Christ for the World: Crossing Islamic Barriers." We will have several missionaries with us who have crossed and are crossing Islamic barriers to bring Christ to the world. Let us join together on February 15-17, so that we might be united in and around our missions goal. ❖



## Focus on Our Missionaries: Linda Karner in Chiba, Japan

Let me begin by saying how greatly I appreciate your faithful, ongoing support of my ministry in Japan. Your gifts and prayers are so essential to the work of establishing the church of Jesus Christ in this spiritually dark and impoverished land.

My ministry has several aspects. Every Monday evening, I teach three children's English classes. My main goal in teaching these classes is to win an opportunity for the kids to hear the Bible time, which a Japanese Christian man, Yoji Horino, leads. But to win that hearing, I have to be growing in excellence as a teacher, so please pray that God would give me energy and enthusiasm each week as I plan and teach these classes. Also, please pray that Yoji would grow in his ability to reach the heart of a child and that the children would listen attentively to this very important 10 minutes of their class.

I am also involved in "Moms and Kids" clubs, which target toddlers and their moms. These "clubs" are amazingly popular—we have had new people calling to sign up, even though we purposely left the clubs off our winter advertising because they are all over-full already! Yet we lack staff and the commitment of the church to assume it as an outreach. In my mind, there is no limit to what these clubs could become, and they could so much more easily become totally Japanese than an English class, for example. Please pray that God would guide us through the winter semester, provide willing volunteers, and show us how to work effectively with the churches. Please also pray that the Bible story would be told in a way that is appropriate for a 2-year-old. (Short and sweet!)

I also have a Bible study on the book of Mark every other Tuesday with 4 Japanese ladies. Please pray for my ongoing study of the language, so that I will be able to communicate more delicately. And pray for Mrs. Kawamura, Mrs. Aoki, and Mrs. Iwazaki to grow in grace and for Mrs. Iikawa to open her heart and believe! Also, Mrs. Aoki's son has had an undiagnosed fever for almost 90 days now—please pray for his healing and for God's peace to rule in Mrs. Aoki's heart during this difficult time.

God bless you,

Linda Karner



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.goodhopepepca.com

## *Good News from Good Hope!*

# February 2002

| Sunday  | Monday                       | Tuesday                      | Wednesday   | Thursday   | Friday  | Saturday  |
|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| 27  | 28                           | 29                           | 30  | 31   | 1<br>French GG - 7:30pm   | 2<br>Men's Breakfast<br>at Wallers' House<br>7:30am                           |
| 3<br>Worship Service - 9:30am<br>Sunday School - 11:00am<br>Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm<br>Middle School GG - 5:45pm<br>Chandler GG - 6:00pm  | 4<br>Tim Rowan GG<br>7:00pm  | 5<br>Macdonald GG<br>6:30pm  | 6<br>Session Meeting at<br>Wallers' House<br>7:30pm               | 7  | 8<br>French GG - 7:30pm   | 9   |
| 10<br>Worship Service - 9:30am<br>Sunday School - 11:00am<br>Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm<br>Middle School GG - 5:45pm<br>Chandler GG - 6:00pm | 11<br>Tim Rowan GG<br>7:00pm | 12<br>Macdonald GG<br>6:30pm | 13  | 14   | 15<br>Missions Conference<br>Covered Dish Dinners<br>in Various Homes<br>6:30pm | 16<br>Missions Conference<br>at Briggs Chaney<br>Middle School<br>5:30-8:00pm |
| 17<br><b>Missions Conference<br/>9:30am-12noon</b><br>Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm<br>Middle School GG - 5:45pm<br>Chandler GG - 6:00pm        | 18<br>Tim Rowan GG<br>7:00pm | 19<br>Macdonald GG<br>6:30pm | 20<br>Info for February<br>newsletter due to<br>Kate Haber today! | 21<br><b>Howard County<br/>Planning Board<br/>Meeting - 9:30am</b><br>Men's Basketball<br>8-10pm | 22<br>Bonfire and Dinner<br>at Baileys' House<br>7:00pm                         | 23  |
| 24<br>Worship Service - 9:30am<br>Sunday School - 11:00am<br>Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm<br>Middle School GG - 5:45pm<br>Chandler GG - 6:00pm | 25<br>Tim Rowan GG<br>7:00pm | 26<br>Macdonald GG<br>6:30pm | 27  | 28<br>Men's Basketball at<br>Briggs Chaney<br>Middle School<br>8-10pm                            | 1<br>French GG - 7:30pm   | 2   |

## *Fellowship Fun—Is There a Purpose?*

by Mark Hegerle, Fellowship Committee

In various ways and in various forms, Good Hope gathers to enjoy one another's company and the particular activities that draw us together. Throughout the year, this takes many forms: a winter bonfire, golf in the springtime, pool parties in the summer, craft breakfasts for the ladies, basketball fast breaks for the men, and a whole host of other events that periodically draw us together outside the context of worship and Bible study.

All of these activities (we hope) serve to offer all of us at Good Hope a chance to "play" together. But is there a greater purpose for these events and activities? I would say, most certainly, yes! There is a two-fold purpose underlying each fellowship event. First and foremost, these events provide us with a context within which we can grow closer as a body of believers who care about what's going on in our brothers' and sisters' lives. Playing together helps us to let our collective guard down long enough that a caring brother or sister can get a true answer to the oft-asked (but seldom taken seriously) question, "How are you?" A true answer to this question grants the questioner the opportunity to offer the love and support we all need, but don't often enough get.

Secondly, fellowship events offer us a wonderful opportunity to introduce our friends, extended family members, and neighbors to Good Hope in a non-threatening and fun environment. Who knows—a friend's acceptance of an invitation to the bonfire might just result in a life-changing conversation or a willingness to join us on a Sunday morning for worship. That invited friend may win more than just the golf tournament, if fellowship among the body of Christ paves the way for the Holy Spirit to change a heart.

So, the answer is yes, there is a greater purpose, a much greater purpose. Won't you join us at our next event? Oh, and by the way, bring a friend! ❖

## *February Fellowship*

*Don't miss Good Hope's annual bonfire! It's bigger every year...*

Friday, February 22, 2002 - 7:00pm  
 Allen and Tina Bailey's House  
 Bonfire and Dinner  
 \$5.00 per person  
 Bring a dessert to share!

Please RSVP to Tina Bailey at  
 (301) 854-3452 by  
 Wednesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>.

Everyone is welcome for a great time of fellowship, lots of delicious food, and Allen's spectacular bonfire. This is a perfect opportunity to invite friends!