

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 Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ March 2007

To Those Who Have Been Given Much, Much Is Required

The Lord expects us to put to use what He has given us. This expectation is described by Jesus in a parable. In Matthew 25:14-30, Jesus uses a story to describe how the kingdom of heaven should affect those who experience its rule in their lives on earth.

A master was going on a journey. Before he left, he entrusted his property to three servants. He gave each of them an amount of money that corresponded to their individual abilities for the keeping of his property. After some time, the master returned and summoned the servants so that he could inspect how well they had used what he had delegated to them. The first two servants multiplied what the master had given them, while the third did nothing but hide the money. The master commended and rewarded the first two servants, but he harshly chided the third. The master called the third servant "a wicked, lazy servant." He stripped the servant of what he had given him and put him off his property, consigning the servant to despair and regret.

Let us be motivated out of gratitude for God's grace in our lives. By the sacrifice of His Son, He has brought us into His kingdom. Let us joyfully seize the opportunities that He has bestowed upon us. As individuals and families, let us use our God-given abilities to serve one another and build each other up. As a church, let us do the same. Let us use what the Lord has apportioned to us for the good of others, our own good, and the Lord's glory.

Musical Notes from the Ensemble

The musical ensemble will be singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus" on Easter Sunday. Additional voices would be welcomed for this special event! Rehearsals take place on Sunday evenings from 5:30-6:15pm as follows:

- March 4th - Men's sectional rehearsal
- March 11th - Women's sectional rehearsal
- March 18th - Men's sectional rehearsal
- March 25th - Full ensemble rehearsal
- April 1st - Full ensemble rehearsal

On a related note, the elders and deacons met on February 16th and 17th to take stock of what the Lord has given Good Hope. Our assessment of what we have and how we should proceed as a church is still being considered. Ask the Lord to guide us as we seek His will in moving forward. We are glad that the Lord expects us as individuals and as a church to use what He has given to us, and we are confident that with such an attitude He will enable us to serve Him. ❖



Focus on Our Missionaries: Linda Karner in Chiba, Japan

Let me start off by thanking you for your faithful support, which enables me to live and serve in Japan. The plum blossoms are blooming now, and there is a feeling of spring in the air, although it is still quite chilly here in Chiba.

I continue to teach all of the English conversation classes in Kokubunjidai, our southernmost church plant. This semester we are working through the book of Ruth during our Bible times, seeing the grace of God in Ruth's life, and trying to understand the concept of a "redeemer." Even the translation of that word into Japanese doesn't help most of my students to really know what it means. "Muzukashii, muzukashii," they continually cry, which means, "Difficult, difficult." Please pray for a breakthrough in their understanding as we finish up this study. Ruth had a redeemer, and we all can have a redeemer—our redeemer is the Lord Jesus Christ! And we need a redeemer far more than Ruth did!

We were very pleased in February to host an outreach event for Valentine's Day that was very well attended. We even saw some new people from the community come for the first time. But I find it very difficult to get activities onto the schedule, and it's frustrating to see time passing with (my) good ideas going for naught. Please pray for some momentum to build up with respect to outreach.

Kokubunjidai has been energized by the arrival last September of a Korean missionary family, the Hans. Beyonseob is an ordained pastor who speaks Japanese, as well as a strong leader with a very animated preaching style. His family is warm and reaches out with passion. Please give thanks to God for bringing this gifted couple to our team, and pray for them to learn to bridge the culture gap with the Japanese as well.

I also continue to teach high school science (chemistry and marine biology) to the missionary kids in our little school. At times the prep work just about pushes me over the edge, especially marine biology, since I have never studied it myself. But I love being involved with the teenagers and enjoy my time at the school. You are probably aware by now that our school now includes a track for Japanese children to receive Christian education in their native language. There are three children in the Japanese track this year. They will wind up their school year in March and begin their second year in April. There have been plenty of bumps along the way, so please pray for God's grace and guidance. Some of the problems stem from the fact that the school is so small that families sometimes jostle to have the school meet their unique needs, when in a larger school they might just have to "go with the flow." Of course, things are never easy this side of heaven, especially when sinners try to do something together, yet we have experienced growth in partnering and much answered prayer.

Thank you again for interceding for this work of God in a little corner of a very spiritually needy country. If I could close with two main prayer requests, it would be these: (1) That God would break down the spiritual walls that keep the people of Kokubunjidai from believing in the true and living God, and (2) That our little Japanese Christian school would achieve stability and be a reproducible model for Japan.

God Bless You,
Linda Karner



Linda Karner with one of her conversation class students. It's too bad that her student isn't smiling in this photo, as Linda assures us that "this lady has the most engaging smile!"

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Good Hope Presbyterian Church
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Join us for Sunday School at 9:45am and Worship at 11:00am each Sunday.
 Evening Worship is held each Sunday at 6:30pm.

March 2007						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am	29	30	31 March Deacons of the Month: Tim Rowan Glenn Taylor	1	2	3 Work Party at the church - 9:00am Jon Dick in Concert at Bethany Church in Laurel - 7:00pm
4 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Communion To Be Served Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	5	6	7	8 Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	9	10 Work Party at the church - 9:00am
11 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	12	13	14	15	16	17 Work Party at the church - 9:00am
18 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	19	20	21	22	23	24 Work Party at the church - 9:00am
25 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	26	27 Info for April newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	28	29	30	31 Work Party at the church - 9:00am

VBS Is Coming in July!

Mark your calendars now for Vacation Bible School, which will be held during the week of **July 2nd-6th**! Most other details are still being settled, so please be in prayer for this important outreach, and stay tuned for upcoming decisions about curriculum and planning. **Cheryl Dudek** will be serving as VBS coordinator, so please contact her with your suggestions and to let her know how you would like to be a part of the fun this summer.

Our Vacation Bible School mission is to unify our church body while showing a Christ-like attitude to the families of our community. We want to use this opportunity to share Christ and His saving grace with the families that He brings. We would like to do this by providing an attractive and upbeat program and by teaching selected Bible lessons. Begin praying now that Good Hope would be effective in accomplishing these goals this July! ❖