

# 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 2005

## In This World You Will Have Trouble, But Take Heart!

If you are looking for a pain-free life, you are living in the wrong world. Pain-free living does not exist. Even so-called "pain killer" medications wear off, and the "dead" pain is resurrected! Pain-free living will come later when we go to heaven or when Christ returns to earth.

Jesus said, "Anyone who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me." (Matthew 10:38) "If anyone would come after Me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24) When we come to Christ for salvation, we come to His cross, where He endured pain. His pain was excruciating—physically and especially spiritually. We cannot fathom the intense agony that He experienced as He suffered under the weight and curse of our transgressions that were upon Him.

### Musical Ensemble

The musical ensemble will sing together all of the Sundays in September from 8:45-9:20am. You are encouraged to participate even if you are unable to do so every week. New voices are always welcome!

### Communion Schedule

Take time to prepare your heart as we will celebrate communion with our Lord on **Sunday, September 18<sup>th</sup>**.

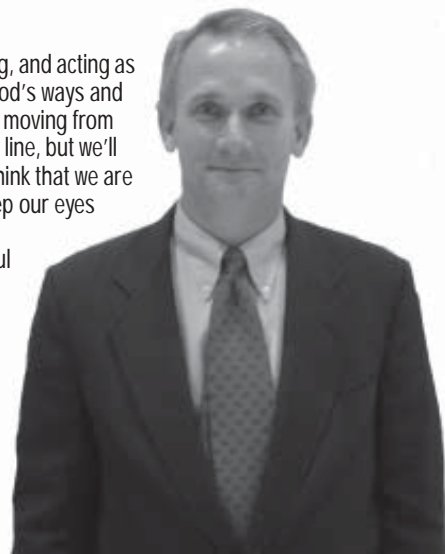
### Serving Our Little Ones

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 with **Bill or Marcy Davis**.

Jesus listed three conditions that we must agree to when we come to Him: Deny ourselves, carry our cross, and follow Him. When we deny ourselves, we deny that we are the source of our own salvation. We also deny ourselves the right to those behaviors that cost Christ His life for our salvation. When we carry our cross, we carry those afflictions that are personal to us. We carry the cost of pursuing the ways of Christ in all of the facets of our daily living. When we follow Christ, we are not following Him to a particular location, but following His ways and manner of life.

Jesus followed His Father perfectly—thinking, speaking, and acting as if walking in a straight line. Our objective of imitating God's ways and manner of life is "point B," if we think of ourselves as moving from point A to point B. We will not always travel in a straight line, but we'll find ourselves zig-zagging and curving. We must not think that we are off the path if trouble occurs in our lives. We must keep our eyes on the objective while we zig-zag, swerve, or move at different rates of speed, knowing that we are successful as long as we continue to move from one point to the other.

Are you a Christian? Do you think that your pains should not be occurring? Sometimes the illusion of pain-free living is worse than the pain itself. It is not easy to carry a cross. It is not easy to follow Christ. Remember His words, "In this world you will have trouble, but take heart. I have overcome the world." (John 16:33) ❖



## Focus on Our Missionaries: *Chris and Lisa Moore, Mission to the World*

Life in the Middle East remains as complex as ever. The local church that we are a part of was forced out of its rental space a few months ago, unable to meet the high rent demands of the landlord. The local pastor continues to search for a new place to worship, but finding a landlord willing to rent to a group of Christians is not easy. Christianity represents such a small slice of the society. It is viewed as something from the outside, something foreign. Thus, even the most open-minded Muslims view Christian converts with great suspicion. And, of course, there is the universal phenomenon of "not in my backyard." (An experience just as likely to be met by Muslims trying to build a mosque in America?)

In spite of these things, God's faithfulness can be seen. Lives are being changed, new churches are being started, new students are coming to study theology. We struggle at times to understand why God does not move the political powers to allow more "space" in Middle Eastern society for His church. But we must trust both His judgment and His power. Perhaps like the grapevine, the church grows strongest when planted in rocky or sandy soil, where the roots must struggle to grow deep to survive, but the result being more abundant and flavorful fruit.

Continue to pray for the pastors and leaders in the Middle East. Theirs is the most difficult task. They are trying to be faithful stewards and preachers of the Gospel in a very complex and often high stakes environment. They need wisdom and stamina.

Continue to pray for us also, as we try to serve and facilitate these local pastors. There are many obstacles to overcome, but by God's grace, as partners with one another in the Gospel, we hope to be a blessing to the Middle East.

Finally, a few personal notes. We look forward to sending our daughter, Emerson, to school this fall. She has already picked up a good bit of language from her playmates, so we hope it will be an easy transition. Her older brother, Conor, will be heading into second grade. Lydia turned two in June, but remains our "baby." As for me, I will be heading into my last year of grad school.

Lisa and I continue to enjoy the privilege of living and working overseas. It is an amazing adventure that has blessed our whole family in many ways. Thank you once again for making this opportunity possible through your prayers and your generosity.



*Chris & Lisa*

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.goodhopepca.com

## *Good News from Good Hope!*

# September 2005

| Sunday   | Monday   | Tuesday                      | Wednesday                          | Thursday  | Friday                                      | Saturday  |
|--|--|------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 28<br>Musical Ensemble - 8:45am<br>Worship Service - 9:30am<br>Sunday School - 11:00am   | 29   | 30                           | 31                                 | 1   | 2   | 3<br>Work Party at 216<br>Property - 8:30am   |
| 4<br>Musical Ensemble - 8:45am<br>Worship Service - 9:30am<br><b>Promotion Sunday</b><br>Sunday School - 11:00am   | 5  | 6                            | 7                                  | 8<br>Session Meeting at<br>Waller's House<br>7:30pm | 9   | 10<br>Building Committee<br>at 216 - 7:30am<br>Work Party at 216<br>Property - 8:30am |
| 11<br>Musical Ensemble - 8:45am<br>Worship Service - 9:30am<br>Sunday School - 11:00am<br>Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm  | 12   | 13<br>Macdonald GG<br>6:30pm | 14<br>Rowan/Whitehead GG<br>6:30pm | 15  | 16<br>Growth Group<br>Location TBA - 7:30pm | 17<br>Work Party at 216<br>Property - 8:30am  |
| 18<br>Musical Ensemble - 8:45am<br>Worship Service - 9:30am<br><b>Communion To Be Served</b><br>Sunday School - 11:00am<br>Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm<br>Growth Group TBA - 6pm | 19   | 20<br>Macdonald GG<br>6:30pm | 21<br>Rowan/Whitehead GG<br>6:30pm | 22  | 23<br>Growth Group<br>Location TBA - 7:30pm | 24<br>Building Committee<br>at 216 - 7:30am<br>Work Party at 216<br>Property - 8:30am |
| 25<br>Musical Ensemble - 8:45am<br>Worship Service - 9:30am<br>Sunday School - 11:00am<br>Youth Group - 6:00-7:30pm<br>Growth Group TBA - 6pm                                  | 26<br>Info for October<br>newsletter due to<br>Kate Haber today! | 27<br>Macdonald GG<br>6:30pm | 28<br>Rowan/Whitehead GG<br>6:30pm | 29  | 30<br>Growth Group<br>Location TBA - 7:30pm | 1<br>Work Party at 216<br>Property - 8:30am   |

## *Up, Up, and Away!!*

*by Ian Macdonald, Building Committee Chairman*

**A**fter a long hard spring and summer of work by contractors and our own volunteers, our church building project is starting to produce more easily visible results and will shortly be rising from the ground!

The concrete for the floor to the lower level and its walls have been poured. From here on out, all movement will be upward! With the foundation in place, our general contractor, **Matt Malanoski** will begin the process of installing the main floor joists. In the near future:

- Retaining wall and handicap ramp will be poured.
- Walls will start to rise from the ground.
- Fire sprinkler system installation will begin (scheduled for September 27<sup>th</sup>).
- A "trial" sign will be framed and placed. This is not going to be the final version, but will be evaluated for its visibility and its functional and aesthetic appearance. It will not be in its final color.
- Well and septic tank projects will begin.
- And MUCH more!

The great Good Hope volunteer work effort continues. Our church website ([www.goodhopepca.com](http://www.goodhopepca.com)) will be updated every week regarding volunteer projects that are scheduled. If there is a need to cancel Saturday's work, an announcement to that effect will be posted on the website by Friday evening.

Sandy Spring Bank has granted us a mortgage loan. Rejoice! There is much to be thankful for, but we must continue in our efforts and our prayers. ❖

## *Fall Growth Groups and Youth Groups*

Growth groups will begin again in September with some changes. A Tuesday night group will continue to meet at the Macdonalds' house at 6:30pm, and the Rowan/Whitehead group will continue on Wednesdays at 6:30pm. New groups are being formed for Friday nights at 7:30pm and Sunday nights at 6:00pm, with locations to be announced soon. This fall's topics will come from John Owen's book, *Triumph Over Temptation: Pursuing a Life of Purity*.

There will also be changes to the youth group's fall format. **John Hadeed** will lead the middle school group, meeting on Sunday nights at 6:00pm at **Jim and Theresa Rowan's** house. The high school group is being organized into separate groups for girls and boys, with the girls' group meeting on Sunday nights at 6:00pm at Jim and Theresa Rowan's house, led by **Becky Hadeed**. The high school guys will meet on Sunday nights at 6:00pm at **Craig and Wendy Higgins' house**. ❖