

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 2003

A New Year Full of Promise for a New Building!

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

The new year will usher in a flurry of activity by the building committee and others involved in our project. The results of the "pledge campaign" have been sufficiently good to begin implementation of the next phases of activity. The Lord continues to bless our efforts.

Finances: Although the returns to date have been less than the stated goal, the congregation has been exceptionally generous and has pledged over 80% of that goal. The amount pledged to the bond/loan effort has also been generous, but also short of that goal. It is anticipated that additional pledges will add to this amount. As initially conceived, this amount of money will be sufficient to begin the project. If it falls short of the initial goals, the consequence may be an extension of the time needed to complete the project or the use of bond/loan money to stay on track. It must be remembered that, in the opinion of many, the sooner a useable facility is in place, the sooner the congregation and its giving capacity will be able to significantly grow.

Site Development Plan: A meeting has been scheduled with **Rob Vogel** on January 7th, to assess the status of the plan and an amended timetable for submission of the plan to the county.

Cost Estimation: **Matt Malanoski**, our building cost estimation consultant, is reviewing his cost estimates for the project using the current plans with input from **Karl Riedel**, our architect and our project engineer.

Plans: Karl sees no problem in keeping up with the schedule for the drawing of plans. He is moving slowly, now pending approval of the Site Development Plan, Matt's estimates, and directions from the building committee. If Matt turns out to be the contractor on this project, Karl believes that his effort and fees can be considerably diminished because of the good working relationship that the two already have.

Building Committee: A breakfast meeting at the Macdonalds' house is scheduled for 7:30am on Saturday, January 18th to review our status and make plans for the next steps.

Congregation: Please continue to pray for our effort to build a new home for this congregation of worshippers. ❖

In Search of Christmas

by Chris Waller, Christmas Play Director

Looking back to our play on December 15th, I would like to say a heartfelt "thank you!" First of all, I thank God that He enabled us to accomplish our production and that He gave us opportunity to proclaim His greatest gift through the vehicle of a play. Secondly, I want to thank the children. Each child used the opportunity and did their best to honor Christ. I thank them for working so hard with this goal in mind. Finally, I want to thank the many, many people who sacrificed time and talents to benefit our children. The list is too long to delineate, but special note is given to **Tracy Young** for the fantastic costumes, **Jack Waller** for the spectacular sets, and **Karyn Hobson** for leading the music! Many, many parents, teachers, and others helped as well. Thank you to all! ❖



Some colonial men discuss their hunting plans in "In Search of Christmas."

Focus on Our Missionaries: Gene and LuAnn Bowman, Mission to the World

Life has been a whirlwind for us since we were last featured in your newsletter in April 2002. But God has been stretching, molding, and purifying us these past nine months. In April, Gene was asked by Mission to the World (MTW) to consider becoming coordinator of MTW's US/Mexico border ministry—BEAMM (Border Evangelism And Mercy Ministries). We began praying along with you, our partners, whether this is where God would have us serve next. We prayed that if He did not want us on the border that He would close that door. Instead of closing the door, He has continued to open it even wider.



In preparation for this new field, we attended Urban Internship training in New York City for the entire month of July. This training included such topics as language acquisition, cultural adjustment, team dynamics, church planting, conflict management, and a new method of evangelism called "Xpress-ing Your Faith." Then in August, we traveled for the first time to El Paso, Texas to meet other members of the BEAMM team. We learned how people on the border are ripe for hearing and believing the Gospel and that they and others often can take their new-found belief to the interior parts of both Mexico and the US to help plant new churches there. Through this trip, God confirmed that He was indeed calling us to become coordinators of BEAMM.

In September, we attended a retreat for all MTW missionaries ministering in Latin America and the Caribbean, which was held in Orlando, Florida. After the retreat, we began the process of contacting other churches and individuals in order to raise the additional \$3,000 per month needed to go to the border. We had the privilege of visiting your church in October and then seeing Jack Waller again at the PCA Global Missions Conference in Atlanta in the beginning of November. Following the conference, Gene attended a week-long leadership training seminar developed by MTW.

After a second visit to El Paso in the middle of December, we have begun to plan our transition to BEAMM leadership. For now, we'll continue itineration until April 2003, when we'll leave for language school. Then in August 2003, we'll move our household goods to El Paso and begin our work with BEAMM.

We want to thank you all for your prayers, love, encouragement, and financial support over the past two years, but especially over these past nine months. It has meant more to us than you could imagine. The task that lies ahead of us is daunting, yet we have confidence that God is going before us and will equip us to serve Him. We look forward to seeing many of you at your Missions Conference in February.

God Bless,

Gene & LuAnn

Join us for Worship at 9:25am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.
 www.goodhopepepca.com
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 Burtonsville, MD 20866
 Post Office Box 164
 Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church
 Current Meeting Location:
 Briggs Chaney Middle School
 1901 Rainbow Drive
 Silver Spring, MD 20905

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January 2003

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

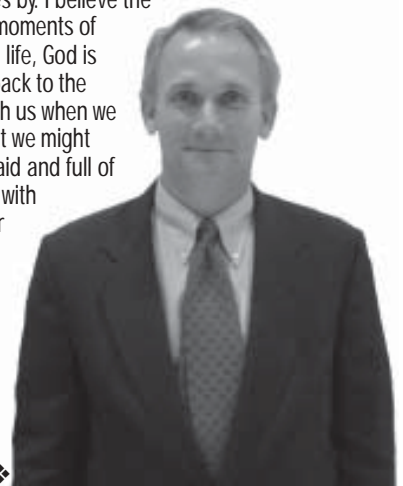
Don't Forget to Enjoy the Scenery as You Travel Through Life

In this year's Christmas play, "In Search of Christmas," the children found a time machine. They traveled back from 3003 to 2002, to the 1950s, to colonial times, and finally to the time of the birth of Christ. When we find Christ (or when we are found by Him), we likewise travel back to discover that God sent His Son into this world to save us from our sins and to bring us into a living relationship with Himself. We travel back to those historical events of the past so that the direction of our future is forever altered. We travel back, but not literally as the children in the fictional play did.

The Bible clearly instructs us that time is linear, not cyclical or otherwise, as some might suppose. Our lives are moving forward in time. When I go on a trip in a car, I usually do not get bored. As I journey toward my destination, I enjoy the panorama of the moving landscape that passes by. I believe the

Lord would have us enjoy the passing moments of our lives with Him. In all our journeys in life, God is with us. He is with us when we journey back to the cradle and cross to find Christ. He is with us when we go back to these historic events, so that we might move forward reconciled to Him, unafraid and full of anticipation as we move forward in time with the leading hand of our Heavenly Father and great Shepherd, Jesus Christ.

We journey forward accompanied by the sovereign direction of God. 2002 is passing, 2003 is before us. No human effort can slow time down, alter its pace, or stop it. So get comfortable in your seat, get a good view out the windows, and trust the Driver of time. ❖



Burgers and Blazes at the Baileys' *Annual Bonfire and Dinner*

Allen and Tina Bailey's House
 Friday, January 17, 2003
 7:00pm until the fire burns out
 \$5.00 per person, and bring a dessert to share!

Bring your friends and family members along,
 and please RSVP to Tina at (301) 854-3452.

Assisting Parents in the Christian Nurture of Their Children

by Kathy Haber, Sunday School Correspondent

I have always enjoyed the worship services in which the children of the church are baptized. I rejoice that the parents have been given the gift of their child, and I think that the babies, whether awake or asleep, crying or content, are adorable. But recently a sense of solemnity has been added to that joy, as I realize the seriousness of the vow that we in the congregation make "to undertake the responsibility of assisting the parents in the Christian nurture of this child."

As each child in our church is baptized, **Tracy Young** makes this vow. She also promised when she became a member to serve the church. So, part of the reason that Tracy teaches Sunday School is because she made these promises, and another part is that she loves children!

Teaching is a skill, and, as with any skill, improvement comes with experience and practice. Tracy has had many, varied teaching experiences that have given her lots of practice. She has taught high school, and now she is a substitute teacher. She teaches sewing classes to preteens and teens at G Street Fabrics. Through many years of Vacation Bible School, she has planned and taught crafts, matching appropriate projects to the different ages of the children. At Good Hope, she has worked with the students in the primary grades (with a short stint teaching middle school) for many years.

Teaching is also improved by watching and learning from other good teachers. Tracy has had the advantage of a wonderful example—her grandfather. Tracy's grandfather had a great understanding of the Bible and God, and he was an "awesome storyteller." His grandchildren had lots of fun when they were around him, yet it was clear that he was in control. He also had a "great evangelistic heart for the lost." Although I have never met Tracy's grandfather, it seems clear to me that she learned these lessons well. One of her goals for her students is that they grow in their "awareness of their need for a Savior and how to accept that gift." And everybody knows that Tracy is fun!



Paige Davis, Maggie Gerwin, Benjamin Lyon, Morgan Crago, and Edward Chandler are blessed to have Tracy Young for their teacher!

February 2003 Missions Conference

This year's missions conference will focus on the work of Gene and LuAnn Bowman on the border of Mexico and the United States, also helping our congregation learn more about ministering to Mexico and Latin America.

Mark your calendars now for **February 21-23!**

This year, Tracy is teaching **Edward Chandler, Morgan Crago, Paige Davis, Maggie Gerwin, and Benjamin Lyon**. A typical class begins with the children sharing how their week went and any news they may have. They go over the memory verse, Tracy teaches the Bible story, and the children complete a worksheet or make a craft. She closes the class with prayer. At the end of each class, she asks the children questions to make sure that they have learned the point of the lesson and how it applies to their lives. Parents can reinforce the lessons by asking each week, "What did you learn?" and by helping the children to memorize their verses.

Tracy has served us faithfully and well by teaching our children, but they are not the only ones in the class who learn. As Tracy related at our ten-year anniversary celebration, "God teaches me many times through the lesson and the things that the children say." ❖