

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 ❖ November 2001

NEWS FLASH: Special Exception for Building Filed at Long Last!

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

On Tuesday, October 30, at long last, our application for a Special Exception was filed with Howard County. This document, which we had anticipated filing about one year ago, is finally in line for consideration. Patience, it is said, is a virtue. For the Christian, patience means not only accepting the will of God, but also desiring it (even when He does not do things our way in our time frame). When we say, "Thy will be done," we must understand that God's plan is His plan and not our plan. Our Creator has given us intelligence and the power to act, and we are charged with using these gifts. We must never think, however, that our intelligence or our power to act is in any way comparable to His. God has a plan, and He brings to His children what is best for them—in His own time and in His own way.

Now we must be patient again as our application waits in line. We anticipate that this approval, if it is given without major amendments to our application, will take place sometime early next year. Prior to completion of the Special Exception process, **Karl Riedel**, our architect, will submit elevations of our future structures to the county. **Bill Davis's** partner, land use attorney **David Freishtat** will track the progress of our application and make any necessary presentations to the boards responsible for approval of our application.

While all of this is going on, we must be hard at work so that we are ready to submit the papers for a building permit as soon as, and if, our Special Exception is approved. Then, it will be another 3-4 month wait until, and if, the building permit is granted. This means that on a fast track, we will not be ready for construction until April or May 2002 at the earliest. Somewhere in this time frame, we will have to make our decision to buy the property. This will occur when our current, and probably last, extension from the owners expires in March 2002. Beginning in December, we will begin to pay rent on the property. We are hopeful that we can find someone to sublease it from us until we are ready to begin construction.

As soon as we feel comfortable that our plans are fully acceptable to the staff at the county office, Karl will, with our input, begin to work on completing the plans for the build-out of the present structure. We may need to engage a contractor early in this process. We need to be thinking about interiors and furnishings and land development and much much more. It is easier to be patient when there is activity, and there will be lots of that. At our last congregational discussion, **Gus Kotting** wisely pointed out that we need to be well organized for the many tasks that now face us.

And, not least of all, we need to remind ourselves that more money will be needed. As of today, the building fund contains a total of \$274,053, including the \$5000 that is in escrow with Bill's firm. Deduct the \$95,000 that we will have to pay at closing and some costs for our civil engineer, and we will have about \$179,000 when we begin construction. This is a lot of money for a little congregation, but more will be needed as building begins.

A major, and frustratingly delayed, milestone has been passed. The building committee has a lot to do and asks that the congregation continue to pray for God's guidance and support in our efforts. ❖

Countdown to the Christmas Play!

The children are busily preparing for their December 16th production titled, "Christmas Peace in a Troubled World." All children who wish to participate should be at practice every Sunday morning at 10:55am in the choir room. Parts for the play will be assigned by November 4th.

This year's play includes a scene where Jewish families are en route to their hometowns for the taxation census. Additional costumes are needed for this scene. If you have boys' robes that can be borrowed or if you are willing to sew some simple costumes, please contact **Chris Waller**. Please remember to pray for our Christmas play. Our prayer is that "Christmas Peace in a Troubled World" will encourage the audience as well as the participants. ❖

A Weekend in West Virginia

by Mark Hegerle, Fellowship Committee

Two critical themes in the life of the believer are "Christ is the solid rock" and "Guard your heart." They also were among the thoughts that **Jack Waller** encouraged some of your Good Hope brothers and sisters to consider as we fellowshiped and worshipped together at the church retreat (October 12-14) at Camp Hemlock. These thoughts, I suspect, also entered the minds of more than a few of us as we peered over the rocky ledge and down, down, down to the valley below during an exceptionally steep, yet beautiful, hike taken by many, both young and old.

If you weren't one of the many who were able to be there, you missed a whole lot of fun, excitement, and encouragement during a near perfect fall weekend in the mountains of West Virginia. Folks streamed in by car, truck, or RV late Friday afternoon through early Saturday afternoon for one great **Tina Bailey** meal after another and a well-paced schedule of events. **Ed French** served as our master of ceremonies and tour guide, while **Steve Gerwin** gets credit for most any photo you'll see of the event.

Unlike a similar event last fall, there were absolutely no reports of frostbite this year. While not quite the Hyatt Regency, Hemlock's solid wood cabins were a more than adequate shelter for the mild temperatures, and the showers provided plenty of hot water. Brightly colored leaves, highs in the 70s, and lows in the 50s provided retreat-goers with wonderful conditions for the aforementioned daytime hiking, plus archery, football, kickball, and capture the flag. Most everyone also placed at least one piece into the jigsaw puzzles brought by **Carlette Rowan**, although it was said that aspiring pro-quarterback **Dawn Martin** gave up most of a night's sleep working on them!

Three days allowed plenty of time for fun, fellowship, and encouragement, whether on the trail or field, around the fire, or in the kitchen. While there were no serious injuries to report, it is true that several of our members reached back and reclaimed a portion of their childhood by racing around the camp on the Blacks' four-wheeler. There were reports that a certain pastor, for one, had to be pried off of the vehicle!

Rounding out the day, **Allen Bailey's** always-exceptional fires formed a terrific centerpiece for some rousing and spirited praise songs, led by Jack Waller and **Craig Higgins**. The nighttime bonfires also made for good eating (were we there for any other reason?), as the kids and adults alike gobbled up mountain pies (no, not cow pies) and well-roasted marshmallows. All in all, a better time would have been hard to find. ❖

Focus on Our Missionaries:

Steve Marusich, University of Maryland Campus Minister, Reformed University Fellowship (RUF)

Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at the University of Maryland is off to a good start this fall. After starting with two people at our very first meeting in fall 2000 (one of them being Good Hope's own **Becky Haber**), we had 18 people come to our first 2001 meeting, held outside on McKeldin Mall. Since then, our weekly study of Genesis averages a group of 15 each week. I also meet with a group of six freshmen guys to throw the football and study Christ's parables every Wednesday—not at the same time!

Kelly and I are also busy putting our house back in order. Over the summer, we moved into a house across from the university, and the tornado that hit College Park in September ripped through our backyard, destroying our minivan in the process. Yet, in the midst of it, God has been extremely good to us. Our son Jackson, the world's cutest (but sometimes orneriest) little boy, is growing all the time.

RUF exists to reach students for Christ and to equip them to serve Him in the church and in God's Kingdom. We seek to be a community of Christ that cares about the university which we are provisionally a part of. Pray that we will be able to do that and that God will bless our efforts to build meaningful relationships with students. ❖

Good News from Good Hope!

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

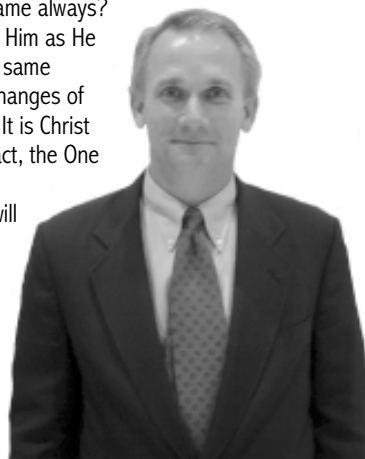
Join us for Worship at 9:30am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.
www.goodhopepca.com

November 2001						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28	29	30	31	1	2 French GG - 7:00pm	3 Men's Breakfast at Youngs' House 7:30am
4 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	5 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	6 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	7 Session Meeting at Wallers' House 7:30pm	8 Missions Committee Meeting at Wallers' House - 7:30pm	9 French GG - 7:00pm	10
11 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	12 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	13 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	14	15 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	16 French GG - 7:00pm	17 "Breakfast with Frosty" at Barb Petro's House - 8am
18 Worship Service - 9:30am Congr. Dinner - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	19 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	20 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	21 Info for December newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	22 Thanksgiving Service at Briggs Chaney Middle School 10am	23	24
25 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 5:00pm Middle School GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	26 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	27 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	28	29 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	30 French GG - 7:00pm	1

A Changing World and the Changeless One

Life is change. Sometimes I don't like change. It fatigues me. It frustrates me. It makes me adjust. At other times, I long for change. Although stable times can be restful and enjoyable for a while, life becomes boring, stagnate, dull, unprofitable, and futile without change. The writer of Hebrews states that "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." Does the writer mean that Jesus doesn't like change? Does he mean that Jesus wants things to remain the same always? No, he means that Jesus Christ is always the way He is. We know Him as He was in the past through what is revealed in Scripture. He is that same person, even in our past. He is that same person, even in the changes of our today and in the changes that will certainly come tomorrow. It is Christ who never changes who is with us through all our changes. In fact, the One who never changes provokes and incites change. He directs our changing circumstances to promote change in us, change that will make us more like Him.

Is your life changing? Are you frustrated by it? Or are you at a rest stop along the highway of change, enjoying a placid time where no hectic voices invade? Or are you feeling stuck and thinking to yourself that "something has to change?" Sooner or later, life is change, but for the Christian, it is never change without the Changeless One. ❖



Mark Your Calendar!

Thanksgiving Worship Service

Briggs Chaney Middle School
 Thursday, November 22, 2001 - 10:00am

Congregational Christmas Party

Ian and Bobbie Macdonald's House
 Saturday, December 8, 2001 - 6:52pm

Annual Christmas Play

Briggs Chaney Middle School
 Sunday, December 16, 2001 - 7:00pm

2002 Missions Conference

February 22-24, 2002
 Don't miss it—it will change your life!