



## APRIL 2011

As I reflect on Easter's past, I remember my thoughts as a six year old child meeting the Easter Bunny at church on Easter morning. I imagined him hopping down the center aisle of church carrying a basket full of colored eggs. At that age, I genuinely thought he would be there. Sure, I knew the resurrection story of Easter, but in my mind the bunny was primary and Jesus was secondary.

As I got older, Easter Sunday became more of a parade of new clothes and the ritual of shopping for Easter clothes became an integral part in the preparation towards Easter. I recall venting my frustration along with my teenage brothers as our mom drug us from store to store shopping for new Easter outfits. I think we drove her crazy as we turned down anything that even resembled being starched, pressed, clean or new!

When I finally surrendered my heart to Jesus in my early twenties, Easter took on a brand new meaning. My spirit-man became awakened and I remember standing in the church on Easter morning as I sung the words to the hymn, "Because He Lives". During that year of new birth, I had found a peace and security I had never known before. Easter suddenly became real and alive!

Today, Easter holds so much more meaning to me than it did even two years ago. My spiritual growth may have started as a child, but it certainly didn't happen overnight and it's not over yet. Parents, teachers, volunteers and numerous mentors in my path all taught with great patience and obviously offered up lots of prayers as I grew to the point where I am today.

My own journey reminds me that we have no idea what God has in store for each individual boy and girl we disciple. The possibilities are endless! Did I think at age 6 or 16 that I would be a children's pastor? Absolutely not, and neither did the teachers that ministered to me each week. As Christ breathed his last breath on Mt. Calvary and declared, "It is finished," he was by no means referring to any of us. The work he continues to do in each of us today is simply a continuation of the process he brought us into when we accepted Him as Lord and Savior.

We may be standing on the shoulders of giants as we labor for the Kingdom of God, but the real heroes are the ones at our knee level. I believe they will face even greater challenges for the cause of Christ. Let's eagerly serve them with the great responsibility we have.

**CHILDREN'S GLOBAL OUTREACH** We have only three Sundays left as the children continue to raise money for our Global Outreach Easter Egg Project. Thank you for your continued support as we move closer towards Easter. Again, any donations during this time are designated to our total church offering. Empty Easter Eggs are available at the Children's Welcome Center for the convenience of parents and children.

**WPHC KIDS** Children Church is comprised of children in 1<sup>st</sup> grade through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. **WPHC KID JRS**



are comprised of 3 year olds through Kindergarten. When a child reaches the 5<sup>th</sup> grade level, they have the opportunity to serve in Children's Church as a leader in one of three areas. They can be trained to assist in worship, games or technical support. The maturity level of the child will play a large part in how often that child is selected to serve. See me if you have a rising 5<sup>th</sup> grader that might be interested in serving.

**STAY UP2DATE** Check out [wphc.net](http://wphc.net) for periodic updates to calendar events. Current and previous newsletters are now available under the Children's Ministries heading. Those interested in joining our league of volunteers can also find volunteer applications on line. I welcome your comments and suggestions for improvements to our website. You can email me at [cbouchard@wphc.net](mailto:cbouchard@wphc.net).

**RESOURCE CLOSET** Supply Request forms are provided on a weekly basis for your classroom needs. We are finding a few of you gathering your supplies from the resource closet just prior to class. This should be the exception and not the norm. Please continue to use the Supply Request system to make good use of your time and the resources we have available. Good preparation is a key to a successful classroom.

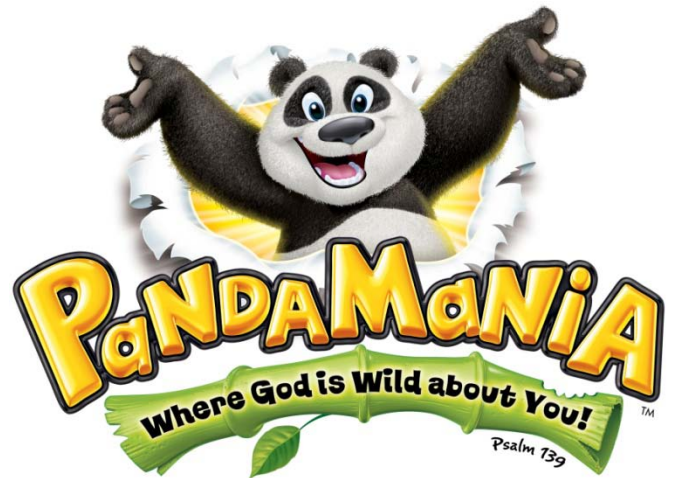
**THANK YOU** Special thanks to all those who helped with our Royal Ranger Awards Banquet. The steak & potato meal from Hog Wild was delicious! Everyone enjoyed the evening and congratulations to all our boys. We are very proud of all your achievements!

**EASTER EGG HUNT** The 2011 Easter Egg Hunt will be held Friday, April 22nd on the church property. Last year we had over 1000 hidden eggs. This year's event will be at least twice that size. If you would like to help by donating eggs, filling the eggs or hiding the eggs, please contact me immediately.

**TRIATHLON** The second annual Triathlon will be held on Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> from 9:30-11:30 in the church parking lot. This is a Global Outreach fundraiser that requires our kids to walk, run, ride, or any combination of those activities to help raise money for the Children's Global Outreach Offering. We encourage you to sponsor a child today! Sponsor sheets are available at the Children's Welcome Center.

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL** Mark your calendars now for Wednesday, July 27 - Sunday, July 31<sup>st</sup> for a jungle of a VBS! This year's curriculum will be Group's

Pandamania! You can begin thinking jungle, bamboo, large foliage, panda bears and the like. I hope that you will make time to participate that week and join in on the fun!



Volunteer **Debbie Young** was practicing one weekend on daughter, Kacey for the "panda" face painting segment that will be one of our VBS rotations. Who can resist that sweet panda! Red baseball caps with the WPHC VBS logo will top off the look.



**THANK YOU** to Ricky Green for faithfully serving as the teacher of our 8:00 AM Sunday School Class (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) for many years. We wish Ricky the best as he hands the torch to newcomer, Dale Hanson.

**ADDITIONAL VOLUNTEERS** are needed as greeters for the Children's Welcome Center. Contact me if you are interested.

**TALENT QUEST** Remember to pray for Katie Furr (piano) and Rob Cook (vocal) as the two compete in the Junior Talent Quest competition for Talent Quest 2011. The date is Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> at the Cornerstone Conference Center.