

# Good News from Good Hope!



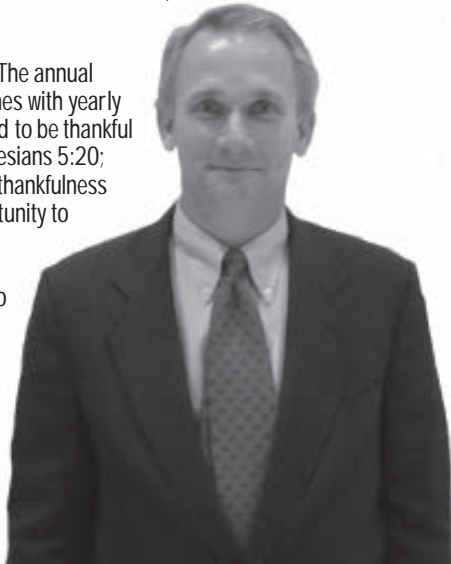
Day after day... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. ❖ Acts 5:42  
Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ November 2004

## Thanksgiving—Not Just Rote Repetition

**R**epetition does not have to become rote. It does not have to any more than saying “I love you” to the ones we love. When we vocalize our love to our wife, husband, son, daughter, or parent, it does not necessarily have to sound wooden just because we have expressed our love to them a thousand times before or ten thousand times before. Love is like that—the more you express it, the better you feel, and the more the person you love hears your loving voice, the gladder he or she is. Repetition does not have to become rote.

Thanksgiving bears similar hallmarks to expressing love. The psalmist said, “Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not His benefits. Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His mercy endures forever.” (Psalm 103:1-2; Psalm 106:1) Repetitive thanksgiving is something we expect when we perform repetitive tasks for those we love. Even when we perform small overtures, such as letting another car go before us when it is our turn to proceed, we recoil if the person seems ungrateful or indifferent to our kindness. We do not mind being thanked repetitively, for being thanked demonstrates that we have value, and our efforts are respected. We do not perform our duties so that we might be thanked, but when we are not appreciated for our work, it dampens our desire to do more, and it sullies our relationships.

Repetition does not have to become rote. The annual holiday of Thanksgiving is upon us. It comes with yearly regularity. Although we are rightly obligated to be thankful for everything and all circumstances (Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18), consider repetitive thankfulness and the holiday of Thanksgiving an opportunity to express more intently, more fully your appreciation. Take the generous opportunity to thank the Lord for all His benefits to you—the benefits of life, of salvation in Christ, of love for family, friends, and neighbors. Thank the Lord for all that He has given to you and all that lies before you. It does not have to be done in a rote or dull manner. With a few moments of honest reflection on the blessings that He has given to you, you will be joyfully thanking Him. ❖



## Building Budget Exceeded!

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

**A**t the building committee’s first official meeting in the project shell on Scaggsville Road, **Bill Davis** reported that contributions to the building fund so far this year have exceeded budget! Through the fourth Sunday in October, \$91,000 had been received for the building fund, surpassing the \$90,000 pledged and budgeted for the entire year. Praise the Lord, and keep on giving! Maybe we can break the \$100,000 mark before the end of 2004...

By the time the rest of the committee arrived for the chilly morning meeting, **Jack Waller** already had a fire blazing and coffee brewing. His report on the efforts of the demolition crew was more visual than oral. The majority of the inside demolition work has been finished, and the building is a skeleton. (Very appropriate for this Halloween!)

Yet to be completed before construction begins are a few last contracts and permits, but **Matt Malanoski** believes that it may be possible for us to be in the building for Christmas 2005. **Steve Gerwin** reported that the paving contract has been signed, and the grading permit is in its final stages. The site plan will have to be resubmitted with those changes necessitated by the addition of a sprinkler system to the plan. Matt reported that he is down to a choice between two sprinkler experts and not far from making his decision. When the amended site plan is submitted, it will be 2 or 3 weeks of waiting for re-approval. We continue to be blessed! ❖

### *Make A Joyful Noise!*

The musical ensemble will meet and sing together on **Sundays, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>** from 8:45-9:20am. Everyone is invited to participate!

## Focus on Our Missionaries: *Steve and Kelly Marusich, University of Maryland*

**T**hings on the University of Maryland campus are going well this fall for Reformed University Fellowship (RUF). We continue to have new people coming to our Monday night large group meetings, where we are studying various Psalms this semester. So far, I have counted about 22-25 people who have “checked us out.” We are finding now that our problem is no longer publicity but retention. Some of these new folks have continued coming, but others have come once or twice and, at least for now, have not returned.

This really brings to light a problem that has been growing in the Maryland RUF group for a couple of years. We have become a very comfortable place—and in many ways this is good—but, in the process, we have almost completely lost our outward focus. To remedy this, we are gathering some of our more outwardly-focused students to pray and brainstorm as to how we might be more welcoming to newcomers and to pray for the concerns of the group and the campus as a whole.

We just had our fall retreat along with Lehigh, Millersville, Penn State, and Towson Universities. The subject was “Being Right with God,” and several students have reported being challenged in how they think about their standing with God on a daily basis and how they relate to one another. Pray that God would use these talks, our small groups, and large group teaching in the lives of these students.

Kelly and I and our two boys continue to do well. We are enjoying Jackson’s first year in kindergarten and Eli’s last year at home before he will start pre-school for a couple of half-days next fall. Though at times they are a challenge, they continue to be a joy to us. Jackson is earning quarters for learning the Shorter Catechism and various scripture verses.



Eli, Kelly, Steve, and Jackson Marusich work with Reformed University Fellowship (RUF) at the University of Maryland.

Thank you for your continued prayers for RUF at the University of Maryland, as well as for the Marusich family!

*Steve Marusich*

*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.goodhopepeca.com

## November 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Daylight Savings Time Ends Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm	1	2 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	3 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	4 Missions Committee 7:30pm Men's Basketball 8-10pm	5 French GG - 7:30pm	6 Building Committee at Route 216 7:30am
7 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Fall Picnic at Route 216 4:30pm	8	9 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	10 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	11 Session/Deacon Meeting at Wallers' House - 7:30pm	12 French GG - 7:30pm	13
14 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	15	16 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	17 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	18 Men's Basketball at Briggs Chaney Middle School 8-10pm	19 French GG - 7:30pm	20 Building Committee at Route 216 7:30am
21 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Communion To Be Served Thanksgiving Meal - 11am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	22	23 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	24 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	25 Thanksgiving Service at Briggs Chaney Middle School 10am	26 Info for December newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	27
28 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	29	30	1	2	3	4

## *Inaugural Good Hope Fall Classic Lives Up To Its Grand Title*

*by Mark Hegerle, Fellowship Committee*

On an October day when rain threatened all day but never came, five teams of golfers took up the challenge of the first annual Good Hope Fall Classic golf tournament. In the end, the event lived up to its lofty name.

Four of the five teams finished within two strokes of each other, with a 68, 67, and a pair of 66s. Yes, just like the spring tournament, two teams tied for the lead again, and again with scores of 66. And yes, **Peter Haber** again found himself on the putting green to try and break the tie, this time against **David Hinch**, representing teammates **Brian Beach**, **Ian Macdonald**, and **Jack Waller**. **Mitch Black** officiated the dual, assigning the pair to tackle some incredibly long putts to decide the championship. After two holes, it was decided—Peter kept his cool, made the critical putts, and led his teammates **Bill Davis**, **Craig Smith**, and **Mark Hegerle** to victory, the team's second of the year.

While the team trophies stayed in the hands of the Haber team, two newcomers claimed the skill competition prizes. Team runner-up **Brian Beach**, Dr. Mac's son-in-law, took home the closest-to-the-pin trophy, and **Gary Garland**, a friend of **Randy Whitehead**, claimed bragging rights to the longest drive.

Next up—a possible winter round, I mean “men's retreat” in Ocean City. How are those plans coming along, Tim and Mitch? ❖



Congratulations to reigning Good Hope golf tournament champions Mark Hegerle, Peter Haber, Craig Smith, and Bill Davis.

### *Fall Picnic at Route 216*

Members and friends are invited to a fall picnic on **Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup>** at 4:30pm at the church property on Route 216 in Fulton. **Chris Waller** is coordinating this event, so please talk to her about what you can bring.

### *Congregational Dinner*

Join us for our yearly Thanksgiving dinner after the worship service on **Sunday, November 21<sup>st</sup>**. Stay tuned for information in the bulletin about the category of food that you should bring.

### *Thanksgiving Baskets*

Nonperishable food items and monetary donations are now being collected for our annual Thanksgiving baskets for less for fortunate families. These items can be given to **Bill Davis** or **Mark Hegerle**.

### *Thanksgiving Service*

A Thanksgiving service will be held at Briggs Chaney Middle School on **Thursday, November 25<sup>th</sup>** at 10:00am.

### *Congregational Meeting*

The Session has called a congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>** after the morning worship service. The purpose of this meeting is to hear a presentation of the annual budget and to act on changes to the pastor's terms of call.

### *Church Christmas Party*

Mark your calendar now for **Saturday, December 11<sup>th</sup>** for the church Christmas party at Mac and Bobbie Macdonald's beautifully decorated home! More details to follow later . . .

### *Children's Christmas Play*

This year's Christmas play is titled, "Christmas Expectations—More or Less?" and will debut on **Sunday, December 19<sup>th</sup>**.

Since a large number of actors will portray Bethlehem residents and other biblical characters, we are in need of more robes this year. If you can donate or lend robes, please speak to **Chris Waller**. Parents, please have your children present and on time for rehearsal every Sunday, and practice the songs at home during the week!

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