

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 ❖ July 2002

It's About Time—Dealing with Variables in the Building Process

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

When the congregation last met to discuss the building project, the problem was presented as too much to build and too little to spend. Congregation members proposed a number of solutions, but the meeting adjourned with some people feeling that we might have bitten off more than we could chew.

Enter the faith and brains of **Jim Haber**. In his wisdom, he put together a plan that makes the whole project seem very doable. We had been looking at the problem as if there were only two variables—cost and available cash. Looking at it this way, it was obvious that we could not build a sanctuary this year. Jim added an important third variable—time. He suggested that just because we do not have enough money to build this year does not mean that we cannot get the job done, if we extend the time period. To illustrate his point, he constructed a preliminary spreadsheet/flow-chart showing us a way.

The building committee and the Session were both so impressed with the plan that they gave the green light for **Bill Davis** to consummate the purchase of the property. For the cash transfer of \$95,000 and the acceptance of a \$380,000 4-year interest-free note, Good Hope became the owners of the Fulton property!

Here is how Jim's plan (which I like to call the "Time is on Our Side Plan") works. Good Hope does not presently have funds available to complete construction of our new home. We do have enough, however, to allow us to continue the process. We are working closely with **Karl Riedel** (our Christian architect) and **Matt Malinoski** (our Christian contractor consultant) to put together a design that we can afford and a plan that will allow for the use of member contributions in the form of sweat equity. That plan will phase construction to maximize use of available funds and to postpone expenditures until they are absolutely necessary. For instance, the paving of a parking lot will be expensive, but does not need to be done until just prior to occupancy. As an aside, the seemingly excellent suggestion, proposed at our congregational meeting, to use gravel rather than expensive asphalt for paving was quickly and unfortunately rejected by the county.

We have funds available to pay Karl, Matt, and **Rob Vogel**, who is preparing the site development plan. When this plan is approved, we will have funds for

preparation and submission of a building permit and for the beginning of lot development and construction.

The congregation has been wonderfully and amazingly generous in their contributions to the building fund. Over the last 2 years, we have averaged approximately \$100,000 per year. If, Lord willing, this rate of commitment continues, then we should have another \$100,000 in the building fund by the time the current funds are gone and yet another by the time the 2-year work plan is completed. Additional funds will almost surely be needed, and the building committee is pursuing sources of additional funding.

A congregational meeting is planned for September, and, by that time, there should be much to report. Plans will be further along, funding needs and sources should be better identified, and the spreadsheet/flow-chart will be further refined. At the meeting, we will report on why cost comparisons and other considerations led the committee to stay with the original plan to begin by remodeling the present house rather than proceeding with Butler building-type construction.

What is needed now is for members to pray for Karl, Matt, Rob, and the building committee and for the project. Each family also needs to pray for guidance in giving, knowing that if the congregation can be as generous as it has been over the last few years, the approach that uses time as our ally should succeed.

He said to them: "It is not for you to know the times or dates the Father has set by his own authority." – Acts 1:7

When I reflect, I realize how impatient I, and I suspect others, have been and still are about the seemingly slow rollout of our new church home. First, it was the frustration of the very long, slow process to get through the special exception permit process. Then, it was the realization that we would not be able to complete construction as soon as we might have wished. Looking back, it is obvious that if the special exception had been granted one year earlier than it was, we would not have had the extra year for giving. Without the hope generated by that generous year, we might not be as encouraged by our prospects as we are. Trust in Him. ❖

Focus on Our Missionaries: Chris and Lisa Moore, Mission to the World

Greetings from Chris, Lisa, Conor, and Emma. Since our last visit to Good Hope in February, Lisa and I have had the good fortune of seeing some of you at the women's retreat and General Assembly respectively. Lisa was particularly encouraged by her time at the women's weekend. What a joy to have the support of a church body that is so committed to serving and praying for us! We hope and pray that God continues to do great things in and among you.

At General Assembly this past week, I also had the privilege of seeing the senior pastor of the church we work with in Central Asia. He told me about the first General Assembly of the Central Asian denomination, which was held in early June. Even though it was a small gathering of just a handful of pastors, piling in comparison to the hundreds of PCA pastors gathered in Birmingham, it nevertheless testifies that our God is at work gathering His sheep. Please pray for this fledgling denomination. Pray particularly for the pastors and their families, that God would encourage them and protect them.

As for our family, we are glad to be slowing down a bit from several months of whirlwind travel. The next few months should find us either at home or on one of several short trips with our respective families. In these coming months, we would appreciate your prayers for recuperation. Additionally, we will be moving in with my parents in the next few days. This will be our third housing situation this year, and we would appreciate your prayers for peace in this transitional time. Finally, we always covet your prayers for the support-raising process.

Thank you all for your thoughts, prayers, and support. We feel very privileged to be your ambassadors in the work of the Gospel. May we all find joy and peace in that very Gospel of grace.

Your brother,

Chris (for Lisa, Conor and Emerson)



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 9:25am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.
 www.goodhopepca.com

July 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1	2	3	4	5	6 Men's Breakfast at Wallers' House 7:30am
7 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Middle School GG - 5:45pm	8	9	10	11	12 Church Picnic at Macdonalds' House 6:00pm	13
14 Worship Service - 9:25am Communion To Be Served Sunday School - 11:00am Middle School GG - 5:45pm	15	16	17	18	19	20
	Vacation Bible School at Cloverly Elementary			9:00-11:30am daily		
21 Worship Service - 9:25am Congregational Dinner 11:00am Middle School GG - 5:45pm	22	23	24 Session Meeting at Wallers' House 7:30pm	25 Info for August newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	26	27
28 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Middle School GG - 5:45pm	29	30	31	1	2	3

An Epitaph for This Generation — What Will It Say?

When my father died in May 1979, it was not difficult for our family to think of a fitting epitaph for his headstone. It reads, "A Man of Many Talents." We selected these words because he was so creative. Most of his creativity was practiced in the common things of his daily life. His house, garage, and yard are decorated with practical objects that he made, rather than bought at a store. His handiwork is proof that he was a man with many talents.

When my mother died last March, her children contemplated an epitaph for her that would personally describe her and also balance the joint headstone that she shares with her husband and our father. We selected, "Her children arise and call her blessed." (Proverbs 31:28) It was a struggle to solidify one statement that characterized her, but her children are satisfied with this verse from Proverbs. If you were to ask any of my brothers or sisters how their mother blessed them, they would each list a lengthy litany of actions that they will never forget. Each day we are adding to or taking from the epitaph of our lives. Our epitaph may never be written down on paper or carved in stone, yet we will be remembered by the way we live.

Epitaphs are not limited to individuals, but can also include groups of people, even generations. I think it was Tom Brokaw who called those Americans who fought during World War II and those who supported that cause "the greatest Americans who ever lived." In contrast, Judges 2:10 describes a generation of its day. It states, "After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel." Would you rather be a great generation or a generation that knew not God? A generation that was willing to sacrifice for the good of others or a generation that became evil because they forsook the Lord?

We as individuals are leaving a record for others to read, and we as a church are doing likewise. We still have time to write new sentences, paragraphs and chapters. What will be said of us? Will it be, "They loved the Lord," "They served the Lord," or "They sacrificed for the good of His Church and the cause of the Gospel"? Or will it be indicting statements that are hardly worth the effort of writing or contemplating them?

May the Lord guide each of us. May He enable us to number our days aright and so gain a heart of wisdom. (Psalm 90:12) And may He make us a church that inspires the next generation to write their assessment of our lives. ❖



Men's Breakfast

Saturday, July 6th - 7:30am at the Wallers' House
Please read letters XII-XVI in C.S. Lewis's
Screwtape Letters.

Church Picnic

Friday, July 12th - 6:00pm at the Macdonalds' House
Please RSVP to Wendy Higgins
at (301) 879-1535 by Wednesday, July 10th
and bring a salad/side dish (A-H) or dessert (L-Z) to share!

Communion Schedule

The sacrament of communion will be served as part of our
worship service on Sunday, July 14th. Please take time to
prepare your hearts for this.

Post-VBS Congregational Dinner

Sunday, July 21st - 11:00am at Briggs Chaney Middle School
Please bring a main dish with enough to share
and a dessert (A-H) or salad/side dish (L-Z)!

Vacation Bible School Starts Soon!

VBS takes place **July 15-19** at Cloverly Elementary School from 9:00-11:30am each morning. Please pray for God to send us many open hearts. Pray that the teachers will have wisdom and boldness as they share God's good news of grace, and pray for our children to grow in knowledge of Him. More helpers are still needed! If you can help (even part time), please talk to **Chris Waller** immediately! ❖



Take Care of Briggs Chaney Middle

Please remember to be a good steward of the building that we meet in each week. According to the agreement that Good Hope shares with Briggs Chaney Middle School, food and drinks are to be served and consumed only in the school cafeteria. We are not permitted to have food or drink (including coffee) in any of the classrooms. We also need to use only the rooms that we rent and take good care of them, putting things back the way we found them. Your cooperation is appreciated by the church and especially by Briggs Chaney! ❖

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