



Devotion

Easter's Not Over!

In the heat of July, in the bitter cold of January, in any continent in any season in any time zone. Easter is always here. It's forever.

by **Rick Hamlin** Posted in **Stories of Faith**, Mar 30, 2018

You might have finished eating up all those jelly beans and chocolate eggs but Easter has only just begun. It's not like an early spring day that fades into storms.

Easter is forever.

We associate Easter with spring—naturally—because here in the Northern Hemisphere the two go hand in hand. Easter eggs and daffodils on the new green grass with the sun blazing in the sky.

But what if Easter happened at a different season?

Two years ago my wife and I celebrated Easter at a [South African monastery](#). It was a magical experience, getting up with the brothers in the early morning hours to await the dawn.

The sun rose, shining in the chapel window just as we exclaimed, "The Lord is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia."

The rolling hills were gorgeous, the grass tall and golden, the bushes a reddish green. But no new buds on the trees, no daffodils. Why? Because on that bottom half of the world it was fall. Not spring.

Still we sang our Alleluias and ate our Easter eggs. The experience reminded me of how God meant this holiday to say that all our expectations are reversed, fall or spring.

"For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him," the apostle Paul wrote. "The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God."

Once for all. Unlike the seasons which are cyclical. Spring will be followed by summer, by fall and then by winter. They repeat themselves. But the Resurrection is once for all time. Forever.

Happy Easter! You can say that today, tomorrow, in the heat of July, in the bitter cold of January, in any continent in any season in any time zone. [Easter is always here](#). It's forever.

If you do have a few more chocolate eggs to munch on, hand 'em over. I love them. At any season!

Benevolence in the spotlight

The Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands

strives to give the best possible care to the children we are privileged to serve. This is done in a Christian environment with staff members whose mission is to love and care for our children. The best possible training is provided for the staff in order to give children the best possible chance for success. The Children's Home hopes that the experiences children have while in their care will lead them to break the cycles of abuse & neglect that originally brought them into their care. By accomplishing this, children can achieve the hope and purpose for the future that drives this ministry.

Core Values:

Children – Serving God's children who are in need. We pledge to provide a safe & nurturing environment for the children in our care. We are committed to providing the resources necessary to give our children the hope & purpose for the future that is the foundation of our mission statement.

Family – We are committed to providing a family atmosphere at the Children's Home & to working with our children's families to provide an appropriate plan for the child's return to their home.

Education – We believe that our children are entitled to a quality education, regardless of their background and educational deficiencies. We provide an accredited on campus school for children who come to us with educational, social or behavioral deficits. Our goal is to transition the children to the public school system where appropriate. GED classes are provided for older residents when it is determined that is the most appropriate course of action. We also provide support for our graduates for continuing education. Our educational planning is centered on the needs of the individual child and how these needs may best be accomplished.

Religious Life – As a ministry of the Presbyterian Church USA, we are committed to providing our children the opportunity to worship God & explore their religious beliefs. We have weekly chapel services & provide children the opportunity to attend worship services on Sunday.

Recreation – We believe that teaching children how to appropriately spend their leisure time is very important. Learn more at <http://pchh.org>



Beginning Balance: \$ 2304.96
Ending Balance: \$ 1951.41



Always needed:
 Juice (approx. 64 oz) any kind
 Canned fruits of any size



Upcoming dates to remember:

- St Columba Silent Auction & Dinner: 6 Apr 5pm
- Combined Service/Celebration of Women's gifts 7 Apr 11am, Church Potluck, bring dish to share
- Maundy Thursday Service 18 Apr, 7pm
- Easter 21 Apr, 3 Services, brunch and egg hunt



Circle Reports



Circle 3: Met at Westminster Canterbury with Lucy Page as hostess. Louise Wombolt facilitated the lesson. There were 7 members and 1 guest present. Discussed making a contribution out of our Sunshine Funds to Beach Health Care. We did not set an amount so that will be decided in April. At the closing Louise shared a Lenten Fast Prayer written by Pope Francis. She made copies for those who ask for them.

Circle 4: 6 members were in attendance. Hostess: Joyce Ward, Bible Moderators: Amanda Long and Annette Conley. Conducted business (Food Pantry, General Fund, Sunshine Fund, Least Coin and Special Birthday offering). Discussed April Combined Service will be a Celebration of Women's gifts, the service will be conducted by Women of the church. Plenty of opportunities to participate (ushers, communion, readers) service will be followed by potluck, hosted by BPMO, congregants are asked to bring a dish to share. Annette closed the meeting with prayer.

Circle 6: 11 members present. Hostesses: Janet L. Baker and Donna Place. Bible Moderator: Dana Williamson. We discussed the Celebration of Women Service on April 7th. Prayer concerns: Patti Ervin and Audre Cannell

Circle 8: 9 members were in attendance. Hostess: Connie Zuidema. Bible Moderator: Judy Crossman. We discussed the Wednesday @ the Well dinner that our Circle supplied. The evening was a great success. Our Circle members shopped, cooked, decorated tables, served and cleaned up. The menu was ham, mac and cheese, green beans, salad and homemade brownies with ice cream. The sign up sheet for April 26-28 at the OBX at Joy Wotherspoon's cottage was reviewed. We had members traveling and some with the winter cold so we had fewer members at our meeting than normal. All of us are hoping for warmer weather.