



HILLTOP
United Church of Christ

February, 2011

Hilltop Happenings

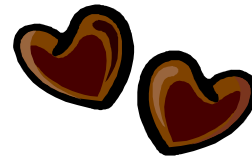
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Mission Statement

Hilltop United Church of Christ exists to make a difference for God by...

- ... Welcoming diversity.
- ... Being God's servants in the service of others.
- ... Joining with others on a journey towards faithful discipleship.
- ... Being a living expression of God's abundant blessings.



Vision Statement

Hilltop United Church of Christ is the Light on the Hill—a Beacon of Hope—where

Season of Lent is Upon Us; Ash Wednesday Service and Supper

In the last 2 weeks, there have been days when we have been able to go outside without our winter coats. At the grocery stores, I have seen dudes in short pants and sandals. They are tougher than I am.

With the arrival of warm weather, we know that the Season of Lent is coming soon. However, Lent is starting earlier than in many years since Easter is fairly early this year, April 8. Lent begins 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays), which will be February 22, a day known as Ash Wednesday.

You are invited to mark the beginning of Lent by attending an Ash Wednesday service and soup supper (see the box following this article for the details).

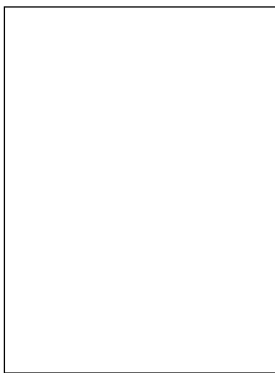
In the Christian church, Ash Wednesday is a day of penitence, a time for recalling our mortality and seeking forgiveness. During the services, worshipers who wish will receive a cross of ashes on their foreheads as a sign of repentance and forgiveness. While the mood of the service is solemn, Ash Wednesday is also a time for new beginnings in faith, for putting aside the sins and failures of the past in light of who we are to become by the grace of God.

Since Ash Wednesday is the doorway to the Season of Lent, I will also offer some thoughts about this time of preparation for Easter. This 40 day season reflects the 40 days that Jesus fasted in the wilderness before being tempted by Satan. We also remember Jesus' journey towards the cross and his suffering and death that free us from bondage to sin and death. Lent is a time of spiritual self-examination that prepares us to observe Jesus' passion (suffering and death) and to celebrate his resurrection. The proven means for self-examination are the spiritual disciplines of prayer, Bible reading, fasting, good works, confession and generosity.

Through these disciplines, Lent is a time of opening ourselves to God. It calls us back to our commitment to follow Jesus. It is a time to reflect and re-focus our lives on what is truly important.

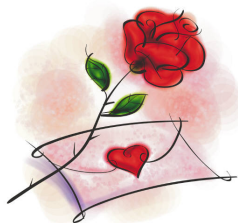
I hope to see you at the Ash Wednesday service and supper, and during worship on the Sundays of Lent.

Jim Reid, Pastor



Church Office Hours

**Tuesday-Friday
9:00 am-2:00 pm
303-841-2808
Pastor's Home
Number: 303-
805-5344**



Ash Wednesday Service: Wednesday, February 22nd at 6:30pm
Followed by Soup Supper (about 7pm)
Both events in the Fellowship Hall
Please bring soup, bread or a dessert to share

A Neighbor's Mission

In this column, I write about my experiences in reaching out to the wider area through participation in community groups and events. I also highlight my involvement in the wider church.

My own neighborhood, Westview Circle in the Pinery Glen development, is one of the places where I am out and about. I regularly visit with my immediate neighbors, especially Andrew and Tonya Palmer, who live directly across the street and are Hilltop members.

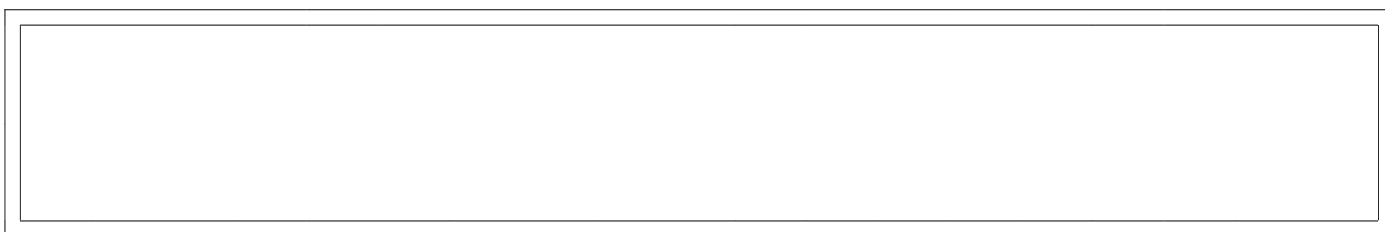
Since last summer, Andrew has been devoting himself to a personal mission to help people in a poor neighborhood of the Dominican Republic. It all started this time last year when Andrew traveled to the Caribbean country to visit a friend from his boyhood in New York City; a number of years ago, the friend had returned to the country of his birth. During Andrew's month long visit, he stayed for a while with a family in a rural area of the country. Andrew was profoundly affected by his experience of the poor living conditions of this family and others in their neighborhood. He told of how they had to carry water from a central location; their shower was water in an overhead bucket behind the house. When Andrew was stricken by a local malady, this family nursed him back to health.

When Andrew returned home, he was motivated by his Christian faith to help this family and their neighbors. He began collecting clothing, shoes, electronic equipment, small appliances and toys from people in our neighborhood. For storing and shipping the items, he bought seven, large, blue plastic containers from a food processing company; these are about the size of 55 gallon drums. Andrew kept these in his garage and I watched as they filled up. I know that the people of Hilltop would have been happy to contribute, but I didn't ask since he was getting more donations than he could handle from the neighborhood.

Andrew looked into different ways to transport the containers to the Dominican and decided that a freighter from the port city of Jacksonville, Florida, was the least expensive. In mid January, Andrew loaded the containers in his SUV; he put five inside and two on top. Early on the morning of January 17, he set out on his trek to Jacksonville. After leaving the containers with the shipping company, he flew to the Dominican ahead of his shipment, and is there right now. When the containers arrived, he picked them up with a rented truck to take them to the family.

When Andrew returns home at the end of February, I look forward to hearing how he completed his personal mission. I will let you know next month. In concluding this installment, I want to say how impressed I am with the passion, time, money and energy that Andrew has been committing to his very worthwhile mission.

Jim Reid





Hilltop UCC 2012 Annual Congregation Meeting Held on 1/29/2012 after 10 am Sunday Service

Agenda:

- *Presentation by Pastor Reid regarding plans and priorities for 2012
- *2012 Hilltop UCC Budget discussion and vote
- *Election of two new church council members to fill vacancies left by Sandy Prichard and Darrell Pidgeon

Pastor Reid's presentation focused on the implementation of the church growth ideas which were generated at the brainstorming session held in December at a joint church council and staff meeting. After a brief description of each idea, he gave additional progress information towards the realization of these ideas in 2012.

During the discussion of the budget for 2012, conversations took place regarding:

- Grocery Certificates Income decrease in 2011
- Copier Rental plan vs. copier ownership
- Christian Education monies clarified
- IREA rate increase in 2012 and the unpredictable nature of weather
- OCWM \$50 decrease
- Raise for Organists
- Raise for Minister

As a result of these topics being discussed, two changes were made which do not change the Total Expense or Net Ordinary Income line amounts on the 2012 Budget. To maintain our \$500 OCWM contribution, a \$50 adjustment will be made within the expense projections for 2012. A total of \$200 from the Worship Program (leaving it at \$500) and \$109 from the Custodian Wage Amount (leaving it at \$4368) and \$41 from the Employer Payroll Tax Expense (leaving it at \$1582.50), will be moved to Christian Education Programming (increasing it to \$300). If any church member would like a copy of the final 2012 budget, a copy may be requested and sent from our church office.

It was moved and seconded, that the 2012 Hilltop UCC Budget be approved as amended. It passed with close to a unanimous verbal vote. For the first time in many years, Hilltop concluded a fiscal year with net income. This money will replenish the Reserves - Building Maintenance committed fund to pay for unexpected expenses. Special recognition was given to our Youth Leader, Angie Law who volunteers countless hours, to the 2011 church council members who collaborated to write the 2012 Budget, to all who organized and participated in our "fun-raisers", to our matching fund givers, and to all who have invited guests to our church for events and Sunday worship.

The Hilltop 2012 Church Council nominees, Joan Roethlisberger and Gary Ebert, were approved by members present.

Following the annual membership meeting, the five 2011 Hilltop Church Council members met to approve the 2012 Minister Salary of \$21,061.00 and the Minister Housing Allowance of \$32,197.00 beginning with the January, 2012 pay period. The council's action is based on the passing of the 2012 church budget at the congregation meeting held earlier in the day.

PARKER FOOD BANK

The Holidays are over but Hunger remains a problem for many in our community. Please help restock the pantry in the Narthex for the Parker Food Bank. **TIP:** look for BOGOs when shopping and check out the discounted damaged packaging products at the front or rear of the store.

Submitted by Dick Sherer

DEACONS

Randy Mann, Frank Richards, Dick Sherer, Bill Matthews, Gary Dordahl, Brian VonSchaumburg, Denise Cook and Sandy Papsdorf.
DEACON FOR FEBRUARY: Randy Mann

**FELLOWSHIP HOUR HOSTS**

Feb. 5th: Boy Scouts

Feb. 12th: Valentine's Lunch (Fundraisers)

Feb. 19th: Cam & Gus Burkard

Feb. 26th:

Please note that the sign-up sheet for future fellowship times is hanging downstairs on the bulletin board. Please take a look and see where you can help out. We still have several openings that need to be filled out. Any questions, call Jean Sherer @ 303-841-0751.

**GRUMPY OLD MEN!**

Join the Grumpy Old Men on the last Friday of the month at 10am at the Grill on the Hill in Franktown for coffee and fellowship.

HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

2nd—Sheryl Scripter; 3rd—Jean Sherer; Jack Blessis; 4th—Denise Mann; 7th—Trevor Cook; 13th—Tiffany Blessis; 14th—Janet Thoma; 16th—Diane Callahan; 17th—Gary Dordahl; 19th—Roland Sherer; 24th Rick Stifel; 25th—Win Ekeland; 26th—Ashtin VonSchaumburg; 27th—Rachel Reeves

**FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES OF JOINING HILLTOP**

Jean & Dick Sherer—1984; Eileen Enterline—1986; Diane & Pete Giers—1997; Jim/Carol/Curtis Reid—2007





MARK YOUR CALENDARS and
join us for a Valentine's Lunch on
Sunday, February 12th after wor-
ship, sponsored by the HUCC
"Funraisers"!

An Easy Way to Contribute to Hilltop UCC

There are many ways to contribute to the support and missions of Hilltop UCC. Certainly, most of us contribute monetarily via an annual pledge commitment and during special mission offerings. Support is also provided by donations of food and other articles for mission projects and for church use. Countless hours of time are donated by our members to music programs, Sunday school, building & property maintenance, and too many others to mention.

There is one additional way to support our church and its missions, and it is easy & painless!! Many families have already discovered it. They contribute an additional \$300 to HUCC each month. What are we talking about? Why, **King Soopers and Safeway** grocery cards of course! As you probably know, HUCC receives \$250 for every \$5000 of grocery cards sold. You're going to buy groceries anyway so consider buying cards!!! These cards are also useful for gifts and even compensation to providers of personal and domestic services (hairstylists, lawn care, etc.)

Won't you consider using this means of contributing to HUCC by purchasing **King Soopers and Safeway** grocery cards??

**See Charlie Thoma and/or Randy Hiler in Fellowship Hall
after worship every Sunday to purchase your cards.**

Checks and cash accepted.

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

