

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 2006

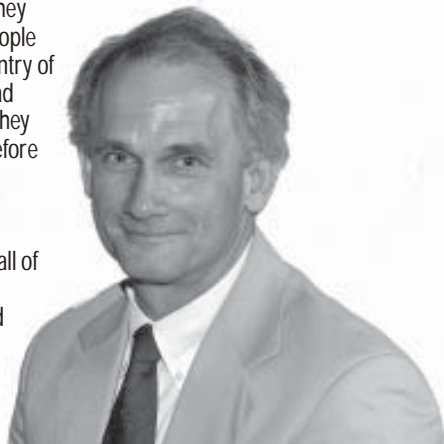
I'm Just A-Passing Through...

We are nearing the beginning of the travel season. Many people are either finalizing their summer plans or beginning to think of where they might want to go for a vacation. Some will return to the same location that they always go. Traditions and familiar places have a special place in their hearts. Others will travel to a place where they've never been before.

The Bible tells us that Christians are on a journey. Christians are like pilgrims. A hymn writer once wrote, "This world is not my home. I'm just a-passing through." The sentiment of this lyric is true, but an RV lifestyle for our entire life or camping out from the day we were born until the day we die is not attractive to most of us. We like to vacation at a familiar spot or as a break from routine. We enjoy the novel journey, but sooner or later we want to return to a settled way of life.

In the eleventh chapter of Hebrews, the writer recounts the faith of numerous Old Testament figures. He characterizes a common attribute that these people possessed when he writes, "All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them." (Hebrews 11:13-16)

We as Christians should maintain a larger perspective on all of our travel. Our journeys this traveling season, whether to favorite familiar places or adventures to new and unvisited locations, are but steps and pieces of our overarching journey. Use the oasis and restoration that the Lord provides this season to enable you to enjoy and maintain the trip to your ultimate destination. ❖



Communion Schedule

Take time to prepare your heart as we will celebrate communion with our Lord on **Sunday, May 14th**.

Come Celebrate!

All ladies are invited to a bridal shower for Laura Lynne Bender (Jacob Waller's fiancée) on **Saturday, May 20th** from 2-4pm at Barbara Petro's house (6632 Seneca Farm Road, Columbia, 410-997-3697). Jacob and Laura Lynne are registered at Target and Hecht's. For more information, please contact Beth Petro at 240-390-4812 or Claire Pottle at 410-964-3746.

Serving Our Little Ones

We are thankful for the young children that our congregation has been blessed with. Please take advantage of the opportunity to spend time with these little ones by signing up for nursery duty with **Bill or Marcy Davis**.

Focus on Our Missionaries: *The Showalter Family, Burkina Faso, West Africa*

Raphael Farma writes from the village of Obiré that they trained 76 new readers in this year's literacy campaign, and they've had 37 people pass the advanced reading course as well. This year we held classes in 19 villages, the most we've ever had, covering all of Kaan territory. Even though more participation brings with it more complications and more cost, we're happy to see growing interest in reading Kaansa, and we're particularly happy to see the local literacy volunteers manage all the details of the entire season on their own for the first time.



Since January, Cathie and I have made some big decisions regarding how to care for the current and future needs of our family, and how to continue our commitment to the Kaansa Bible translation work at the same time. Wycliffe has given us permission to work out of our home here in the Washington area for the next 2 years. This allows us to provide a needed home base for Nathanael as he makes the transition to college life and independent living, and it also means that we are close to my mother. To maintain progress in translating, I will travel to Burkina Faso two or three times a year, for a month at a time, to meet with our local translation team and our Wycliffe colleague, Gloria Scott. Cathie and I will travel together in the summers as our family situation permits. We begin this new arrangement in May, when I'm scheduled to meet with the Kaansa translation team in Ouagadougou for a week to check the Epistle of James with a translation consultant. In July, Cathie, Jesse, and I will spend 5 weeks in Burkina Faso to close out some old aspects of our lives there and to set up new aspects for the future. Our village house, for one, will need some major maintenance and renovation. Anyone want to come over and help?



We're grateful for Wycliffe's administrative flexibility in allowing us to try this new arrangement. It's easier for our kids to venture forth when they know they have a home to come back to. This summer, Esther hopes to venture forth to the Chicago area to stay with a friend and work in a flower shop. Nathanael will watch over the "home base" while working at a summer job in this area.

Thank you all for your faithful support and prayers,
Stuart for the Showalter Family

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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

May 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm Rowan Growth Group - 6pm	1	2 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	3 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	4	5 Haber Growth Group 7:30pm	6 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
7 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm Rowan Growth Group - 6pm	8	9 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	10 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	11 Session Meeting at Wallers' House 7:30pm	12 Haber Growth Group 7:30pm	13 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
14 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Communion To Be Served Sunday School - 11:00am	15	16 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	17 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	18	19 Haber Growth Group 7:30pm	20 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am Bridal Shower at Barb Petro's - 2pm
21 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm Rowan Growth Group - 6pm	22	23 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	24 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	25 Info for June newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	26 Haber Growth Group 7:30pm	27 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am
28 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm Rowan Growth Group - 6pm	29	30 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	31 Rowan/Whitehead GG 6:30pm	1	2 Haber Growth Group 7:30pm	3 Work Party at 216 Property - 8:30am

Finally, An End in Sight

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

After several years of writing this monthly update, it looks as if this may be the next to last! The date of our move into the new church building has not been set yet, but as the sign out front says, "Coming in June."

Changes evident at the time of this newsletter are the first of many tree plantings, hanging of the outside doors, curbs for the driveway and highway access lane, and insulation being installed.

Jack Waller and Matt Malanoski continue with their tireless efforts, supported by the weekend volunteers assembled by the driving force of Steve Gerwin. Painting will begin during the month of May, so be sure to have your paintbrush ready for an upcoming Saturday morning! Continue to give thanks for God's help in our project. ❖



New Resources on Church Website: All those attending the adult Sunday school class will be interested to check out a new feature on our church website. Visit www.goodhopepca.com/resources/resources.html for relevant links and materials used by the Sunday school teacher to supplement each week's lesson. Current information includes resources on the book of Judges, as prepared by Craig Higgins. ❖