



ECHOES

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

INSPIRE, INFORM AND INVITE

Church of the Hills



Happy New Year!!

Each year most of us make New Year's resolutions stating we are going to eat less, exercise more, sleep more, save more and these resolutions are always made with honest intentions. The statistics show that many New Year's resolutions are not kept. I wonder if they are not kept because although losing weight or quitting smoking is very important, many times it is not the core of the issue but more an external symptom. What if our New Year's resolutions were more focused on internal changes and by doing them, these external changes occur naturally? In the winter months, we will focus on what qualities of life that we can take on to make major changes in our lives. I believe these will transform our lives, inside and out! Studying the life of David we will explore, living in the moment, engaging in life fully, feeling our feelings, appreciation, celebration, integrity, authenticity, and honoring our commitments. I hope you join us as we let go of the old and welcome the new!!

Blessings,

Dee

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PASTOR DEE'S LETTER

In 2009 I had the opportunity to be a part of something the denomination is providing for a few of their pastors. I participated in a program called CREDO. Many of you know and heard of my experiences there. While I was there, something extraordinary happened. In fact, it was unusual by the assessment of the faculty who facilitated this weeklong reflection time. All of a sudden we realized, we were not on call, not needing to take care that everyone felt welcome, not needing to lead a meeting; we realized we were there to reflect on our own lives and this provided a profound freedom and a profound reaction. In realizing this dynamic, there were a handful of us that well . . . we played. Hmm—I can hear some of you thinking is that what our pastor does on retreat? Is that a good use of time and money? And I can affirm loudly yes!!! What we realized was that in playing, we lowered our defenses and guards, and in lowering our guards we were more open to each other, ourselves, and to God!! And in that openness came healing. And then from those deep places of healing, playfulness returned reminding us all of our whole selves, not just the injured or wounded selves. It seemed this was quite remarkable for this CREDO and they are seeking to recreate it as it created an extraordinary natural sense of community. This started my own journey of thinking how important is play in our spiritual development? And I believe it is essential.

I started reading and watching videos of how play transforms our lives, enhances, creativity, and provides a profound connection with others. I thought maybe this is what Jesus meant when he said be like one of these small ones. Now I am not suggesting we revert to infantilism; but I do believe we have become extremely too serious about ourselves, our faith and our lives. In letting down our guards, we open ourselves up even more to a loving compassionate God who is desiring to delight in this world with us. So these thoughts and experiences were the catalyst of my Sabbatical topic and study. I realized that I think to play with children we often still revert to an adult playing with a child. What I have observed is that when people play with animals, they lower any pretenses and truly engage in that place of essence. So I made a proposal to travel around the world, to study the impact and essentialness of play with animals, and have been awarded a grant through the Lilly Endowment.

Many animals have been orphaned or wounded and (like humans) stopped playing. There are refugee centers around the world that help these animals learn to play again for survival and for their own health and well being. Some of the places then take these animals after they have relearned the joy of play and actually are used to help children, who have been wounded, to play again.

My journeys will take me from South Africa to Oregon, from the Dominican to California to work with animals and experts in this study. Next summer marks my 15th year in ministry, my 50th birthday, and the 5th anniversary to serving at such a wonderful church family! I have never taken a Sabbatical so it feels like this is the marking point in time. As well, to celebrate my 50th I am hoping to climb Mt Kilimanjaro. I will have dear friends traveling with me through this exploration.

I truly hope that my sabbatical is not just about me; but that you will enter into this adventure with me. The Sabbatical Team has planned many wonderful events, sermon themes, hands on experiences that you can walk with me as we engage in this part of our spiritual development. We hope to take a field trip to Bailey, CO to do this work with wolves, here in our own backyard. The grant we were awarded provides means for both my journey and the assurance that the church will be held in fine hands. It truly is an adventure of a lifetime. And an opportunity for us all to open ourselves to our loving God in a unique and creative way.

Keep your eyes open to the information you will be receiving throughout the year!!

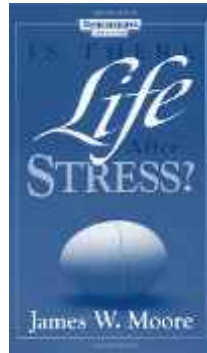
Light, Laughter, and Love

Dee

Adults

Starting January 9, we will start a new book -- Is There Life After Stress?

There's no doubt about it; we live in a stressful world! Job pressures, financial problems, loneliness, family troubles, strained relationships, ethical decisions, the death of a loved one – these are just some of the many stresses we face on a daily basis. In this Sunday morning class, we will discuss some creative ways to deal with the stressful problems, heartaches, challenges, disappointments, burdens, and broken dreams of life. Author and pastor James Moore offers not only biblical insights, but lots of humor to help us redeem stress and claim victory over it. Let Terry know if you would like to reserve a book.



Friday Nights at the Movies

January 21, February 25, March 25, April 15,
May 20

7:00–9:30 p.m.

Adults, come enjoy an evening of entertainment and discussion in our very own Starry Night Theater. Movies are chosen to encourage participants to reflect on their own faith journey. So far, we have featured “The Blind Side”, “The Green Mile”, and “Christmas with the Kranks”.



The truly classic movies to be shown in January (“The Shawshank Redemption”) and February (“The Mission”) will help us explore stories of perseverance, triumph, and redemption. Ideas are always welcome for future movie selections. Put the future dates on your calendar and make plans for some enjoyable fellowship and theological reflection.

Youth Group

We usually meet on Sunday afternoons, 4:30-6:00 p.m., for a mix of study, games, fellowship, and service to others. Each evening concludes with participation in the Out of the Box service. The group is open to all 6th-12th graders. Students are certainly encouraged to invite their friends

Some Upcoming Events:

Sunday, January 23

An afternoon of **Broomball and Ice Skating** with other churches

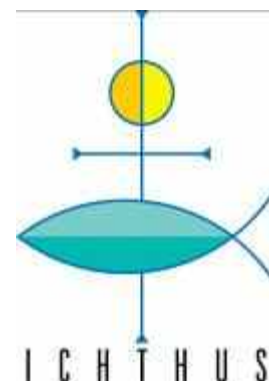
February 18-20

Mission Trip to La Puente – We will be helping the poor and homeless, spending an evening at the hot springs pool, & participating in an outdoor worship and sand sledding at Great Sand Dunes. See related article on page 9.



March 4-6

Retreat at Highlands Camp for 6th-9th graders. See Terry for registration info.



Fish

The first letters in the Greek phrase “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior” spell ICHTHUS, or fish. Early Christians used the sign to convey their faith and avoid persecution. In the gospels, fish are part of several miracles. They also represent people who need to be “caught” for Christ. Today, a fish bumper sticker is a popular indicator of Christian faith.



Discovering the Path that Leads to God

Since the beginning of the school year, the children have been exploring Biblical stories and themes through a variety of learning styles and activities in our *Faith Trails* program.

By acknowledging that people of all ages are on a life-long journey of faith discovery and that we all learn in a variety of ways, *Faith Trails* provides highly interactive and enjoyable learning experiences. The children rotate through our five workshops to explore the Biblical stories and themes in ways that help them truly experience and remember and enjoy what is being taught.

Starry Night Theater

A real movie theater complete with movie theater seats, a huge screen, and a popcorn machine. The discussions that follow the movies have been awesome!

Game Tracks

A game room with huge magnetic game boards mounted to the walls. The games are not only fun, but also great ways to teach the children.

Creation Station

An art and cooking studio enables the children to interpret the stories and themes through a variety of art mediums and cooking projects.

Cyber Peaks

Our computer lab is almost complete. The software we use stimulates the students to learn the stories and respond to their life-changing messages through creative writing, games, artistic creations, and other interactive projects.

Tent Tales

A drama and puppetry workshop allows the children to recreate and interpret the stories while also focusing on the emotions of the original and present day characters.

So far this school year, the children have experienced the following stories: “The Bible: God’s Book, My Book”; “The Good Samaritan”; and “Symbols of Advent and Christmas”.

Lessons for January – March will focus on the following themes: “The Lord’s Prayer” and “Exodus: God Provides for His People”.



YOUTH/FAMILY MISSION TRIPS & SABBATICAL POTLUCK

Church-wide Mission Trip to La Puente in Alamosa (February 18-20)

About 10 spots remain for this weekend mission trip to serve the homeless and poor in south central Colorado through cooking meals and doing community service projects. Cost for the weekend is anticipated to be about \$25. **The trip is open to all ages**

– children, youth, and adults.

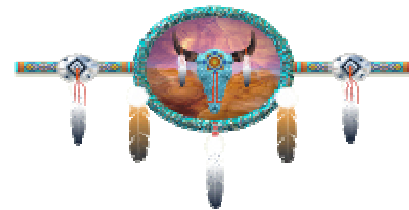
Elementary age and younger children will need to be accompanied by a parent or guardian. We will leave from COTH Friday morning, work Friday afternoon and

throughout the day on Saturday to serve one of the poorest communities in our country, and return home on Sunday. Also included in the weekend will be side trips to a hot springs pool on Friday or Saturday night and Sunday morning worship, relaxation, and play (sand sledding, hiking, etc.) at the Great Sand Dunes National Park. Let Terry know if you are interested in being a part of this fun and meaningful experience.



Summer Youth Mission Trip – July 22-29 (only 2 spots open)

Our high school and middle school students will be going to the Wind River Reservation near Lander, WY to reach out to the poor and needy people who live there. Work will include working with children or doing home repair projects for poor or elderly people, many of whom are from the Eastern Shoshone or Northern Arapaho tribes. We will be joining youth groups from Kansas and Minnesota. In addition to the service portion of the trip, we will enjoy a couple of days exploring and camping in Yellowstone National Park, Grand Teton National Park, and Jackson, WY. Youth can reserve a spot on the trip by paying a \$60 non-refundable deposit. Total cost for the trip will be roughly \$300 per person plus a few meals as we travel. Several fund raisers will help lower the cost as much as possible -- maybe even to the \$60 level. This will be an exciting and life-changing experience. For more details, check out the website (www.youthworks.com).



Sabbatical Potluck—January 23

Please come to the congregational potluck lunch Sunday, January 23rd, right after church in the Fellowship Hall. Dee and the Sabbatical Team will give a short presentation on Dee's Sabbatical theme and will be available to answer all your questions about the Sabbatical, the Lilly Foundation award, and plans for COTH during the summer of 2011.

A-H: Side dishes

I-Q: Desserts

R-Z: Main dishes



If you haven't had a chance to check out the Sabbatical blog, go to: www.sabbatical.churchofthehills.com. There you will find a description of Dee's sabbatical theme, her reading list, Sabbatical resource links, a description of the prestigious Lilly Foundation National Clergy renewal Program Grant, and much, much more.

STEWARDSHIP

The Church of the Hills Stewardship Team Thanks the Following for Their 2011 Pledges

Mike and Deidre Ackerman, Carolyn Alexander,
Rex and Alice Alford, Don and Mary Ann Anderson,
Mel and Jackie Andrew, Zi Antweiler,
Rick and Ginny Bailey, Margaret Bailey,
Kurt and Janet Ballantyne, Don Bennett, Rick Blodgett,
Rick and Anita Boucher, Sherwin and Sherry Boyd,
Doug and Sue Brown, Jerry and Donna Bucholz,
Jack and Darlene Carpenter, Tammy Carpenter,
Ron and Theresa Chase, Mike and Marjorie Clinton,
Bob Cole and Patty McInnis-Cole, Bill and Joanna Cook,
Bob and Sally Cook, Dee Cooper, Chuck and Emily Corey,
Steve and Kim Cox, Kelly and Lilly Croke,
Bob and Kay Culp, Hal and Sue Davidson, Jean Davis,
Don and Betty Donner, Brian Ehrle,
Mark and Greta Faraco-Hadlock, Marcelle Farnham,
John and Van Farnsworth, Pat Femmer, Judy Forbes,
Bob and Diane Gansauer, Jane Gardner-Bennett
Dean and Cathy Graves, Anne Greulich,
Jim and Shari Gulbrandsen, Aaron and Tracy Hansen,
Samantha Hansen, Kristie Heidbreder,
Mike and Jill Hesser, Richard and Sheila Hill,
Rod and Carolyn Hock, Dale and Eve Hoffman,
Tanya Ignacek, Judy Jensen, Dolly Johnson, Carolyn
Jones, Ann Joseph, Jack and Sondra Kellogg,
Scott and Julie King, Lee and Rosalie Kistler
Ron and Sharon Klusman, Ruth Koons, Kelly Krueger,

Keith and CeCe Krull, Larry and Linda LaGrange,
Kevin Larson, Jim and Sharron Leonard,
Larry and Marianne Loritz, Margi Masquelier,
Mat and Audrey Matson, Oralie McAfee,
Bud and Jean McBride, Bob and Carla McFadden,
Margery McKnight, Jeff Mershon and Jean Martin,
Joan Murphy, Steve and Tina Nelson,
Lee and Carole Nield, Frank and Virginia Pasqua,
Bob Payne, Kimra Perkins and Randy Sackerson,
Al and Ruth Petrick, Tom and Vicki Pinder,
Dan and Char Ray, Dick Reed, Mary Richards,
Cal and Amanda Ruleman, Don and Cindy Sahli,
Bill and Marilyn Sandifer, Don and Marie Schell,
Lloyd Schiever, Jan Schoonveld, Mike and Julie Sciarabba,
Ethel Snowbarger, Margie Sterlin, Paula Stoecker,
Phil and Dorothy Stough, Lee Strattan, Lee Sweetland,
Susan Sweetra, Jim and Joanie Tadewald, Luther and
Muffy Trower, John and Susie VanderHorst,
Bonnie Vivian, John and Valorie Wells,
Mark and Joyce Whan, Louella Young, Bill and Carol Zager

FROM THE NOMINATING TEAM

The Presbyterian Church relies on members of each congregation to carry out the ministries of that church---worship, education, mission, care and compassion for others, financial stewardship, and the many other things we do to fulfill our Christian ministry.

In the first months of the new year, your nominating team will be identifying church officers and leaders who will be elected for 2011-2012. We ask that you keep the nominating team, the potential leaders, and Church of the Hills in your prayers.

We do this in Jesus' name.

Kurt Ballantyne
Greta Faraco-Hadlock
Margi Masquelier
Char Ray

Tammy Carpenter
Marianne Loritz
Oralie McAfee

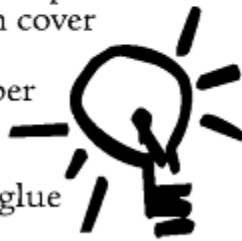


LIGHT SWITCH COVER

Everyone who believes in God and lives for him is a child of light. Make this cover for your bedroom light switch to remind you to be a light for God.

What you need:

- An adult to help
- Light switch cover
- Screwdriver
- Colored paper
- Markers
- Scissors
- Decoupage glue
- Paintbrush
- Craft knife



What you do:

1. Remove the screws from the cover.
2. On the paper, draw small images related to light and write out "Live as children of light" (Ephesians 5:8, NIV).
3. Cut out the drawings and verse. Make sure they'll fit on the cover.
4. Paint the cover with a coat of decoupage glue, and then immediately place the drawings and verse on the cover.
5. Paint over them with another coat of glue. Let it dry.
6. Turn the cover over and use a craft knife to cut out the opening for the light switch.
7. Using a screwdriver, place your new light switch cover on your wall.



From darkness to light

In the Bible, God speaks often about light and darkness. He gives us much instruction about which path we should choose.

- | | |
|-----------|---------------|
| 1. Good | Righteousness |
| 2. Death | Children |
| 3. Go | Life |
| 4. Evil | Come |
| 5. Adults | Bad |

Match the opposites and then write the word in the right-hand column in the correct blanks to finish each verse.

"When your eyes are good, your whole body also is full of light. But when they are _____, your body also is full of darkness." Luke 11:34, NIV
(1)

"I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of _____." John 8:12, NIV
(2)

"I have _____ into the world as a light, so that no one who believes in me should stay in darkness." John 12:46, NIV
(3)

"For what do _____ and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14, NIV
(4)

"For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as _____ of light." Ephesians 5:8, NIV
(5)

Answers: 1. bad, 2. life, 3. come, 4. righteousness, 5. children

JANUARY & FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

2 Cat McCaw, Sondra Kellogg
3 Marion Walker
4 Carl Shipley, Justin Mitchek
5 Lisa Dutkiewicz, Cindy Sahli, Rex Alford,
Joanna Cook, Richard Hill
6 Steve Nelson
7 Bernadette Hunt
8 Jennifer Shipley
9 Kristie Heidbreder, Julie Ingram
15 Jo Ann Diasparra, Joan Murphy,
Samantha Hansen
16 Rose Marie Elmgreen, Deb Vasko
20 Dan Ray, Grace VanderWoude
22 Sawyer Payne
23 Harry Ruleman
24 Sharron Leonard
26 Bob Culp, Jack Kellogg, Cassidy Firestone
27 Tracy Strausser
28 Rod Hock
31 Muffy Trower



2 Don Bennett
4 Greg Armstrong
5 Anne Martin
6 Dar Carpenter
7 Peter Boucher, Kay Culp
14 Valorie Wells
15 Dan Mitchek, Bonnie Mitchek
17 Sherwin Boyd
18 Betty Donner, Jeff Stone
19 Joanie Tadewald
20 Ruth Koons
22 Keith Krull, John VanderHorst
23 Grant Dutkiewicz
24 Ruth Petrick
25 Dale Hoffman
28 Mary Ann Anderson, Bob Davis

Spares & Pairs

Come as a couple or come alone for a fun evening with COTH friends! We will have our January potluck dinner on Friday, January 14 at 7:00p.m. It will be at the home of Jim and Joanie Tadewald, 30098 Appaloosa Drive, Evergreen (303.670.9507). Bring an appetizer, salad, entrée, or dessert.

Check out *Friday Features* for information about our February gathering.

Community Supper—Wednesday, January 12 and February 9

We're starting off a new year and our themes for January and February are Africa and Italy! Please sign up in the Narthex if you can help. It helps each month to know who our helpers will be. Thank you again for all your hard work from cooking, set up, serving, hosting, dish washing, to clean up. Blessings to you all. Any questions you might have, please contact Linda LaGrange at 303.674.3689.

Interested in Exploring Membership at Church of the Hills?

Please join us on
 February 20,
 February 27,
 March 6, & March 13
 8:45 AM to 10:15 a.m. in the church parlor

Nursery and light breakfast provided.

Please call the church office if you're interested in knowing more about the Presbyterian Church (USA) and Church of the Hills.



303.674.6641
 or contact Tracy Hansen
 303.674.4944

Men's Group Breakfast

The Men's Breakfast will meet on Friday, January 28 and February 25 at 7AM at LePeep in Bergen Park. All you guys need to grab a friend and have some wonderful grub and gab at 7a.m. For more information, contact Bill Cook at 303.679.1663.

Church Ski Days

Put these Fridays on your calendar – trying to make it easy for you to play hooky from work, not to mention missing out on all of that weekend traffic in the mountains. Remaining dates are **January 28, February 25, and March 18 at Loveland** (a limited number of \$30 lift tickets are available for those who reserve them early) and **January 7 at Copper** (group discount depending on number of skiers/boarders). Let Terry know if you want to reserve lift tickets.



Get out of Choir Free Card

This card entitles the bearer to experience choir for the month of January without obligation beyond Feb. 1, 2011. Rehearsals are held on Wednesdays from 7 to 8:30 p.m. See you January 5!

TREASURER'S REPORT/ECHOES

Church Of The Hills Presbyterian (USA)
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - November 2010

	<u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD 2010 Budget</u>	<u>Variance</u>
Total Revenues	282,591	280,897	1,694
<u>Expenses</u>			
PERSONNEL	196,689	205,995	9,306
ADMINISTRATION	50,090	49,238	(852)
<u>TEAMS (excluding Administration)</u>	<u>30,734</u>	<u>32,667</u>	<u>1,933</u>
Total Expenses	277,513	287,900	(8,693)
Net	5,078	(7,003)	12,081

COTH has been making solid progress on contributions for the year, with some members able to contribute more than their pledged amount. The revenues are anticipated to be approximately \$4,000 behind plan. COTH has also been making progress on the Per Capita revenue. If you have not made your Per Capita contribution, please consider making a contribution to cover your Per Capita of \$24.53 per member. On the cost front the teams are continuing to do an excellent job on reducing their spending from Plan. The one area where costs are running higher than budgeted is Administration. The warm start to winter has been helping in close the gap to Plan but Administration will still be over budget for the full year. In closing, everyone is doing a great job on managing their costs. The challenge is in making sure that we meet our revenues. So please consider making a contribution to cover your Per Capita, if you have not, and please catch up on your pledge if you have fallen behind.



Editor: Cathy Graves
Backup: Judy Forbes
Web-Servant: Cathy Graves
Production Team: Don Donner, Pat Femmer, Dale & Eve Hoffman, Jean Martin

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 separate .jpg or .tif files; please do not import them in a Word document or an email attachment.

Font: Calibri 11pt.

Echoes Deadlines

	March/April 2011	May 2011
Space Reservation	Friday, February 4	Friday, April 8
Articles Due	Friday, February 11	Friday, April 15
Layout Completed	Friday, February 18	Friday, April 22
Proofing Completed	Monday, February 21	Monday, April 25
Printing	Wednesday, February 23	Wednesday, April 27
Collating/Mailing	Thursday, February 24	Thursday, April 28

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

OUT OF THE BOX Service Sundays: 6 PM

PASTOR

Rev. Dee Cooper

STAFF

Church Administrator

Carolyn Jones

Director of Christian Education & Youth Ministries

Terry Buchanan

Director of Music Ministries

Cheryl Denslow

Organist/Accompanist

Children/Youth Choir Director

Lilly Croke

Nursery Coordinator

Stacy Minion

Custodian

Brian Ehrle

Maintenance

Greg Polysa

Parish Associate

Don Bennett

VOLUNTEER STAFF

Treasurer

Scott King

Assistant Treasurer

Cathy Graves

Volunteer Coordinator

Cathy Graves

BOARD OF DEACONS

Co-Moderators

Maria Garrod and
Bob Gansauer

Margaret Bailey

Sherwin Boyd

Donna Bucholz

Kay Culp

Jean Davis

Eden Garrod

Margi Masquelier

Mat Matson

Ruth Petrick

Julie Sciarabba

ENDOWMENT TEAM

Kurt Ballantyne, Emily Corey,
Kelly Krueger, Bill Sandifer

SESSION

Jerry Bucholz

Bob Culp

Diane Gansauer

Dean Graves

Tracy Hansen

Ann Joseph

Ron Klusman

Oralie McAfee

Tina Nelson

Dan Ray

Marilyn Sandifer

Lee Strattan

Judy Jensen, Clerk of Session

NOMINATING TEAM

Kurt Ballantyne, Tammy Carpenter,
Greta Faraco-Hadlock, Char Ray,
Marianne Loritz

PERSONNEL TEAM

Rick Bailey, Sue Brown, Kelly Croke,
Jill Hesser, Julie King, Jim Leonard

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

JANUARY 1 ~ NEW YEAR'S DAY

JANUARY 2 ~ EPIPHANY SUNDAY

JANUARY 9 ~ BAPTISM OF THE LORD

JANUARY 17 ~ MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY

JANUARY 18—25 ~ WEEK OF PRAYER FOR

CHRISTIAN UNITY

JANUARY 23 ~ CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK TO
LEARN MORE ABOUT DEE'S SABBATICAL

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

AFRICAN-AMERICAN HISTORY MONTH

FEBRUARY 6 ~ SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

FEBRUARY 14 ~ VALENTINE'S DAY

FEBRUARY 21 ~ PRESIDENTS' DAY

Return Service Requested
Time Valued Mail — December 16, 2010

Presbyterian (USA)
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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.*



***Join us for our
10:30 a.m. Traditional Worship Service
and
6:00 p.m. Out of the Box Service
(beginning January 9)***

Please Note:

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

Echoes available online at www.churchofthehills.com