

# 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 ❖ March 2002

## Spring and Easter Bring New Life

Much of this winter seemed like spring; however, spring does not officially arrive until March 21<sup>st</sup>. And, as we all know, with springtime comes the annual celebration of the renewal of nature. Grasses turn green. Flowers parade their colors, and trees dress themselves with new foliage. As the daylight hours lengthen, the dormancy of grasses, plants, and trees gives up to the inevitable call to demonstrate the life that is within each of them. And so, this God-ordained celebration continues.

Not only does spring arrive this month, but Easter is also celebrated on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Christians around the globe joyfully and gladly recognize the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In some parts of the world, it is not spring but fall, and the resurrection of Christ does not coincide with the renewal of nature, but the anticipated sleep of flowers and trees and the decline of sunshine. Whereas spring and its celebration are seasonal, Jesus Christ is the sap of life in any season. His life can be imparted to anyone who comes to faith in Him during any season of the year. Neither the bleakest winter nor the driest summer nor the location of your hemisphere can prevent His life from flowing into the one to whom He imparts it. As He was raised to life, so we who have placed our faith in Him have been raised to life. This Easter, let us rejoice again in His resurrection. Let us also rejoice in our resurrection, the resurrection that has already occurred in His raising us to newness of life here below and in the resurrection that will occur when He returns to bring unceasing spring. ❖



## Get Involved With a Growth Group!



Good Hope's Growth Groups are a great way to draw together as small groups from the congregation for a time of prayer, Bible study, fellowship, music, and good food, as shown above at the Macdonalds' Tuesday night Growth Group! If you aren't currently involved in a Growth Group, please think about joining one—we're currently studying the Gospel of John. Growth Groups meet on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Friday evenings in various homes—please see the March calendar for exact dates, times, and locations, or contact Jack Waller for more information. ❖

## Focus on Our Missionaries: *The Brown Family in Nairobi, Kenya*

Greetings from the Browns: Eddie, Gail, and our two children, Katie and Alan, in Nairobi, Kenya. We are serving with the World Harvest Renewal Team in equatorial Africa—training, discipling, and mentoring African pastors, elders, and other church leaders, including Western missionaries. Our primary tool is the "Sonship for Africa" course, developed for African church leaders by World Harvest. Eddie also has been teaching the books of Galatians and Romans to these leaders.

Gail works with Indian ladies who are mostly Hindu in ESL classes. We also seek to practice hospitality with our neighbors in our eleven-house compound. Over half of these neighbors are Muslim. So, there are white fields of beautiful black and brown faces all around us. Gail also started a neighborhood Bible club for the children in our compound in late February.

Recently, Eddie returned from two trips. One was out in the bush here in Kenya (sleeping with the howls of hyenas). The other trip was to the United States. In both cases, we saw God working to soften and break hearts so that men may be more useful for the ministry. The trip to the US was for a missions conference at a PCA church in North Carolina. Eddie brought along one of his "star pupils"—a Maasai pastor named John Ole Kiroka. Why is John a star pupil? Because he is a faithful man passing on what he learns to others and practicing what he hears and preaches.

While in North Carolina, John shared how one of the elders in his church has cruelly driven out of his home his daughter who had become pregnant out of wedlock. As John shared, they didn't know where she was, if thieves had attacked her, or if she was even dead or alive. They didn't care, but only wanted to save face. After this elder came into contact with the Sonship course from John and our team, he and his wife publicly repented of their hardness of heart. Following this, they went and searched for and found their daughter, brought her back home, and asked for her forgiveness. This led to the daughter also seeking forgiveness from her parents. So, we believe God is at work in their hearts. John has also seen his church double from 60 to 120 in attendance in the past year and a half—and this is a small border town of 500 people! How did this happen? John says his people know the love of God better, and they now love their neighbors better. The aroma of Christ flows through love-smitten hearts.

It is the power of the gospel, the gospel we so easily forget, which is the antidote to our hard and self-righteously proud hearts. One African church leader described the church in Africa as "a thousand miles wide and a quarter of an inch deep." So we teach Christian leaders to "preach the gospel to themselves" daily, so they can preach it to their church and the world.

Thank you for standing with us through your prayers and financial support.

*The Browns*



Although the Brown Family is actually several years older than this not-so-recent photo indicates, your prayers are still much appreciated!

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.goodhopepepca.com

## *Good News from Good Hope!*

March 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
24	25	26	27	28	1 French GG - 7:30pm	2 Men's Breakfast at Fran Rowan's House - 7:30am
3 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	4 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	5 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	6	7	8 French GG - 7:30pm	9
10 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	11 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	12 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	13	14	15 French GG - 7:30pm	16 Session/Deacon Retreat at Jim Haber's House 8:30am
17 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	18 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	19 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	20 Info for April newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	21 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	22 French GG - 7:30pm	23
24 Worship - 9:30am Congregational Mtg. - 11am Growth Groups	25	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday Service at Briggs Chaney - 7:00pm	29	30
31 Worship - 9:30am Sunday School - 11am No Growth Groups						

### Check Your Watches!

**P**unctuality is a challenge for all of us. Please make every effort to be on time for church each Sunday. Announcements will begin promptly at 9:25am, so that worship can start at 9:30am. Remember our God and King awaits our worship, but let's not keep Him waiting! ❖



### *Ready for the 2002 Good Hope Masters?*

**P**lease mark your calendars now for the 2002 Good Hope Masters golf tournament. We will be teeing off at 1pm on **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** at Patuxent Greens in Laurel. Please save that date, and start thinking of who you'd like to invite to be part of your foursome. Last year was a great time for all, and this year promises to be even better! Remember that inviting a friend or neighbor to play golf may be the first step in having that person join us at church on Sunday.

Also, please give some thought to the format of this year's tournament. Should we change to a more traditional four-man team best ball format (as opposed to last year's two-man team best score approach)? Please contact Mark Hegerle with your ideas about the best format for the games or any other questions about this year's golf tournament. ❖

### Mark Your Calendar!

**Men's Basketball**  
 Briggs Chaney Middle School  
 Thursday, March 21, 2002 - 8-10pm

**Congregational Meeting**  
 Briggs Chaney Middle School  
 Sunday, March 24, 2002 - 11am

**Maundy Thursday Service**  
 Briggs Chaney Middle School  
 Thursday, March 28, 2002 - 7:00pm

**Good Hope Masters Golf Tournament**  
 Patuxent Greens in Laurel  
 Saturday, May 4, 2002 - 1:00pm