

# Good News from Good Hope!



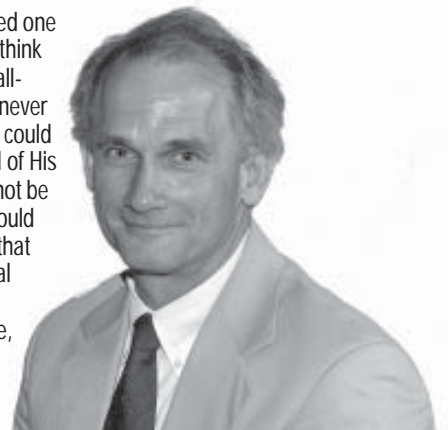
Day after day... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. ❖ Acts 5:42  
Good Hope Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ May 2009

## Are You Full of Yourself? Don't Be Afraid to Give Some Away!

When someone is said to be "full of himself," this is not a compliment that is being paid. Rather, it is a description of a person who is hung up on himself. It is implied that if the person were less self-centered, then the person would be better off. At the beginning of the gospel according to the Apostle John, he introduces Jesus as a person who is "full of grace and truth." John writes, "The Word became flesh and lived for a while among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14) We might say that Jesus is "full of himself," but if we did, we would not mean it in the way that we usually use the phrase to describe someone who is stuck on himself. Jesus is full of Himself, but His fullness is a fullness of glory, a fullness of perfection, a fullness of grace and truth. His fullness is not locked within Himself so that all that He can think about is Himself. On the contrary, He is always full of His glory, grace, and truth, yet He is always giving Himself away. He is never depleted, never drained, never diminished of His perfect glory and grace—yet He is always giving of Himself.

Christians are the recipients of this ever-giving Christ. John writes, "From the fullness of His grace we have all received one blessing after another." (John 1:16) We rejoice at how good our Lord is to us. We are thankful that He does not just think of Himself, but He thinks of us as well. Our image of Christ would be completely different if He were depicted as an all-powerful, all-knowing, completely glorious God who (though awesome) was never outwardly gracious, never giving, never interested in anyone else but Himself. Could it be that He is gracious because He is full of grace? Could it be that He could

be no other way? What about us who have received of His grace—should it not be unthinkable that we would not be gracious to others? It seems inconsistent that we could receive "one blessing after another" and then think that these countless blessings were intended for our total enjoyment alone. It seems that if He is full of grace, and if that is why I as a believer have received grace, then I who have received grace should likewise give grace to others. Don't be so full of yourself that you can't give some of your blessings away! ❖



### Communion With Friends & Family

Take time to prepare your heart as we will celebrate communion with our Lord on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Also, plan to stay for lunch and fellowship together after morning worship that day. Don't forget to bring a friend!

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

God continues to bless the BEAMM ministry tremendously. Despite poor economic conditions, God continues to uphold our support account. Despite the violence that has been occurring in many border cities, God continues to place His hedge of protection around us all. And despite an age in which God is disregarded by so many, His Spirit continues to penetrate hearts and bring them to Himself!

Ever since we arrived here on the border, we have been trying to purchase a piece of land in Juarez for a community center. God provided the money through gracious donors, but it seemed that even though we had the money, the right piece of land was not available. Well, the wait is over! On Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, Gene signed the purchase agreement for a 2-acre piece of land. We will now work with the architect to begin formulating plans to fund and build this community center. Praise God for His goodness! Pictures of this land can be seen on our website at [www.beamm.org/news.htm](http://www.beamm.org/news.htm).

Because of the violence that has occurred this past year in Juarez, we have decided to cancel our short-term teams in Juarez for 2009 and divert them to Laredo. There the teams will help the La Vid Church finish their sanctuary, along with assisting them in outreach programs in their community.



Gene is in the process of taking a distance-learning mentorship course through Mission to the World's Global Training and Development to better learn how to develop and train future leadership for BEAMM. And along with his everyday team leader responsibilities and taking the mentorship course, Gene is working very hard to learn Final Cut Express 4, a video-editing program on the Mac, to begin producing videos for the ministry. Also, in keeping our BEAMM website updated, he is embedding slideshows of pictures into web pages using Google's Picasa.

LuAnn has been very busy working at Christ the King Presbyterian Church and working as the BEAMM Administrative Assistant. She handles all the finances for the BEAMM team and our short-term teams.

We praise God for the birth of our fifth grandchild, **James Theodore Bowman**, on April 29<sup>th</sup>. As we wait for the arrival of our sixth grandchild in June, LuAnn is making preparations to travel east to help take care of the little ones for 2 weeks.

Please pray as we prepare to travel to Tucson for our BEAMM Partnership meeting in May. Alongside our regular Partnership meeting, we have offered two Vision trips to allow our partners and others interested in BEAMM to see the ministry first-hand. We will spend one day visiting our new work in Nogales, Mexico and, after the Partnership meeting, travel to the West Coast to visit the works in Mexicali and Tijuana.

The swine flu has been a recent hot topic all over the world. Here on the border, we have not heard of any cases reported. It seems to be mostly in the lower part of Mexico. But we are keeping tabs on the situation as we interact on both sides of the border and take necessary precautions. For instance, the schools on the Mexico side are closed until May 11<sup>th</sup>, so we closed our seminary. The students will continue to work at home. Please pray that this flu will be contained and end quickly.

Thank you for your encouragement to us and for your faithful support.

For His glory,  
*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.

Good Hope Presbyterian Church  
12131 Route 216  
Fulton, MD 20759  
(301) 317-1398  
www.goodhopepeca.com

## *Good News from Good Hope!*

# May 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:15pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm College/Career Group at the Rowans - 7:30-9:30pm	<b>27</b> May Deacon of the Month: Ron Goodrich	<b>28</b> Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>29</b> Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	<b>30</b> Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm
<b>3</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am <b>Communion To Be Served Friends &amp; Family Luncheon</b> Choir Rehearsal - 5:15pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm College/Career Group - 8pm	<b>4</b> Session/Deacon Joint Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	<b>5</b> Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>6</b> Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	<b>7</b> Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm
<b>10</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Choir Rehearsal - 5:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm College/Career Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>13</b> Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	<b>14</b> Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm
<b>17</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm College/Career Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>20</b> Precepts Bible Study 6:00-8:15pm McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	<b>21</b> Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> High School Growth Group at the church 4:00-6:00pm
<b>24</b> Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Choir Rehearsal - 5:30pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm College/Career Group at the Higgins - 8:00-9:30pm	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>27</b> McIver Growth Group - 7:00pm	<b>28</b> Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	<b>29</b> Info for June newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	<b>30</b>

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

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

### *Joint Session/Deacon Meeting*

The Session and Diaconate will meet jointly on **Monday, May 4<sup>th</sup>** at 7:30pm. Please pray for the leadership of our church!

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

Mark your calendar now for **July 6-10**, when VBS will be held at the church Monday through Friday from 9:00am-12:30pm. A royal Bible adventure awaits as we celebrate that "The King is Coming!" Anyone who is interested in helping in any way, shape, or form should contact **Cheryl Dudek** at (410) 884-6706 or [pcvldudek@hotmail.com](mailto:pcvldudek@hotmail.com) as soon as possible. Cheryl needs assistants of all ages as well as 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 should plan to meet with Cheryl on **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** immediately after the morning worship service, and all volunteers will meet on **Sunday, June 14<sup>th</sup>**. Bring a bag lunch for a brief chance to touch base on VBS planning.

### *Help Wanted...*

**Tim Rowan** is looking for someone to share the responsibility of teaching the high school Sunday School class. Please contact Tim at (301) 703-4066 or [tim@rowanlandscape.com](mailto:tim@rowanlandscape.com) for more information or to volunteer!