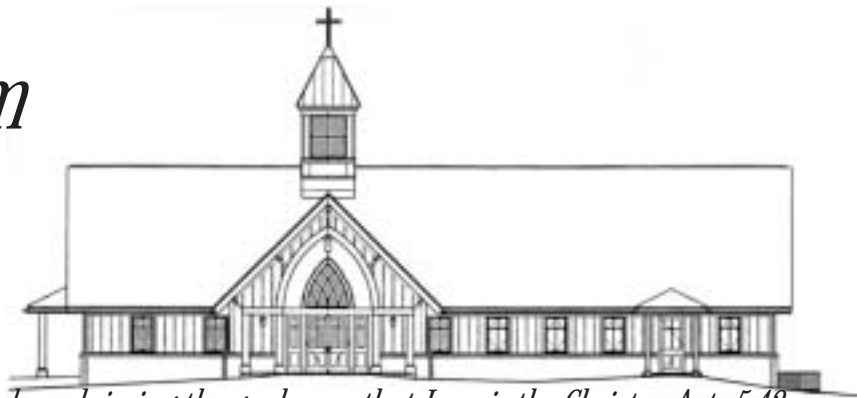


# Good News from Good Hope!

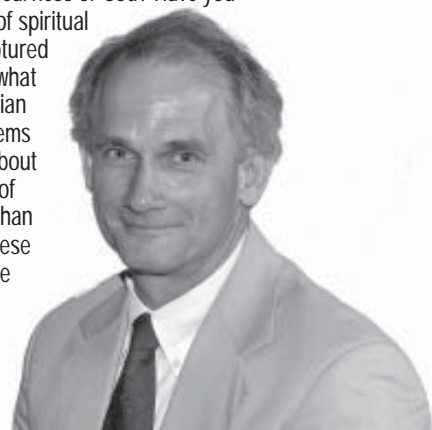


Day after day... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. ❖ Acts 5:42  
Good Hope Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ February 2008

## Nothing Can Minimize the Invincible Love of Christ Jesus Our Lord!

God's love for His redeemed children is invincible. His love for us is so powerful that not even a nuclear explosion could break the bonds that unite His affection for us. His love is like an unbreakable lock, a will that cannot wither, a commitment that is uncompromising. His love is like a mountain that will not be eroded even though torrents of rivers flow over it for a thousand years or jet stream winds blow endlessly upon it or desert sands blast it for eons. Nothing can minimize His love. As Paul wrote to the Christians at Rome, "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:37-39) The love that was openly lived out through the life and death of His Son has dealt with that which is most detrimental to us—our sin. Having dealt with that which separated us from Him, He has now united us to Himself with a union in Christ that is unbreakable. As Jesus said, "My sheep listen to My voice; I know them, and they follow Me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one can snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand." (John 10:27-29)

Are the frailties of life dragging you toward death, and you fear being separated from God? Are the demands of life engulfing your mind and heart so that you no longer sense the nearness of God? Have you succumbed to the opposition of spiritual forces which you fear have captured your soul? Are you afraid that what you had hoped for in the Christian life is a fictional mirage that seems to vanish every time you are about to drink of its blessings? Any of these things that are stronger than you are weak to Him! Any of these things that could beat you alone cannot beat you when you are united to Him! His love that you have clearly seen demonstrated in Christ will never ever let you go. ❖



## Focus on Our Missionaries: *Chris Garriott, RUF at the University of Maryland*

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1-2)

With a New Year and new semester comes anticipation for the year ahead and what the Lord will do in College Park. This spring marks my fourth semester working with students at the University of Maryland. I continue to be overwhelmed by God's grace shed on me in allowing me to be a part of the ministry here. Thank you for your prayers and support. Pray that we would be a group that sets our eyes on Jesus as we run the race here. Here are a few highlights from the fall semester.



**Leadership Core Group:** Last semester I formed a leadership team of 8 juniors and seniors who have been involved in the ministry and are committed to serving within the structure of Reformed University Fellowship (RUF). We kicked things off with a leaders' retreat in Fenwick, Delaware, and it's been a joy to partner with these folks and help train them in ministry. We gather twice a month for prayer, planning, and teaching on philosophy of ministry. These students have played a crucial and more upfront role in our RUF meetings, in planning events, and in connecting with new and fringe students who visit. Please pray that God would give these students the desire, courage, and ability to lead small group Bible studies. Please pray for me as I seek to lead and equip them to do the work of the ministry more and more.

**RUF Praise Band:** One of the joys of the fall semester was seeing God raise up more students with musical gifts and the desire to serve in the RUF praise band. Last year, we had two guitars and a bass with one gal who led singing. This year, the Lord has brought a third guitarist, another bass player, a djembe player (African drum) who also plays guitar, and Good Hope's own amazing violinist, **Allison Monroe!** The full sound makes a big impact on our meetings and helps engage students in worship. We are blessed to have so many who love to play and serve in this way. We practice each Monday night for anyone who wants to learn RUF hymns. Our group led worship for

the RUF Mid-Atlantic Fall conference in October, and in December we took our show on the road and played Christmas carols at a retirement home in Silver Spring.

**One on Ones:** Part of my job and joy as a campus minister is to meet with students on the campus to get to know them, build friendships, and inquire into their spiritual lives. This is one of my favorite parts of the job as I enjoy learning about people and hope to guide them to the Savior. Please pray for me in this aspect that new students would be willing to sit down with me for lunch or coffee. Pray that the Holy Spirit would be active in these meetings to guide and direct me, whether for encouragement or guidance. Many times I have the opportunity to share the message of the Gospel, so pray that the Word of God would fall on fertile soil.

One of the young men I've gotten to know this year is a graduate student from India. He is a Hindu, but he's had interactions with many believers on campus both in InterVarsity and RUF. After an RUF function at my house, he wanted me to go to the CVS store near campus to show me a "devotional book" which he had found and desired to own. It was a daily devotional written by Chuck Swindoll with Scripture, and he called it "a beautiful book." He told me that he had been depressed during the day and when he read the short reading about "God's sovereignty," he felt better! Through my conversations with him, it has been clear that he is committed to his Hindu faith, but at the same time there is something attractive about the Gospel and the many Christians who have been interacting with him, and I sense that God is working in him. I had the opportunity to take him to the airport as he traveled home to India for break. He asked me if I had a book he could borrow for the 20-hour trip, and I gave him *The Hiding Place* by Corrie Ten Boom. Please pray that God would bring him to a knowledge of Himself and that he would see Jesus as the only one true God. I look forward to speaking with him about Corrie's faith when he returns from break.

Thank you again for your prayers. If you have any questions about RUF or students at Maryland you would like me to contact, let me know at [cgarriott@ruf.org](mailto:cgarriott@ruf.org).

*Chris Garriott*

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  
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Fulton, MD 20759  
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## *Good News from Good Hope!*

# February 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>27</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	<b>28</b> Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> James Growth Group 7:30pm	<b>31</b> Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>1</b> February Deacons: Jim Rowan Tim Rowan	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am <b>Communion To Be Served</b> <b>Friends &amp; Family Luncheon</b> Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	<b>4</b> Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>5</b> Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	<b>6</b> James Growth Group 7:30pm	<b>7</b> Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	<b>11</b> Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>12</b> Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm	<b>13</b> James Growth Group 7:30pm	<b>14</b> Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	<b>18</b> Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>19</b> Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm Deacon Meeting at the church - 6:30pm	<b>20</b> James Growth Group 7:30pm	<b>21</b> Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>22</b> Info for March newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	<b>25</b> Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>26</b> Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm	<b>27</b> James Growth Group 7:30pm	<b>28</b> Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>29</b>	<b>1</b>

## *Shepherding at Good Hope*

*by Dale Haak, Good Hope Ruling Elder*

In Exodus 18, we read of a meeting between Moses and his father-in-law Jethro in the wilderness when the Israelites were newly delivered from slavery in Egypt. After observing Moses administering judicial decisions, Jethro offered Moses some very useful advice. He recommended the establishment of a hierarchy of leaders to more efficiently organize the shepherding responsibilities of the newly formed nation. Over the past few months, the Good Hope Session has been working to develop a plan that we prayerfully anticipate will accrue similar benefits to our congregation. One part of the plan involves the assignment of an elder/deacon team to each member family. Within the next month or so, one of the members of your team should be introducing himself to you and offering to be of assistance. Each of our members is unique, and whatever ensues will largely be determined by that uniqueness and the feedback we receive, but at a minimum each family will know of a Good Hope "shepherd" available to them. As always, the Session appreciates and welcomes all input, and of course this extends to our shepherding efforts as well. Please contact me (**Dale Haak**) or any members of the Session with any questions or ideas that you have. ❖

### *Sunday Morning Seating*

In order to make room for our growing congregation as well as visitors and friends on Sunday mornings, kindly take a seat as close to the front of the church and as close to your neighbors as possible to allow space for others!

### *Sunday Bulletin Information*

Thanks to **Cathie Showalter** for her willingness to produce the weekly church bulletin, after many years of faithful service by Carol Taylor. All announcements for the weekly bulletin should now be sent to Cathie at (301) 774-1075 or [cathie\\_showalter@sil.org](mailto:cathie_showalter@sil.org) by the preceding Thursday.

### *Dinner and Conversation*

Sign up now for spring Supper Clubs! Contact **Shelley Smith** at (410)465-6002 by this Sunday, February 10<sup>th</sup> if you're interested in small group dinner gatherings for fellowship during the months of March, April, and May.

### *2008 Missions Conference*

The 2008 Good Hope Missions Conference is scheduled for the weekend of **April 11-13**. Mark your calendar now, and stay tuned for more details to come! Please contact **Craig Smith** if you're interested in being involved.