

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 ❖ September 2003

Recharge, Refresh, Retreat! The Camp Hemlock Trip is Coming!

by Mark Hegerle, Fellowship Committee

Summer time is supposed to be a time of relaxation, a respite from the normal hustle and bustle of the year. If your life is anything like mine, however, summertime no longer seems to be made up of long, lazy days sipping lemonade on the front porch. Instead, our lives are filled with all kinds of projects, errands, and activities. Summer ends, and we need a vacation!

Set aside **October 10-12**, Columbus Day weekend, to experience a getaway to remember. This fall weekend promises cool, crisp, fresh air, babbling brooks, and falling leaves. We'll enjoy uplifting music and challenging messages as we are warmed by a spectacular campfire. S'mores and other great food will be plentiful throughout the weekend. In addition, the retreat would not be complete without challenging and rewarding hikes to spectacular views of God's creation. All will feel young again as they join in with the children for games and activities, including plenty of time to fellowship with and encourage one another. No need to worry about sleeping on the ground or in a tent, as Hemlock's accommodations include a heated (and cooled) lodge and rustic cabins (with electricity), located a couple of hours west of Washington in wild, wonderful West Virginia.

Plan now for the 2003 Good Hope Church Retreat at Hemlock Wilderness Brigade Camp! Join us for the weekend or come for the day on Saturday. **Prices for Weekenders:** \$25 per person or \$75 per family. **Daytrippers:** \$5 per person or \$15 per family. Price includes lodging, fun, and meals (Friday: after-dinner snack; Saturday: Breakfast, lunch, and dinner; Sunday: Breakfast and lunch). We'll leave a light on for you. . .

What you'll need to bring: Warm clothes; 2 pairs of comfortable shoes (hiking boots optional); towels and personal toiletries (including shower soap and shampoo. Toilet paper, paper towels, and hand soap are provided in the bath house.); bedding (only a twin-size mattress is provided); bug spray; flashlight; rain gear; personal snacks or special food (must be labeled and stored in the kitchen); and any fun things you'd like to have and share (sporting goods, board games, puzzles, books, etc.). As this is a retreat, please leave your Game Boys, etc., at home. Please note: cell phone service is not available at the camp. Come for the weekend or come for the day—just come! ❖

How To Be a Glad Person

Are you a glad person? Are glad people only a handful of special people endowed with a genetic makeup that predisposes them to a glad temperament? In the Old Testament, the root meaning of glad is "to circle around," from which an idea such as "to circle in joy" is derived. The Scriptures describe many occasions for gladness. Gladness is expressed when we rejoice in the character and works of God. When we rejoice in God's deliverance and protection over His people, we are glad. Other occasions of gladness are when parents rejoice over their children and when a daughter becomes a bride.

The word for "glad" is kin to the word for "joy." The Bible describes many items which bring us joy or gladness. Examples are perfume, a wise son, meeting a loved one, God's law, feasts, the Lord's salvation, and sacred occasions. The words "glad" and "joy" are also connected to the word "merry." "A merry heart maketh a cheerful countenance: but by sorrow of the heart the spirit is broken." "All the days of the afflicted are evil: but he that is of a merry heart hath a continual feast." "A merry heart doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth up the bones." (Proverbs 15:13; 15:15; and 17:22)

What can make us glad, joyful, and merry? Certainly many occasions in life bring these responses. But what can make gladness, joy, and merriment more than a superficial gushing of laughter or an emotion that evaporates almost as fast as it rises? As the writer of Proverbs has also said, even in laughter the heart can be sorrowful, and the end of mirth can be heaviness. (Proverbs 14:13) What makes a truly glad, joyful, and merry person is how that person sees each event of their life. If all the vast and complex experiences of a person's life are viewed as connected to and flowing from the hand of their Savior and God, then a person may rightly and justly be glad, be joyful, and be merry. And though this gladness, joy, and merriment may at times be a guffaw or enjoyed behind the placid exterior of our face, if it resides and rests upon the firm assurance that all things in my life are from His hand, it is genuine gladness, joy, and merriment of the Biblical variety. Are you a glad person? If you are a Christian, you have every reason to be! ❖



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

LuAnn and I want to thank you for your prayers during the past several weeks. It was very difficult to leave our family and friends in Lancaster, Pennsylvania again. After 43 hours of driving a 25-foot Penske truck with our car in tow and sitting for 5 hours in the Penske repair shop in Dayton, Ohio, we finally arrived safely in El Paso, Texas and have begun settling into our apartment here.

We praise God for the love that He has already shown us through the team in El Paso/Ciudad Juarez. Many of the team members helped us unload our truck. Then we were graciously welcomed to the border at our first team meeting in Juarez just three days later.

God is doing amazing things here on the border through BEAMM, and we can scarcely take it all in! In fact, there are so many opportunities for ministry and so many needs that we find ourselves falling on our faces before the Lord, confessing our weakness and our need of His grace, wisdom, and His going before us, to know what He wants us to do.

Initially, we have felt God's leading in establishing two priorities: (1) To get to know each member of the team all along the border and to understand where God is leading them in their ministry and how we can serve them. (2) To develop a stronger partnership between BEAMM and PCA churches so that the Gospel may go forth, both to the people along the border and to all Hispanic people throughout the United States. We will be meeting as a team in September and October to prepare for the first BEAMM Partnership Meeting scheduled for November 21-23, 2003. This meeting is open to representatives of all interested PCA churches and will take place in El Paso. Information about this meeting will be mailed to your church and may also be found on the BEAMM web site at www.beamm.org.

Again, we thank you for your prayers, love, encouragement, and financial support. Please continue to uphold us in prayer as we adjust to life here in the Southwest and as we seek to understand how we can best serve the team here.



God Bless,
Gene and LuAnn Bowman

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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

September 2003						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Middle School GG - 6:00pm High School GG - 6:00pm	8	9 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	10 Rowan/Whitehead GG 8:00pm	11 Session Meeting at Waller's House 7:30pm	12 French GG - 7:30pm	13
14 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Middle School GG - 6:00pm High School GG - 6:00pm	15	16 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	17 Rowan/Whitehead GG 8:00pm	18	19 French GG - 7:30pm	20
21 Worship Service - 9:30am Communion To Be Served Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Middle School GG - 6:00pm High School GG - 6:00pm	22	23 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	24 Rowan/Whitehead GG 8:00pm	25 Info for October newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	26 French GG - 7:30pm	27 Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
28 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Ron Higgins GG - 6:00pm Middle School GG - 6:00pm High School GG - 6:00pm	29	30 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	1 Rowan/Whitehead GG 8:00pm	2	3 French GG - 7:30pm	4

Building Momentum Is Finally Growing!

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

Delays, frustrations, and miscalculations, a part of many, if not most, construction projects, have lessened greatly in recent months. Momentum and enthusiasm are growing! At last month's building committee meeting, we learned that the bank has appraised our property at \$1,550,000. Although this does include the value of a sanctuary completed according to the plans that we submitted, it means that, by any measure, the land that we purchased for \$475,000 is worth a lot more than that now! **Bill Davis**, who has successfully negotiated a \$1,000,000 line of credit with the Sandy Spring Bank, estimates that the loan will close in September. With the money currently set aside in our account for the building and with the first draw on our line, Bill will pay off the \$380,000 note to Emanuel for the property.

Jim Haber reported to the committee that the completed and amended site plan would be submitted to Howard County on August 29th. It is anticipated that the county will approve this plan no later than December 1st. Our new architect, **Jim Palmer**, working with **Karl Riedel's** plans, has made adjustments to the building much to the satisfaction of the committee. His goal is to complete those plans no later than October 31st. By that time, Bill will have signed a contract with Springbrook Home Improvement (**Matt Malanoski** et al).

Meanwhile, **Kathy Haber** has been busy securing bids from firms that could do our site development work once the plan is approved. These bids have been all over the place, but are all higher than we anticipated in our earlier planning. **Steve Gerwin** has generously allowed himself to be volunteered to take over from Kathy and direct the process that will lead to development of our site.

The permit phase will follow. By current calculation, we should be ready to break ground by early 2004. Praise the Lord, and keep on praying. We seem to have the big "Mo." ❖

Fall Growth Groups

Growth Groups will resume meeting as of Sunday, September 7th, and they will end for the fall during the week of November 16th. This will allow each group to meet ten times, with one week off for the Fall Retreat. The weekly schedule is as follows:

Ron & Amy Higgins - Sundays, 6:00pm
 Middle School Group - Sundays, 6:00pm
 High School Group - Sundays, 6:00pm
 Mac & Bobbie Macdonald - Tuesdays, 6:30pm
 Rowan/Whitehead - Wednesdays, 8:00pm
 Ed & Bonnie French - Fridays, 7:30pm

Please talk to **Jack Waller** if you have any questions about these groups or if you'd like to get involved!