

Good News from Good Hope!



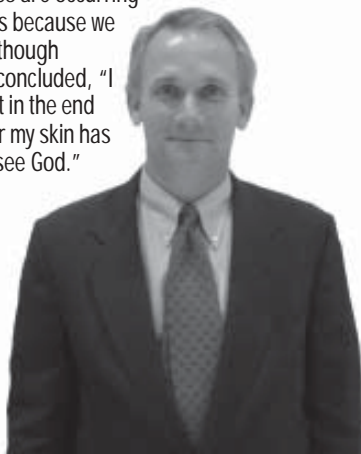
Day after day... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. ❖ Acts 5:42
Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ March 2005

Why Bad Things Happen...

We sometimes find our lives in a state of turmoil. Many people have heard of Job and the calamity that came into his life. After losing his livestock, his children, and his health, three friends came to comfort Job. These three comforters became complainers. They played a blame game with Job. They told Job that his demise was caused by some evil conduct in his life. They argued that the wicked are the ones who experience God's judgment in their lives. God punishes the wicked in this life and strips away their possessions. Job disagreed. The evidence is quite to the contrary. Many wicked people flourish in this life without any hint of loss. Job was not arguing that he was sinless, but that his terrible ordeal was not caused by some series of gross, heinous, and unrighteous acts toward God or others. He may not have understood why God allowed the troubles to occur, but he knew that he had not forsaken his God.

Job is an example to us. It is an inexact science to try to determine why the events of our lives are occurring. Occasionally it is apparent why particular things are happening. The cause and effect relationship between some events can be easily charted. At other times, we cannot master the equation. Our thoughts on why the events of our lives are occurring lead us down dead ends and puzzle us because we cannot make the connections fit. Job, though baffled by his current circumstances concluded, "I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end He will stand upon the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God." (Job 19:25-26)

Are you questioning why your life is in the state it is in? If not now, you may yet have your turn. Affirm with Job your Redeemer. With resurrection faith, know that the sometimes-twisted road of your life will ultimately bring you face to face with the Master of your journey. ❖



Prayer Chain Revisions

In a continuing effort to improve the church prayer chain, **Carol Taylor** would like to give ladies the option of being contacted by phone or e-mail (or both) to receive prayer needs. In order to make this work, Carol needs your feedback! Please contact her at (301) 570-9651 or cataylor99@aol.com to let her know if you would like to be part of the church prayer chain and whether you would prefer phone or e-mail contact. Thank you!

March Madness

Need a change of pace from watching NCAA tournament action? All men in high school or beyond are invited to play basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School from 8-10pm on **Thursdays, March 3rd, 17th, and 31st.**

Make a Joyful Noise!

The musical ensemble will sing together on **Sundays, March 6th, 13th, 20th, and 27th** from 8:45-9:20am. You are encouraged to participate even if you are unable to do so every week. Keep in mind that special music will be prepared for **Palm Sunday** (March 20th) and **Easter Sunday** (March 27th) this month!

New Missions Conference Dates

Due to scheduling conflicts at the end of February, the 2005 missions conference has been moved to the weekend of **April 22nd-24th**. Don't miss it!

Focus on Our Missionaries: *Gene and LuAnn Bowman in El Paso, Texas*

At a recent team meeting, we were praising God for all of the blessings of the past year as well as reflecting on some of the "discouragements." We especially noted how God has given us hope for the future. Many of these discouragements are His way of pruning us more for His service. Because Gene is Border Evangelism and Mercy Ministries (BEAMM) coordinator, he has been involved in and become more aware of the issues that we face all along the 2000-mile border. We ask you to pray for our team as a whole as we deal with shortages in financial support for many of us, the need for short-term team coordinators, English language teachers, and church planters, problems in obtaining a visa for one of our church planters, the resignation of another of our church planters, and the lack of growth in a 7-year-old church, just to name a few.

Be still and know that I am God. (Psalm 46:10) Yes, we serve an awesome God! We praise Him for a new church plant, Frontera de Gracia (Border of Grace). This church is currently meeting about once a month in the apartment of Zeneida Itza with the help of Samuel Lopez and Josue and Martha Mayo. There are about 25 people attending.

The San Pablo Seminary is now in its fifth year and has been meeting at Renovación Church in Juarez until now. Gracia y Paz Church meets on Sunday mornings at a Fiesta house in Juarez. Now after months of searching for a property that would accommodate both the seminary and Gracia y Paz, the Lord has provided us with a piece of property with a building at a cost of \$80,000. We hope to utilize work teams to help renovate the building so that it may be fully used by the seminary and the church in September. Another goal is to use this building to house our work teams over the summer.

After 7 years of serving as pastor of Tierra Prometida, Raciél Gomez has handed over the pastorate to Ever Ovando. Raciél will now assist Wilbur Frias at Vida Nueva and also begin a new church plant in another area of Juarez.

We look forward to visiting your congregation on April 24th and sharing with you more of what is happening here along the border. We will be in Pennsylvania earlier in April for the birth of our next granddaughter and also to attend a missions conference in Maryland. Thank you for your prayers! ❖



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

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March 2005

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	28	1 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	2 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	3 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	4 French GG - 7:30pm	5 Building Committee Meeting - 7:30am Work Party at 216 Property - 9:00am
6 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	7	8 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	9 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	10 Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:30pm	11 French GG - 7:30pm	12
13 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	14	15 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	16 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	17 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	18 French GG - 7:30pm	19
20 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	21	22	23	24 Maundy Thursday Service at Cloverly Elementary 7:00pm	25	26
27 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	28 Info for April newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	29 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	30 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	31 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	1 French GG - 7:30pm	2

The (Faithful) Optimists Always Seem to Win

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

When Bobbie and I returned from our two weeks in the very very deep South (Antarctica), I learned that the site development contractor had not yet begun digging the drainage pond, the building plan had still not been approved, and there were still questions about whether we would have to go back to our mechanical engineer for help with the sprinkler system. Not exactly what I would call good news!

When I spoke with our committee chairs after worship, I could not believe their attitudes. **Jim Haber** was almost ecstatic because the red-line drawing of the site plan was finally completed and in to Howard County. He was hoping that we could have a building permit as early as mid-week! **Steve Gerwin** was even more positive about the site development status because the county had agreed to allow some work during the time while we're waiting for permission to proceed fully. **Jack Waller** was upbeat about all of the things that have been done and the great cooperation he has had from his volunteers. **Bill Davis** only had a smile as he reported that the building fund continues to grow and grow. I have always thought of myself as an optimist, but here I was feeling very pessimistic while four really good people were very encouraged about our status.

The more that I thought about it, the more I realized that my problem here was not pessimism as much as it was a lack of patience, my usual attitude of wanting everything to be done yesterday. One of my biggest personal problems is having to be reminded again and again that the Lord does things in His time, not mine. I just finished reading the patient response that Noah had when his discovery doves kept coming back empty-handed time after time. No sign of a complaint from him, but I would have had a hard time understanding why God was not letting me find land. After a much shorter time at sea, I know that Noah must have been more than a little interested in getting off of his boat! Patience has never been one of my own personal strong points, and this project has called for a lot of it. Despite my impatience, it really does seem as if construction will begin in the near future. Praise the Lord! ❖

Maundy Thursday Service

Due to a scheduling conflict at Briggs Chaney Middle School, this year's Maundy Thursday service will be held at **Cloverly Elementary School** (800 Briggs Chaney Road, Silver Spring). This service will be held on **Thursday, March 24th** at 7:00pm and will include the Lord's Supper.