

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 2003

Continued Building Progress...

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

At our October building committee meeting, you could feel the excitement as the group realized, after a long frustrating period, that the building project is actually going to happen, and now it's just a matter of adjusting the pieces and continuing to pray and work hard. We also realize that the resources which we have been able to accumulate with the wait and the appreciation in the value of the land were necessary. We are in good hands, even though our patience is not always up to the task.

Howard County again rejected our site plan, but this time the changes are more in the form of typos and will be easy to adjust. Because extensive changes were made on the second submission, **Rob Vogel** had warned us that rejection of this sort is commonplace. The plan is to re-file on November 12th and begin the wait again, which could be as long as 45 days.

Although not completely satisfied with the plans for lighting the walkways and parking lot, the committee decided not to modify them at this time. It is believed that later additions will not be any more costly because of this deferral, and they will not be of a scale that requires re-approval by the county. **Bobbie Macdonald** was volunteered to begin the search for lighting fixtures, and **Jack Waller** gave an estimate of the size of chairs that we will need. **Steve Gerwin** presented us with the specs that he will use to bid the site development project, and his preliminary estimate is that this will cost \$400,000. **Jim Haber** and **Matt Malanoski** reported that the modifications made to the architectural plan, our architect, increase the functionality and beauty of the building. Unfortunately, they will also increase its cost. Matt was asked about the cost estimates and said that they would remain very crude until subcontractors bid on them.



The architect was planned to talk about the cost issues and to see if, if any, he could make to keep his beautiful and functional building at the price down into a range that we can manage. An appointment will be to firm up the cost estimates and meet with the congregation to ask you to reconsider your pledges to the future sanctuary. We believe that the congregation will grow and with it will come the realization that paying for this part of the plan is a responsibility of those who are now contributors to the church and that money from future members, if any, should be primarily directed towards Phase II of the building plan. Continue to pray! ❖

Scenes from Camp Hemlock 2003



The Pros and Cons of Thankfulness

"Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."
(1 Thessalonians 5:18)

There are many valuable benefits that come from being appropriately thankful. And there are many detriments that come from being ungrateful. Consider the following five pairs of contrasting benefits and detriments.

First, thankfulness sweetens a person's disposition. Ingratitude sours a person and opens him up to bitterness. The ungrateful person feels cheated. The grateful person is glad for whatever comes his way.

Secondly, a thankful person is sensitive towards God because he recognizes the true source of all that he has. In recognizing God as the true source, the thankful person acknowledges the circumstances of his life and the contributions of other people to his life as instruments in God's hand. The thankless person is callous, disappointed, and narrow-minded. What he has is measured by a false standard which says that all I possess is from my own hand. He thinks others who contribute to his well-being are simply paying off the debt that they owe him. This person thinks that no thankfulness is required.

Thirdly, a thankful person is a secure person. He is aware of the loving, providing hand of his heavenly Father. He lives with a thankful anticipatory heart which ever reminds him that his needs will be taken care of in every necessary way. Unlike the secure person, the ungrateful person is insecure. There are no celebrations of the gracious hand of God upon his life. Rather, the thankless person lives with the shaky hope that he will not fall into a situation that will be too large for his independent ability.

Fourthly, along with being secure, the thankful person sees himself as rightly sufficient. That is, he knows that he has been given abilities that are to be used to meet his needs and obligations, yet he knows that these resources do not completely cover all his needs. Therefore, he rests assured that the One who has initially equipped him spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and physically will come to his aid when warranted. The ungrateful person has no such confidence, but is limited to his self-sufficiency.

Lastly, the thankful person is an insightful person. With God-given eyes, he sees and acknowledges with gladness his Lord and Savior, his Shepherd and King, his heavenly Father who is caretaker of all his needs. The thankless person is dulled by his limited world. His eyes do not see the vast resources of the God who could be his. Blinded to live in his world of chance, he ungratefully stumbles through life.

I have mentioned only five contrasting pairs of benefits and detriments that come from being thankful or thankless. You can probably expand this list many times. And you can probably see the enormous benefits of being thankful. So what will it be for you? Will it be the shrinking, suffocating world of ingratitude or the ever satisfying and expanding world of great gratitude to your God and Savior? The answer seems obvious!! ❖



Upcoming Thanksgiving Events

Congregational Dinner
Briggs Chaney Middle School
Sunday, November 23rd
11:00am

Thanksgiving Service
Briggs Chaney Middle School
Thursday, November 27th
10:00am

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.goodhopepeca.com

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November 2003

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

Retreat to Camp Hemlock—A Wonderful Time Was Had By All!

