



Rancho Santa Marta
Submitted by Deborah Mendenhall

The ambitious plan of how to rescue children who have been abandoned or come from devastating backgrounds was very likely heavenly inspired, but its beginning was a jumble of ideas scrawled on a crumpled restaurant napkin. In 1980, Bill and Kaye Lawrence felt a persistent urging that there was a better way to care for hungry children and provide them with a Christian environment.

They envisioned a home where abandoned children or children with learning disabilities would learn about the Bible and a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, be fed and clothed, but beyond that, have a place to live where they could be totally accepted and loved. They imagined a place where children could dream of a future and learn how to attain it.

Then Kaye remembered a sprawling ranch that was for sale in San Vicente, Baja, Mexico. Bill and Kaye contacted the owner who told them her husband had recently died and had accepted the Lord two weeks before his death. "He had told her, 'If you ever sell the ranch, I want you to sell it to a Christian ministry,'" Kaye said. "And she was waiting for someone to come along."

The 450 acre ranch that sits about 66 miles south of Ensenada, became Rancho Santa Marta, a non-denominational evangelical Christian ministry for needy Mexican children. Several hundred children have come through the ranch. Some of the children were brought by the social department while others are orphans, or have been abandoned by parents and brought in by family members, police or people from the community who had heard of the ministry.

The present enrollment in the special needs school is 140 children most coming from surrounding villages, 46 of whom live fulltime at the ranch. These are very poor families so there is a minimum of \$2 a month to attend Rancho Santa Marta School. Many of these children would not be educated if Rancho Santa Marta was not available to them. This year 15 children from sixth grade and 5 young people from ninth grade graduated at the ranch school, many of them have continued their education.

The ranch warmly receives church and service groups that desire a positive cross cultural experience. We also address evangelism needs and offer vacation Bible school outreach.

At Rancho Santa Marta, our mission is to bring good news to the poor, and healing to the broken-hearted. Thank you very much for partnering with us to minister to these forgotten children. We welcome you to find out more about us from our website: <http://ranchosantamarta.org>.

OUR STATISTICAL REPORT, 1/8/2012						
	Last Week			Year to Date		
	Needed	Received	%	Needed	Received	%
General Budget	14,096	11,172	79	28,192	15,051	53
Missions		1,093			1,166	
Our Dream Lives On <i>(additional principal reduction)</i>	1,385	1,337	97	2,770	1,744	63
Endowment Fund, current balance:				\$3,255		
Myrtle Atwood Music Endowment, current balance:				\$4,380		
Cost of 2002 expansion		5,000,000				
Original Mortgage		3,738,543				
Applied to principal thru 12/2011		1,341,328				
Current debt		2,397,215				
Annual mortgage obligation (2012)		230,040				

Please let us know if you have directed a stock donation to Community Church so we may confirm receipt and express our appreciation for your generosity.

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Community Church of Douglas
6780 Wiley Road
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Address Correction Requested

New Pictorial Directories Are Here!

Our new church pictorial directories have arrived. Free copies are addressed in each foyer for those whose picture is included in the directory.

A limited number of additional copies are available for \$5 each. Please call our church office to obtain your copy.



January/February Dates	January/February Dates
January 25	Fourth Wednesday Dinner
February 5	Communion Sunday Social Hour
February 8	Healing Shawl Meeting
February 12	The End of Time class
February 19	The End of Time class
February 22	Ash Wednesday Service Fourth Wednesday Dinner
February 25	Community Craft Day
February 26	The End of Time class

Communicator

Gathered by the Cross...Scattered to Serve



The End of Time
February 12, 19 and 26

Is this the year, 2012, that the world as we know it will come to an end? There has been much worldwide attention and speculation that this is in fact our world's end as based on what some would say is predicted by the Mayan civilization's calendar. Our own Dr. Bell, professor of History at Hope College, will be exploring this controversy with us in a three session class entitled "The End of Time."

What a timely topic of discussion as certainly many have been thinking and writing about our world's unstable times of war and national unrest, drastic weather changes to our climate, possible world-wide financial collapse. Could this be the end? Come and find out what Dr. Bell has to share. In session 1, we will explore Biblical notions of the end as found in Daniel, Ezekiel, Revelation, and the apocalyptic chapters of the synoptic gospels. Session 2 will examine some notable claims about the end during the Middle Ages and early modern era. Then session 3 will look at some of the most recent claims including the notion of the Rapture and the Mayan calendar controversy. Will we still be here beyond the year 2012? On Sundays, February 12, 19 and 26, you may choose to attend from 9:45 – 10:45 AM or 11:00 AM – noon. Begin now to make plans for attending this provocative and timely discussion. This is one class you will not want to miss!

2012 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

THANK YOU to Rich Blok, Kathie Perrault and Sheldon Wettack who are retiring from our Board of Trustees after three-year terms. We are grateful for your experience and expertise, Rich, Kathie and Sheldon. Your contributions to the life of our church have been significant.

WELCOME to new volunteers Rob Jacobusse, Judy Oberholtzer and Bill Winter who have accepted a call and offer their gifts for three-year terms beginning January, 2012.

The 2012 Board of Trustees who will support us in fulfilling our mission are:

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| President: | Mike Valz |
| Vice-President: | Larry Blackmer |
| Treasurer: | Jim VanTil |
| Secretary: | Sandi Busscher |
| Trustees: | Carol Gunneman |
| | Rob Jacobusse |
| | Judy Oberholtzer |
| | Brad Smit |

Community Church of Douglas

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Phone (269) 857-1492 Fax (269) 857-2731
Website: www.ccofdouglas.org Email: mailbox@ccofdouglas.org
Office Hours: Monday through Thursday, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM



YOUTH MINISTRY

SPRINGHILL WINTER TEEN RETREATS

Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.
Philippians 3:13-14 (TNIV)

SpringHill's Winter Teen Retreat is sure to be another life changing adventure! This year's theme is EN **ROUTE**. You are here. But where are you going? Dynamic speakers, interactive small group talks, and a challenging prayer labyrinth will bring to life key truths from Philippians 3:13-14 and give students direction as they navigate a difficult world.

Eight high school students will attend on January 20-22. Our middle school student roster is still growing for a retreat on February 17-19. To date, there are already a dozen registered middle school students! SpringHill, here we come!

4th Wednesday Dinner Fundraiser

Proceeds help defray winter retreat expenses for our youth.

Youth Ministry under the direction of Sherry White will host a 4th Wednesday Dinner on January 25, at 6:00 PM in our Social Room. Please mark your calendar to enjoy fellowship and a delicious spaghetti dinner.

Kid Connection

We will begin 2012 with lessons teaching us about trusting God no matter what, treating others the way we want to be treated, and making wise choices.

Kid Connection meets on Sundays during the 9:45 AM and 11:15 AM services. Children age 4 through 5th grade are invited to come and learn together in an interactive, fun environment.



January 2012
Game On!
Self-Control
choosing to do what you should do
not what you want to do

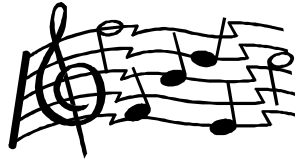
Our January memory verse is, "My dear brothers and sisters, pay attention to what I say. Everyone should be quick to listen. But they should be slow to speak. They should be slow to get angry." *James 1:19, NIV* Focusing on this Scripture, we will learn that God can give us the **power** to control ourselves, to **pause** before we lose our tempers, to **select** our words carefully, to **know** when to **stop**, and to use the Bible to **guide** our thoughts..

February 2012
The Ultimate Challenge
Honor
letting someone know you see how
valuable they really are



In February we will learn about another virtue: honor. Our monthly memory verse will be, "Love each other deeply. Honor others more than yourselves." *Romans 12:10, NIV*.

With this Scriptural guide, we will learn about honoring those who are overlooked, honoring others more than ourselves, honoring those who are over us, and honoring God in front of others.



Traditional Music and Worship

By Roberta and George Kraft

Music for traditional worship will be supplied by a wealth of soloists during January and February. The Sanctuary Choir will return to sing regularly on February 26. Plans have been made for the following Sundays:

- January 15 - Nancy Plantinga will play the cornet. She is a well-known artist in the Douglas/Saugatuck community.
- January 22 - Barbara Johnson, a new personality to Community Church, will sing. She is an adult student of Professor Linda Dykstra of Hope College and comes highly recommended.
- January 29 - Caitlin McDougall, an outstanding Hope College student will sing. Caitlin has sung for Community Church before.
- February 5 - Thom Working will play his french horn. Thom is a member of the Holland Symphony Orchestra and director of the Holland American Legion Band.
- February 12 - Our own Yvonne Koppenaal and George Kraft will sing duets.

The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday which is February 22. Since this is the fourth Wednesday, a very short service is being planned in conjunction with our 4th Wednesday Dinner. The Sanctuary Choir will participate in that service and then sing the Sundays of Lent, Palm Sunday and Easter.

Employment Opportunities With Our Church

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRY: part-time. Responsibilities include: design, plan and implement programs for children birth through fifth grade; recruit, train, supervise and evaluate the performance of paid and volunteer staff; lead an advisory committee involving laypeople in building, maintaining and evaluating children's programming; budgeting; and communication with our congregation. The ideal candidate will have education and experience in a related field, strong interpersonal and organizational skills, ability to multi-task, and compatibility with Community Church of Douglas vision and mission. Submit resume and cover letter to Nancy Nauta.

YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER

YOUTH MINISTRY LEADER: part-time, teen youth program. Responsibilities to provide leadership and vision for program development and implementation include: design, plan and implement programs for children sixth through twelfth grade; recruit, train, supervise and evaluate the performance of paid and volunteer staff; lead an advisory committee involving laypeople in building, maintaining and evaluating youth programming; budgeting; and communication with our congregation. The ideal candidate will have education and experience in a related field, strong interpersonal and organizational skills, ability to multi-task, and compatibility with Community Church of Douglas vision and mission. Submit resume and cover letter to Nancy Nauta.

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING

DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING: full time. Responsibilities to provide leadership and vision for program development and implementation include: design, plan and implement programs for children birth through twelfth grade; recruit, train, supervise and evaluate the performance of paid and volunteer staff; lead an advisory committee involving laypeople in building, maintaining and evaluating children's and youth programming; budgeting; and communication with our congregation. The ideal candidate will have education and experience in a related field, strong interpersonal and organizational skills, ability to multi-task, and compatibility with Community Church of Douglas vision and mission. Submit resume and cover letter to Nancy Nauta.

Health Ministry

Beckie Haddock, Parish Nurse

As we enter this new year, Health Ministry is once again off and running getting ready for another exciting year with all of you at Community Church. We are looking forward to sharing health information and education and all of the fellowship with one another that comes along with all of our various activities. This year Health Ministry would like to invite anyone who has any ideas for fun health topics or activities to please share them with Beckie Haddock, our Parish Nurse. Also, for those who have an interest in Health Ministry and would like to join our committee, Beckie would love to hear from you.

Thank you to all for your continued support for Health Ministries. We cannot wait for another great year together!

COMMUNITY CHURCH CRAFT DAY

February 25 from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Please join in with friends, family and fellow crafters and have a day of fun enjoying the craft that you love most! Whether it is sewing, making jewelry, painting or scrapbooking... whatever you love to craft, we welcome you.

Also, this year a consultant from a popular scrapbooking supply company will be there with all of her card making materials - over 20 different kinds of cards can be made for only \$1.00 per card. You can make just one or you can make 30, all the supplies are provided - you just need to come and enjoy.

The main course and beverages for lunch will be provided. We ask that you bring a small dish to pass. We hope to see you all there.

To save your spot, please call our church office to sign up 269.857.1492.

Care Corner - Pastors Dennis J. De Witt and Bob McAndrews

Recent Illness/Surgery - Nancy Boylan, Mary Giles, Jean Ballou, Don Bulson

Deaths - Dorothy Wolters, Betty Schmidt

Please let our pastors know of upcoming surgeries or treatment plans.

If you, a family member or a friend need prayers, email your request to prayers@ccofdouglas.org. The same day, over 95 Community Church email prayer partners will have your request and respond in prayer. If you are willing to pray for others and wish to join this ministry, simply send an email to the above address.

Welcome New Members!

With great pleasure, our congregation recently received New Members:

Laura Giles	Jackie Ground	Helen Prindle
Ryan Giles	Dene Lencioni	Tim Prindle
Tim Giles	Luke Lencioni	

You also may be interested in becoming a member of Community Church.

We view membership as a step that has great value, though it is not an expectation nor a requirement for your participation with us.

Many have found membership to be a meaningful step of spiritual growth and a deeper identification with the Body of Christ. Our goal is to make the process of membership a time in your spiritual journey that will be rewarding, invigorating and a public witness to your faith and priorities.

Please contact one of our pastors or our church office if you have an interest or questions regarding membership.