

Good News from Good Hope!



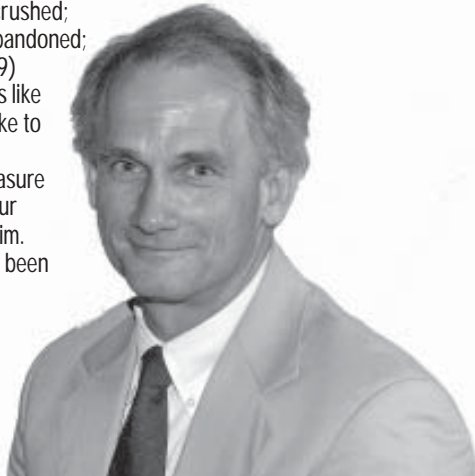
Day after day... they never stopped teaching and proclaiming the good news that Jesus is the Christ. ❖ Acts 5:42
Good Hope Presbyterian Church ❖ The Presbyterian Church in America ❖ September 2008

But We Have This Treasure in Jars of Clay..

Treasure is usually kept in a safe place. Whether it is secretly buried so that others can't find it or placed in a steel-enclosed bank vault, the goal is to keep it secure and safe. Christians have a treasure inside, and this treasure is extremely valuable and potent. Our treasure is meant to be kept safe in our hearts, but not hidden from others or unused by ourselves or for the sake of others. Our treasure is Christ!

Paul wrote, "For God who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' made His light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us." (II Corinthians 4:6-7) God has made His light shine in our hearts. He has even taken up residence in our hearts! We are amazingly like jars of clay. We are clay pots. We are fragile mortals with frail vulnerabilities, yet inside of us is an eternal treasure. The possession of this treasure gives us resilience. Out of his own personal experience Paul wrote, "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed." (II Corinthians 4:8-9) Paul's experience is our experience. We know what it is like to be pressed down, yet survive. We know what it is like to question what is happening to us, but remain hopeful about the ultimate outcome. We have endured our measure of being put down for having faith in the One who is our treasure, yet never been put down nor forsaken by Him. Even if we have never been physically struck, we have been internally struck and still survived.

We have a treasure, and that treasure is the Lord Jesus Himself. His promises and presence are profoundly valuable to us, and they assure us that because He is on the inside, we are more than a match for what may come on the outside. ❖



All Hands on Deck

A work day will be held at the church this **Saturday, September 6th**, beginning at 8:30am. Jobs include washing windows, touching up paint, and installing shelves, as well as mulching, weeding, and transplanting. Please contact **Jim Rowan** at (301) 440-8113 or **Tim Rowan** at (301) 703-4066 to volunteer to bring tools or cleaning supplies.

Join A Growth Group!

For more information on participating in a "Growth Group" (small group Bible study) this fall, please contact **Jack Waller** or **Jim Haber**. Groups will begin meeting during the second week of September on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday nights in homes in Mount Airy, Laurel, and Silver Spring. Don't miss this opportunity to delve into God's Word and get to know your church family.

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

In God's perfect timing, I find that it is September, and I am still here in the United States. What a long 3-month home ministry assignment (HMA) this has been, from March 18th through September now! Highlights have included an incredibly good time with my parents, reconnecting with friends, supporters, and supporting churches, libraries full of English books (Oh, that I could read faster!), and a wonderful Mission to the World (MTW) summer conference.

During my first weeks in the United States, I labored to finish a Bible time series based on classical music in time for the summer semester. My job was to edit the series down so that it would both fit our 30-minute format and be written like a script in simplified English. Each time I do this, I see how God has honed my skills over the years, because it takes a lot of thought and planning to communicate deep Biblical truth in plain vanilla words. Sometimes it feels like you are hitting at the concept with a sledgehammer, but "I would rather speak five words with my mind than ten thousand in a tongue," as the Apostle Paul said. (I Corinthians 14:19) New teachers especially tend to resort to the highly nuanced English that native speakers use with each other, and to the extent that they do that, they are speaking in a "tongue" as far as most of their students are concerned. Our theme verse for Bible time is Psalm 34:8, "Taste and see that the Lord is good." We seek to win our students' hearts for Christ and whet their appetites for the Word of God.

The classical music Bible time series was wonderful, so much that I was sorry not to have a chance to lead students through it. Currently I am editing another series based on the life of Paul (also wonderful) that we will use for the summer semester next year. Other projects that I am working on include revamping my "How to Teach English to Japanese People" training seminar to reflect new ideas that I gleaned at an MTW seminar.

The biggest project during my HMA has been support-raising. Due to these economically challenging times, particularly with the weakness of the dollar against the yen, my monthly deficit in pledges rose from \$650 in March to over \$900! I am pleased to say that God has brought in \$220 in pledges in at this point, as well as a very generous one-time gift. Since my support account is in very healthy shape, there are some funds that can be pro-rated over the next term, and the team is willing to make up the rest from the field, although that means that much less for other ministry. (It has to come from somewhere.) I will also be speaking at a new church during the first week in October, and there is every indication that they will support me in a significant way. But even if they do not, I am glad to introduce them to our ministry in Japan, and I covet their prayers as well as yours.

I hope this has given you a bit of insight into the life of a missionary on HMA. Please pray for me as I prepare to return to Japan in early October. I always find it stressful. Pray for someone to be able to substitute teach for me, as English classes will start September 9th. And finally, pray that God would give our students the gift of saving faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.

God Bless You,
Linda Karner



Join us for Sunday School at 9:45am and Worship at 11:00am each Sunday.
Evening Worship is held each Sunday at 6:30pm.

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September 2008

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31 Sunday School - 9:45am Worship Service - 11:00am Church Picnic - 5:00pm	1	2 Session Meeting at the church - 7:30pm	3 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	4 <u>September Deacons:</u> Matt Malanoski Jim Rowan	5	6 Work Day at the church - 8:30am
7 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	8	9 Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	10 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	11 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	12	13
14 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	15	16 Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	17 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	18 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	19	20
21 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	22	23 Rowan Growth Group - 6:30pm	24 Mclver Growth Group - 7:00pm	25 Macdonald Growth Group - 6:30pm	26 Info for October newsletter due to Kate Haber today!	27
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	4

Daily Schedule of Bible Readings in September

September 1 - Exodus 15	September 16 - Exodus 40
September 2 - Exodus 16	September 17 - Leviticus 1-3
September 3 - Exodus 17-18	September 18 - Leviticus 4-5
September 4 - Exodus 19-20	September 19 - Leviticus 6-7
September 5 - Exodus 21-22	September 20 - Leviticus 8-9
September 6 - Exodus 23-24	September 21 - Leviticus 10-11
September 7 - Exodus 25-26	September 22 - Leviticus 12-13
September 8 - Exodus 27-28	September 23 - Leviticus 14
September 9 - Exodus 29	September 24 - Leviticus 15
September 10 - Exodus 30-31	September 25 - Leviticus 16-17
September 11 - Exodus 32-33	September 26 - Leviticus 18-19
September 12 - Exodus 34-35	September 27 - Leviticus 20-21
September 13 - Exodus 36-37	September 28 - Leviticus 22
September 14 - Exodus 38	September 29 - Leviticus 23-24
September 15 - Exodus 39	September 30 - Leviticus 25

Friends & Family Luncheon

Plan to stay for lunch and fellowship together after morning worship on **Sunday, September 7th**. And bring a friend!

Musical Notes

Choir rehearsals will resume for the fall on Sunday, September 7th, meeting every Sunday evening from 5:30-6:30pm in the sanctuary. No experience required! Contact **Kim Monroe** at (301) 776-8256, and stay tuned for information to come about handchimes.

Sign Up for Fall Supper Clubs

It's not too late to sign up for fall Supper Clubs, small groups that will meet for dinner and fellowship once each during the months of September, October, and November. Call **Shelley Smith** today at (410) 465-6002!

Christmas Already?!?

Rehearsals begin for the annual children's Christmas play as early as the first Sunday in October! It's not too early to begin thinking about ways you can be involved in this year's efforts. Parents, adults, and older teenagers are needed to help with music, costumes, set-up, take-down, and many other aspects of our annual production. Please speak with **Chris Waller** if you are interested in helping in any way!