

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 2002

Rest for the Weary in West Virginia: Good Hope's Annual Church Retreat

by Mark Hegerle, Fellowship Committee

More than 60 of the Good Hope faithful trekked out into the wild, wonderful woods of West Virginia in mid-October for our annual church retreat at Camp Hemlock. Being far from the Beltway took on added significance this year, when performing simple tasks such as shopping for groceries or pumping gasoline created feelings of stress and anxiety. However, for the many that could be there, the activities, beauty, and serenity of Camp Hemlock replaced the strain and fears of our once-settled (though fast-paced) lifestyles. Tummies filled with **Tina Bailey's** hot dogs and baked beans, a warm fire in the lodge (not easy with wet wood), and a gentle rain falling as we nestled into our cabins lulled us all soundly to sleep on Friday night.

Saturday morning brought welcome sunshine, a hearty breakfast (expertly cooked to order by **Jim and Theresa Rowan** and **Allen Bailey**), and our first dose of inspiration and encouragement from **Jack Waller**. Jack introduced us to the fact that, all too often, we pack the wrong activities into our crowded lives, and he encouraged us to consider doing first those things that are most important and that have the most lasting impact. Saturday was filled with all kinds of opportunities for fun and



Hiking anyone? Camp Hemlock always provides a beautiful setting to "get away from it all" and enjoy a relaxing weekend together as a church.

Time to Update the Church Roster

Tina Bailey hopes to have a new version of the church roster ready to distribute at the beginning of December—just in time for Christmas cards! Please see Tina to verify your contact information, call her at (301) 854-3452, or e-mail her at trbailey@comcast.net if you have a new mailing address, phone number, or e-mail address.

Communion Schedule

The sacrament of communion will be served as part of our worship service on **Sunday, November 3rd**. Please take time to prepare your hearts for this.

December Dates

Mark your calendar now for the following December church events:

Saturday, December 7th—Church Christmas Party

Sunday, December 15th—Children's Christmas Play
7pm at Briggs Chaney Middle School

Tuesday, December 24th—Christmas Eve Service
5pm at Tim and Beth Rowan's House

adventure, including the traditional hike up to the Rock Gardens to enjoy picturesque views of the canyon below. This one, however, included a serenade (a joyful noise???) by Jack and **Timmy Rowan** on a well-powered electric guitar that carried from camp to canyon-top. Other activities of note included the also-traditional jigsaw puzzles, archery led by range instructor **Ed French**, and pumpkin carving led by **Kari Whitehead** and **Leanne Rowan**. Of the aspiring archers, residents of Burkina Faso may eat a little better when **Cathie Showalter** takes her newfound skills back to the mission field! Another highlight was the opportunity to enjoy arguably the best-prepared pig Good Hope has ever had the privilege of eating, courtesy of expert roasters **Michael Rowan** and **Randy Whitehead**. Saturday night included some spirited singing (and dancing by the too-cute **Faith Rowan**) led by **Craig Higgins** and Jack around a roaring fire built by Ed French (and enthusiastically assisted by **Matthew and Daniel Hegerle**), Jack encouraged us, through New and Old Testament examples, of our need for rest in the Lord.

Sunday morning worship included more encouragement on our need for spiritual rest, as well as an exciting preview of what our new sanctuary may look like (thanks to Jim Rowan and **Jim Haber**), as we met in a room that is almost exactly the size of our prospective new home. After a little clean-up and another fine meal, we were on our way back home to (hopefully) put into practice a little of what we learned about rest!

Many thanks for a successful weekend go to Theresa Rowan for planning the event and to **Bobbie Macdonald** for her tasty and satisfying meals (spaghetti anyone?!). In addition, all photo credits go to resident church photographer **Ian Macdonald**. ❖

Focus on Our Missionaries: *Linda Karner in Chiba, Japan*

Thank you so much for your regular prayers and financial support, both of which enable me to be in Japan. A few things have changed since my February report. Following the visit of a team of ladies from the PCA Women In the Church (WIC) ministry, lead by Susan Hunt, a new ladies' group was started at Chiharadai Church (not yet a particular church). The group meets every first and third Wednesday and is still in the process of finding its purpose and vision. But, thanks to a bilingual "Daily Bread" devotional booklet, which we covenanted to use in July and August, there have been many lively, Bible-centered discussions! The group was started and is led by the more spiritually-mature Japanese women at Chiharadai. Please give praise to God for this group, called "Olive," which often includes non-Christians, and pray that it will continue to develop into a lively, loving, building-up of one another in the Lord.



Linda Karner with Leo, one of the boys from her "Moms and Kids" clubs.

Another change is that I have taken the helm of two adult classes that meet on Saturday mornings. These English classes last for an hour, followed by a half-hour Bible time. I am enjoying teaching adults again, and it is especially good for me to use the materials that I develop for Bible times. This semester, we are continuing our introductory Genesis series with the story of Noah. This is a rather "in your face" story of God's judgment, but it is also a beautiful picture of God Himself providing redemption for those who have faith. Please pray that God will purify my heart and use me as His instrument during the Bible time. Pray that the students would begin to understand God's free and glorious redemption for us in Christ Jesus.

A third change is that I have finally met a Jehovah's Witness who has been willing to study with me consistently. Yoshiko, a young woman who was raised as a Jehovah's Witness, comes on Friday nights, and we spend about an hour pouring over the Bible (I should say, our separate Bibles). I have long had a heart for the Jehovah's Witnesses, who are very strong in Chiharadai, but I need strength, wisdom, and love to continue in this battle. Please pray that Yoshiko will continue to come and that the Holy Spirit will move in her heart to reveal Jesus, the second Person of the Trinity, to her.

Prayer update: Mrs. Aoki's son continues to have a low-grade fever, but has returned to a more normal life. Please pray for complete healing for him.

God bless you,

Linda Karner

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 9:25am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday.
 www.goodhopepepca.com

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November 2002						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30	31	1 French GG - 7:00pm	2 Men's Breakfast at Wallers' House 7:30am
3 Worship Service - 9:25am Communion to be served Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	4	5 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	6 Tim Rowan GG 7:00pm	7 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	8 French GG - 7:00pm	9
10 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	11	12 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	13 Tim Rowan GG 6:30pm	14 Missions Committee at Wallers' House 7:30pm	15 French GG - 7:00pm	16
17 Worship Service - 9:25am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	18	19 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	20 Tim Rowan GG 6:30pm	21 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	22 French GG - 7:00pm	23
24 Worship Service - 9:25am Congregational Dinner 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 4:30pm Youth Group GG - 5:45pm Chandler GG - 6:00pm	25 Info for December newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	26	27	28 Thanksgiving Service at Briggs Chaney Middle School 10am	29	30

Thanksgiving Isn't Just for Turkeys: Let Us Give Thanks Today!

Thanks is a response to someone else for something they have given to us. If we have not been given anything by someone else, then there is no need to respond with thanks. If we have been given something, then thanksgiving should be our response.

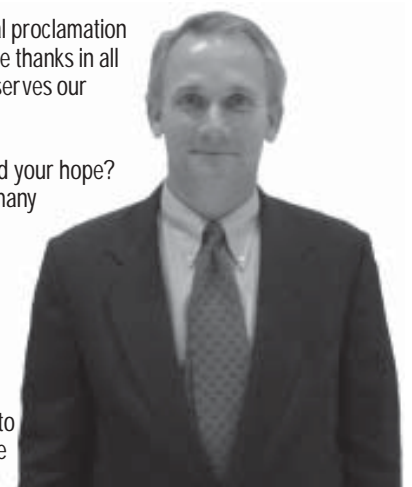
In our nation, we are blessed with a historic precedent for thanksgiving that dates back to the Pilgrims. Having endured their struggle for survival, the Pilgrims gave thanks to God for His sustenance and aid. There is further precedent for thanksgiving in the Bible. The LORD established a yearly celebration of the harvest (Deuteronomy 16:9-12). Each year, the Israelites were to assemble in a special celebration and give thanks to the LORD for the harvest He had given.

Today, we are not required to assemble by Old Testament or New Testament regulations, nor are we required by national proclamation to assemble and give thanks. Yet, there are numerous Biblical exhortations to give thanks to God. In fact, we are to "give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus" (1 Thessalonians 5:18). There is ample evidence that He deserves our thanks. Our thanks should never be exhausted because His giving to us is never suspended.

Has God given you anything? Has He sustained you through struggle? Has He lifted you from defeat? Has He restored your hope? Has He shown you mercy? Has He extended His love to you? You and I would certainly have to say that He has given many things to us. So, what should we do? Give thanks.

Take some time to contemplate what He has given you. Stop and think about it. Let the perusal of what God has given you stimulate you to give thanks. May what you have been so graciously given in Christ, in family, in home and hearth draw from you an overwhelming tide of thanks.

P.S. While it is not mandatory that we assemble like the Israelites or the Pilgrims, we will, nonetheless, assemble for a **Thanksgiving Service on Thursday, November 28th at 10:00am at Briggs Chaney Middle School.** Don't wait to give thanks to God until then, however! Let us now practice improving our thanksgiving and then come together to share the fruit of our thankfulness. ❖



Our Precious Toddlers and Our Precious Teachers

by Kathy Haber, Sunday School Correspondent

If you were looking for a church, what would you look for? Of course, you would want to find a church where the Scriptures are faithfully preached, the people have a genuine love for Christ and a desire to obey Him, and the members serve each other and carry each other's burdens (from *Living in Christ's Church* by Edmund P. Clowney, © 1986). And if you had young children, what else would you want? Wouldn't you want a church where your children would be loved and deemed important, and where you would find help as you teach them the great truths of our faith?

Victoria Chandler and Karen Crago bring these elements to their Sunday School class—the Toddler class. The Toddler classroom has two age groups in it. Victoria teaches the just-turned 3-year olds, Hannah, Eliot, and Kara, while Karen cares for the babies, Lauren and Madison.

Victoria considers it a privilege to teach these young children. By having three toddlers in a row herself, she feels she has developed a real understanding of this age group, and she has felt a growing calling to teach these children. She wants the children in her class to learn Bible verses and Biblical truths that will serve as the basis for a "Biblical worldview and a life of continued growth in Christ." Her hope is that the truths she teaches "will be the beginnings of a rock-solid foundation that, as they age and as the trials of this life fall upon them, will help them to rest in peace in God and in His character and His plan of redemptive history."

Victoria's preparation for every class begins with prayer. Victoria prays for each child, that each one would listen and comprehend. She prays for their families. She prays that she would be able to present the lesson in an understandable way. Then she reads the appropriate passages and tries to tailor the lesson to her young children's minds. After the basic structure is in place, she practices telling the story several times.

The class begins with the Bible lesson. She brings props that will attract and hold attention and encourage understanding—a toy ark and animals to demonstrate a lesson about Noah or a tent to tell about Abraham's journey. After the Bible story, they work on a memory verse and a question from the *Catechism for Young Children*. She uses the catechism to teach simple, but profound truths. "Who made you? God." "Why did God make you...? For His own glory."

Congregational Dinner

Every year on the Sunday prior to Thanksgiving, Good Hope has a congregational dinner. This year will be no different. After the morning worship service on **Sunday, November 24th**, we will enjoy dinner together. The historic purpose of this dinner has been to give thanks to God for the establishment of Good Hope as a particular church. This year will be **Good Hope's 10 year anniversary!** As a part of the dinner that morning, we will pay special recognition to this milestone.

Building Fund Pledge Drive

During the congregational meeting on October 20th, the following action was taken: "The Congregation, pending the results of the pledge cards, recommends that we undertake the building of Phase One of the plan presented to the Howard County government—the renovation of the current house into a place of worship and activity for our church."

Pledge cards and an explanatory letter will be mailed soon. Please prayerfully consider what your part should be, and respond accordingly.



Good Hope is blessed to have such dedicated Sunday School teachers! Thanks to Karen Crago and Victoria Chandler for their faithful work with Madison Crago, Lauren Chandler, Hannah Bentz, Eliot Chandler, and Kara Davis.

Next, Karen leads the whole class in singing. Usually she sings "God Is So Good," and she inserts each child's name into the last line. The singing is an enjoyable and meaningful addition to the class, as "the children love hearing their own name, and it makes them feel special." Victoria likes to end the class by letting the 3-year olds color. She uses that time to review the Bible story, the memory verse, and the catechism.

Later, Victoria evaluates her teaching. "If the children listen well, and they have grasped two or three truths about God's character or His plan in redemptive history," then she is satisfied. Occasionally, she has the experience of all good teachers—a lesson that she thought was very well planned will fall apart in some way or not hold their attention. But she is growing in her knowledge of this age group and figuring out their interests.

When asked how our church can help her, Victoria answered. "Pray for these children. Though they spend much of their time in the nursery, don't forget that they are an integral part of our covenant community. Get to know them. Continue to serve in the nursery."

As a church, we are blessed to have such talented and capable teachers—teachers who love our little children and consider them important, teachers who desire to teach the foundational truths of our faith. We are blessed to have Victoria Chandler and Karen Crago. ❖