

# 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 ❖ January 2002*

## Breaking News: Howard County Hearing Dates Set for Building!

*by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman*

We have recently been informed that the Howard County Planning Board will hear the Good Hope appeal on February 21, 2002 at 9:30am, followed by an Appeals Board hearing on April 4, 2002 at 7:30pm. The recommendation of the Planning Board is just that—a recommendation. Final say belongs to the Appeals Board, and they are not obliged to follow the Planning Board's recommendation. Even if the Planning Board disapproves, the Appeals Board may approve and vice versa.

The team that will make the presentation will meet shortly before the hearing to discuss strategy. At that meeting will be **Rob Vogel, Karl Riedel, David Freishtat** (Bill Davis's land use attorney partner), **Bill Davis**, and **Ian Macdonald**. Prior to the hearings, we would like to present our colored drawings and plans to the property's neighbors to get their buy-in for the project.

If the appeal is approved, then a building permit must be submitted to the county. The waiting time for this approval could be as long as four months. Karl Riedel, with consultation from **Matt Malanoski** (Ron Higgins's business partner) and the building committee, will be hard at work preparing the materials necessary for submission of the building permit, so that we are ready to submit as soon as allowed.

If we make all of our deadlines, we should have a building permit approved by early August. Then the building can begin! Continue to thank God for our progress, and ask His continued support and guidance of our efforts. ❖

### *Keep that New Year's resolution to exercise more!*

Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School  
Thursday, January 17<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>, 8-10pm

## "Christ for the World: Crossing Islamic Barriers" in February

Mark your calendar for **February 15-17, 2002!** This year's missions conference, "Christ for the World: Crossing Islamic Barriers," is very timely. Our own **Chris and Lisa Moore** have returned from Turkey and will be with us, as well as **David Jones**, veteran missionary to the Ivory Coast. These missionaries who work with Muslims will help us better understand Islam and will informatively de-mystify it. They will also help us understand Islamic culture. We have many neighbors in our area of the Islamic faith. May God equip us and grant to us a heart to communicate the Gospel to them and to the world! ❖

## Bravo for the Christmas Play!

The children's Christmas play, "Christmas Peace In A Troubled World," was a huge success thanks to the work of many people, particularly **Chris Waller**, playwright and director extraordinaire. Chris wishes to thank **Donna Kotting, Allison Taylor**, each of the Sunday School teachers who contributed their aid, the stage crew for their help in sound and lighting, and those who set up for and provided refreshments. Sunday School will now return to its normal schedule. ❖



## Focus on Our Missionaries: The Huber Family in Kiev, Ukraine

It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas... Outside, the temperature is a balmy 10 degrees. There are 8-10 inches of fresh snow on the ground. Sleds are by the door. Kids are dressed in their warmest winter gear. Lights, wreaths, and trees are in all of the stores. And today, the kids had their annual Christmas program at school. But just so that you Maryland kids don't get too jealous, consider this. The other day, it snowed all night and was about ten degrees when we woke up. It snowed all day as well, and Tim, Dani, and Nate didn't even get one day off of school for it! And here is something interesting about Ukrainian culture—all of those "Christmas decorations" that I mentioned are actually New Year's decorations in Ukraine. You see, the old Communist government didn't like the idea of the people celebrating the birth of Christ, so they changed all of the celebrations to the New Year. The Ukrainian version of Santa Claus is Father Frost and his helper Snowflake, but they come on New Year's Eve, not on Christmas Eve.

Greetings to all of you dear brothers and sisters! Yes, we are enjoying the weather and the traditions, but far more greatly, we are enjoying the privilege of serving our precious Savior here in Kiev, Ukraine. These are busy days here. Our church is growing, and we are moving towards particularization in March. This means that the church has some maturing leadership who are ready to be elected and ordained as elders and deacons. You asked for some prayer requests, so allow me to give you some that relate to this process. Please pray for the men that I am training to serve as officers in the church and for me as I teach them. Likewise, please pray for our church to grow and mature. I am recently encouraged with the increasing development of small groups in our church. I meet with some of the leaders of these groups on a regular basis to encourage them and help them work through the various issues which come up. Please pray for these groups and for the potential that they have to deepen the spirituality of our church. Finally, please pray for our youth. They are growing in tremendous ways and have a terrific leadership team. We just invited a young man from Odessa to move here to Kiev and serve as our youth director.

I don't want to overburden you with requests, but I can't help but give you a few others. With the particularization of this church, our team is now beginning to think of other church planting opportunities in and around Kiev. We really want the Ukrainians to be at the forefront of this new church plant. Please pray that God will direct us in this process. I suspect that we will be involved in the planning for at least 6 months and the launching in the fall of next year, but this is in the hands of the Lord. Our seminary students are doing well. Please pray for their maturity and their ability to handle the Word of Truth well. In January, I will be teaching "The Nature of the Church and Its Ministry" for a few weeks to the students. Finally, don't forget to pray for our family. Dani is doing very well and is anxious to begin riding again in a few weeks. Everyone is healthy, and we have been encouraged to see some real spiritual growth in all of our lives recently.

Merry Christmas to all of you, and thanks for praying, encouraging, and supporting us in our ministry here in Ukraine.

*Your brother,  
Eric for all of the Huber Family*



*Good News from Good Hope!*

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.goodhopepca.com](http://www.goodhopepca.com)

January 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	31	1	2	3	4	5 Men's Breakfast at Wallers' House 7:30am
6 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	7	8	9 Session Meeting at Wallers' House 7:30pm	10 Missions Committee Meeting at Wallers' House - 7:30pm	11	12
13 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	14 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	15 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	16	17 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	18 French GG - 7:30pm	19
20 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	21 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	22 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	23 Info for February newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	24	25 French GG - 7:30pm	26
27 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	28 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	29 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	30	31 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	1 French GG - 7:30pm	2

*Look Back So You Can Look Forward—Reflections on a New Year*

Look back so you can look forward. The apostle Paul did this. When he said “one thing I do—forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead” (Phil. 3:13), he was actually using what I would call “selective forgetting.” He did not forget everything about his past. He wanted to forget only those items in his life that did not contribute to the goal for which God had called him. In his brief biographical sketch, he regards the pride of his previous religious status as rubbish, but he treasures the gift of righteousness and the life that he found in Christ. He writes further, “I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 3:1-4). His calling heavenward came in the past, and his knowledge that there was a prize to win, a purpose to fulfill, a mission to be accomplished, was initiated in his past. His present and his future were always to be measured and directed by whether he was on the path toward his original goal. He worked to forget some items in his past, but not all of them.

A few years ago, our family drove from Silver Spring to San Francisco. When we came to Colorado Springs, we had arrived at the first mountain in a series that stretched from Pikes Peak to the Pacific Ocean. At times, we would cross over the top of mountain and see a vast valley below. We would cross the range and come to another mountain to climb. Up and down, we went all the way to our San Francisco destination.

The beginning of a new year is like standing on a mountain top where you can view behind yourself where you've been, and you can see ahead to where you are traveling. You can remember where you came from and why you started your trip, and you can look forward in anticipation of where you are trying to go. You may even reflect on how you have traversed so far and think of how to better negotiate your trip that is yet to be. You may also consider whether you should check your map to see if you have strayed from the path that you originally chose.

It's the beginning of a new year. You are standing on a mountain. Look back so you can look forward. Remember that when you came to Christ, you left your old way of life for a reason, and if you have acquired any of that old stuff, unpack it. Focus on the goal to which He has summoned you. Then get on with the journey of your life to which God has called you. ❖

