

# 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 2003*

## Looking Forward to Our New Church Home—A Building Timetable

*by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman*

Listed here are some of the dates that we will be watching very closely as the months roll by, looking forward to our new church home. The timetable has a number of variables. The first part of the project leads up to getting the building permit. Our "estimator," **Rob Vogel** thinks that June 1<sup>st</sup> is the best guess for this development but, as you can tell from the schedule here, it could be as late as July 28<sup>th</sup>. Pray for Rob and for this part of the project.

The second part will be the construction phase, and there are at least as many variables here as there are in the first part. Principal among them are the availability of cash and the cost and speed of construction. The building committee will be meeting with our architect, **Karl Riedel**, and with our contractor, **Matt Malanowski**, at our February meeting. Both Karl and Matt are now actively engaged in the project and ready to go. Pray for the committee and for Karl and Matt.

**February 28, 2003** – Site development plan submitted to Howard County by our engineer, Rob Vogel.

**March 28, 2003** – Howard County will send the plans back to Rob for amendments and/or revisions. It is possible, but very unlikely, that the county will approve the plans as originally submitted. On the other hand, Rob believes that the alterations requested will not be extensive because this is basically a "remodeling."

**April 14-28, 2003** – Rob will resubmit the plans to the county. This actual date is dependent on how much the county has asked him to do.

**April 15-May 2, 2003** – The county approves the site development plan. This part of the approval process will take 4-5 weeks to complete. The date by which it is accomplished will obviously depend on how soon we have been able to make any resubmission, assuming that the site development plan was not accepted on the first go-round.

**May 2-July 3, 2003** – Development agreement submitted with bond, letters, etc., and approved in about 4-6 weeks.

**May 5-July 7, 2003** – Grading and building permits submitted.

**May 26-July 28, 2003** – Building permit approved.

**May 27-July 29, 2003** – Construction begins.

**May 27, 2003-July 30, 2005** – Building ready for occupancy, Lord willing. Praise the Lord!

Please pray for the Lord's hand in all of these details. We look forward to seeing His provision for our church and for our new church home! ❖

## Focus on Our Missionaries: *Jill DeVere in Odessa, Ukraine*

Thank you for your prayers for the church in Odessa, Ukraine and for me too. The new year is a good chance to look back on the Lord's faithfulness to us in the past year and also to look ahead to all that He will do in the new year.

### Looking Back on 2002

The Odessa church was particularized in 2002. This means that this is not a mission church anymore. It has ruling elders, teaching elders, and deacons that are Ukrainian. The members of the church now have the ability to vote. When they became particularized, the members voted for their pastor, George Khadyan.

After particularization, the Odessa church decided to plant a daughter church in the southern part of the city. A new team was formed of mostly Ukrainian members, me being the only "foreign" exception. Our team of six to nine people started meeting regularly in July. In the fall, we started a Friday night Bible study going through the book of Matthew. This gave us a chance to invite friends and acquaintances in the southern neighborhood.

### Looking Forward to 2003

On January 5<sup>th</sup>, we held our first Sunday service in the southern part of the city, with about twenty to thirty people in attendance, mainly people from the Bible study and from the center church. There are people who attend the church in the center of the city, but live in the area where we are planting the church. We have asked some of them to start attending the new church plant. For the Ukrainian Christmas, on January 7<sup>th</sup>, the church plant held another service to celebrate the holiday. This was a good time to invite more people from this area.



Jill DeVere (center) enjoys the snow with two friends in the mountains of Ukraine.

Our church plant is praying that people from the United States will join us in ministry this summer by teaching English for two weeks. Our team has decided that we will interact with the English students, creating relationships, sharing the Gospel, and inviting them to church. This will be a wonderful outreach for Americans and Ukrainians.

### Thank You for Praying

Last year, I asked for prayers for the church in Odessa. It is exciting to see how God answers prayer! The Ukrainian elders, deacons, and leaders of other ministries in the church gathered together. After discussing the good and bad things in the church, they all became unified in wanting to do the best to glorify God with what He has given them. Once a month, these leaders have been meeting, praying, and communicating about how the church can become more like a family and more focused on the grace of God.

Another prayer concern from last year was the music in the church. This also has been discussed in the leadership meetings. Over the past few

months, worship has been much better. A philosophy of music has been written, and we are now singing hymns and praise songs.

The encouraging thing for me was that the Ukrainians have seen these needs as well and have really been taking on the responsibility to seek God's guidance on how to meet these needs.

### Current Prayer Concerns

- 1) Please pray for Julie, a young lady in our church who has married an unbeliever. Before she was engaged to this man, the pastor of the church told her that this was wrong and that she faced church discipline. After advice from many of her friends not to marry him, she did. Please pray that God will open Julie's eyes to the truth that will cause her to repent. Pray for the other young ladies in our church that they will not be led astray by her example. There are two girls who I am aware of, from the Odessa church, who are dating unbelievers. Also pray for unity in our church if Julie does face church discipline, that people will trust and respect the leaders' decision.
- 2) Please pray for the new church plant—for team unity, church services, outreach, Bible studies, discipleship, our English ministry, and that the Gospel will be spread throughout this area.
- 3) Please pray for our MTW team, that God will continue to give us direction on how we can best serve Him here in Ukraine.

Thank you for your prayers!  
*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 9:25am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.  
 www.goodhopepepca.com

## *Good News from Good Hope!*

February 2003						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31 French GG - 7:00pm	1
2 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	3	4 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	5	6	7 Session/Deacon Retreat at the Macdonalds' House	8 Session/Deacon Retreat at the Macdonalds' House
9 Worship Service - 9:25am <b>Communion To Be Served</b> Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	10	11 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	12 Tim Rowan GG 6:30pm	13	14 French GG - 7:00pm	15 Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
16 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	17	18	19	20 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	21 Missions Conference Dinner at Tim & Beth Rowan's House 6:30pm	22 Missions Conference at Briggs Chaney Middle School 5:30-8:00pm
23 <b>Missions Conference</b> 9:30am-12noon Chandler GG - 6:00pm	24 Info for March newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	25 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	26 Tim Rowan GG 6:30pm	27 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	28 French GG - 7:00pm	1 Men's Breakfast at Waller's House 7:30am

## *Mark Your Calendar for Good Hope Missions Conference, February 21-23!*

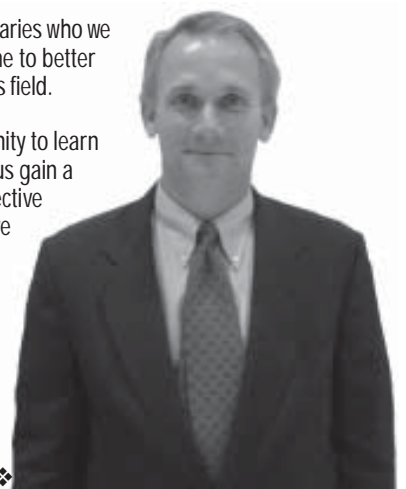
**A**s a church, we have chosen to hold a Missions Conference from February 21-23. Why? I cannot answer this question exhaustively, but I will offer a few responses. First, a missions conference offers us an opportunity to renew and strengthen our resolve to serve our Lord Jesus Christ. He is our Savior, and we want others to know Him as their Savior too. Listening to a missionary stimulates us to want to be part of the global proclamation of our Savior's Gospel.

Secondly, a missions conference presents an opportunity to be reminded that as we are involved in missions, we are being actively obedient to Christ's Great Commission. We are not doing all that we could be doing, but neither are we neglecting our responsibility as much as we could.

Third, a missions conference provides an opportunity to build and strengthen our personal relationship with the missionaries who we support. Instead of depersonalizing our missionaries, we come to know them as brothers and sisters in Christ. We come to better identify with their work and lives lived on the missions field.

Fourth, a missions conference gives us the opportunity to learn more about how the rest of the world lives. It helps us gain a better perspective on our own lives, and that perspective usually results in seeing how tremendously blessed we really are.

Avail yourself of the opportunity to be a part of this conference. You might be surprised how the Lord warms your heart toward others who are lost without Him. You may enjoy anew the blessings you have in knowing Him. You may truly count our missionaries as your brothers, sisters, and friends, and, who knows, one day you may be one of them! ❖



### *Session/Deacon Retreat*

The elders and deacons will have their annual retreat on **February 7-8<sup>th</sup>** at the home of Mac and Bobbie Macdonald. Please pray for our leaders as they seek to shepherd us.

### *Communion Schedule*

We will partake of the Lord's Supper during worship on **Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup>**.

# *A Valuable Opportunity to Build Up Our Children in the Faith*

*by Kathy Haber, Sunday School Correspondent*

When I began to think about our Sunday School teachers, I realized that all of our teachers have busy and full schedules. So my first question to each one has been, "With all your other responsibilities, why are you willing to serve as a Sunday School teacher?" **Joanna Lyon** and I teach the fourth and fifth grade class together, and I agree with her answer: "It is a valuable opportunity to build up the children in the faith." Joanna goes on to explain, "I was saved in high school, and I never had the advantage of Sunday School. I think it is a tremendous advantage and blessing to our children to learn the Word accurately at such a young age. I can't help believing that God will be able to use all that they are learning now in a wonderful and dramatic way in the future."



Kathy Haber and Joanna Lyon's Sunday School class includes (left to right) Isaac Lyon, John French, Marshall Gerwin, Carter Davis, Tim Higgins, Suzanna Lyon, and Matthew Hegerle. Other members of the class are Travis Bailey, Kristen Higgins, Anna Pepe, and Jesse Showalter.

public school, where she "wowed" her students with fiery demonstrations. Now, she and her husband have four children, and she is busy homeschooling them and teaching science classes to other homeschoolers.

Team teaching has many advantages for both of us. I enjoy Joanna's enthusiasm, her anecdotes, the way she makes the stories in the Scriptures come alive, and, of course, her science experiments. I learn from watching her interact with our students. We give each other feedback about the lessons, we encourage one another, and we help each other to keep our standards high. Not having to prepare and be responsible every week keeps us fresh. We have enjoyed getting to know each other, and we have become friends through this shared experience.

So, why are Joanna and I willing to teach Sunday School? Because it is a valuable opportunity to teach our children, and because we enjoy it! ❖

As I prepare for Sunday School and teach, my goal is for our students to grow in their knowledge and assurance of God's character and His promises. I expect the children to be engaged during class by reading selected portions of the Bible, thinking about what they have read, working on their worksheets, and sharing in the discussions. I also want to provide the children with the sense that they are not alone in their faith. I want them to take hold of the idea that not only do their parents believe in God and want to serve Him, but other kids their own age want to know Him also.

Joanna brings a wealth of teaching experience to the class. When she taught science in a Jewish high school, her all-male students discovered that she was a Christian. Once, they asked her to explain the meaning of posters that said "John 3:16," which they had seen at televised sporting events. She made an appointment with the headmaster, explained the situation to him, and received permission to give the boys an answer. She recited the verse and explained that by believing in God's one and only Son, they could have eternal life. Later, she went on to teach science in a

## *Men's Breakfast*

Please note that the men's breakfast will resume on **Saturday, March 1<sup>st</sup>** at 7:30am at the Wallers' home. We will be studying C.S. Lewis's book *Out of the Silent Planet*.

For more information, please see Jack Waller.

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