

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 ❖ October 2008

Some Much-Needed Refreshment

Sometimes when I reach the end of a summer vacation, I feel like I need to go home and get some rest. Have you ever felt that way? We need seasons of refreshment much like we need the cool breezes that signal the first hint of fall.

We know that we are able to persevere in the faith because the Lord has said that "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion." (Philippians 1:6) Even while recognizing that God is at work in us, perseverance may imply to our minds a never-ending, step-by-step plodding where there is no rest. Our Lord not only sustains us in perseverance, but He also acknowledges that there are places in our lives where we need seasons of rest, seasons which refresh our spirits.

Jeremiah 31 speaks of God restoring His people to Himself, and this passage uses imagery that speaks of the rest and refreshment that we have in Him. Through Jeremiah, the Lord gave a picture of His people as they returned to Him. He speaks of turning their mourning into gladness, giving comfort, joy, and satisfaction to their souls with bounty. These images, even more than material components, are laden with spiritual realities. Although we may gain some refreshment from a vacation, a change of activity, or new season, the refreshment that we receive from the Lord assuages a thirst in our souls and relaxes our spirits so that we truly rest in Him.

Whether we have just returned from a vacation or are embracing the refreshment of a new season—may the Lord refresh us in our souls. ❖



Daily Schedule of Bible Readings in October

October 1 - Leviticus 26-27	October 16 - Numbers 22
October 2 - Numbers 1	October 17 - Numbers 23
October 3 - Numbers 2	October 18 - Numbers 24
October 4 - Numbers 3	October 19 - Numbers 25-26
October 5 - Numbers 4-5	October 20 - Numbers 27
October 6 - Numbers 6	October 21 - Numbers 28-29
October 7 - Numbers 7	October 22 - Numbers 30-31
October 8 - Numbers 8	October 23 - Numbers 32
October 9 - Numbers 9-10	October 24 - Numbers 33
October 10 - Numbers 11-12	October 25 - Numbers 34
October 11 - Numbers 13-14	October 26 - Numbers 35-36
October 12 - Numbers 15	October 27 - Deuteronomy 1-2
October 13 - Numbers 16-17	October 28 - Deuteronomy 3
October 14 - Numbers 18-19	October 29 - Deuteronomy 4
October 15 - Numbers 20-21	October 30 - Deuteronomy 5-6
	October 31 - Deuteronomy 7-8

Fall Fellowship Dinner this Saturday!

The Fellowship Hall Sunday School Class will meet for a chili dinner and S'mores at the church this **Saturday, October 4th** at 5:00pm. All young adults are invited to attend!

All Hands on Deck Again!

A work day will be held at the church on **Saturday, October 11th**, beginning at 8:30am. Jobs include washing windows and yard work, coordinated by **Jim Rowan** at (301) 440-8113.

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

Another Saturday playing at the playground. Well, actually not playing, but working this time. Pulling weeds and grass out of the sand to make it look like a sand-filled play area once again. It is a team joke that every time we have a team work day, I am assigned the dirty, sweaty, sandy job of redoing the playground. I guess they figure that it's a safe job for me, given the little amount of skill actually required!

I don't know how many times we have done it, but every once in a while, we go outside of the city of Kiev and work at a home doing yard work, painting, harvesting, and whatever else needs to be done. But this isn't just any home. It is Genesis House, started by Sasha and Lena Donskoi, who are members of Holy Trinity Presbyterian Church, where Sasha serves as an elder. With the help of international sponsors, Sasha and Lena built a home for abused and abandoned children. Because of the laws in Ukraine, they officially serve as foster parents, but they care for these kids as if they are their own. The story of each child is as dark as we can imagine and even worse. Some of the children were 2 or 3 years old when Sasha and Lena found them through state agencies, and they had only been outside once or twice in their lives. One of the "times outside" for one little girl (Sophia) was when she fell 3 stories from her apartment building and yet survived.

So there I was, pulling up weeds with all of the kids running around and trying to help. I looked up and saw their faces full of such joy and happiness and thought anew how remarkable it is. I try to imagine what their lives would have been like without Sasha and Lena. I can't do it. I can't imagine the darkness, pain, and loneliness that was their life.

But they weren't the only ones. There were also three children among us who had been adopted from this part of the world. They too had futures full of darkness, but God had other plans for them. Of course, the full truth is that all of us walked in darkness until we were brought into His marvelous light.

I had the joy of preaching to you at Good Hope this summer, and one of the things that I talked about from 1 Thessalonians was the call that we have to continue doing that which is good. Someone did a good thing when they told you and me the Good News. Sasha and Lena are doing good as they love and care for these children. My teammates who have adopted children into their families to raise them together with their biological children are doing good. And even my unskilled job of pulling weeds out of the playground is doing a little bit of good for the King and His Kingdom.

So I encourage you as I did this summer: "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:9-10)

By doing good through the power of the Gospel of Christ, we spread a bit of light into a dark world. Would you pray for us, that we too would be strong in seeing and doing that which is good?

Blessings,
Eric for the Huber Family



Enjoying a "shashluk" (shishkabob) cookout after the team work day at Genesis House...

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

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28 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	29	30 Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	1 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	2 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	3 <u>October Deacons:</u> Ron Goodrich Tim Rowan	4 Fellowship Hall Sunday School Class Chili Dinner at the church - 5:00pm
5 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	6 Deacon Meeting at the church - 6:30pm Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	7 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	8 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	9 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	10	11 Work Day at the church - 8:30am
12 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	13	14 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	15 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	16 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	17	18
19 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	20	21 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	22 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	23 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	24	25
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 Info for November newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	28 Men's Breakfast Group - 6:00am Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	29 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	30 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	31	1 VBS "Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" Movie Night at the church - 7:00pm

"Back to the Future" This Christmas!

October is not too early to begin thinking about Christmas! This year's rendition of the children's Christmas play will feature an adaptation of the time machine script performed several years ago. As always, the overall theme of the play focuses on searching for the true meaning of Christmas. Each age group will portray characters from a particular time period, and in the end, the true meaning of Christmas is found by traveling to Bethlehem, where the true Biblical story is retold.

All children and teens are invited to be part of the play. The youngest characters will have small, non-speaking parts. Middle school students have the largest speaking roles, while the number of speaking lines varies for children from kindergarten through 5th grade. Any high school students or adults who would like to be part of the play are also welcome and should speak to **Chris Waller** right away. There are opportunities for high school students to have speaking roles in the play, as well as supporting roles for older teens and adults.

In particular, we need men to volunteer to set up and take down the stage. Crews to run the music, sound system, and lights are required, as well as volunteers to collect props, organize costumes, and assist with music. Please contact **Chris Waller** regarding your availability to help as soon as possible!

Music practice will begin in October, with children rehearsing together weekly at the very beginning of the Sunday School hour. A dress rehearsal will be held on Saturday, December 13th, and the performance will take place on **Sunday, December 14th at 7:00pm**. Plan to be a part, and begin praying now that God will warm our hearts again with the retelling of the true Christmas story. ❖

More Christmas News..

It's also not too early to begin thinking about Good Hope's Christmas outreach through **Angel Tree**, an opportunity to purchase and deliver Christmas gifts to children of prison inmates in their parent's name. Every gift delivery also offers a way to share the love and hope of Christ with each family. Volunteers are needed to: contact families for their children's gift wishes; buy and wrap Christmas gifts; deliver gifts to children; and share the Gospel with families. Stay tuned for more information, or contact **Ed French** or other members of the missions committee today!

Ahoy, Mates! VBS Movie Night is Coming!

Mark your calendar now for **Saturday, November 1st**, when there will be a free showing of the Veggie Tales "Pirates Who Don't Do Anything" movie at the church. Doors will open at 6:30pm, and the movie will begin promptly at 7:00pm. Popcorn and juice pouches will be served, and bring a blanket or chairs to sit on. Don't miss it!

Friends & Family Luncheon

Plan to stay for lunch and fellowship together after morning worship on **Sunday, October 5th**. And bring a friend!