

Good News from Good Hope!

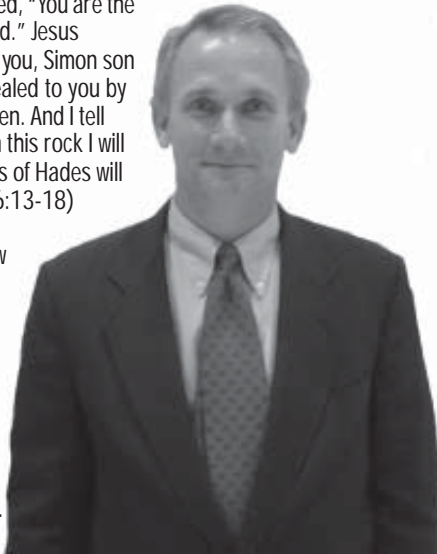


Day after day... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. ❖ Acts 5:42
Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ November 2005

Jesus Is the Church's True Builder

The church is being built by Jesus, the human son of the virgin Mary, the eternal Son of the living God. Jesus asked His disciples who people thought He was. They told Him that some people thought He was John the Baptist, some thought He was Elijah, some thought He was Jeremiah, and others thought He was one of the prophets. Jesus asked His disciples who they thought He was. Peter answered, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus replied to Peter, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven. And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matthew 16:13-18)

We are currently building a new building where part of the church that Jesus has built and is still building will meet. We are thankful for the opportunity to build our building. We are even more thankful that Jesus is building His church, and we are part of it. Let us build on, for He too builds on. One day both will be complete... ❖



Major Milestone Now Behind Us

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

With the pouring of cement into the forms that were so carefully prepared by Jim Haber, a major milestone was passed towards finishing the retaining wall and access ramp for our new church building. With the completion of the foundation, our contractor Matt Malanoski can get down to serious business. Also, after a frustrating wait, the final two trusses needed to elevate the sanctuary roof have arrived. In other developments, the 40x8-foot tank for the sprinkler system has been installed and is ready to accept water as soon as it is found. The first drilling for the well went down 700 feet, but did not yield sufficient flow. Additional drilling will be done to find an adequate supply. Widening of Route 216 to allow an access lane will begin shortly.

Led by Steve Gerwin and Jack Waller, the faithful volunteer work crews continue their efforts. This Saturday, November 5th will require a lot of bodies, but then things should slow down for a while. Continue to pray for the project, but especially for water and for Matt. ❖

Make a Joyful Noise!

We greatly appreciate the faithful musical ensemble that has helped the congregation learn fifteen new songs so far! Special Christmas music is now being planned. If you can add your voice to the ensemble for this holiday season, please join us at 8:45am each Sunday morning.

Focus on Our Missionaries: The Huber Family in Kiev, Ukraine

This year started with chaos and yet with hope. We were in the midst of the political revolution in Ukraine. It was messy, but we were all full of hope for the country and for the church of Christ. So now I look back at the year and wonder, where is that hope?

There are just a few more months in this year, but I can tell you without question that this has been the most difficult year of our ministry in Ukraine, except for all of the adjustments of the first year. Our team has been hit hard, as has our family and our ministry. In our team there has been a seemingly unending series of serious medical situations, several of which required evacuation for surgery or even emergency surgery here in Ukraine. Several of our Ukrainian church planters were burned in an accident in the spring. The daughter of one church planter has just been diagnosed with a form of cancer. Several on our team have suffered from fatigue and elements of depression.

Our family has been hit as well. Dani has had two surgeries on her back this year, and I have had one on my knee. We have been traveling, separated, and discouraged throughout the year. I have been exhausted with the concerns of a complex ministry, and Lauren has struggled to care for a hurting family.

On the ministry side, we have seen some progress, but we have also seen churches struggling to grow. We have watched several key leaders implode spiritually. And we are facing some of our most challenging decisions as a young denomination over the next few months. And as for the country, well, things have not gone as smoothly or changed as fast as one would have liked.

So here is the question. Does any of this sound familiar? Well, if you ask me, it sounds a lot like the churches and people of the New Testament! Sometimes we hear people say they wish they could have a New Testament church. Well, when I read the New Testament, I see churches, individuals, leaders, and missionaries with lots of problems. I guess I am not glad that those problems existed in the New Testament, but at least I am comforted in knowing that we are not alone in struggling.

But here is the thing... Paul and the other writers of the New Testament were never content with problems. They labored with all of their strength to see love and growth in the churches. They never dismissed problems as a matter of life to be merely tolerated and endured, but they did their utmost to usher the reign of the Kingdom of God into the hearts of men. They tackled the problems in their teaching and lives, but also in their prayers. And here, I think, is a key.

Will I pray for this work? Will I express my heart to our Lord and cry out to Him for justice, peace, grace, and protection? Will I wrestle with Him? Or will I use my utter conviction of God's sovereignty as a subtle excuse not to labor in prayer? I need to pray. I need to hope. I need to wrestle. And we need you to pray as well.

Blessings to you,

Eric and Lauren Huber



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 2005

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

Fall Picnic at Route 216

Don't miss the annual fall picnic on **Sunday, November 6th** at 4:45pm at the church property on Route 216 in Fulton. Please talk to **Chris Waller** about what you can bring.

Congregational Dinner

Join us for our yearly Thanksgiving dinner after the worship service on **Sunday, November 20th**. Stay tuned for information in the bulletin about the category of food that you should bring.

Thanksgiving Service

A Thanksgiving service will be held at Briggs Chaney Middle School on **Thursday, November 24th** at 10:00am.

Church Christmas Party

Mark your calendar now for **Saturday, December 10th** for the church Christmas party at Mac and Bobbie Macdonald's beautifully decorated home! More details to follow later...

Can It Be "Time for Christmas" Already?

This year's Christmas play titled, "**Time for Christmas**" will explore the idea that Christmas should be celebrated even in troubled times. In fact, Jesus came to a troubled world "at just the right time" to meet our greatest need.

The main characters of our 2005 play, the middle schoolers, contributed much to the ideas and even wrote some of their own lines. Their enthusiasm is exciting!

Any high schoolers or adults who wish to contribute, please see **Chris Waller**. There is a place for you too! Parents especially can help by bringing your children each Sunday. Avoid Saturday night sleepovers! It's true, Mrs. Waller has even been quoted as saying, "You need a doctor's excuse to miss a practice." Because we have practice only once a week, your child's attendance is crucial. Mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 18th** and plan to enjoy "Time for Christmas."