

# 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 ❖ June 2004

## A Taste of Hell or a Taste of Heaven?

When we fail to forgive, we experience a little bit of hell on earth. Out of frustration people sometimes say that the difficulty they are going through is "hell on earth." I have never agreed with that statement because there is a literal hell, and it is not on earth. However, whenever we fail to forgive someone who has offended us, we may import some characteristics of hell into our lives. There are many aspects to what occurs in hell. For example, Jesus described hell as outer darkness where there is constant weeping and gnashing of teeth. He spoke of hell as the place where people are banished from the presence of God.

Accompanying this exile is the knowledge of why you are there and the exacerbating agony of knowing that your situation is not reversible. Hell is a place of torment. The people there are tormented with regret and a perpetual consciousness of their sins. This chronic regret consumes these individuals and makes hell a place of brooding. When we fail to forgive, we imitate this "fixation" aspect of hell. We brood over the offenses done to us. We may be in the right. Injustice may have been inflicted on us. But nursing these infractions is similar to the brooding mentality of hell.

Heaven, on the other hand, is a place where sins are forgotten. Those there are not laden with regret over their own sins or the sins that others have committed against them. In the light of heaven, God's children delight over the richness of His grace. They rejoice in and over their gracious and merciful Savior. The thought of grudge-bearing does not enter their minds or corrupt their thinking. The brooding that is repetitive and ongoing in the dark places of hell never sees the light of heaven.

Unfortunately, when we fail to forgive, we unlock a characteristic of hell and import a taste of it into our lives. But when we do forgive, we liberate ourselves from the shackles of an entangled brooding mind. When we do forgive, we free ourselves and let the one who has sinned against us go free.

Paul give us this admonition: "Therefore, as God's chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love, which binds them all together in perfect unity. Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, since as members of one body you were called to peace. And be thankful." (Colossians 3:12-15)

What will it be for you? A taste of hell or a taste of heaven? ❖



## We Are Going to Build A Church (Finally)!

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee

By the time that you read this, you should have received a letter from the building committee, preparing you for the congregational meeting that will follow worship on **Sunday, June 6<sup>th</sup>**. At the meeting, we will review that building project to date, bring you up to date on the current status, and ask for a commitment of money, labor, and prayer. With those, we should be able to begin construction within weeks. Praise the Lord! ❖

### Make a Joyful Noise!

If you are interested in participating in a musical ensemble, please speak with **Chris Waller**. The purpose of the group will be to aid in our worship by assisting the congregation in learning new songs, as well as occasional special music. We will meet on Sundays from 8:45am - 9:20am, beginning on Sunday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. You are encouraged to participate even if you are unable to do so every week. Babysitting is available! ❖

## Focus on Our Missionaries: Linda Karner in Chiba, Japan

As you know, I am serving the missions team this year by teaching middle school for the first time in my life. We call our school "Keiyo Christian School" (KCS), and it primarily exists to provide education for the children on the team. My class consists of three missionary children and one child who is a Japanese citizen. They are great kids, and I can't imagine a better class to have for the first year of school teaching. We use the Sonlight curriculum, and we will be stretching American History over two years. With the arrival of our headmaster, Robert Stewart (at last!), I have traded math for science, so my typical day now consists of middle school history, science, and language arts, along with 9<sup>th</sup> grade Biology and, three times a week, 11<sup>th</sup> grade Chemistry. I'm very happy with this schedule.

Teaching at KCS has been an enlightening experience. I would identify my passions in life as children and teaching, so it is a good fit for me. But it has been a year of "learning the hard way," with very little support or encouragement from the team. There wasn't even any kind of teacher orientation, so it's been a process of "learning by doing." Recently we had our first board meeting of the year, which turned out to be one of the most discouraging events of my life. Unfortunately, as I was told afterwards, this is typical for KCS teachers. So it is very timely for me to ask that you pray that the joy of teaching at KCS would return to me.

I am planning to continue teaching middle school for another year, providing some stability to the school. Pray that I would use the summer months wisely to do as much preparation as I possibly can for next year. (The amount of time it takes to prepare to teach and grade papers has also been very enlightening!) Pray that I will be able to spend good planning time with the headmaster to map out the best possible year. Pray for the timely arrival of Tabitha Ellis, the elementary school teacher. For my kids, pray that the verses that we are learning week by week will plant themselves deeply into their hearts and help them to "keep their way pure." And finally, pray that the relationship between KCS and the team will be improved, so that future teachers will feel buoyed and encouraged by their experience at KCS.

Thank you ever so much for your faithfulness in prayer and support. May God continue His mercy and blessings to all of you.

Linda Karner



Linda Karner and her four middle school students at KCS

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)

## *Good News from Good Hope!*

# June 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	31	1 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	2 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	3	4	5
6 Worship Service - 9:30am <b>Congregational Meeting 11:00am</b> Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm	7	8	9	10 Session/Deacon Meeting at Wallers' House - 7:30pm	11 Middle and High School GG at Wallers' 7:00pm	12 Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
13 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am <b>Communion To Be Served</b> Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm	21	22	23	24	25 Middle and High School GG at Wallers' 7:00pm	26 Building Committee at the Wallers' House - 7:30am
27 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	28 Info for July newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	29	30	1	2	3

## *Good Hope Masters Lives Up to Hype* by Mark Hegerle, Tournament Organizer

It will likely be remembered as the very best tournament in the 4-year history of the event. On Saturday, May 8<sup>th</sup>, five teams took aim at the champions' trophies, knowing that a score of 1-under par 70 was needed to win last year. On a surprisingly sunny afternoon, all five teams met or bettered that score, making this year's crown all the more richly deserved. While the team of **Peter Haber, Bill Davis, Craig Smith, and Gil Young** returned to the clubhouse with the early lead, defending champion **Mitch Black** joined **Steven Heger, Russell Rowan, and Eddie Owens** for a late charge to tie the Haber team at five-under 66 and force a playoff. After three putts on a designated practice green hole, Peter and company secured their first Masters championship. Adding to his trophy haul, Peter also won the longest drive competition. However, the trophy for the "closest to the pin" contest eluded him, going instead to 2000 Masters champion **David Hinch**. ❖

### *More Golf Photos Available on Church Website*

For more photos from this year's golf tournament, taken by resident church photographer **Ian Macdonald**, please visit the church website at:  
[www.goodhopepca.com/pictures/pictures.html](http://www.goodhopepca.com/pictures/pictures.html).



Congratulations to 2004 Good Hope Masters tournament champions **Craig Smith, Bill Davis, Peter Haber, and Gil Young**.