

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 2004

Groundbreaking This Month!

by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman

The Lord teaches us patience and reminds us that things get done on His schedule, which is not always the one that we would pick. After what has been an often frustrating pre-construction period, we are ready to begin demolition duties and are not far from beginning site development and construction. Here is the status as of the end of August:

- The building permit has been filed with the county, and that process should be completed by mid-September. The concern we have is that they may ask us to install a sprinkler system. If they do, this will increase our costs and slow us down briefly.
- Pledges and giving continue to be good. **Jack Waller** is working with **Matt Malanoski** on details for the sweat equity portion of demolition, which can begin at any time.
- **Steve Gerwin** is working with **Bill Davis** to get sign-off on the contract with Universal to perform our site development work.

The congregation is invited to our official groundbreaking, which will be held at the building site on Route 216 in Fulton on Sunday, September 26th at 11:30am. Light refreshments will be served. ❖

Sunday School Promotion

Sunday, September 5th is Promotion Sunday. If you are entering the 1st grade, 4th grade, middle school, or high school, you will be promoted to a new Sunday School class this Sunday.

More Golf This Fall!

Due to the wild popularity of the spring men's golf event, the first Good Hope Fall Classic is coming next month. It will be held on **Saturday, October 2nd** at Patuxent Greens in Laurel, beginning at 11am. Please sign up with **Mark Hegerle** by September 17th. Cost is \$50 for greens fees and cart.

Retreat from Camp Hemlock Retreat

Although the Camp Hemlock retreat is always a highlight of our annual church calendar, Good Hope's priority this fall is to focus on making progress towards our new church building. Therefore, we will not have a Camp Hemlock retreat this year. Keep your calendar open for work weekends at Route 216 instead!

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

We praise God for the many exciting ministry opportunities opening up here along the U.S./Mexico border. Gene's position as coordinator for the 2000-mile border involves strategic planning, ministering to, and encouraging our team members, communicating with U.S. churches, promoting BEAMM partnerships, soliciting funds for special projects and members of the team, planning budgets, and all of the other administrative tasks that go along with a leadership position. But it is God who is moving the work here. We are just His instruments. As Gene says, "We just stand back and let God work, then we grab the rope and hang on!" We praise God for the privilege of being a part of this team.

One area of ministry that we have been doing as a couple is teaching an English language class on Monday evenings at the Tierra Prometida Church in Juarez. This class was started back in January and has now grown to over 40 students. But the most exciting aspect is that over 2/3 of the students attending the class are from the surrounding community. We not only have fun teaching English, but we're also building relationships between the church and the community. Raciel Gomez, the pastor of the church, periodically speaks from God's Word to the students in Spanish.

This summer, we and a fellow teammate's son had the opportunity to lead six members of the Tierra Prometida Church on their first mission trip to the U.S. to minister to Hispanics. Christ Presbyterian Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma provided the financial resources and also accompanied us to New City Fellowship Church in St. Louis, Missouri. There we helped with Bible clubs, tutored students, did construction, and ministered alongside People of Refuge reaching out to refugees. When we returned, we were excited to hear of the impact of that trip on the other members of Tierra Prometida. They are now encouraging their church members to reach out to their community through visitation and cleaning up the neighborhood.

There are so many other things happening here on the border that it would take up too much space to report them all. But just to give you an idea, BEAMM now has seven partners and is adding new team members, helping to start a deaf ministry, assisting flood victims in Piedras Negras, and the list goes on and on. We invite you to visit our website at www.beamm.org for more information on some of our projects.

Personally, we bought a house here in El Paso at the end of June. We became grandparents for the second time at the end of May. And our oldest daughter just told us that she is pregnant! LuAnn is chafing at the bit because she has not been able to go up to Pennsylvania to hold our new grandson yet.

Praises:

- For the provision of a great house.
- For the birth of our grandson, Sean Michael Roadcap.
- For the attendance at English classes on Monday evenings.
- For our team and the new people that are coming on.
- For the many opportunities for ministry that God is opening to us.

Prayer Requests:

- Pray for our relationship to the Lord to become stronger.
- Pray that our monthly financial need of \$1,300 will be supplied so that Gene can effectively do his job.
- Almost everyone on the team is in need of additional monthly support. Pray that God would supply these financial needs so that His ministry may go forward.
- Pray for the finances needed to purchase land for Gracia y Paz and the San Pablo Seminary.

God Bless,
Gene and LuAnn Bowman



Join us for Worship at 9:30am and Sunday School at 11:00am each Sunday
 www.goodhopepeca.com
 (301) 236-4151
 Burtonsville, MD 20866
 Post Office Box 164
 Good Hope Reformed Presbyterian Church
 Current Meeting Location:
 Briggs Chaney Middle School
 1901 Rainbow Drive
 Silver Spring, MD 20905

Good News from Good Hope!

September 2004

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Evening Fellowship at 216 - 6:00pm	30	31	1	2	3	4
5 Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Promotion Sunday Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	6	7 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	8 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	9 Session/Deacon Meeting at Wallers' 7:30pm	10 French GG - 7:30pm	11
12 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	13	14 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	15 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	16	17 French GG - 7:30pm	18
19 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Communion To Be Served Sunday School - 11:00am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	20	21 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	22 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	23	24 French GG - 7:30pm	25 Building Committee at the Macdonalds' House - 7:30am
26 Musical Ensemble - 8:45am Worship Service - 9:30am Groundbreaking at 216 Property - 11:30am Craig Higgins GG - 6:00pm Youth Group GG - 6:00pm	27 Info for October newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	28 Macdonald GG 6:30pm	29 Whitehead GG 6:30pm	30	1 French GG - 7:30pm	2 Good Hope Fall Golf Tournament at Patuxent Greens 11am

Sunday Church Attendance—More Than Just A Good Habit

Billy Graham closes each of his televised crusades with the admonition, "May the Lord bless you, and go to church next Sunday." The encouragement to go to church is also given by the writer of Hebrews. He writes, "Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching." (Hebrews 10:23-25)

We go to church first and foremost to honor God who made us and redeemed us through His Son's death on the cross. When we worship with other Christians, we express together the worthiness of our Savior. Our joint assembly demonstrates the respect that we have for our Lord.

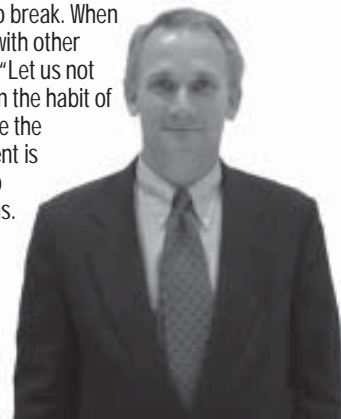
While worship is the most important aspect of why we assemble together, it is not the only one. In order to avoid oscillating from hope to despair, the Lord has put us together in a church. Because Christ is our Savior, we have a hope that is certain about our future. And because Christ is our Savior, we even have Him as a present help in times of trouble. Our realization of the blessings we have in Christ must continually be strengthened. We need to repetitively hear God's Word and the recurring echo of God's people who confess, "He who promised is faithful."

Because this life comes with difficulties, we can at times withdraw unnecessarily into what we consider a safe haven. We can seek self-survival alone. This

mindset of withdrawal can be manifested in a number of ways. One way is a desire to blunt the effects of our difficulties by engaging in continual activity that makes us happy, occupied, stimulated, and self-absorbed. Another mindset of withdrawal is an enclave mentality which refuses to jeopardize any part of our life for fear that it would be foolish to be sacrificial.

We need to be with other Christians who counterbalance the tendency to withdraw. We actually need other Christians to balance us, "to spur one another on toward love and good deeds."

Bad habits are easy to make and hard to break. When we fail to consistently meet for worship with other Christians, we are following a bad habit. "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing." When we stop meeting, we vacate the environment where Biblical encouragement is given. Christians need encouragement to live as Christians and to love as Christians. Hold to the hope you profess. Don't let go. Remember, our Lord is coming. The Day is approaching. Listen to the exhortation of Scripture and also to the faithful evangelist who said, "May the Lord bless you, and go to church next Sunday." ❖



Fall Growth Group Schedule

All Growth Groups will resume this month. If you would like more information about becoming a part of any of these groups, please contact **Jack Waller**. The fall schedule will be:

Sundays at 6:00pm - Craig & Wendy Higgins' House
Sundays at 6:00pm - Middle School Group at the Wallers' House
Sundays at 6:00pm - High School Group at the Wallers' House
Tuesdays at 6:30pm - Mac & Bobbie Macdonald's House
Wednesdays at 6:30pm - Randy & Kari Whitehead's House
Fridays at 7:30pm - Ed & Bonnie French's House

Men's Basketball

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

October 7 and 21; November 4 and 18
December 2 and 16; January 6 and 20
February 3 and 17; March 3, 17, and 31

Groundbreaking at Route 216

The congregation is invited to our official groundbreaking, which will be held at the building site on Route 216 in Fulton on **Sunday, September 26th at 11:30am**. Light refreshments will be provided.

Make a Joyful Noise!

If you are interested in participating in a musical ensemble, please speak with **Chris Waller**. We will meet on **Sundays, September 12th, 19th, and 26th** from 8:45am - 9:20am. You are encouraged to participate even if you are unable to do so every week. Babysitting is available!

Serving Our Little Children

We are thankful for the young children that our congregation has been blessed with. Please take advantage of the opportunity to spend time with these little ones by signing up for nursery duty or by assisting periodically with the youngest Sunday School class. See **Bill or Marcy Davis** to sign up for nursery duty, or speak with **Amy Higgins** about the Sunday School hour.

Fall Growth Group Schedule

All Growth Groups will resume this month. If you would like more information about becoming a part of any of these groups, please contact **Jack Waller**. The fall schedule will be:

Sundays at 6:00pm - Craig & Wendy Higgins' House
Sundays at 6:00pm - Middle School Group at the Wallers' House
Sundays at 6:00pm - High School Group at the Wallers' House
Tuesdays at 6:30pm - Mac & Bobbie Macdonald's House
Wednesdays at 6:30pm - Randy & Kari Whitehead's House
Fridays at 7:30pm - Ed & Bonnie French's House

Men's Basketball

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

October 7 and 21; November 4 and 18
December 2 and 16; January 6 and 20
February 3 and 17; March 3, 17, and 31

Groundbreaking at Route 216

The congregation is invited to our official groundbreaking, which will be held at the building site on Route 216 in Fulton on **Sunday, September 26th at 11:30am**. Light refreshments will be provided.

Make a Joyful Noise!

If you are interested in participating in a musical ensemble, please speak with **Chris Waller**. We will meet on **Sundays, September 12th, 19th, and 26th** from 8:45am - 9:20am. You are encouraged to participate even if you are unable to do so every week. Babysitting is available!

Serving Our Little Children

We are thankful for the young children that our congregation has been blessed with. Please take advantage of the opportunity to spend time with these little ones by signing up for nursery duty or by assisting periodically with the youngest Sunday School class. See **Bill or Marcy Davis** to sign up for nursery duty, or speak with **Amy Higgins** about the Sunday School hour.

Fall Growth Group Schedule

All Growth Groups will resume this month. If you would like more information about becoming a part of any of these groups, please contact **Jack Waller**. The fall schedule will be:

Sundays at 6:00pm - Craig & Wendy Higgins' House
Sundays at 6:00pm - Middle School Group at the Wallers' House
Sundays at 6:00pm - High School Group at the Wallers' House
Tuesdays at 6:30pm - Mac & Bobbie Macdonald's House
Wednesdays at 6:30pm - Randy & Kari Whitehead's House
Fridays at 7:30pm - Ed & Bonnie French's House

Men's Basketball

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

October 7 and 21; November 4 and 18
December 2 and 16; January 6 and 20
February 3 and 17; March 3, 17, and 31

Groundbreaking at Route 216

The congregation is invited to our official groundbreaking, which will be held at the building site on Route 216 in Fulton on **Sunday, September 26th at 11:30am**. Light refreshments will be provided.

Make a Joyful Noise!

If you are interested in participating in a musical ensemble, please speak with **Chris Waller**. We will meet on **Sundays, September 12th, 19th, and 26th** from 8:45am - 9:20am. You are encouraged to participate even if you are unable to do so every week. Babysitting is available!

Serving Our Little Children

We are thankful for the young children that our congregation has been blessed with. Please take advantage of the opportunity to spend time with these little ones by signing up for nursery duty or by assisting periodically with the youngest Sunday School class. See **Bill or Marcy Davis** to sign up for nursery duty, or speak with **Amy Higgins** about the Sunday School hour.