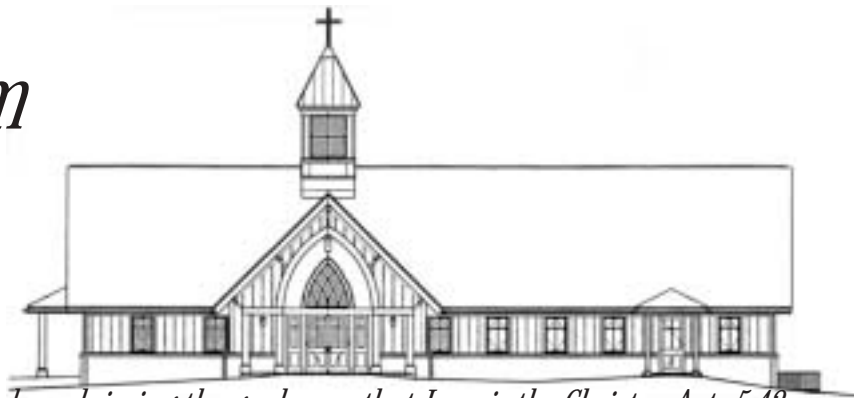


Good News from Good Hope!



*Day after day... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. ❖ Acts 5:42
Good Hope Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ November 2008*

Thanksgiving: It's More Than Just One Thursday Each November

An old story is told of a man who was encouraged by a friend to tell his wife that he loved her. The man replied that he had already told her once. In his mind once was enough. He said it. He meant it, and it did not need to be repeated. What do you think? If a man tells his wife only once that he loves her, is that enough? If a man has to repeatedly tell his wife that he loves her, doesn't that call into question his integrity? Doesn't that question whether he meant it the first time? Of if a man has to repeatedly tell his wife that he loves her, does that mean that there is something wrong with his wife that once does not seem to be enough for her? Is she insecure?

On the other hand, aren't there so many things about a wife that a husband loves that one statement could never cover them all? Isn't one blanket declaration insufficient because of the multitude of ways a wife continues to demonstrate her love towards her husband which should rightly evoke expressions of love for her?

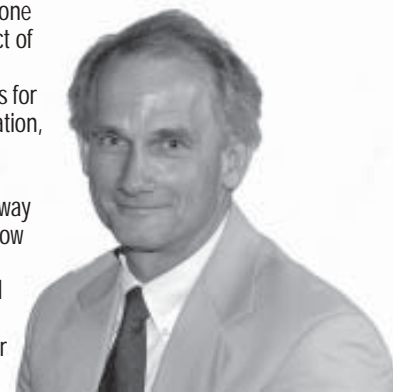
Could my musings about vocalizing love also be applied to giving thanks? They can. In our society virtually everyone knows that the holiday of Thanksgiving occurs in November. Most everyone knows the story behind this holiday. The leaders of the pilgrims of New England called their fellow pilgrims together for a feast of thanksgiving to God for His faithfulness, protection, provision, and aid in helping them settle into their new land. That original day of thanksgiving was eventually turned into an annual celebration of Thanksgiving, but should it have been? Wasn't once enough? Or is thanksgiving like a muscle that you need to continually use? Isn't it a good exercise to remember where you came from and upon whose shoulders you stand? And what about thanksgiving, not only for the survival of the original members of your nation, but the countless provisions of God from then until now? I know that thankfulness should be a characteristic that resides within each of us and that it should be woven into the fabric of our minds and hearts. But I also wonder if there is an aspect of thankfulness that is used up each time you give

Be an Angel This Christmas!

Angel Tree provides us at Good Hope with an opportunity to share Christ's love by helping to meet the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of the families of prisoners. Angel Tree works by connecting parents in prison with their children through the delivery of Christmas gifts, helping these kids experience the joy of knowing that their parents haven't forgotten them. Don't miss this opportunity to reach out and be a part of Angel Tree! Please contact **Ed French** or **Faye Gerwin**, or sign up this Sunday at the Angel Tree table in the Fellowship Hall.

thanks? Think of giving thanks as a commodity. When anyone expresses thanks to the Lord or to someone else, that act of thanks is used up. Another act of thanks must be used in response to another item that is given to you, whether it is for the continuing effect of a previous gift, such as your salvation, or a brand new item that is given to you.

We know that there is not a husband alive who could get away with telling his wife only once that he loved her. We also know that giving thanks once will not suffice, nor living off past expressions of thanks. We must give thanks currently and chronically. "Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits." (Psalm 103:2) "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; His love endures forever." (Psalm 106:1) ❖



Focus on Our Missionaries: *Gene and LuAnn Bowman in El Paso, Texas*

Here it is almost the end of 2008... This has been one of our busiest years yet since we moved here to the US/Mexico border. Believe it or not, this was supposed to be our home ministry assignment (HMA) year, but our responsibilities were too great to take a year off to visit supporters and find some down time. It seems that our ministry is growing, and it is more demanding each year!

We did fit in a lot of travel this year, visiting seven churches (including Good Hope), attending a Southwest Presbytery meeting in Scottsdale, Arizona, as well as two Southwest Church Planting Network meetings in Dallas, Texas, attending a BEAMM Partnership meeting in San Diego, a BEAMM long-term planning retreat in Cloudcroft, New Mexico, and a Ligonier conference in Scottsdale again. Gene also led two teams in Laredo in March and June, along with visiting our newest BEAMM church plant in Nogales, Sonora in October. And of course, a number of folks who were either visiting or assisting in the ministry stayed in our home.

We had a very busy summer, hosting around 200 short-term team members who worked in El Paso and Juarez. Special thanks to your Vacation Bible School students for raising the money to buy the front door for the Peña family's new home! This aggressive project of building a home for this family has been a real blessing. The family has continued to attend the Las Tierras Community Church and also a Bible study with Manuel Padilla. Now that the Vaughn family has joined us, Jeff will probably take over that particular Bible study. He will also be studying demographics and observing the Montana Vista area on the far-east side of El Paso for ways to start a church in that area.



We did fit in a week's vacation in September with our oldest daughter Jen and her family. Our time in Destin, Florida was relaxing, and we thoroughly enjoyed spending time with our granddaughter, Haley. Unfortunately, it was TOO SHORT! Speaking of grandchildren, our son Mark and his wife Amy are expecting their first child at the beginning of May. And our daughter Sara and her husband Sean are expecting their fourth in the middle of June. That makes six grandchildren for us, Lord willing.

Our BEAMM treasurer Martha Mayo has resigned because she wants to work alongside her husband as they oversee the new church plant in Nogales. LuAnn volunteered to take over Martha's responsibilities. Please pray for LuAnn as this adds even more duties to her already-busy schedule.

Please pray for us as a couple. With the ministry expanding (Praise God!) it seems that the "work" is never done. We have become workaholics and really need to take more time to just have fun. We need to find a couple or two (outside of our team) that we can hang out with and relax.

Thank you for your encouragement to us and for your faithful support.

For His glory,
Gene and LuAnn

Join us for Sunday School at 9:45am and Worship at 11:00am each Sunday.
Evening Worship is held each Sunday at 6:30pm.

Good Hope Presbyterian Church
12131 Route 216
Fulton, MD 20759
(301) 317-1398
www.goodhopepeca.com

Good News from Good Hope!

November 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	27	28 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm Handchimes - 7pm	29 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	30 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	31 <u>November Deacons:</u> Bill Davis Joseph Haber	1 VBS "Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" Movie Night at the church - 7:00pm
2 Daylight Saving Time Ends Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Friends & Family Luncheon Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	3 Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	4 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm Handchimes - 7pm	5 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	6 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	7	8
9 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	10	11 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm Handchimes - 7pm	12 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	13 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	14	15
16 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Communion To Be Served Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	17	18 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm Handchimes - 7pm	19 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	20 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	21	22
23 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Middle School at church - 5pm Evening Worship - 6:30pm High School Youth Group at the Higgins' - 8:00-9:30pm	24	25 Info for December newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	26	27 Thanksgiving Service at the church 10:00am	28	29 Christmas Decorating Day at the church

"Back to the Past" This Christmas!

Parts have now been chosen, and plans for our 2008 Christmas play are moving right along! "Back to the Past" takes a group of futuristic middle schoolers back in time to explore the true meaning of Christmas. Our older elementary school students will enact scenes from 2008 and 1950, while younger elementary students will portray colonial characters. Finally, the time machine lands in Bethlehem, where the true story of the first Christmas is enacted by children of all ages.

In addition to a vital set-up and take-down crew that is still needed, the following costumes and props are being sought: Futuristic clothing and wigs; poodle skirts; colonial-era long skirts for small girls; mop caps; coonskin caps; pretend rifles; baskets; and aprons. If you can help in any way, please see **Chris Waller!** Mark your calendar for **Sunday, December 14th** at 7:00pm, and continue to pray for the Lord to be glorified through this outreach. ❖

Time To Fall Back!

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday night, November 1st, in observance of **Daylight Saving Time**.

Friends & Family Luncheon

Plan to stay for lunch and fellowship together after morning worship on **Sunday, November 2nd**. And bring a friend!

Daily Schedule of Bible Readings in November

November 1 - Deuteronomy 9-10	November 16 - Joshua 1-3
November 2 - Deuteronomy 11-12	November 17 - Joshua 4-5
November 3 - Deuteronomy 13-14	November 18 - Joshua 6-7
November 4 - Deuteronomy 15-16	November 19 - Joshua 8-9
November 5 - Deuteronomy 17-19	November 20 - Joshua 10
November 6 - Deuteronomy 20-21	November 21 - Joshua 11-12
November 7 - Deuteronomy 22-23	November 22 - Joshua 13
November 8 - Deuteronomy 24-25	November 23 - Joshua 14-15
November 9 - Deuteronomy 26-27	November 24 - Joshua 16-18
November 10 - Deuteronomy 28	November 25 - Joshua 19-20
November 11 - Deuteronomy 29	November 26 - Joshua 21
November 12 - Deuteronomy 30	November 27 - Joshua 22-23
November 13 - Deuteronomy 31	November 28 - Joshua 24
November 14 - Deuteronomy 32	November 29 - Judges 1
November 15 - Deuteronomy 33-34	November 30 - Judges 2-3

Let's Give Thanks Together

A Thanksgiving service will be held at the church on **Thursday, November 27th** at 10:00am.

Save the Date!

Don't miss the church Christmas party, to be held on **Sunday, December 7th** at 4:00pm at Ian & Bobbie Macdonald's home.

Ladies, Make A New Year's Resolution Now—Study The Bible in 2009!

The Women's Ministry is pleased to announce the start of a Wednesday evening ladies' Bible study using Kay Arthur's Precept Upon Precept™ methodology and course materials. These courses use the *inductive study method* (observation, interpretation, application), which results in life-changing knowledge of God's holy Word and in-depth appreciation of God's character and His expectation of believers. These studies are open to all females, teenage and up, including those who do not worship at Good Hope. Precept studies have been called "the Rolls Royce" of Bible studies, because they open one's heart and mind to the ways of the Lord like no other approach. As a current Precept student at another church said: "The Precept studies are absolutely the best I've ever done. Once you've tasted the meat of the Word, it's hard to go back. I have only been doing these studies for a year, but I have learned so much. I'm just sorry I didn't start sooner."

A one-day course will be offered at the church on **Saturday, January 3rd** for ladies who have never taken a Precepts course. While this one-day class is not required before taking one of the courses, it is highly recommended, as it will cover all the techniques to maximize one's comprehension of God's Word. The \$18 course fee for this "how to" course will include a copy of Kay Arthur's book, *How to Study Your Bible*, a copy of the book of Ruth course, entitled *Kinsman Redeemer*, as well as other class materials. Students taking this one-day "how to" course do not have to take the *Kinsman Redeemer* course, but will be fully prepared to start the course that begins the following Wednesday evening. All classes will be held at Good Hope in the Fellowship Hall. The Wednesday evening classes will be held from 6:00–8:15pm. The first hour consists of facilitated discussion, classroom style, led by Precepts-trained leader, Sue McConnell; the second hour is a viewing of the DVD of Kay Arthur teaching on that week's study.

Course schedule for 2009:

1/3	How to Study Your Bible, Precept Upon Precept
1/7-1/21	Ruth aka "Kinsman Redeemer"
1/28	Review of "Kings & Prophets" material (from courses held elsewhere) for all students taking the Isaiah course that follows
2/4-5/20	Isaiah, Part 1 (includes one night off for Spring Break on 4/15)
5/27-9/9	Summer break (no classes)
9/16-11/18	Isaiah, Part 2 (includes one night of review on 9/16)

Prayerfully consider taking part in this new opportunity. For more information, contact **Sue McConnell** at (410) 489-9687 or sobriquet3921@hotmail.com. ❖

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