

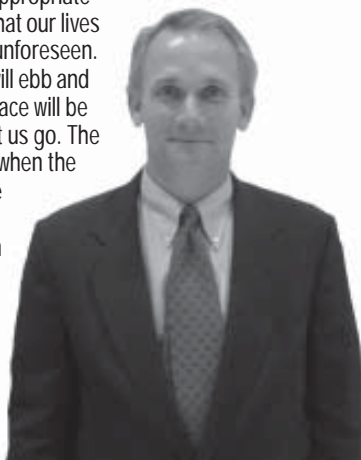
# Good News from Good Hope!



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 2005

## Welcome the New Year With the Lord's Peace

It is common knowledge that 365 and ¼ days equals one year. It is also quite well known that the new year is upon us. 2005 is no longer lurking in the shadows, but it's ready to take its place as the calendar that hangs openly on the walls of homes and businesses. Anticipation builds as partygoers await the dropping of the ball and the final tick of the clock that dismisses 2004 and ushers in 2005. Out with the old, in with the new! Anticipation and expectation is the usual and appropriate attitude promoted when entering a new year. Experience teaches that our lives will be met with a mix of success, failure, the unexpected, and the unforeseen. Challenges will abound, prayers will be said, and human strength will ebb and flow. Kids will grow, and adults will grow older. For the Christian, grace will be draped over all of this. The hand of our heavenly Father will not let us go. The Shepherd of our souls will tend to His flock. We will hear His voice when the cacophony of confusion seeks to prevail. Yet His wisdom and wise counsel will seek always to convince us that anxiety about our cross-redeemed lives is unnecessary. As Jesus said in His Sermon on the Mount, "Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own. Seek Me and My righteousness, and all you need will be given to you." (Matthew 6:34, 33) Let us welcome the new year, not with hollow resolutions or pseudo hopes, but with the peace of our Lord who bridges all the seasons and years of our lives. To Him be the glory, now and throughout the ages. ❖



### Thank You For Making A Joyful Noise!

Many thanks are due to those who lent their voices to our musical ensemble this Advent season! Thank you, **Jen Costanzo**, for your flexibility and willingness to work with this fluid group of people! Thank you, singers, for assisting the church in worship by your singing. We were blessed.

### Men's Basketball

Be sure to keep those New Year's resolutions! All men are invited to play basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School from 8-10pm on Thursdays, January 6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

Honestly, I couldn't have imagined it. I'd love to be able to say, "I knew this day would come," but it wouldn't be the truth. Here we were in the middle of the Orange Revolution... I haven't often used the word "revolution" when describing events in Kiev and Ukraine, but it has become the common way of expressing what has occurred here and, if we could take away the violence associated with the word, it is accurate.

What happened in this revolution is that the people of Ukraine woke up. They created a movement which said, "We aren't going to allow corruption, subjugation, and intimidation to lead us any longer. We, the people, will speak and what we want is freedom and opportunity." Though this was often portrayed as a question of "Russia or the West," that really wasn't the issue. The issues were justice, freedom, and opportunity. Ukraine wants to be Ukraine—a borderland between east and west with its own cultural identity. They just want to be a good and honest Ukraine. That was at the heart of these protests and demonstrations.

Of course, as the Mission to the World (MTW) team here in Ukraine, we didn't take a team position for or against a candidate. The same was true for the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ukraine. We supported the biblical values of good government, fairness, honesty, and justice. In that spirit, we spoke with people, distributed aid, and handed out fliers.

And yet, while we didn't have an official team position, we all felt compelled to have a personal opinion. It is perhaps hard to imagine how charged the environment was here in the city. It was not a time for silence. Our office sits right on the street where you saw all of the demonstrations. To get home one night, I had to walk past 40 buses of militia units. This was perhaps one of the most defining moments in Ukraine's long history. Un-involvement was not an option. And so as individual members of this community and as believers laboring for truth and justice, we chose our colors, and they were bright orange.

As I left my building on the first night of the protests when things were very uncertain and reports of government crackdown and violence swirled, a neighbor asked me what I was doing wearing those colors and where I was going. I told him that I was off to join in the protests. Alarmed, he told me that I couldn't go because I would get hurt. At a minimum, I had to take off the colors until I reached the center. I told him that now was the time and that someone had to be there. I left him and joined the thousands in the center of town. (Two weeks later, I saw him walking his dog with a bright orange scarf around his neck!) When I returned, another neighbor approached me and said, "I saw you today in the march to the university." I didn't know what would come next. He looked me in the eye and said, "Thank you." The next night, after a day of marching with some pastors and others, students from our seminary came over to borrow our tent so that they could sleep down in the tent city in the freezing cold. They said to me that as reformed Christians, they cared about their country and their culture.

What does it all mean? Well, after more than a month and another election, I have to say that there is new hope and opportunity for Ukraine. This is a new day for the country. What does it mean for the church? That is a tough question. My hope is that people will be hungry for truth and righteousness that ultimately cannot be found in any political leader or system. Only the heavenly King and His Kingdom will satisfy that yearning. But things for the church are not yet clear. We have some that are struggling and others that are growing. So we will have to wait and see.

Many of you saw the article in *World Magazine* about the situation here. The Ukrainians quoted are two of my closest friends in this country. Ivan was quoted at the end saying, "To see such a demonstration of people in the street and nobody oppressing, it gives me hope that democracy is winning in Ukraine." However, Ivan would be quick to add, as would I, that our real hope for Ukraine is the transforming power of the Gospel of Christ, leading to the growth of His Church and the coming of His Kingdom.

Thank you for all of your prayers for us in the midst of this. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, dear brothers and sisters!

*Eric for all of the Hubers*



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.goodhopepecca.com

## *Good News from Good Hope!*

# January 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>2</b> Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> Building Committee at Jim & Kathy Haber's - 7:30am
<b>9</b> Worship Service - 9:30am <b>Communion To Be Served</b> Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>12</b> Whitehead GG 6:30pm	<b>13</b> Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:30pm	<b>14</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>19</b> Whitehead GG 6:30pm	<b>20</b> Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	<b>21</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>22</b> Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
<b>23</b> Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>26</b> Whitehead GG 6:30pm	<b>27</b> Info for February newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	<b>28</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	<b>31</b>	<b>1</b> Macdonald GG 6:30pm	<b>2</b> Whitehead GG 6:30pm	<b>3</b> Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	<b>4</b> French GG - 7:30pm	<b>5</b>

## *Stake Out At Our New Church Property*

*by Steve Gerwin, Building Committee*

Steaks for dinner, anyone? Staking out the church property is not quite the same as a steak dinner, unfortunately—it's a process where surveyors lay out where things will go. If you venture up to the property now, you will notice wooden stakes located in strategic locations for erosion control. They are placed at what is called "LOD," or limits of disturbance, basically meaning where we will be "disturbing" or digging up dirt. Soon to follow will be low fences that hold back any soil washed off of the construction site. We will actually have some super silt fences, the next new level of control. They combine the traditional black cloth and wood stake fence with a heavier and more expensive metal fence. All of this protects the environment and our neighbors from silt and mud runoff.

Now that we're in the muddy season, any dirt disturbed generally turns into a nasty mucky mess. It may be a while before dirt is actually moved, but who knows what rainfall and snowfall we will see over the next few months. The less rain, the sooner dirt can be moved...

On the building front, through lots of prayer and some good old-fashioned leaning on our building engineer, the plans are again moving, and hopefully we will get final approval. Once that happens, all we need to begin construction on the church is a sediment control and erosion permit. Hopefully that will all be done soon!

There is still preparation work to be done at the site. We gave folks time off during the month of December for a proper Christmas break, but now that the slow month of January is here, we can begin the final site preparation. It will be lots of fun—and maybe we'll even cook some steaks!! ❖

### *Join a Growth Group in 2005!*

Growth Groups will resume for the new year beginning the week of Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>. The schedule remains the same as the fall schedule, but new faces are always welcome at any group. Please speak with **Jack Waller** for more details or any further information on these groups.

### *Communion Schedule*

We will celebrate communion with our Lord on **Sunday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** during morning worship. Let us together be strengthened in Him.



## *Reflections on Great Expectations*

*by Chris Waller, Director Extraordinaire*

**P**raise God for the opportunity to share the good news of His Son's birth through our Christmas play, "Great Expectations—More or Less?" The theme of this play explored how Christmas can be more or less than our expectations, yet God did above and beyond what we could have imagined. In reflection, I can truly say that the children and teens involved met my expectations and beyond! Thank you, kids, for putting 100% into the play and for doing it for God's glory! He was truly honored by the sweet way you worshipped Him in song and the earnest way you delivered your lines and entered into your characters. The adults and older teens who assisted us also honored our King on His birthday. Thank you! Many adults jumped in and helped put up the set, worked the sound system, made cookies, assisted with costumes, and cleaned up afterwards. A special thanks to **Tracy Young**, who is my consistent right hand, to **Jack Waller** for tirelessly working to make a spectacular set, and to **Caleb Waller**, who pitched in with music, sound effects, and "wherever needed," as did many many people! I don't want to leave out any names, but I know the hearts of all who helped are warmed with the knowledge that they contributed and honored the Lord in doing so! ❖

More photos from the Christmas play will soon be added to the church website at [www.goodhopepca.com](http://www.goodhopepca.com).



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