



Church of the Hills

Lent



Ash Wednesday, February 17

A "Remembering Haiti" potluck social, sponsored by the Worship Team, will occur Wednesday, February 17 at 5:30 PM, right before the Ash Wednesday service. Join us for a simple meal and get to know your COTH family to the beat of Haitian music and pictures.

Service at 7 PM

† First Sunday in Lent, February 21

† Second Sunday in Lent, February 28

† Third Sunday in Lent, March 7

† Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 14

† Fifth Sunday in Lent, March 21

Palm Sunday, March 28

Palm Processional at 10:30 AM worship

Good Friday, April 2

Service at 7:00 PM

Prayer Vigil, Friday, April 2 thru
Saturday, April 3

Easter Sunday, April 4

Services at 8:30 AM and 10:30 AM

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PASTOR DEE'S LETTER

If you were given 2 minutes on an elevator to tell a stranger who you were, what would you say? Initially this sounds fairly easy; but then you truly have to sort out what are the pieces of my story that truly describe who I am.

I think mine would go something like this: woman, daughter, sister, aunt, a good friend, a dog lover, a minister, a therapist, a person who loves humor, a Coloradoan, a Rotarian, MDiv, MEdetc etc etc...

Many times when asked in a setting where people do not know us we start with our vocation or education or our family descriptors. We probably would include our roles in life; but truly what defines who we are? And if we broaden this experiment out further to our community of faith, what would you say?

What defines us?

Who are we as Church of the Hills?

In an age where Identity theft occurs with such regularity, one needs to purchase special protection to prevent one's identity from being stolen. And yet, sometimes do we allow certain things or parts of our lives to limit our own sense of who we are? People wrestle when they retire or become empty nesters or even lose their job because they realize all their identity was defined in their vocation or in being a parent.

Who are we as Church of the Hills? Our Lenten series will be a playful exploration of who we are and how we see **ourselves. With the approach of exploring such questions such as who would we be if we didn't have a building, or a budget, or a pastor/choir, or pews, or potlucks, or celebrations, or crucifixion, or resurrection, would we still be Church of the Hills?**

I hope you join us in asking these questions and sitting in the unknown as we explore *Identity Theft? Who Would We be If.....?*

What a joy to journey together!

Dee



Walk the Labyrinth as a way to meditate and pray during Lent

The COTH canvas labyrinth will be available in the Fellowship Hall the following Wednesdays from Noon to 9 PM: March 17, 24 and 31.

Walking the labyrinth offers an opportunity to still the mind and to listen deeply within. As you walk to the center, you open up and allow healing thoughts in. The rhythm of walking, placing one foot in front of the other, quiets the mind, relaxes the body and refreshes the spirit.



Easter Prayer Vigil

The Prayer Vigil is an invitation to every believer to invest an hour in prayer with our Lord. The Vigil will begin at 8 PM on Good Friday and end at 12:01 AM early Easter morning. You are invited to set aside time to pray at home or wherever you choose. Prayer Vigil supporters will be given a meditation guide based upon Psalm 22. Please sign up in the COTH narthex for an hour prayer shift.

We are hoping to share a Seder dinner again with congregation Beth Evergreen on Thursday, April 1 at Church of the Hills. Plans are still in the making. We will keep you posted.



Lenten Dinner & Discussion Groups (formerly known as Dinners for Nine)

The groups will be forming soon. What a great opportunity to meet new people, share a light meal together, and prepare your heart and mind for Lent. Discussion materials to focus on the Lenten Sermon Series **“Identity Theft: Who Are We?”** and an emphasis on community will be provided for group and individual study. The booklets will be created by Terry Buchanan, Dee Cooper, and Bob McLavey. Watch for opportunities to sign up for this meaningful program. Dinner groups will be offered on several nights. A discussion group will also be held on Sunday mornings at the church.

What is Tenebrae?

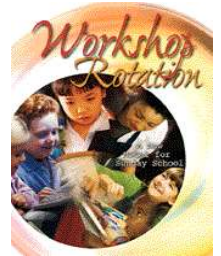
The service of Tenebrae focuses on the episodes in the passion and death of our Lord. Tenebrae, which means darkness or shadows, comes from the tradition of matins and lauds that are recited and sung on the evenings before Easter Sunday.

The Chancel Choir will be sharing the Tenebrae, *Behold the Darkness* by Benjamin Harlan at the Good Friday service on April 2nd. Please join them in this contemplative journey into Easter.



We will begin the hunt, Sunday, March 28 right after worship. Lots of fun for the children. If you would like to donate candy and supplies, contact Terry.

**New Children's Sunday School
Workshop Rotation to Begin
February 28
with Easter Theme**



Based on curriculum written by Terry Buchanan, Children will rotate through workshops on a weekly basis that will be taught through art, computers, cooking, drama, games, music, puppets, videos, and more . We will have a lot of fun as we learn of God's incredible love for us. Lot's of hands-on projects! Lots of learning! You won't want to miss the excitement!!

Sunday Adult Class

The adult class, *An Autobiography of God: The Parables of Jesus*, continues on Sunday mornings at 9:15AM. Join the discussions as we seek to better understand God and how God wants us to live our lives.

'Nones' are gaining ground

According to the recent "American Religious Identification Survey," 15 percent of Americans now identify with no religion. If the trend continues, experts predict that people with no religious affiliation could soon surpass the nation's largest denominations.

"Nones aren't a fringe group anymore and are now part of middle America," says demographer and study coauthor Ariela Keysar, quoted in USA Today last year. "They're present in every socio-demographic group."

Although "Nones" reject organized religion, half still believe in God or a higher power. Interestingly, Nones are the only major U.S. "faith group" consisting mostly of males.

Lead researcher Barry Kosmin said people have many misconceptions about Nones. "They're not New Age searchers or spiritual or even hardened atheists. They're a stew of agnostics, deists and rationalists. [They're] skeptical about organized religion and clerics while still holding to an idea of God."

Hearing about all the "Nones" gives us even more reason to go out and share our faith with someone.

Sunday, February 21 – Workshop Sunday – The day starts at 9AM with a brunch and time for worship and will be followed by a number of opportunities to do service in the community. The youth will sponsor a food drive at local grocery stores so that food can be given to ECHO to support families and individuals in our community who are in need of food. You can help with the food drive or one of the many other projects that will be offered. Look for more details.

Sunday, February 28 – Bowlathon for Denver Rescue Mission – We will help raise money for Denver Rescue Mission and their outreach to needy teens and children through our participation in their annual bowlathon. See Terry for a sponsor sheet.



Friday – Sunday, March 5-7 – Mid-high Retreat at Highlands Camp. Open to all 6th - 8th graders. See Terry for registration information.

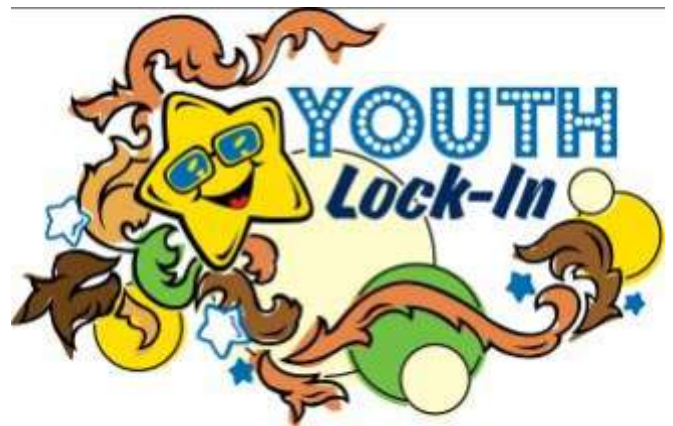
No regular youth group on Sunday, March 7

Sunday, March 21 – We will be going to the Rock & Worship Road Show in Colorado Springs. The concert tickets are only \$10 and will allow us to see an awesome concert featuring such contemporary Christian artists as Mercy Me, David Crowder Band, Family Force 5, Fee, Francesca Battistelli, Remedy Drive, and Sidewalk Prophets. The concert begins at 6PM. More details to follow.

As always, you are encouraged to invite your friends to join us.

Thank You to our newly formed Youth Planning Team. Soon you will be hearing plans for:

- a lock-in at the rec center
- a summer mission trip
- a summer camping trip which will include white water rafting, hiking, biking, and a trip to a hot springs pool
- other fun and meaningful activities planned by the newly formed Youth Planning Team



MISSION

Join us for WORKSHOP on February 21st at 9:00 am

We will begin the morning at a *new time*, 9:00 by having a potluck breakfast and worship in Fellowship Hall.

Please bring one of the following breakfast items:

Last name beginning with A – H	Egg/Meat dish
Last name beginning with I – Q	Juice or Fresh Fruit
Last name beginning with R – Z	Breads, Bagels, Muffins

Coffee, plates, cups and eating utensils will be provided.



There will be many exciting projects to participate in (described below). Be sure and sign-up to participate in one of these projects in the Narthex or online at <http://www.churchofthehills.com/>.

- Baby Blankets – We take many things for granted. Some families in the Denver area are so poor that they cannot afford blankets for their newborns. Denver Health provides blankets for newborns, but they depend on donations and sometimes run out. This group will make blankets and caps to provide to newborns in need. We will need sewing machines, sewing, thread and fabric (flannel and fleece) donations. Contact Mary Richards for additional information.
- Elk Run – Visit with our aging community members and help provide them with some joy and fellowship with singing and bingo. Simple instruments will be provided for the residents to play.
- EChO Resale Shop - Have you ever wondered what goes on behind the scenes at the EChO resale shop? This is your opportunity to have a tour, an explanation of how the shop operates, the collection, sorting and preparation of donated items for sale, needs of the clients and volunteer opportunities for teens and adults. There will also be time to lend a hand sprucing up the shop.
- EChO Food Drive at the grocery stores – **EChO's food banks are in high demand as more and more families depend** on this source to make ends meet. The Youth group will coordinate this project.
- Burrito Making – Sit around the table and share stories and a few laughs while making burritos that will be given to the homeless. This activity is great for all ages.
- Haiti Healthcare Kits – The needs in Haiti are overwhelming and incomprehensible. The need for money is great, but there are also requests for hygiene kits which consist of a hand towel, wash cloth, tooth brush in original wrapper, bath-size bar of soap in original wrapper, nail clipper, wide tooth comb and six Band-Aids, all packed into a gallon-sized, plastic ziplock bag. We are accepting donations of these items from local stores and groups. An

One great hour of sharing

Since 1949, Presbyterians have joined with millions of other Christians through One Great Hour of Sharing to share God's love with people experiencing need. Our gifts support ministries of disaster response, refugee assistance and resettlement, and community development that help people find safe refuge, start new lives, and work together to strengthen their families and communities.

COTH will be collecting the OGHS on Palm Sunday, March 28, 2010. Please respond with gifts that help our sisters and brothers around the world find the hope for a brighter future. Thank you in advance for your generosity!

COTH APPLIES TO DENVER PRESBYTERY FOR GRANT FUNDS

After extensive input from the various teams at COTH, **guidance from a “Dream Team, and other conversations** with members of the congregation, Session approved an application to Presbytery for a Long-Term Initiative grant. A grant of this type involves a covenant relationship with Presbytery, to work together to increase the effectiveness and vitality of our church.

This grant proposal was one outcome of a discernment process that Session conducted in 2009 to determine the **church’s priorities**. Session discerned that COTH’s primary focus should be spiritual growth for our members, with a particular emphasis on reaching out to young children, families and couples in our community. The proposal submitted to Presbytery was developed with this focus in mind.

Funds are being requested for education programs and worship, communications and outreach, and building improvements. The largest request in the grant will be an **upgrade to COTH’s sound and video system, in order to** enhance our worship services as well as outreach possibilities. With a better sound and video system, we will be able to enhance our worship experience, post sermons on our website, provide adequate support for concerts involving local musicians and youth, as well as significantly improve the presentation of other events. Thorough research indicated that it would be better to replace the system than to continue to try to patchwork repairs.

Other requests within the proposal include funding assistance to initiate a rotation model for youth education programs in Sunday School, and assistance to establish the Creative Worship service. Working with COTH to improve **the educational offerings is one of Terry’s Buchanan’s** primary focuses, and he has experience with this model as a successful tool for offering high quality programming. Musicians and a music coordinator, as well as equipment and building amenities, will help us strengthen the Creative Worship service as an outreach to those who **don’t usually go to church and currently don’t have a** church home.

The Creative Worship service is of a different style and on a different day than the Sunday morning services. Educational and worship experiences are central to the life of a church; by strengthening our offerings, we will

enhance the spiritual experience of our current members as well as reach out to others in our community.

Because “getting the word out” and helping guests feel comfortable when they arrive are also essential, the grant request also included funds for advertising and some building improvements, such as signs to identify rooms inside the building.

A lengthy proposal answering multiple questions was submitted to Presbytery in January. COTH and **Presbytery’s Long-Term Initiatives** team will be in communication to discuss the proposal prior to **Presbytery’s decision on funding, which is anticipated this** Spring. The total amount requested is about \$80,000. These are funds that COTH would not normally receive **except through this grant request**. COTH’s proposed matching contribution includes volunteer and staff time in several areas, some of the local advertising that is proposed, and building renovations to Fellowship Hall in 2011 and 2012.

More information will be provided to the congregation as we receive feedback from Presbytery.

If you have questions about the grant, please speak with a member of Session. Diane Gansauer coordinated the material that was submitted; she can be reached at home most evenings.

Benchmarks for Vitality

“The larger part of establishing a Covenant Partnership Agreement with financial support is the context of Long Term Initiatives Work Group and a Session working together to increase the effectiveness and vitality **of a particular congregation and of the Presbytery.”**

EXPLORER'S CLASS

Interested in Exploring Membership in Church of the Hills?

An Explorers Class for those that want to learn more about Church of the Hills and/or explore membership in our church is going to be held on four Sundays: February 28, March 7, March 14, and March 21 from 8:45 AM to 10:15 AM in the church parlor. Nursery care will be provided.

If you are interested, please call Carolyn Jones at the church office, 303.674.6641 or email/call Ginny Bailey.

We hope you'll join us! A light breakfast will be served at each session.



PERMANENT ENDOWMENT FUND

Funding is available for 2010! If you have a church project or a mission that you are involved with that needs some extra funding to be successful, consider submitting an application.

Some questions to consider before applying for funding:

- Is the project consistent with the values and objectives of COTH?
- Is the project coordinated with a relevant session team?
- Is there personal member involvement outside of monetary donations?
- Is the project realistically conceived and can it be successful?

- Is the project clearly outside the church's normal operating budget?
- Is the project well planned with a defined budget?

An endowment fund can work forever for our benefit because only a portion of the interest earned each year is used to fund special projects, mission activities and expenses that are outside of the annual church budget. The trustees of the fund meet monthly .

The Endowment Fund Team will review applications for 2010 funding beginning Monday, March 1. Application forms are available from Carolyn Jones. If you have any questions about the application process please contact Graham Gibbard.

Spares & Pairs: March 12

Many of you have said you enjoy our restaurant nights, so here's another evening to look forward to! Our next restaurant dinner is at 7PM on March 12 at Mt Vernon Country Club. Reservation deadline is Friday, March 5. If you would like to attend, contact Jean Martin. Menu choices are: Chicken Marsala \$21.47, Beef with Brandy Peppercorn Sauce \$28.11, Shrimp with Mango Habenero Sauce \$27.45, or The King Crab Buffet at \$35.82. All prices include tax and tip but do not include drinks, appetizers, or dessert which can be ordered that night and paid for separately.

Community Supper Volunteers Needed

The monthly Community Supper is on the 2nd Wednesday each month. The March Community Supper is Wednesday, March 10. Volunteers are always needed to help cook, set up, serve, and clean up. Please contact either Linda LaGrange or Ann Joseph if you're interested in volunteering. You can also sign up on the Community Supper Volunteer list in the Narthex.

Men's Breakfast meets 4th Fridays February 26 & March 26

REMINDER! All men are invited to the Men's Breakfast at LePeep in Bergen Park. Gather at 7AM on Friday, February 26 and March 26. Come and enjoy great food and hear some interesting stories. Bring a friend! For more information, contact Kelly Garrod.

Christian Characters – Saturday, February 20, 2010 from 6:30PM

Join us for an evening of fun and fellowship at the home of Aaron & Tracy Hansen

Please call the Hansen's to RSVP and for directions

A main dish will be provided

Please bring an appetizer, side dish or dessert to share

Communications Team Seeking Members

The Communications Team is inviting anyone who has an interest in "getting the word out" about Church of the Hills and all the wonderful activities available at this church to consider joining the Team. We are down to three members—our fearless Judy Forbes home hobbling with a broken leg.



We meet monthly on the first Thursday of month at 9AM. The Team is responsible for Echoes, Friday Features, writing articles for special submissions to the Canyon Courier and seasonal/special paid advertising.

Any interested person should contact either Lee Strattan or Cathy Graves.

TREASURER'S REPORT / ECHOES INFORMATION

Treasurer's Report

January	Actual	YTD	Actual
Revenues	\$37,879	Revenues	\$37,879
Expenses	<u>\$29,298</u>	Expenses	<u>\$29,298</u>
Net Total	\$8,581	Net Total	\$8,581

Thank you for your giving in January! It was a positive month with revenues outgaining expenses. We continue to remind members of their 2010 per capita apportionment in the amount of \$24.53 *per member*. Per capita is divided among the three governing bodies of the Presbyterian Church (USA). General Assembly receives \$6.15; Synod receives \$6.38; and our local Denver Presbytery receives \$12.00. Per capita funding is how Presbyterians mutually **share the cost of coming together to discern the Spirit's leading for the future. Per capita funds the cost of our annual General Assembly and covers expenses of our delegates and commissioners.** Per capita funds are also used to maintain the Presbyterian Historical Society where the archives and the history of the Presbyterian church is maintained.

Church of the Hills' total per capita apportionment for 2010 is \$7,972.25. By our members bearing their responsibility for their family per capita apportionment, funds that have been set aside in the operating budget to pay our church's responsibility can be freed up for other ministries and missions of COTH.

Echoes Staff

Editor:	Cathy Graves
Backup:	Judy Forbes
Web-Servant:	Cathy Graves
Reporters	Louella Young
Production Team:	Pat Femmer, Jean Martin, Lloyd Schiever, Eve and Dale Hoffman

Echoes Submission Guidelines:

- Please email space reservations and materials to echoes@churchofthehills.com
- Content is preferred in a MS Word document, special formatting with headers, spacing, bullets is NOT preferred.
- Photos and graphics should be submitted as separate .jpg or .tif files; do not import them in a word document or the email. Font—Calibri 11pt.

Echoes Deadlines	April/May Echoes	June/July/August
Space Reservations	Friday, March 5	Friday, May 7
Materials Due	Friday, March 12	Friday, May 14
Layout completed	Friday, March 19	Friday, May 21
Proofing completed	Monday, March 22	Monday, May 24
Printing	Wednesday, March 24	Wednesday, May 26
Collating/Mailing	Thursday, March 25	Thursday, May 27

Church of the Hills

Presbyterian Church (USA)

P. O. Box 1210 • 28628 Buffalo Park Road • Evergreen, CO 80437-1210
 Phone: 303.674.6641 • Fax : 303.679.1785 • Email: www.churchofthehills.com

Office Hours M - F: 9:00 AM-5:00 PM

Sunday Worship: 10:30 AM

Sunday School: 9:20 - 10:20 AM

<p>PASTOR Rev. Dee Cooper</p> <p>STAFF</p> <p>Church Administrator Carolyn Jones</p> <p>Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries Terry Buchanan</p> <p>Director of Music Ministries Cheryl Denslow</p> <p>Organist/Accompanist Matt Witherow</p> <p>Bell Choir Director Wendy Martin</p> <p>Children/Youth Choir Director Lilly Croke</p> <p>Nursery Coordinator Stacy Minion</p> <p>Custodian Brian Ehrle</p> <p>Maintenance Dieter Becker</p> <p>Parish Associate Don Bennett</p>	<p>VOLUNTEER STAFF</p> <p>Treasurer Scott King</p> <p>Assistant Treasurer</p> <p>Volunteer Coordinator Cathy Graves</p> <p>BOARD OF DEACONS</p> <p>Co-Moderators Maria Garrod and Bob Gansauer</p> <p>Margaret Bailey Donna Bucholz Kay Culp Jean Davis Margi Masquelier Margery McKnight Cal Ruleman Jeff Sahli Lloyd Schiever Deb Vasko</p> <p>ENDOWMENT TEAM</p> <p>Kurt Ballantyne, Bill Cook, Emily Corey, Graham Gibbard, Kelly Krueger</p>	<p>SESSION</p> <p>Jerry Bucholz Joanna Cook Kellie Cox Bob Culp Diane Gansauer Tracy Hansen Ann Joseph Ron Klusman Linda LaGrange Jeff Mershon Dan Ray Don Sahli Lee Strattan Judy Jensen, Clerk of Session</p> <p>NOMINATING TEAM</p> <p>Mel Andrew, Kurt Ballantyne, Lilly Croke, Greta Faraco-Hadlock, Marilyn Sandifer</p> <p>PERSONNEL TEAM</p> <p>Rick Bailey, Sue Brown, Kelly Croke, Jill Hesser, Julie King, Jeff Mershon, Char Ray</p>
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February/March Important Dates

Presidents Day	February 15
Ash Wednesday	February 17
First Sunday in Lent	February 21
Daylight Savings Time Begins	March 14
St. Patrick's Day	March 17
Palm Sunday	March 28
Holy Week	March 28—April 3



Return Service Requested
Time Valued Mail — February 11, 2010

Presbyterian (USA)
PO Box 1210
Evergreen CO 80437-1210

Church of the Hills



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Our Mission

Church of the Hills is a family of faith in Christ that is called together with open hearts
and minds to live out our faith within God's world and within the
framework of the Presbyterian Church USA.

Our Worship Service is at 10:30 AM on Sunday

Please Note:

If your address, phone number, or e-mail has changed,
please notify Carolyn at the church office at 303.674.6641.