

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 ❖ January 2009

Counting the Days to Make the Days Count

Psalm 90 is a prayer that Moses penned. One request among others is that the Lord would “teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12) It is obvious that Moses is not asking to come up with a better calendar system or to develop a better numbering technique to keep his days straight. What Moses is asking for is perspective—the ability to value and appropriately use the limited days that we have to live. The Lord has measured out a set quantity of days to each of us. The fact that we have a limited number should affect our attitude towards those days. Yet we still need a tutorial on the appreciation of life. We need to be taught the importance of seeing our lives both as a whole and as units of a whole. Each day has its own value. Each day’s activities are a stitch in the quilt of our life. It is part of the fabric’s pattern that is sewn into what makes up our life. While commercial slogans such as “Just do it” or “You only live once” are intended to be statements on living life to the fullest, more wisdom is needed. Wisdom from God is necessary to match life with the living of it. To be told to “just get on with it”—that is, to just get on with living—is insufficient. Rather it is in being receptive to the Lord’s teaching to number our days aright “that we gain a heart of wisdom” for living the limited days that He gives us.

We enter a new year, and the calendar now reads 2009 instead of 2008. While this is a reminder of the ceaseless passage of time, we also need to be reminded that there is a certain span of time which is the sum total of our life. The days of our lives bridge calendar changes, and it is that limited span of time which is individually allotted to each of us that we need to understand and grasp. For some of us, we may span many years; for others, a shorter period. Whichever is your God-given length, may He teach you to number your days aright that you may have the wisdom to live each one as He designed. ❖



Study the Bible in the New Year!

The beginning of the new year provides the perfect opportunity to get involved in a small group Bible study! Growth groups will begin meeting during the second week of January on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights in homes in Mount Airy, Laurel, and Silver Spring. Don’t miss this opportunity to delve into God’s Word and get to know your church family. For more information on participating in a growth group this year, please contact **Ron Carrier, Jim Haber, or Jack Waller.**

Also, all ladies are welcome to sign up for the Wednesday night “Precept Upon Precept” Bible study. While the study of Ruth is already underway, it will conclude on January 21st. A one-week review of the “Kings & Prophets” materials will be held on January 28th, followed by the study of Isaiah, beginning on Wednesday, February 4th. To sign up for the Isaiah course, please contact **Sue McConnell** by January 14th. This study meets every Wednesday night from 6:00-8:15pm in the church fellowship hall.

Focus on Our Missionaries: *The Showalter Family, Burkina Faso, West Africa*

2008 was a good year for the Kaansa translation project: We published I Corinthians and brought the Gospel of John and Paul’s epistle to the Galatians to the pre-publication stage through checking and revision. The team in the village drafted out Ephesians, Philippians, and Philemon. Stuart taught a week-long seminar in November to advanced readers to train them in writing the Kaansa language better.

The year began with high tension between the Kaan royal family and the Kaan Christians, which culminated in a threat from the Kaan Iya (traditional ruler) and his advisors to close the churches and drive the Christians out of Kaan villages. The local government intervened to calm the situation, but never resolved the core issue of who has the right to bury Christian members of the royal family. Meanwhile, another issue took precedence: The Lord brought **Dr. Ian Macdonald**, a fellow member of Good Hope, and his Children Alive Foundation to propose a program to distribute mosquito nets in an effort to drastically reduce malaria in Kaan villages and the surrounding area. The Kaan Iya chose a mixed group of Christians and traditionalists to coordinate the project, who by God’s grace worked smoothly together to distribute almost 900 mosquito nets and over 1500 curtains in May. This project created much-needed goodwill between the Christians and the traditionalists and, we believe, has softened hearts to hear the Gospel spoken and read in the Kaansa language. There is no more talk of driving the Christians from the villages.

The year ended with the appearance of a very positive article in the Washington Times about our work among the Kaan people since 1991. As we look back on the year, we’re filled with gratitude for all that the Lord has accomplished and that we are privileged to serve Him.

For 2009, we pray that we will be able to continue working full-bore to finish the entire New Testament in draft form and that the mosquito net distribution program will expand to cover more villages. Stuart leaves for Burkina Faso on January 14th for a month to work on revising Philippians, I and II Timothy, and Titus. Cathie will be taking on more exegetical revision work this year to work through the backlog of drafts that we have accumulated. We also pray that the Lord will continue to provide the financial support we need to finish this task, even as our country suffers through a deep recession.



Thank you for your prayers and support,
Stuart and Cathie

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.goodhopeca.com

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January 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am	29	30 <u>January Deacons:</u> Ron Goodrich Tim Rowan	31	1	2	3 "How to Study Your Bible" Precepts class 9:00am - 3:00pm Undecorating - 3pm
4 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Congregational Meeting 12:15pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm	5	6	7 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm	8	9	10
11 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Communion To Be Served Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm	12 Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	13 Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	14 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	15 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	16	17
18 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	19	20 Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	21 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	22 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	23 Ladies' Night Out at Susan Bryan's 6:30pm	24
25 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	26 Info for February newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	27 Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	28 Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	29 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	30	31

Daily Schedule of Bible Readings in January

January 1 - I Samuel 30-31	January 16 - II Samuel 23
January 2 - II Samuel 1-2	January 17 - II Samuel 24
January 3 - II Samuel 3	January 18 - I Kings 1
January 4 - II Samuel 4-5	January 19 - I Kings 2
January 5 - II Samuel 6-7	January 20 - I Kings 3-4
January 6 - II Samuel 8-10	January 21 - I Kings 5
January 7 - II Samuel 11-12	January 22 - I Kings 6-7
January 8 - II Samuel 13	January 23 - I Kings 8
January 9 - II Samuel 14	January 24 - I Kings 9
January 10 - II Samuel 15	January 25 - I Kings 10
January 11 - II Samuel 16-17	January 26 - I Kings 11
January 12 - II Samuel 18-19	January 27 - I Kings 12
January 13 - II Samuel 20	January 28 - I Kings 13-14
January 14 - II Samuel 21	January 29 - I Kings 15
January 15 - II Samuel 22	January 30 - I Kings 16-17
	January 31 - I Kings 18

Communion Schedule

Take time to prepare your heart as we will celebrate communion with our Lord on **Sunday, January 11th**.

Ladies' Night Out Returns in January

All women are invited to the next Ladies' Night Out, to be held at Susan Bryan's home at 6:30pm on **Friday, January 23rd**. RSVP to Susan at (301)490-2227 or tgbtg8@juno.com.

Keep Praying for Angel Tree Outreach!

Thank you all for your prayers and gifts for the Angel Tree Christmas ministry, reaching out to children of prisoners. As a church, we were able to deliver gifts and share our faith with the families of 10 children. And as you can imagine, each family was deeply moved by your generosity! Continue to pray that God has touched their hearts this Christmastime.

New Church Roster in February

An updated version of the church roster will be mailed out with the February issue of the church newsletter. If your contact information (mailing address, phone numbers, e-mail addresses) has changed at all or if you'd like to be added to the roster (which is a contact list, not a membership roster), please notify **Kate Haber** at marykatehaber@gmail.com or (301) 317-0250 before the end of this month.