

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 2004

Is Your Concern Ratio in Balance?

In I Corinthians 10:24, Paul writes, "Nobody should seek his own good, but the good of others." This sounds as if Paul was saying that we should never be concerned with our own good, but only the good of others. Sometimes this view of self-denial is advocated as a proper view of how we should treat ourselves and others. What Paul is really saying, however, is that we should have a balanced concern for ourselves and for others. In the larger context of I Corinthians 10, Paul is addressing a social issue concerning food and what can be legitimately eaten without harming a fellow Christian's conscience. Paul establishes a guideline that incorporates a concern for the welfare of others along with a concern for ourselves. As a Christian, I should not be so self-centered and so self-absorbed with my own needs, wants, and convictions that I do not take into consideration the needs, wants, and convictions of my fellow believers, even my fellow men who are not believers. I should have a proper concern for myself, and I should have a proper concern for others.

Paul told the Philippian Christians, "Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others. Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made Himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross." (Philippians 2:4-8) Jesus' attitude and behavior balanced perfectly His concern for Himself and for others. While we may not accomplish this balance perfectly, we must endeavor to follow His lifestyle. We may wobble in our efforts. We may feel like a pendulum swinging back and forth between our personal needs which clamor for attention and the needs of others, which call out as well. We may wonder whose needs are more important and valid. We may contemplate whether we should care or even help someone else. We may experience all of these and more, yet we must look not only to our own needs but also to the interest of others.

Are you choking on the concerns of your life alone? Might there not be a bit of room to loosen the tension that can come from self-dominance? Would it help to breathe in the fresh air that comes from setting aside some of your extraneous concerns and gazing at the plight of some others? You are probably the best judge of whether you should adjust your concern ratio. If you are inclined to make sure it is in balance, take heart. Jesus kept the proper perspective on Himself and others, and He encourages us to do the same. ❖



Good Hope Masters Golf Tournament

Don't forget that the 2004 Good Hope Masters men's golf tournament will be held on **Saturday, May 8th** at Patuxent Greens Country Club in Laurel. Tee time for all players is 1pm.

Communion Schedule

During their meeting on May 13th, the Session will set the communion schedule for the month of May and for the remainder of 2004. The May date will be announced in the bulletin.

Focus on Our Missionaries: *The Huber Family in Kiev, Ukraine*

After an overnight train ride and a 2-hour van trip with our knees jammed into the seat in front of us, several of us from Kiev arrived in a small southern city this week for a 2-day meeting of our proto-presbytery of the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ukraine. Presbytery is a strange word in and of itself, but what in the world is a "proto"-presbytery? Well, let me explain so that you can get a feel for the churches here in Ukraine. Presbytery is, of course, the word we use to describe the meeting of elders from local churches in a particular region to discuss matters related to the churches of that region. Here in Ukraine, our "region" is the whole country, so people come from all around the country for these few days of meetings. We discuss all kinds of things such as the status of the churches, new possibilities for church planting, publishing, theological concerns, and people considering ordination or licensure. The great thing about the presbytery is that it is a chance for many of the leaders to come together and enjoy a few days of fellowship and labor together in the work of church-planting. There are currently ten churches and church plants in seven cities of this country.

But that still leaves "proto..." The reality is that we need to have at least three particularized churches to form an official presbytery. At this point, we only have two. The others are in the process of growing and maturing. In the meantime, we have created a proto-presbytery where we have a chance to do the work of the presbytery and demonstrate what it means to work together as Presbyterian churches.

After another overnight train ride recently, I arrived in Kharkov to worship with the church there and to serve the Lord's Supper. I didn't know it before going, but they needed me to do a baptism also. So after brushing up on the vows in Russian, we did that as well. "Ya kreshu tebya vo imya Otsa, ea Sina, ea Duxa Svatova." ("I baptize you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.") For the next few hours we fellowshiped as the body of Christ, and I met with the session to work through several issues they were facing in the church before getting on another train to head back to Kiev.

Trains and transitions are a regular part of our lives here. Over the past six months I have transitioned to another role. I am now serving as the Mission to the World (MTW) Country Director for Ukraine. This involves visiting the various cities and teams and seeking to further the growth and development of the church around the country. Lauren has also transitioned. She was doing a lot of administrative and finance work until the recent arrival of another young lady to do those jobs. This has freed-up Lauren and allowed her much more time to meet and care for various ladies here in Kiev and around the country. Our kids are also transitioning into young adults, and it has been great to see their growth. We would ask you to pray especially for our daughter Dani (12), as she has a severely herniated disc in her back as a result of a recent fall while playing basketball. We are working on it through exercise, and we will have it looked at in the States this summer. Please continue to pray for the growth of the church here and throughout Ukraine. Specifically, please pray for a two-month-old church plant that we just started in Kiev. This will be the third church in the city. We have a great team starting from scratch with door-to-door visits and Bible studies. Please pray as they seek opportunities to proclaim the great news!



Eric for all of the Hubers

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.goodhopepca.com

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May 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	3	4 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	5 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	6	7 French GG - 7:30pm	8 Building Committee at Wallers' - 7:30am Good Hope Golf Tournament - 1pm
9 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	10	11 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	12 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	13 Session Meeting at Wallers' House 7:30pm	14 French GG - 7:30pm	15
16 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	17	18 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	19 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	20	21 French GG - 7:30pm	22 Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
23 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	24	25 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	26 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	27 Info for June newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	28 French GG - 7:30pm	29
30 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	31	1 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	2 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	3	4 French GG - 7:30pm	5

Hooray! Real Estate Services Receipt Received (Finally)

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

On Wednesday morning, a persistent **Bill Davis**, armed with an amended Letter of Credit from our friends at Sandy Spring Bank, walked out of the Howard County offices with our long-awaited receipt from Real Estate Services. Now all that needs to be done to get the Site Development Plan approved is to have **Rob Vogel** submit his completed mylar plans to the county with the receipt. Hopefully, this will be accomplished before you read this newsletter.

The next step in the legal process, once the Site Development Plan is approved, is to apply for building and grading permits. There are still issues with the building, such as whether the county will require a sprinkler system and whether we wish to make any last modifications to the plan to reduce our costs. Neither of these steps should slow us down for long.

The biggest obstacles now remaining are those related to financing. Last Saturday, **Steve Gerwin** led a meeting with **Jack Waller** and **Matt Malanoski** at the Waller house to look at ways to cut our out-of-pocket expenses. Matt, who has already put in a lot of work and has been asked to make a lot of adjustments, agreed to look at the construction project and try to put expenditures into three categories. These are: (1) items that only the contractor can do; (2) items that the members of the congregation might be able to do as part of a "sweat equity" contribution; and (3) items that could be deferred if the money gets too tight.

Photos Added to Church Website

The latest addition to our church website, www.goodhopepca.com, is a "Pictures" page, currently featuring photos from the trip that was made to Burkina Faso. Photos from other church events will be added soon, so check it out—you may see yourself there!

Before the first shovel is turned and the first nail driven, there will be a congregational meeting to present the project.

This has been and will continue to be a major effort for our small congregation, but the committee members believe that it is important to remember that we are not just building so that we can have increased comfort, but so that we can be available to and reach out to others who love the Lord and to still others who will come to Him. Knowing the goal makes the trials all worthwhile. Please continue to pray. ❖