

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 ❖ May 2002

Keep Praying for Our Church Home

By Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

We are still waiting for official written notice from Howard County, but, as most of you know, the Board of Appeals did approve Good Hope's "Conditional Use" plan in April and, as a special bonus, refunded our application fee. Now begins the process of presenting a Site Development Plan for approval, a process that should take about five months. **Rob Vogel** is currently working on this. As part of that process, a percolation test is scheduled for May 30th with **Tim Rowan** doing the digging. Thank you, Tim!

As a follow-up to our last congregational meeting, **Ron Higgins** is checking out the price of the Butler building suggestion that was offered. We have already learned that Howard County will not allow gravel as paving at any stage of occupancy. **Jim Haber** is working with **Matt Malinoski**, and Matt is working with **Karl Riedel**, looking for ways to diminish costs or defer costs until after occupancy. The idea of using sweat equity from talented and muscular congregational members is being discussed. Thanks to Ron, Jim, Matt, and Karl for all of their efforts.

For the rest of us, the challenge is to find money for the building process and to pray. Most of all, it is to pray! ❖

Good Hope Women Retreat to Ocean City for Fellowship and Fun

What possible connection do the following items have? A high-speed car chase, going to buy furniture and thinking you've been kidnapped, Weight Watcher's Points, and Jeremiah 29:11? Why, the Good Hope Ladies' Retreat, of course!! Just ask any of the nine women who attended...

The ladies were blessed with a gorgeous weekend in Ocean City, April 26-27, complete with insights into life in Turkey by **Lisa Moore**, stirring devotionals and story-swapping, and the warmth of Christian friendship. Many thanks to retreat organizers, **Barbara Petro** and **Tracy Young** for their planning, and to our very gracious hostess in Ocean City, **Edie Coffin**. ❖



What really happened on this year's Ladies' Retreat...?

Get Ready Now for Good Hope's Return to Veggie Town This July!



Vacation Bible School this year will feature a return to Veggie Town and a continued exploration of the fruits of the Spirit. Our children will be challenged to grow in Christ-likeness, and visitors will be introduced to the Gospel message. Be a part of this fun experience! VBS takes place **July 15-19** at Cloverly Elementary School. Let **Chris Waller** know how you plan to help with this vital ministry of Good Hope. ❖



Vacation Bible School—July 15-19, 2002—Cloverly Elementary

Focus on Our Missionaries: Jill DeVere in Odessa, Ukraine

Hello from Odessa, Ukraine! Thank you for your faithful prayers and support for me. It is such a blessing to have you as a part of my team in bringing the Gospel to Ukraine.

In the middle of February, I moved 300 miles south to Odessa, a seaport on the Black Sea, from Kiev, the capital of Ukraine. The move went very well. God provided for me in ways that I did not even know that I needed. Here in Odessa, I will be working with the Odessa Presbyterian Church.

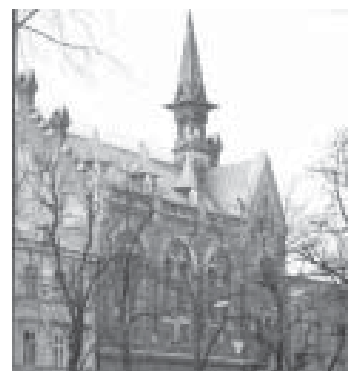
Full time Russian school has come to an end for me. Right now, I am studying with a tutor two times a week. At the end of March, I taught my first English class at a Christian university in Odessa. Many of the students there are not Christians, even though the university is Christian-affiliated. It seems that they mainly attend for an honest education. This will be a wonderful way for me to share the Gospel with my students. The class that I am teaching actually is a Bible class.

Recently, I met for the first time with two young Ukrainian ladies who are Christians. We are planning to meet together every week to study the Bible and pray together. My long-term goal for these two women is that they each will be ready to start their own groups eventually, where they can meet with other women to pray and study the Bible together.

I would appreciate your prayers for these specific areas of my ministry in the Ukraine:

- 1) Please pray for the English class at the Christian university—that God will open the hearts of the students there and reveal His truth and grace to them.
- 2) Please pray for my ability to speak in Russian more and more, especially being able to explain about the Bible in this language.
- 3) Please pray for the small Bible study groups that we have just started.

In Christ,
Jill DeVere



Odessa Presbyterian Church

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 (301) 236-4151

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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May 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	1 Session/Deacon Meeting at Wallers' House - 7:30pm	2	3 French GG - 7:30pm	4 Good Hope Masters Golf Tournament at Patuxent Greens 1pm
5 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:45pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	6	7 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	8	9	10 French GG - 7:30pm	11
12 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	13	14 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	15	16	17 French GG - 7:30pm	18 Men's Breakfast at Wallers' House 7:30am
19 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	20	21 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	22 Info for June newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	23	24 French GG - 7:30pm	25
26 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	27	28 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	29	30	31 French GG - 7:30pm	1

Are Your Rafters Sagging? It's Time To Fix the Roof

The writer of Ecclesiastes wrote, "If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his hands are idle, the house leaks." (Eccl. 10:18) We probably all have a chore list that screams for attention. And, if we finally complete all the items on the list, it isn't long before other chores step up to take the place of the ones that were crossed off. Does it not seem like our duties are perpetual? Sometimes we are on top of things, and sometimes things are on top of us. Sometimes we can let things go, and sometimes we can let things go too far. When we let it go too far, the rafters sag and the roof leaks.

What should we do when the rafters sag? We can let them continue to sag and neglect them to the point where they fall down, destroying our house. Or, we can jack them up and repair them. The latter seems the obviously wiser course of action. While the proverbial statement of the writer of Ecclesiastes describes a condition that threatens our homes, his proverb also applies to us in another way. We are a house within a house. What I mean is that our boards, bricks, and shingles are one house, and our muscles, bones, and skin are another house. So, when we are in our domicile, our bodies are a house within a house. And just as the rafters of our homes sag when neglected, the rafters of our lives also sag when neglected.

What should we do when the rafters of our lives sag, when we are no longer sheltered, and our minds and souls are dampened and drooping from exposure? We can leave ourselves in disrepair and experience more deterioration, or we can take action and repair our roofs. As the writer said, "If a man is lazy, the rafters sag; if his hands are idle, the house leaks."

So, what should we do? Get up and fix the roof. Get out God's Word and read it, then read it again and read it again. Read it enough so that it becomes the architectural plan for your life and your daily living. Decide that you don't want your roof to leak, that you want to protect and enjoy the life that He has granted you. Get down and pray, then pray again and pray again. Ask the Lord for a mindset and a will to be a house that offers hospitality, shelter, hope, and encouragement. Go out and be productive. Use your living experience with Christ to influence and help others. Beautify the home of your life so that those who live in broken-down houses might see the godly pleasure that exists in yours. You never know—they might inquire who your Architect is.



Are your rafters sagging? Is your house leaking? He has nails for you and boards too. And by the way—He is a Helper too. ❖