

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 2003

Be Careful What You Pray For—You May Be The Answer!

by Kathy Haber, Sunday School Correspondent

When I read the announcement in the church bulletin, "We commend Becky Haber for the fine job she has done as the Middle School Sunday School teacher. She will no longer be able to teach this class. A replacement is needed by September. Are you that person?" I wondered what would happen.

When Barb Petro read it, she began to pray. She prayed that someone would take Becky's place, and she shaped her prayer according to the verse that says, "we are... created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do." She prayed that the right person would know that teaching this class was his or her good work. Soon, she decided that she was the right person and that teaching this class was her good work!

Working with middle school students has been a new experience for Barb. She and Becky taught the class together for several months, and, during that time, Barb established her expectations for her class. But when Barb undertook this responsibility, she was already an experienced Bible teacher. For years, she has taught a day class for women through Bible Study Fellowship. The method she uses to prepare to lead a Bible study for women works equally well to prepare to lead a Bible study for her Sunday School class. She reads the passage, writes down a key phrase or idea from each verse, and forms an outline. From the outline, she formulates what she wants her audience to learn, as well as one or two practical applications. Finally, she reads a commentary on the passage so she can add helpful background information and so she is ready to answer questions.

Before teaching Bible study classes for women, Barb's teaching skills were developed through non-classroom opportunities. When her family lived in Colorado, she sold Mary Kay Cosmetics and even drove one of Mary Kay's pink cars. The Mary Kay organization trained her to "know your material, present it in an organized manner, and expect a positive result."

After the Petro family moved to California, Barb saw in the paper that the historic Whaley House, built in 1856 in Old Town San Diego, had openings for tour guides. To apply for the job, she waded through the long history that the Historical Society provided, wrote a script for herself, and auditioned. She was awarded a position, and so, in the persona and costume of Lillian Whaley, born in 1864, Barb gave tours through the Whaley House, teaching San Diego history to school children and tourists.



Matthew Gerwin, Mitchell Gerwin, Caleb Waller, Dean Rowan, Barb Petro, Grace French, Abi Waller, Esther French, and Cindy Rowan enjoy their Sunday School class together. Not pictured are Keith Higgins and Esther Showalter.

Although Barb is an experienced Bible study leader and a talented teacher, the most important qualifications she brings to teaching Sunday School are her own walk with the Lord and her vision for her students' spiritual life. Growing up in the church was "an integral part" of Barb's upbringing. She became a Christian at age 7 during Vacation Bible School, and she remembers Sunday School teachers, two in particular, who were godly influences in her life. Barb has two main goals for her current class. One is that the students learn to study God's Word. "We cannot please God, be obedient to Him, or worship Him properly until we know Him." The second is that the students learn to share spiritual things. She begins class by asking her students, "What have you and God been up to this week?" How does Barb answer that question in her own life? Although she has many responsibilities and commitments, each week Barb sees that "God is faithful to equip me and stretch my time so that everything I need to do gets done." ♦

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

As always, we are thankful for your support of our family, and we are glad to have another opportunity to update you on our current prayer needs. We need your prayers in a special way these days, as we are in the midst of a time of significant transition, both in world events, as well as in our own lives.

We would first ask that you pray for the situation in the Middle East, that those in leadership would have wisdom in their decision-making and that God's purposes would be accomplished in the world. What a source of peace to know that the God who created the universe and every individual in it remains in complete control and works all things for His glory and our good!

You can also pray with us that the Lord would provide our remaining financial support in the next month so that we can depart for the field soon thereafter. The timing is particularly important, as I will be unable to travel after April with our third child due in June.

Trusting that God will do this, we are beginning to consider the many logistical issues which must be resolved prior to our departure, including medical checkups, packing, and completing Chris's application for graduate school in Central Asia. Pray that we would be able to first remember and then accomplish all these things in the short amount of time that remains.

Finally, we would ask that you pray for us and for our families as we once again prepare to leave. This is the most challenging aspect of the work for us, and we are seeking particular wisdom in how to help the children through the transition of leaving dearly loved grandparents and cousins. Pray that Chris and I will be a source of encouragement to those we love as we walk through this challenging time.

Thank you again for your support and interest in our family. We do covet your prayers in these next weeks and look forward to updating you next time from the field!



Emma (2½ years old) and Conor (4 years old) Moore are looking forward to the arrival of their new sister in June!

Serving with you,

Lisa Moore (for Chris, Conor, and Emerson)

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.goodhopepepca.com

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March 2003

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Worship Service - 9:25am Congregational Meeting 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	3	4 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	5 Tim Rowan GG 6:30pm	6	7 French GG - 7:00pm	8
9 Worship Service - 9:25am Communion To Be Served Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	10	11 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	12 Tim Rowan GG 6:30pm	13 Session Meeting 7:30pm Men's Basketball 8-10pm	14 French GG - 7:00pm	15
16 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	17	18 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	19 Tim Rowan GG 6:30pm	20 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	21 French GG - 7:00pm	22 Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
23 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	24 Info for April newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	25 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	26 Tim Rowan GG 6:30pm	27 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	28 French GG - 7:00pm	29
30 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	31	1 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	2 Tim Rowan GG 6:30pm	3	4	5

There Is Reason To Rejoice, for the Great Thaw Has Begun!

After the catastrophic flood of the earth during Noah's day, the Lord said, "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease to exist." (Genesis 8:22)

The earth will endure with its rhythmic changes until the Lord returns. The snow on the ground will eventually melt away. The present cold winds that blow will give way to the warmth of summer breezes. The barren landscape will sprout again. The shrubs will be adorned with flowers, and the trees will be decorated with leaves once again. As long as the earth endures, this cycle of life will continue. This cycle that offers newness and brightness each year still regresses into winter and night. While it may be admitted that winter and night are times of rest, there is a winter and night that overcomes us from which we are in the process of escaping.

The Lord's promise to Noah was made in the aftermath of a terrible judgment. The promise indicated that the type of judgment that God had exacted on the earth would not occur again. This was a promise of relief and hope, but not ultimate relief from the judgment that reigned since the days of Adam. Yet, in this promise, there was the echo of God's mercy. God knows that man cannot thrive with a sense of destruction hanging over him. The ultimate relief that we need would come and has come through Jesus, the Son of God and Savior of sinners.

The ramifications of His redemption are many. Those who believe in Him are safe and warm inside His house. The great thaw has begun, and the night of this age is fading. Are you experiencing fatigue from the progressions and regressions in your life? Christian, take heart—the cycles of trials are as cyclical as the cycles of the seasons. Remember that neither are endless. Let the repetition be your sign that you will not be overwhelmed by the flood.

Christians are designed by God to float—that is, they always pop up to the surface sooner or later, and when they are through with this life, they shed their temporary cocoon and fly away to the perfect haven that He has prepared for them. Spring will follow winter, and day will follow night until both of the latter are no more. The day of our redemption is nearer than the day we first we believed (Romans 13:11). God speeds your redemption your way. Lift up your head and rejoice! ❖



Building Briefs—March Update

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

Help Wanted

Good Hope needs someone to be responsible for preparing the elements of communion for the rest of 2003. The communion dates for the remainder of this year are: April 17, May 18, June 15, July 13, August 24, September 21, October 19, November 16, and December 14.

Good Hope also needs someone to prepare the prayer cards that are inserted in the bulletin each week. If you are interested in either of these ways to serve the church, please speak with **Jack Waller**.

Missions Conference

Thank you to the Missions Committee and to all who helped with this year's conference. It was a very beneficial weekend that strengthened our love for Christ and our commitment to spreading His Gospel.

Vacation Bible School

The dates for VBS 2003 have been set for **July 14-18**. Mark your calendar now, and please let **Chris Waller** know if you are available to help!

At its February meeting, the building committee heard from **Bill Davis** regarding his efforts to secure a commercial loan for our property. We were pleasantly surprised that Sandy Spring Bank, which specializes in church financing, was more than willing to assist us. The terms that they presented were, in my view, excellent, but Bill was instructed to return to the bank and seek even better terms to present to the building committee in March. If used for nothing else, it would provide funds to pay off the note to Emanuel Church and end up with a lower interest rate on the \$380,000 that we owe. More on all of this later. Included here for the first time is a Gantt chart that will help you follow our progress. Comments and suggestions to make it or some other graphic more useful for you will be most appreciated. And, most importantly, remember to pray for our project! ❖

Building Plan Progress Report

	2003	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Soil Borings				Feb 23									
Submit Site Plan				March 1									
Site Plan Approval						April 30							
Financing Secured						April 30							
Pay off Emanuel							May 15						
Architect Plans Done					April 15								
Construction Begins								June 30					
Pledges received	\$8K	13K											
Expense Budget									\$25K	pre-construction			
Expense Actual	\$5K	7K											

■ In process ■ Completed

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