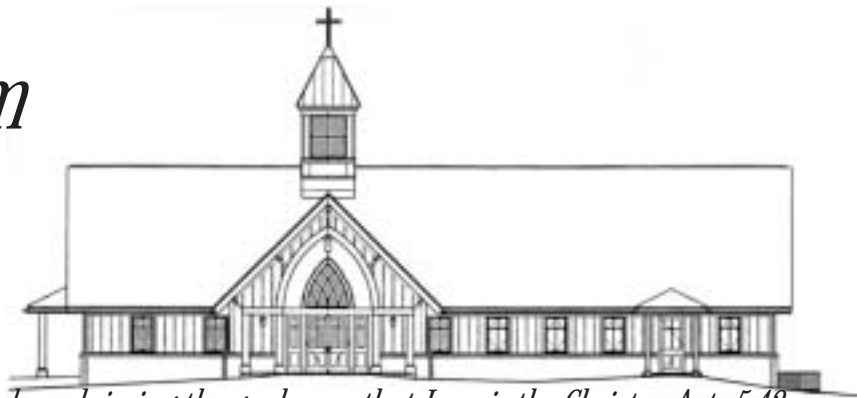


# Good News from Good Hope!



*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 ❖ May 2008*

## *God Is Our Refuge and Strength Throughout These Unsettling Times*

**A**s a society, we are experiencing some unsettling times. Economically, this is a challenging time for most people. The cost of gasoline keeps our heads on a swivel every time we pass a gasoline station. Our eyes monitor the seemingly daily increases in price. The amount of food we take away from the grocery store often looks lonely in the bottom of the bag while the number of dollars left behind at the check-out gluts the register drawer. Our wallets are lighter, but our minds are tempted to become heavier.

Politically, we're not sure where this nation is heading. The lengthened political season is already wearing, and we haven't even entered the fourth quarter of the game yet. Which way will the country turn when the final victor is crowned? Like it or not, as citizens our wagons are hooked together. We are tethered to the same rope, and this fact leaves us anxious that the lead guide could lose footing, causing us to cascade downward on a fall that we do not want to take.

Forces larger than our own nation are also in play. There are connections to global economics and global politics that we may not fully comprehend nor have the wherewithal to understand. While we may not be able to discern why the daily record of history is being written the way it is, we nonetheless sense its undercurrent and know by experience that we cannot separate ourselves from it. This connectedness may cause us consternation, but should it?

From our vantage point as Christians, we know that heaven has not divorced earth, that the Lord our God will not abandon His people nor His work in this world. As the psalmist wrote, "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea, though its waters roar and foam, and the mountains quake with their surging. There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy place where the Most High dwells. God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at break of day. Nations are in uproar, kingdoms fall; He lifts His voice, the earth melts... Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth." (Psalm 46:1-4, 10)

Remember that God is our refuge, but not in the sense that He is a place where we hide in fear, hoping that the troubles of life will not detect us. Rather He is our refuge in the sense that He puts mettle in our minds so that we can face any situation with strong confidence. We know that He is more than a match for whatever we must contend with, and because He is stronger we are safe. Be still, and know that He is God. As the winds of uncertain times blow, quiet your hearts. Be still, and know that He is God. ❖



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



**W**e were very thankful to attend your missions conference a few weeks ago to catch up with many of you and to share what is happening here on the US/Mexico border. Your new building is beautiful, but we could see that you are quickly outgrowing it. Praise the Lord!

Please continue to pray for a piece of land in Juárez for our community center to be built. As we shared with you, after 10 months of waiting to sign on a piece of land, we had to walk away because the owner could not follow through and get his co-owners to sign off. This land may still be a possibility, but our architect told us that he has three different tracts of land that he wants us to see now. Please pray that God reveals to us if any of these are what He has in store for us.

It seems that the Border Evangelism and Mercy Ministries (BEAMM) team and ministry are expanding, and we praise God for that! Over the next several weeks, we are hosting two different Mission to the World (MTW) missionary families who have an interest in joining the BEAMM team and are coming to check out the ministry. Please pray that God would reveal His will for these families and give us wisdom as we discern how these families could fit into our team. Also pray for our team members (Mayo, Gonzalez, Uc) who are moving over to Nogales, Sonora in Mexico from Juárez to begin a church plant in the fall.

Right now, we are gearing up for our summer teams. We have over 215 folks signed up to come to El Paso/Juárez and Laredo beginning mid-June. Because we don't have a short-term coordinator for Laredo, Gene is leading the team in June, and he will also help lead the July teams in Juárez. Please pray for stamina, wisdom, and especially that we will stay faithful in God's word and prayer. We cannot do this on our own! At times we feel near burnout because we get so caught up in doing everything and don't spend enough time soaking in God's word, which is where our strength will come from. In preparations for building the Peña house in El Paso this summer, our short-term coordinator Gary Whiting drove down from Colorado to coordinate two weeks of tearing down and rebuilding the outside walls. Gene was just one of the "volunteers," and he spent a lot of his time on that project. Our desire had been to produce a BEAMM short-term orientation video to help churches prepare for projects they would be involved in over the summer, but with traveling and involvement in the Peña house, we have decided to produce an enhanced short-term handbook instead.

Because of dependability and spam issues, we are moving the BEAMM website from a Windows host to a Linux host. This requires Gene to change a number of webpages for the new host, as well as heavily reorganizing certain parts of the site.

Thank you all for praying for us and for supporting us financially! As we explained at your missions conference, God is opening up many new opportunities for ministry all along the border. Of these, three include trying to raise \$110,000 to complete the church building for Iglesia La Vid (The Vine Church) in Laredo, \$30,000 for the Peña house in El Paso, and \$50,000 to match what has already been given for El Centro, CA church planter Julio Navarro. But along with these opportunities come challenges, because Satan does not want God's Kingdom to expand here on the border. Please continue to pray that God would guard us and our team from interpersonal conflicts and fatigue and allow us to love one another as Christ loved the Church. Please pray that God would provide the resources we need to minister along the border. And please pray that the Holy Spirit would open the hearts of many to receive the good news of the Gospel!

May God bestow His blessings to you all!

*Gene and LuAnn*

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

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## *Good News from Good Hope!*

# May 2008

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday  | Wednesday  | Thursday                                     | Friday  | Saturday  |
|--|--|--|--|--|---|-----------|
| <b>27</b><br>Sunday School - 9:45am<br>Worship Service - 11:00am<br>Middle School at church - 5pm<br>Evening Worship - 6:30pm<br>High School Youth Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm                              | <b>28</b><br>Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm                    | <b>29</b><br>Handchimes - 5pm<br>Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm   | <b>30</b><br>James Growth Group 7:30pm<br>High School/College Bible Study - 7:30pm | <b>1</b><br>Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm  | <b>2</b><br>May Deacons of the Month:<br>Mark Hegerle<br>Matt Malanoski | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>4</b><br>Sunday School - 9:45am<br>Worship Service - 11:00am<br><b>Communion To Be Served Friends &amp; Family Luncheon</b><br>Evening Worship - 6:30pm<br>High School Youth Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm | <b>5</b><br>Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm             | <b>6</b><br>Handchimes - 5pm<br>Jim Haber Growth Group 5:30pm<br>Mt. Airy Growth Group and Deacon Meeting 6:30pm | <b>7</b><br>James Growth Group 7:30pm<br>High School/College Bible Study - 7:30pm  | <b>8</b><br>Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm  | <b>9</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| <b>11</b><br>Sunday School - 9:45am<br>Worship Service - 11:00am   | <b>12</b><br>Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm                    | <b>13</b><br>Handchimes - 5pm<br>Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm   | <b>14</b><br>James Growth Group 7:30pm<br>High School/College Bible Study - 7:30pm | <b>15</b><br>Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm | <b>16</b>   | <b>17</b> |
| <b>18</b><br>Sunday School - 9:45am<br>Worship Service - 11:00am<br>VBS Meeting - 12:15pm<br>Middle School at church - 5pm<br>Evening Worship - 6:30pm<br>High School Youth Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm     | <b>19</b><br>Mt. Airy Growth Group - 6:30pm                    | <b>20</b><br>Handchimes - 5pm<br>Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm   | <b>21</b><br>James Growth Group 7:30pm<br>High School/College Bible Study - 7:30pm | <b>22</b><br>Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm | <b>23</b>   | <b>24</b> |
| <b>25</b><br>Sunday School - 9:45am<br>Worship Service - 11:00am<br>VBS Meeting - 12:15pm<br>Middle School at church - 5pm<br>Evening Worship - 6:30pm<br>High School Youth Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm     | <b>26</b><br>Info for June newsletter due to Kate Haber today! | <b>27</b><br>Handchimes - 5pm<br>Jim Haber Growth Group - 5:30pm   | <b>28</b><br>James Growth Group 7:30pm<br>High School/College Bible Study - 7:30pm | <b>29</b><br>Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm | <b>30</b>   | <b>31</b> |

### *Vacation Bible School Is Coming Soon!*

Mark your calendar now for **June 30<sup>th</sup>-July 3<sup>rd</sup>**, when VBS will be held at the church from 9:00am-12:30pm Monday through Thursday, with a family picnic for all on Friday, **July 4<sup>th</sup>**. Bible adventure awaits with the Veggie Tales "Pirates Who Don't Do Anything!" Anyone who is interested in helping in any way, shape, or form should contact **Cheryl Dudek** at (410) 884-6706 or pcvldudek@hotmail.com as soon as possible. Cheryl needs assistants of all ages and a prayer team, so let her know if you're willing to help with any aspect of VBS. Availability every day is not necessary!

VBS teachers and assistants will meet on **Sunday, May 18<sup>th</sup>** immediately after the morning worship service, and crew leaders will meet on **Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup>**. Bring a bag lunch for a brief chance to touch base on VBS planning.

### *Friends & Family Luncheon*

The May Friends & Family Luncheon will return to the first Sunday of the month on **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**. Plan to stay, and bring a friend!

### *Daily Schedule of Bible Readings in May*

|                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| May 1 - John 20-21  | May 17 - Acts 22-23   |
| May 2 - Acts 1      | May 18 - Acts 24-25   |
| May 3 - Acts 2      | May 19 - Acts 26-27   |
| May 4 - Acts 3-4    | May 20 - Acts 28      |
| May 5 - Acts 5      | May 21 - Romans 1     |
| May 6 - Acts 6-7    | May 22 - Romans 2-3   |
| May 7 - Acts 8      | May 23 - Romans 4-5   |
| May 8 - Acts 9-10   | May 24 - Romans 6-7   |
| May 9 - Acts 11     | May 25 - Romans 8-9   |
| May 10 - Acts 12-13 | May 26 - Romans 10    |
| May 11 - Acts 14    | May 27 - Romans 11-12 |
| May 12 - Acts 15    | May 28 - Romans 13-14 |
| May 13 - Acts 16-17 | May 29 - Romans 15-16 |
| May 14 - Acts 18    | May 30 - I Corin. 1-3 |
| May 15 - Acts 19-20 | May 31 - I Corin. 4-6 |
| May 16 - Acts 21    |                       |

### *Communion Schedule*

Take time to prepare your heart as we will celebrate communion with our Lord on **Sunday, May 4<sup>th</sup>**.