



ECHOES

Inspire . . . Inform . . . Invite

Inside . . .

February/March 2012

Lenten/Easter

Schedule

Pages 2 - 3

Pastor Dee's Letter

Page 4

Church Family

News

- From Nominating
 - Spares & Pairs
 - Friday Night at the Movies
 - Church Ski Days
 - Faith Day at the Rockies
- Page 5

Christian Education

- Faith Trails
 - Adult Education
 - Youth Events
 - Summer Youth Mission Trip
- Pages 6 - 7

Mission

- 2012 Non-Profit Support
- Page 8

One Great Hour of

Sharing

Page 8

2011 Mission

Giving

Page 9

Treasurer's Report

- Year-to-Date through January Financial Results
- Page 10

Echoes Schedule

- April 2012 and May 2012
- Page 10

Leadership/Staff

& Important

Dates for

February/March

Page 11



March 11

It's The End of the World



. . . As We Know It!

February 22 Ash Wednesday Service

7 p.m.

"What if We Lived Each Day Thinking It Was our Last?"

Sundays of Lent Worship Service 10 a.m.

February 26 "Being Available in the Moment"

March 4 "Loving People in the Moment"

March 11 "Seeing God in the Moment"

March 18 "Experiencing each Moment"

March 25 "Appreciating Interruptions in the Moment"

April 1 Palm Sunday

"Celebrating the Moment"

April 5 Maundy Thursday Service

7 p.m.

"Marking the Moment"

April 8 Easter

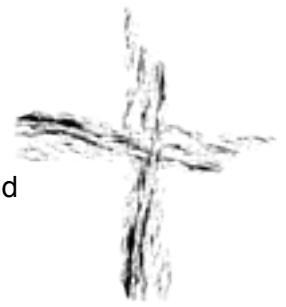
"It is the End of the World Because It's a New Day!"

February 22- Ash Wednesday, 7 p.m. Service

What if We Lived Each Day Thinking It Was our Last?

Please join us!

Our Lenten theme, "It's the End of the Word as We Know It!," will begin with Ash Wednesday and the imposition of ashes on the foreheads and serving communion.



What is Ash Wednesday?

Ash Wednesday is the first day in the 40 day season of Lent. You might be more familiar with Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras, the day before Ash Wednesday. As the journey to the cross unfolds over the 40 days of Lent, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of this season of reflection and renewal. The tradition of marking the worshiper on the forehead with ashes has long been a part of many denominations observance of Ash Wednesday. Too often the season of Lent is marked more by whether to eat sweets or drink sodas. Although the original intention was to release something that might distract us from God, too often we focus on the "should" or "should not" versus a spirit of worship.

Easter Lily & Prayer Vigil Sign Ups

Please look for the sign up boards in the Narthex for Easter lilies that can be purchased in honor of or in memory of loved ones or friends. Also, take the opportunity to sign up to take an Easter lily to one or more of our members who are homebound.

The Prayer Vigil this year will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, April 7. The sign up is in the Narthex. A list of those on the COH prayer list and a suggested devotional will be mailed and/or emailed to participants prior to the 7th and will also be in the Narthex.

The Tale of Three Trees

Sunday, March 18

Liturgical dancers will create a visual accompaniment as the Chancel Choir sings Allen Pote's enchanting setting of the folk story, *The Tale of Three Trees*. This musical setting of Angela Hunt's book, by the same title, is storytelling at its best -- audio and visual.

The mini-cantata was written as an intergenerational piece. The simplicity of the music enhances the story that is being portrayed and will be carried on throughout the visual presentation. Since it is an interpretation of a children's book, it is a perfect introduction for children (and adults) to know that not all dreams come true but perhaps something even great comes from those dreams.



A copy of Angela Hunt's book can be found in the church library. Please take a few minutes to familiarize yourself with the story or to read it to your children or grandchildren prior to the presentation. And be sure not to miss this special interpretation of *The Tale of Three Trees*!

Palm Sunday

April 1

Come join us wave a palm and celebrate Palm Sunday!



Maundy Thursday

April 5

There will be a soup supper at 6:00 p.m. followed at 7:00 p.m. by a worship service and communion in the Sanctuary. This is always a very moving service and we hope you will join us.



Prayer Vigil

Good Friday April 6 through Saturday April 7

One of our on-going traditions is a prayer vigil from Good Friday through Saturday. Look for the sign up in the Narthex and reserve your special time. We will be praying at home and hope to have continuous prayers offered.



When I was in high school, there was a song that R.E.M. sang called, *It's the End of the World as We Know It*. The song had a catchy tune and was highlighting the possibilities of the signs of the end of the world. And the chorus ends with, "It's the end of the world as we know it and I feel fine." In our current culture, with the Mayan Calendar ending in 2012, our world is abuzz with predictions, prophecies, and possibilities of the world coming to an end.

This is not anything new as it seems each year, there is some culture, cult, even a community of faith predicting that the end is near. There are experts in numerology that have the secrets of the timing of the end of the world figured out through a code of numbers in the Bible. There are prophetic organizations that after aligning symbolism from Revelation, feel the end is near. National Geographic did a special on an American group called the Doomsday Preppers, who are preparing with ammunition and supplies for the end of the world so they can survive.

Just Google the prophecies of the end of the world and you will be inundated with many websites, all who claim to have the secrets revealed. One website describes horrific conditions are prophesied to come. "You can know where this world is heading . . . and escape!" Although entertaining, I find this fixation and quest for answers time consuming, fear based, and distracting. It is truly not helpful to how we live our lives here and now.

During Lent, we will explore the "It's the End of the World as We Know It." But unlike the fear based proclamations, we will explore what does it mean to appreciate and live in each moment? What if I lived each day as if it were my last? What if I were available, appreciated people, looked for God, experienced, and saw value in the interruptions of each and every moment? Might that change how I live this day and each day following? What if I took time to celebrate, to create and mark importance of each moment? And indeed isn't the message of Easter one that we proclaim: It is indeed a new moment, a new day!!

We will study the Gospel of Mark as we explore, what does it mean to not get consumed in the fear of the end of the world, but indeed to be fine, as we live each moment to its fullest. And we will gather on Easter morning at the grave proclaiming, "Alleluia!"

Blessings,

Dee



From Your Nominating Team

Each spring Church of the Hills elects officers to represent, guide, and serve our congregation. As servant leaders, they strive to keep our church following Christ's teachings in a fast-changing world. We extend these opportunities to serve to all eligible church members. The personal and spiritual rewards are great. We thank those of you who have committed to serve in the coming years. We thank those of you who are prayerfully considering how best to serve. We thank all of you for your prayers and support. On Sunday, April 22, officers and leaders whose terms begin in June, 2012 will be introduced to and elected by the congregation. They will receive training, then take office in June, 2012.

Dick Blodgett, Kurt Ballantyne, Tammy Carpenter, Greta Faraco-Hadlock
Carolyn Hock, Ruth Petrick, Oralie McAfee

Spares & Pairs

Our next potluck dinner will be on Friday the 9th of March at 7:00 p.m. We'll meet at the home of Jean Martin and Jeff Mershon, 28536 Clover Lane, Evergreen. Bring a dish to share and enjoy strengthening the ties that bind us! Need directions? Call 303.674.3478.



Church Ski Days

There is only one remaining ski day at Loveland on March 16. Let Terry know if you would like to join the fun.

Faith Day at the Rockies

Join the fun as the Rockies host the Miami Marlins on August 19 for a 1:10 p.m. game. After the game there will be by an amazing concert by the popular contemporary Christian band, *Third Day*. 30 seats are reserved in the upper deck right behind home plate. Tickets are only \$15. Let Terry know how many tickets you want.



Friday Nights at the Movies

Movies begin at 7:00 p.m. and are followed by lively discussion. Bring an appetite for popcorn and great fellowship!

February 24 – *Seven Days in Utopia*

In this inspirational drama, a young golfer just on the verge of going pro buckles under the pressure. The crushing disappointment leads to uncertainty if he'll ever return to the game again. Life's journey sees him crash his car in the town of Utopia, TX, leading to a friendship with an old rancher who knows more about the game of golf and the journey of life than the troubled young visitor realizes. Amazing the change when he begins to see life from a new perspective -- a perspective that will not only help him to make sense of where he's been in life, but where he's headed as well. Stars Lucas Black and Robert Duvall.



March 23 – *The Note*

A struggling newspaper columnist finds a simple scrap of paper with a profound message that may be the key to saving her column from cancellation in this inspirational drama. Just as Peyton's editor warns her to improve her standing with readers or hit the pavement, word breaks that Flight 848 has crashed. During a walk along the coast, she finds a note sealed inside a small plastic bag half filled with cookie crumbs. Peyton is deeply moved by the heartfelt note, to "T" from "Dad." and vows to use her "Heart Healer" column as a means for getting the note to its intended recipient. While another reporter tries to sensationalize the story, she finds that tracking down "T" changes her life and truly resonates with her growing number of readers. Stars Genie Francis and Ted McGinley.





Throughout the school year, children in grades K-5 have been exploring the Beatitudes (Matthew 5) as well as biblical stories that help them learn to rely upon God in both the good and difficult times of life. “Blessed are those who realize their need for God” (Matthew 5:3) is the key verse that provides the theme that runs throughout all of the stories for the year. So far the children have learned about Peter, Abraham, Mary (the mother of Jesus), Queen Esther, and several of Jesus’ parables. During the rest of the school year, they will turn their focus to Holy Week, Easter Art, and Jacob.

The school year will end with a two week game show, *The Year in Review*. The children will be the contestants in the game show, with the questions coming from all of the stories that they have studied throughout the year. If this year’s game show is anything like last year’s, they won’t miss very many questions. It’s truly amazing how much they are learning in Faith Trails!

If you have not had the chance to visit the Cyber Peaks computer lab since Christmas, you really need to stop by next time you are in the building. We now have really cool murals painted on the walls to emphasize the “mountain destination” motif that we want for Cyber Peaks. If your reaction is like most people’s, you will say “Wow” when you enter the room.

For that matter, stop by and see all of our workshops. The renovations we have done to our children’s classrooms provide a really distinctive atmosphere for Christian education when compared to most other church buildings. Each of our workshops has a different feel and a different purpose as we seek to create excitement and productive learning environments for our children.



Cyber Peaks – 5 station computer lab utilized for creative writing, art, storytelling, games, and lots of motivated learners! The mountain scenery is very cool!



Creation Station – art and cooking studio. The rainbow decorations remind us of God’s promises and never-ending love for all of us.



Starry Night Theater – 17 seat ultra-large screen movie theater with glow-in-the-dark stars in the shapes of Christian symbols. The movies and discussions are just as big a hit as the popcorn!



Game Tracks – game room with super-sized game boards mounted on the walls along with lots of paw prints. Games really are a great way to teach!



Tent Tales – drama and puppets and a stage with curtains. So far, every child I’ve seen makes a bee-line for the stage when they enter the room.

Wondering about the compass in the logo? It’s a compass that always points toward God. We want the children to realize they are on a journey of faith – thus, Faith Trails. What they learn through our curriculum reminds them that staying on the path that leads toward God will mean that they are always on the right path!

Vacation Bible School

Operation Overboard: Dare to Go Deep with God!

Add these dates to your calendar for June 11-15, 9 a.m. - Noon
 For all children age 4 years - rising 6th graders
 Registration will begin in April.



Adult Education

Worship Response

Do you ever want to ask questions during worship? Do you ever wish you could share how a sermon illustration relates to your life? Do you ever wonder how you can apply the worship theme to your daily life? If so, then Worship Response is for you.

Join others for a time to reflect upon the morning's worship experience through further explorations of the morning's sermon, scripture, music, and/or theme.

Look for -- discussions, videos, times for personal reflection, and more – all designed to help you take the worship experience with you into the week ahead. Since each week is based upon that morning's worship experience, it's always a great time to visit Worship Response.

Meets in the Sanctuary at about 11:15 each Sunday morning.

Book Study on Brennan Manning's classic book, *The Ragamuffin Gospel*.

This book has changed thousands of people's lives helping them learn to see God's grace as more than a theory and to see God – not as a small-minded bookkeeper tallying our successes and failures – but rather as the One whose furious love for us makes God willing to offer us grace no matter what we've done in the past.

The readings and discussions will be sure to change your life as well. Meets in Room 110 at 11:15 each Sunday morning.

This study will continue throughout Lent.

Youth Events

Youth Bible Study

For all 6th-12th graders, meets each Wednesday, 6:00-6:45 pm, in Room 110 to study "The Life & Teachings of Jesus" through Bible readings, videos, and computer activities.

Confirmation Class

This class begins on Sunday, February 26, 1:00 - 3:15 p.m. Confirmation Sunday will be April 29. This experience is designed for students in 8th grade and older to explore the Christian faith in-depth and consider church membership. If you are interested and have not signed up yet, please contact Terry ASAP.

Summer Youth Mission Trip (July 13-20)

If you have not signed up I can still try to get a spot for you for this exciting adventure of serving others on the Navajo Reservation, in northwest NM / northeast AZ. Two days of camping and exploring in Arches & Canyonlands National Parks in Utah will precede our time on the reservation. Several other youth groups will join us at the reservation. Cost before fund raisers will be a little over \$300 per participant. The trip is open to all current 6th-12th graders.



Monthly fund raisers will be advertised in the Sunday *Happenings*, *Friday Features*, and future *Echoes*. Help make this amazing experience possible with your support of these fund raisers.

Mission Team

Non-Profit Support 2012

PCUSA

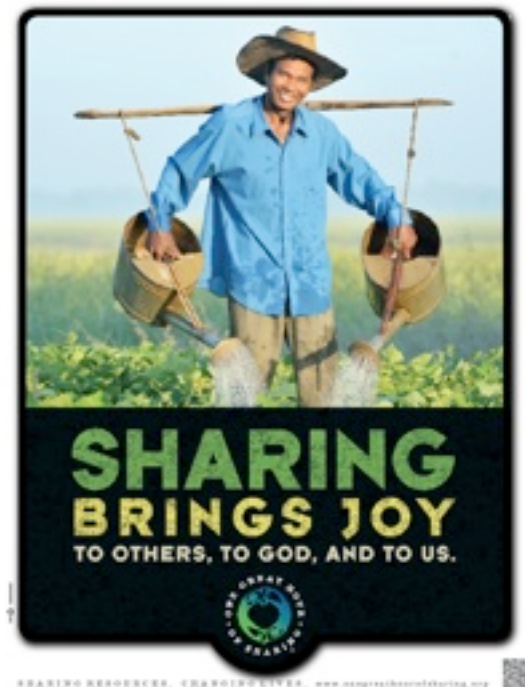
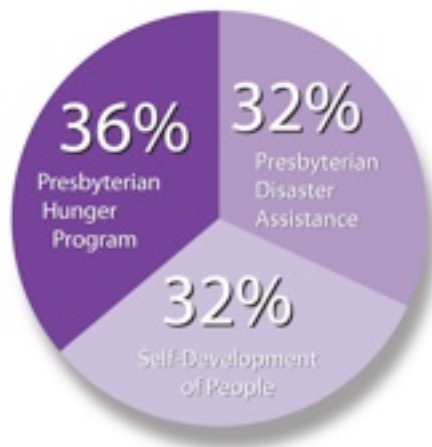
Dedicated Giving for 2012

- Colorado Haiti Project
- Community Supper
- Evergreen Christian Outreach (EChO)
- Kenyan Children Foundation
- WORKshop
- Alternative Gift Fair Committee
- Friendship Bridge
- Senior Resource Center Extension Services



*One Great Hour of Sharing Offering
will be collected Palm Sunday, April 1
Our goal is \$2,545*

Where the offering goes to . . .



Mission Team Giving 2011

PCUSA MISSION **\$2,650.00**

ONE TIME GIFT

Betsy Kyle- help defer cost of mission trip to Kenya	\$1,716.98
Materials for picnic table for Habitat for Humanity home	150.00
Money to purchase food for AGF Youth Café	150.00

DEDICATED GIVING

Colorado Haiti Project	\$1,500.00
Community Supper Fund	1,500.00
Evergreen Christian Outreach	2,000.00
Kenyan Children Foundation	1,200.00
WORKshop	500.00
Alternative Gift Fair	500.00
Friendship Bridge	500.00

TOTAL 2011 ONE TIME GIFT AND DEDICATED GIVING **\$9,766.98**

EXTENDED MISSION GIVING

Special Offerings

One Great Hour of Sharing	\$2,544.97
Peacemaking Offering	
Denver Presbytery	270.00
Senior Resource Center to help defer increase in transportation costs	90.00
Pentecost Offering	
Denver Presbytery	771.00
Second Wind (teen and young adult suicide prevention)	514.00
Help defer increase over budget for transportation costs	

TOTAL 2011 SPECIAL OFFERINGS **\$4,189.97**

TOTAL 2011 MISSION GIVING **\$16,606.95**

TOTAL 2011 PER CAPITA GIVING **\$7,560.00**

HANDS ON MISSION GIVING: MISSION TEAM SPONSORED VOLUNTEERING BY COTH CONGREGATION

ECHO Food Collections

On going

Community Supper

Supper & entire evening done by volunteers from COTH

Alternative Gift Fair

Volunteers from COTH participate at the Fair the entire weekend

Special Christmas project for Senior Resource Center's Extension Program

Congregants donated gifts for all the adults in the program

Care Package to Marine Unit in Afghanistan

Members met at Mt. Vernon Country Club to help Rotary package goodies that were sent to Nancy Robertson's son's Marine Troop in Afghanistan

Three WORKshop Sundays

One of the Sunday's was dedicated to Habitat for Humanity projects

CHURCH OF THE HILLS PRESBYTERIAN (USA)

JANUARY 31, 2012

REVENUES & EXPENSES - YTD 2012

	January	January Budgeted	Variance	YTD Actual	YTD Budget	Variance
REVENUES						
Pledges	\$21,342	\$23,214	(\$1,872)	\$21,342	\$23,214	(\$1,872)
All Others	\$3,429	\$2,897	\$532	\$3,429	\$2,897	\$532
TOTAL REVENUES	\$24,770	\$26,111	(\$1,341)	\$24,770	\$26,111	(\$1,341)
EXPENSES						
Personnel	\$19,526	\$21,822	\$2,295	\$19,526	\$21,822	\$2,295
All Other	\$9,385	\$8,462	(\$923)	\$9,385	\$8,462	(\$923)
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$28,911	\$30,284	\$1,373	\$28,911	\$30,284	\$1,373
NET TOTAL	(\$4,141)	(\$4,173)	\$32	(\$4,141)	(\$4,173)	\$32

Pledge revenues were below budget in January. Although this isn't a major concern at this point in time, it will be monitored closely. Use of Building reflected the Extension Services rent payment. The good news is that members are paying their Per Capita! We put a label on the pledge envelopes reminding people of the cost which may be helping. Personnel costs tracked below budget. Administration was \$961.86 over budget, primarily due to snow removal being \$816.64 over budget. Office supplies were also over budget as first of the year purchasing took place. All other teams were below or only slightly above budget. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me. Cathy Graves, Treasurer

Editor: Cathy Graves
Assistant Editor: Judy Forbes
Webmaster: Cathy Graves
Production Team: Kathy Donner, Pat Femmer, Dale & Eve Hoffman, Jean Martin, Bob Payne, Lloyd Schiever



Echoes Submission Guidelines:

Please email space reservations and materials to echoes@churchofthehills.com. Content is preferred in a Microsoft Word document, and special formatting with headers, spacing, bullets is NOT preferred. Photos and graphics should be submitted as a separate .jpg or .tif file format; please do not import them into a Word document. **Font: Times Roman 11pt**

Echoes Deadlines

	April 2012	February/March 2012
Articles Due	Friday, March 9	Friday, April 13
Layout Completed	Monday, March 19	Monday, April 23
Printing	Wednesday, March 21	Wednesday, April 25
Collating/Mailing	Thursday, March 22	Thursday, April 26

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 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Worship: 10:00 a.m.
 Faith Trails for Children: 10:15 - 11:15 a.m. • Children's Choir: 11:15 a.m. to Noon
 Adult Studies & Worship Response: 11:15 a.m. to Noon

PASTOR

The Rev. Dr. Dee Cooper

STAFF

Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries

Terry Buchanan

Director of Music Ministries

Cheryl Denslow

Church Administrator

Carolyn Jones

Organists/Accompanists

Karen Peterson
 Joyce Scheel

Nursery Coordinator

Trudy Roth

Custodian

Brian Erhle

Maintenance

Greg Ploya

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Treasurer

Cathy Graves

Assistant Treasurer

Jeff Mershon

Volunteer Coordinator

Cathy Graves

BOARD OF DEACONS

Zi Antweiler
 Kay Culp
 Jean Davis
 Ande Hesser
 Marianne Loritz
 Margi Masquelier
 Mat Matson
 Ruth Petrick
 Lloyd Schiever
 Jan Schoonveld
 Julie Sciarabba

ENDOWMENT TEAM

Kurt Ballantyne, Emily Corey,
 Cathy Graves, Steve Nelson,
 Bill Sandifer

SESSION

Jerry Bucholz
 Chuck Corey
 Judy Forbes
 Dean Graves
 Tracy Hansen
 Ron Klusman
 Oralie McAfee
 Marilyn Sandifer
 Amanda Sciarabba
 Lee Strattan
 Carol Zager
 Judy Jensen, Clerk of Session

NOMINATING TEAM

Kurt Ballantyne, Dick Blodgett,
 Tammy Carpenter, Carolyn Hock

PERSONNEL TEAM

Chuck Corey, Kelly Croke,
 Jill Hesser, Kelly Krueger,
 Jim Leonard, Cal Ruleman

STEWARDSHIP TEAM

Dick Blodgett, Chuck Corey,
 Dean Graves, Sharon Klusman,
 Frances Vaughn



IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY & MARCH

FEBRUARY 22 ASH WEDNESDAY
 FEBRUARY 26 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
 MARCH 2 WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
 MARCH 4 SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
 MARCH 11 THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGIN

MARCH 18 FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
 MARCH 16 - 25 SPRING BREAK
 MARCH 20 FIRST DAY OF SPRING
 MARCH 25 FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT



Return Service Requested
Time Valued Mail - February 16, 2012

Church of the Hills Presbyterian (USA)
PO Box 1210
Evergreen, CO 80437



U.S. Postage Paid
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Evergreen, CO

Echoes February/March 2012

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.



Please Note:
If your address, phone number,
or email has changed,
please notify the church office at
303.674.6641.