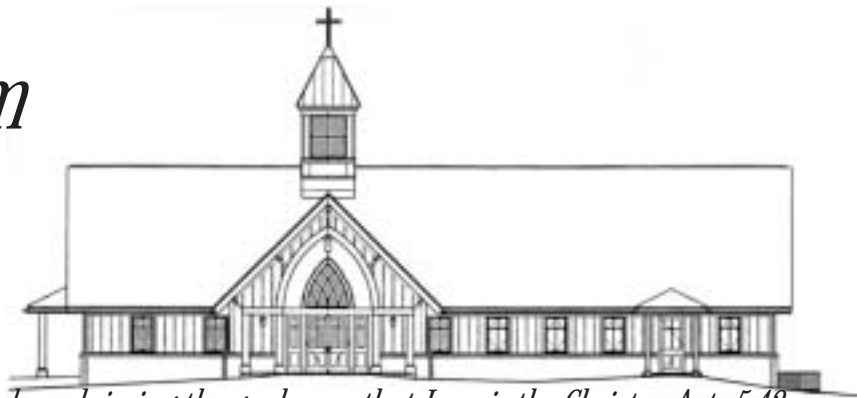


Good News from Good Hope!



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 2009

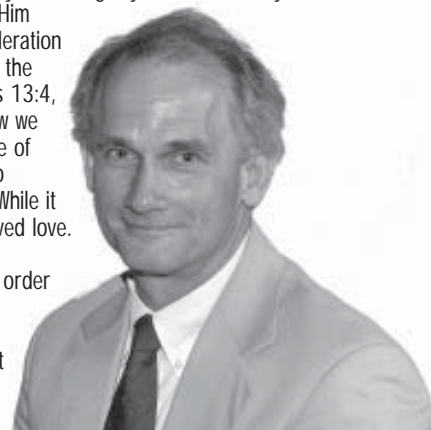
To Love or To Be Loved, That Is The Question...

This is February, and there is a great emphasis in our society on love. For centuries—even millennia—love has been a major topic, quite apart from its marketability. I have three questions on the topic of love. First, would you rather love or be loved? Second, which is more difficult—to love or to be loved? And third, is it possible to love without first being loved?

To answer the first question myself, I suppose I would rather be loved than love. Even while I admit this preference, I find enormous personal delight in giving love to someone else. There is inherent satisfaction in loving another person. To be engaged in attitudes and behaviors that are the opposite of love is detrimental to the mind, heart, and soul. But to give yourself freely and consciously without an eye for payback to actions that would benefit another person liberates you from self-centered living and myopic, selfish designs. I am convinced that there is an unsought satisfaction that comes to the person who loves, as well as a freedom from gnawing inwardness. But to answer my first question again, if I had to choose between being loved and loving, I suppose I would want to be loved. Why? It sounds so selfish to say that! Yet, the person who is loved receives a sense of value and warmth. To be loved is to feel worth. It is to feel connected versus disconnected, surrounded versus isolated, cared for instead of discarded, wanted instead of unwanted. I want to be loved. I admit that both loving and being loved have their value. Neither should be denied their rightful place. My preference for being loved is biased by my answer to the second question that I posed above.

The second question is: which is more difficult—to love or to be loved? The answer may be obvious. It seems to me that to love is more difficult than to be loved. To love requires sacrifice at times, maybe even much of the time. It should be admitted that even in sacrifice, a healthy or even godly satisfaction may accompany an act of sacrificial love just as, “Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross.” (Hebrews 12:2) Although there exists satisfaction in loving, the act of loving still requires consideration of the thoughts and needs of another, which may cause you to sacrificially set aside something you yourself want. As the Apostle Paul described godly love, he included that love is “not self-seeking” and that “love is patient.” (1 Corinthians 13:4, 5) Love requires that we think of how we might lavish a gracious word or act on another. It requires us to think of how we might meet the need of another, quite independently of any type of repayment. As already noted, even in the sacrifice of love there is a blessing to the giver that can not be decoupled from the loving act. “It is more blessed to give than to receive.” (Acts 20:35) I think the blessedness that Paul speaks about is an internal blessing that comes to the giver. While it may be more difficult to give love than to receive love, it is virtually impossible to give love without having first received love.

Hence the third question: is it possible to love without first being loved? My opinion is no. You must first be loved in order to give love. Why would this be the case? The Apostle John tells us why we love God. “We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19) We would not love Him had He not first loved us. We also see how God loves us and why we loved to love another person when we see what Jesus has done for us. “This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down His life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers.” (1 John 3:16) We would not want to love enough to lay down our lives unless we had first experienced that Jesus had laid down His life for us. ❖



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

This spring semester marks my third year as campus minister for Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at the University of Maryland. I'm encouraged by what the Lord is doing in growing students together in the Lord, both in depth of relationships and in serving their fellow classmates. This past year I've seen student leadership develop and thrive, as upperclassmen have poured their time and energy into various ministry settings, serving the Lord through the vehicle of RUF. Some of these students have been involved in leading a small group Bible study in a north campus dorm lounge. The north campus is a crucial ministry location at Maryland because this is where most of the incoming freshmen are housed. Connecting with freshman is key for the growth and health of the future ministry. It's been a great joy to assist these leaders and then sit back and see them leading Bible studies. What a thrill to watch them interacting with the Word, asking good questions, and getting feedback from their small groups as they build relationships for the sake of the Gospel. God is on the move here at Maryland!

One of the goals of RUF is “growth in grace.” To that end, I will be preaching through Paul's letter to the Ephesians this coming spring semester in RUF's Large Group meeting on Wednesday nights. Ephesians is a book where you see the incredible picture of God's grace for those “dead in trespasses and sins.” Paul, who used to be dead in sin, is full of praise because God has chosen and elected him from before the foundation of the earth to be holy and blameless in His sight. Where in Romans we see Paul explaining the Gospel in all its fullness in the detailed precision of a lawyer, Ephesians reveals the Gospel of grace on fire! Paul gives praise to the Lord and often rebounds in prayer and exaltation through the letter. And where was Paul when he wrote this letter? He was in prison! This is an amazing testimony of God's grace of contentment and joy in the midst of trial and persecution. Paul in prison is not caught up in himself and the dire situation of his circumstances, but instead he is caught up with His Lord and calling to preach the Gospel... if not in person then by letter. Please pray that our students here at Maryland would taste and see the glory of Christ like Paul experienced. That it would be so large that they would be set free from the entanglements of sin and selfish gazing that the college culture encourages and that they would be set free from their circumstances to rest in the Gospel. Pray that they would have hearts of joy resounding in the Gospel and then, out of that, do the “good works” of serving others which He has called us to do.

Rejoice with us for things that the Lord has been doing this past fall:

- For increased growth across the board at large group and small group settings.
- For a student-led Bible study in the Cambridge Dorm with new freshman attending.
- For new staff intern Kathryn Drumwright as she helps gather and disciple students.
- For student leaders serving and gathering through ministry teams.
- For community building and relational outreach through social events.

Pray for these items this spring:

- Please pray for students to be impacted by the Gospel through RUF Large Group, small groups, and one-on-ones. For the Lord to draw new students to Himself.
- Please pray for new students to make friendship connections and plug into our ministry.
- That God would develop a heart of mercy ministry within our group and that we would be faithful to the Lord's call to help the poor and those in need.
- Pray for our Spring Break mission trip to New Orleans from March 14-21.
- For my sermon preparations and teaching times to make an impact for the Gospel



Together in Christ,
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
12131 Route 216
Fulton, MD 20759
(301) 317-1398
www.goodhopepca.com

Good News from Good Hope!

February 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm	2 February Deacons: Bill Davis Joseph Haber	3 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	4 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	5 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	6	7 High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm
8 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Communion To Be Served Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm	9 Session/Deacon Joint Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	10 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	11 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	12 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	13	14
15 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm	16	17 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	18 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	19 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	20	21 Building Study Meeting - 9:00am High School Growth Group - 4-6pm
22 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm	23 Info for March newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	24 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	25 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	26 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	27 Ladies' Night Out at the Pottery Studio in Fulton	28 High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm
1 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm	2	3 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	4 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	5 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	6	7 High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm

Daily Schedule of Bible Readings in February

February 1 - I Kings 19	February 15 - II Kings 17
February 2 - I Kings 20	February 16 - II Kings 18
February 3 - I Kings 21	February 17 - II Kings 19
February 4 - I Kings 22	February 18 - II Kings 20-21
February 5 - II Kings 1-2	February 19 - II Kings 22
February 6 - II Kings 3-4	February 20 - II Kings 23
February 7 - II Kings 5	February 21 - II Kings 24-25
February 8 - II Kings 6-7	February 22 - Matthew 1-2
February 9 - II Kings 8	February 23 - Matthew 3-4
February 10 - II Kings 9	February 24 - Matthew 5
February 11 - II Kings 10-11	February 25 - Matthew 6-7
February 12 - II Kings 12-13	February 26 - Matthew 8
February 13 - II Kings 14	February 27 - Matthew 9-10
February 14 - II Kings 15-16	February 28 - Matthew 11-12

Winter Has Just Begun!

In case of inclement weather, any changes to the church schedule will be posted on the church website at www.goodhopepca.com, and a recorded message will be available on the church phone at (301)317-1398.

In Need of a Few Good Men...

The deacons are looking for a few good men to help prepare the building for weekly activities and to assist with ushering. This is an easy way to regularly serve fellow worshippers at Good Hope through participating on a monthly team that does one or more of the following: open and close the building on Sunday morning and evening; prepare the building for Sunday School and worship in the morning; serve as an usher before and during morning worship; clean up and reset the building for evening use; clean up at the end of the evening on Sunday; and prepare the building (move tables and chairs) for mid-week uses such as the Precepts class. If you have an interest in helping in the morning and/or evening on Sundays, please see **Mark Hegerle** or one of the friendly deacons handing you a bulletin on the way into worship.

Serving Our Little Ones

Our congregation has been blessed with many children! Take advantage of the chance to spend time with these little ones by signing up for nursery duty on the yellow notepad in the narthex or by speaking with **Bill or Marcy Davis**.