

# 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 ❖ October 2005

## Only God Can Give a Complete Makeover!

The landscape around us is about to be transformed by its annual redecoration. Fall is a beautiful time of year. The earth, though still bound by its age-old curse, is a beautiful place. Thorns, thistles, and weeds in abundance mar the earth's condition, yet it retains the ability to turn our heads and melt our breath into sighs of awe.

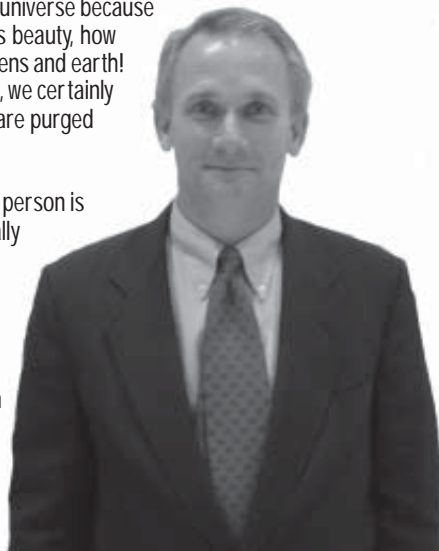
The writer of Hebrews argues that the Son of God, Jesus Christ never changes in His character. He has not fallen, and there is no need to remake Him. Rather, He is the One who remakes all things. He is the One who makes things better. He redeems us through His sacrificial atoning death. He retools us by His sanctifying Spirit, and He remakes us completely into His image in glory.

Quoting the Psalmist about Jesus, the writer of Hebrews states, "In the beginning, O Lord, You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will roll them up like a robe; like a garment they will be changed. But You remain the same, and Your years will never end." (Hebrews 1:10-12)

If He will one day change this beautiful earth, galaxy, and universe because it carries cracks, corrosion, and corruption along with its beauty, how awesome, startling, and stupefying must be the new heavens and earth! And if we, though marred by the fall, still retain His image, we certainly will be sights to behold when our characters and bodies are purged from their sinful dross.

A recent theme on certain TV shows is "the makeover." A person is selected to undergo a "makeover." The person is generally excited at the prospect of their potential newfound appearance. In a world where the outside is valued more highly than the inside, a "makeover" may increase confidence, but we must remember that it is still a veneer.

If Christ can remake the universe, can He remake you? In a few weeks, when you notice the color of the trees changing, reflect on what is coming. And when the full force of fall extracts from you exclamations of praise to its Creator, remember that this is only a preview of a yet more glorious day. ❖



### Play Some Basketball

Men's basketball will begin again in October for all men in high school or beyond. Please mark your calendars now for every Thursday in October and November from 8-10pm at Briggs Chaney Middle School.

### Christmas Already?

Even though it's only October, it is already time to begin rehearsals for the children's Christmas play! Practice will begin on Sunday, October 9<sup>th</sup> and will be held every week between the end of the worship service and the beginning of Sunday School in Mrs. Young's Sunday School room. Please see Chris Waller with any questions.

### Communion Schedule

Take time to prepare your heart as we will celebrate communion with our Lord on Sunday, October 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### Sermons on Church Website

Missed a recent sermon? Or want to share one with a friend? Sunday morning sermons are now available in MP3 format for downloading from our church website at [www.goodhopepca.com](http://www.goodhopepca.com).

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

I am now coming back from the two most exhausting years I have spent on the mission field in Japan—as a Keiyo Christian School junior high school teacher! 2003 marked the first year that NOT ONE short term missionary came to Japan as a teacher (Thank you, Becky Haber Hadeed for coming so many years ago!), and the team asked me to fill in that year. There was not much I could do to prepare ahead of time, as I had no idea what I was getting into. But once the school year started, I found that God had stumbled me into a job that I loved!

What is there to love about an exhausting job? First of all, for the first time I was actually working on a "team," in the sense that I saw the same team members (the other teachers) every day, and we rejoiced together and problem-solved together. Secondly, I saw the same students every day. I had always felt a bit frustrated teaching English to Japanese students because I only saw them for one hour per week (Japanese kids are very busy as a rule). Thirdly, junior high is a wonderful age (although I have a LOT to learn about it), and I enjoyed some deeper discussions with these kids. So from those aspects, it was a great two years.

What made it exhausting was all of the preparation. During the first year, I taught junior high English, math, and history, and high school chemistry. The second year, I again taught junior high English and history, as well as high school chemistry and physics. Later in the year, I took on the very lowest level Japanese class. Mastering the material myself (especially history!) before I could make it accessible to "third culture kids" took hours, not to mention grading papers. It is a monumental job.

But it is also a vital job. Because I taught junior high, four missionary families were able to stay in Chiba, since their children had this option for their education. So often in Japan, especially at the junior and senior high school level, missionary families either leave their stations to congregate around a Christian school in the west Tokyo countryside, or they leave Japan itself in order to educate their children. I felt that it was a privilege to serve the team in this way, even though it took me off of the "front lines" of ministry for two years. After all, what army in the world can operate without backup support in the field?

There are many exciting things happening in Japan in the field of Christian education expanding to the Japanese, which I would love to share with you. Since I am now in the United States for a 3-month home missionary assignment, I may yet have the opportunity to do so. But until we meet again, may God bless you and keep you.

Thank you for your interest in my ministry and for your faithful support.

Linda Karner



Linda Karner, pictured here during a previous visit to Good Hope Presbyterian

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.goodhopeca.com

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# October 2005

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

## *Upward and Onward!*

*by Steve Gerwin, Building Committee*

If you've driven past the new church property lately, you have seen great progress, as the work is now rising out of the ground. The first coat of asphalt has been poured on the parking lot, and work will begin shortly on widening Route 216 and adding the entrance circle. A large storage tank to store water for emergency fire protection will soon be buried on site. Much sweat equity has gone into the handicap access ramp in the rear of the church. We needed to build a retaining wall to hold back soil for this ramp, and we are almost ready for the last concrete to be poured on this wall. This has been a major project for our volunteer crews, but our efforts have saved a substantial sum of money. We hope to sink our water well soon and then have the septic field installed. The electricity will also be hooked up, so we are making good progress! Lord willing, in the next month we will finish grading the front, side, and part of the back of the property so that we can sow seed and stabilize the ground. For folks who participate in what has become the standard Saturday morning effort, the times have been great with good fellowship and the rare opportunity to build a church and expand God's kingdom. On any Saturday there are good times to be had at the property and plenty of work to do. Please join us any week and contribute to this worthy project. ❖