

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 2005

February—The Month of Hearts

Everybody knows that February is the month of hearts. Romantic poems, love songs, and the colors red and pink are splashed front and center. Those with a special someone who neglect to express their love in a tangible way feel the frown of society's love feast. Imperitence is the judgment leveled upon individuals who fail to take advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate love. "How could you forget?" is asked by those who do not receive a rose, a card, a dinner, or a kiss. "Do you not love me?" "Am I not worth the effort?" The prompting of a custom can be a good stimulus to do a noble act. The Valentine occasion in its noblest sense occurs in the common grace arena of life. It celebrates what humans longs for—love, the sense that someone cares deeply for you.

While Valentine's Day accentuates romantic love, there are other types of love. Family love, brotherly love among Christians, social love between all men, and godly love are among these different types of love. These vary in degree and kind. The supreme love is God's love.

Everyone will not receive a Valentine's card this month. Some will watch others receive chocolate while they receive none. Are these the unloved? Maybe in the Valentine's sense of not currently having a sweetheart, but not in the sense of the other loves. Fathers and mothers can love their children. Children can love their parents. Brothers and sisters can love each other, and Christians can love all men—even their enemies. Above all, Christians can celebrate the love of their Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. For whatever providential reason, God has allowed us to experience the accentuation of February as the month of hearts. May we not be anemic in demonstrating our love in whatever fashion we deem best. Don't forget your Lord, don't forget your family, don't forget the least, and don't forget that special someone. ❖



Three Subchairmen Take Charge!

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

At one of the building committee's semimonthly meetings in January, three building committee subchairmen were selected. It was decided that for each contractor, there would be only one Good Hope contact person to shield the contractors from too much input. **Jim Haber** will work with **Matt Malanoski**, our contractor; **Steve Gerwin** will work with our site contractor; and **Jack Waller** will run the volunteer effort. Working with the budget prepared by Steve, these chairs may make necessary change of order decisions on their own up to \$5000 but even then, if there is time or a question, they will consult with the other chairs or the full committee before proceeding.

Patience is a virtue. Steve Gerwin is waiting for the gas company to agree that it makes sense to place the gas line before the area where it needs to go is paved over. What seems to make perfect sense has not yet been agreed upon by the gas company. A meeting with the company is planned for this week. Jack Waller reports that the volunteers have done a great job of demolition, but are now in a holding pattern waiting for better weather. Jim Haber informs us that the architect is making changes as required by the county for the building permit. An issue is whether the vestibule sticks out further than our variance allows. It is our hope and prayer that these issues will be resolved quickly so that we can move into high gear. The good news is that the treasury continues to grow. ❖

Make a Joyful Noise!

The musical ensemble will sing together on **Sundays, February 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th** from 8:45-9:20am. You are encouraged to participate even if you are unable to do so every week. Babysitting is provided!

Men's Basketball

Need a little exercise? All men in high school or beyond are invited to play basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School from 8-10pm on **Thursdays, February 3rd and 17th**.

Focus on Our Missionaries: Linda Karner in Chiba, Japan

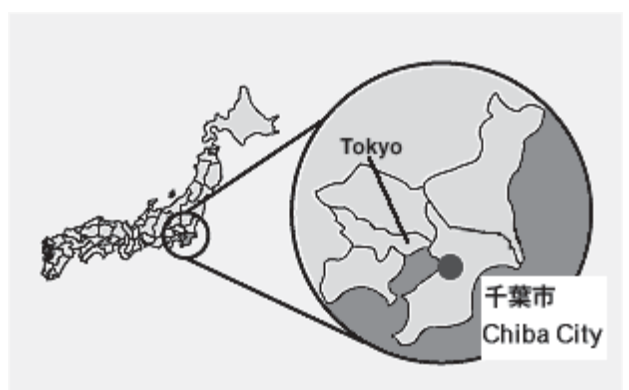
Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support of my ministry here in Japan. The beginning of February includes the first day of spring according to the old Japanese calendar, and although the days are pretty, the temperatures are far from spring-like! The arrival of spring is the time for casting out demons from your house, which is accomplished, oddly enough, by throwing dried beans. As they throw the beans they intone, "Out with the demons, in with blessing," and so we see yet another example of the sinful nature trying to DO something, some work, to obtain blessing. Please pray that God would deliver the Japanese from this futile activity, that He would give them the grace to simply receive the finished work of Christ and be included in the freedom of the glory of the children of God.

I continue to teach junior high to missionary kids at our little team school, as well as chemistry and physics. My second year of teaching is going much more smoothly than the first, largely due to the return of our headmaster to Japan. But I still often wish for a "manual" that would explain young teenagers to me in more detail!

I have also started an English class for the advanced speakers at my church. I am using a sermon series on Christian growth, and we have learned about worship, meditation and the "liberty of obedience." This has been a very rewarding class for me, and I'd like to start another one in another location. My desire is to enrich their personal growth so that it will hopefully outflow into all areas of their lives. Please pray for the work of the Spirit in Mrs. H., Mrs. A., and Mr. K.

Well, I'm sorry that I can't enclose a picture this time, but I'm temporarily off-line due to moving very recently. If only I hadn't procrastinated writing this... Also, by the time you read this, I will have an 84-year-old short-term missionary for a roommate! Please pray for our adjustment to each other and for my adjustment to my new home in general. Thank you so much! May God pour out His blessings on all of you. I will be back in the States in the fall, and I'm looking forward to seeing you again at that time and hearing a good sermon!

God bless you,
Linda Karner



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 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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February 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	31	1 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	2 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	3 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	4 French GG - 7:30pm	5 Baby Shower for Becky Hadeed at Wendy Higgins' 1pm
6 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	7	8 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	9 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	10 Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:30pm	11 French GG - 7:30pm	12 Building Committee at Jim & Kathy Haber's - 7:30am
13 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Communion To Be Served Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	14	15 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	16 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	17 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	18 French GG - 7:30pm	19
20 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	21	22 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	23	24 Info for March newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	25 Missions Conference Dinners	26 Missions Conference 5:30-8:00pm
27 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Missions Conference 9:30am-12noon	28	1 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	2 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	3 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	4 French GG - 7:30pm	5

Don't Miss 2005 Missions Conference!

Mark your calendar now for our 2005 missions conference, to be held during the weekend of February 25th - 27th. The theme this year is "The Many Faces and Many Places of the Great Commission." Back by popular demand, **Eddie Brown** will return from Cary, North Carolina to be our conference speaker. Our schedule will follow the pattern that we have used in previous conferences. We will host several Friday night dinners in various homes, a dinner and service at Briggs Chaney Middle School on Saturday night, and then we'll conclude on Sunday morning with worship and use of the Sunday School hour to focus on missions.



Other participants in this year's conference will include **Mike and Jen Costanzo, Keith and Lori Hoekman**, and the "Ouagadougou Four" (**Joseph Haber, Ian Macdonald, Tim Rowan, and Jack Waller**) in retrospect. We will also introduce three upcoming short-term mission opportunities. The Lord has a great heart for the Great Commission. Come and let us share His heart! ❖

Celebrating Jack Hadeed...

All ladies are invited to a baby shower for **Becky Hadeed** and her son **Jack** at the home of **Wendy Higgins** on **Saturday, February 5th** at 1pm. If you are in need of gift suggestions, Becky is registered at Target. For more information, please contact Wendy at (301) 879-1535.

Communion Schedule

We will celebrate communion with our Lord on **Sunday, February 13th** during morning worship. Let us together be strengthened in Him.