



# GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211  
719-395-8868 • gracechurchbvco.org

## Grace Church on Easter

*Persons, places, vistas we have seen*



Alleluia! Christ is Risen!

Photo by Max Robertson

### APRIL, 2016

#### From Our Pastors



Rev. Cummings talks about the lesson of Thomas.

2



Rev. Tran writes about the season of Easter.

2

#### Ministry Reports



Grace Church celebrates Easter.

1



Peggy Finkowski reports on the March Council meeting.

3



Brenda Nesbitt explains the April Outreach project, Sweet Dreams Colorado.

3

## Resurrection and New Life

When Jesus was crucified, the disciples believed that all was lost, but when He rose from the dead, everything changed. In a similar way, when life seems to be at its darkest point, we can turn to God and experience new life. God can transform our relationships, sense of purpose, hope, and so much more. Easter isn't just a time to celebrate Jesus'

resurrection 2,000 years ago. It is a time to celebrate what God is doing in us every day ---giving us new life.

Chad McComas as published in "The Upper Room."

## Cummings Commentary

I have been preaching for over forty years. You'd think by now it would be same old same old to me. But preaching from the scriptures is as a spring ever fresh and flourishing. Each time I read the upcoming lessons something new jumps out at me.

The second Sunday of Easter brings us back to the familiar story of Thomas. He was not present when the Risen Jesus appeared to the disciples. He as much as called them liars when they told him what had happened. "I will not believe," he said. "Unless . . ." That "unless" is important because it holds open the possibility of belief.

Thomas laid down some grotesque conditions for his belief that Jesus had risen from the dead. "I will not believe unless I put my finger in the nail holes in his hands and my hand in the wound in his side." Thomas thought his doubts had settled the matter. Nothing like what he required had ever happened before. The other disciples were delusional. Only he had not lost his mind.

The next time Jesus appeared to the disciples, Thomas was with them. Somehow Jesus knew what Thomas had said. He practically forced Thomas to fulfill his demands. Fingers and



*But millions have come to faith in the Risen Christ when Jesus reached out and touched their wounds bringing to them healing and reconciliation.*

Continued on page 4

## Catherine's Column



Most of the time, we think about Easter as a very special Sunday when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus. This, of course, is right, but it is only part of the story. Easter is also a season that lasts all the way from Easter Sunday through the Day of Pentecost (this year, May 15). For Episcopalians, the season of Easter is marked in our worship by the use of white for the liturgical color. Since we have just finished the penitential season of Lent, we also remove the confession from the service and put back all the Alleluias - even adding a few extra! The hymns are joyful and the seasonal prayers remind us of the promise of new life.

The season of Easter is a time to focus on the resurrected Christ and what it means that we are also raised to new life with him. The lectionary readings focus on Jesus' resurrection appearances, beginning on the first Sunday after Easter with the story of doubting Thomas and the appearance of Jesus in the upper room, "where the doors were locked for fear of the Jews." We also hear stories about the apostles and how they experience the risen Christ, being transformed from fearful, disorganized

Continued on page 5

## Church Council Report

By Peggy Finkowski, Chairman



The Council approved February's Treasurer's report. Annette Dickinson gave us a review of the Audit Committees report for the Episcopal Diocese. Annette also gave us a review of the Rocky Mountain Fund Balance Report she prepared for

the Rocky Mountain (Methodist) Conference.

We appreciate all the work Annette Dickinson does for us as Church Administrator. She does so much for Grace church as well as all the reporting for the Episcopal & Methodist church conferences. (Thank you Annette!)

Celso Harper reported for the Building & Grounds group, that our current cleaning staff would be ending their duties at Grace at the end of March and has already found a replacement for them.

We discussed the agenda for the April 9th work session. We will review & discuss accounting procedures, Outreach giving and the Church operating budget. All attendees are asked to RSVP with Annette Dickinson. (Lunch to be provided.)

We began discussing our summer service needs. We are exploring options of a second service at our location, or possibly going "off-site" to an alternate location near BV.

Peggy Finkowski, Council Chair

## April Outreach

By Brenda Nesbitt

*Imagine what it would be like to have*

*To sleep in your clothes*

*Or to not know what a new pair of pajamas is.*

**Sweet Dreams Colorado** is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, strictly run by volunteers, that delivers new books and pajamas to children waiting and hoping to be adopted. These are children ranging in age from newborn to eighteen years of age, who live in group homes, foster care and orphanages in Colorado. These are children who do not know the comfort of wearing a pair of pajamas to bed.

There are over 12,000 children in El Paso County alone waiting and hoping to be adopted! Some of these abused and abandoned children have not known the comfort of a parent to tuck them into bed at night and read them a bedtime story. These children are sometimes taken from their homes in the middle of the night with nothing but the clothes they have on, and taken to people and places they have never seen or been to before.

**For the simple cost of a latte, YOU**

**Could change the outlook of a child in need**

During the month of April, Grace Church will sponsor a "Pajama Drive" in support of **Sweet Dreams Colorado**. The need is great for **spring / summer** pajamas, but any and all donations will be welcome. Right now, they **do not** need books. The pajamas *must be new*. Sweet Dream Colorado has a need for all sizes 24 months to adult size 3XL.

Please leave donated pajamas in the Outreach Box in the Parish Hall for delivery to Colorado Springs in May. Monetary donations are also welcome: Make your check payable to *Grace Church*, with the notation, "*Sweet Dreams.*" As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

Continued on page 4

## Announcements

### Yard Sale

Volunteers are needed to help with the yard sale this summer. If you are interested in helping with this sale please contact Martha Bauman at 395-8471.

### Thanks for Help

Thank You to all who participated with the Soup and Bread meal for our Lenten Services. Special thank you goes out to our Soup Cookers: Dorothy, Bill and Junia, Judy Epperson, Martha, Peggy, Evelyn, Jo, Margaret. Another special thank you to all who helped setup and cleanup crew what great team work. Our free will offering donations came to \$200.  
Peace,  
Dorothy and Maryanne

## Outreach Report

Jan: Collected 253 pairs of tube socks for St. Francis

Feb: Collected 35 items plus 6 money - filled bottles for Buena Vista Pregnancy Center (I don't have the \$ total for the bottles yet)

Mar: Nothing But Nets \$365.

Thanks, Brenda

## Don's Column

Continued from page 2

hand in Jesus' crucifixion wounds. And then absolute confession of faith: "My Lord and my God."

I know of only one doubting Thomas who came to believe in the Risen Christ by touching Jesus' wounds. Only Thomas Didymus did that. But millions have come to faith in the Risen Christ when Jesus reached out and touched their wounds bringing to them healing and reconciliation. This is why so many can say "We believe in the resurrection." It's why I do too.

See you in church.

Don

## TRANSITIONS

Thanks to everyone who donated lilies for the Easter Lily Garden. They really add to the celebration on Easter Sunday.

Please continue to pray for Nancy Bruce as she improves. We hope to see her this summer.

Pray for Barbara O'Donnell as she faces knee surgery this summer.

Pete Lee is having tests on his heart. And Mary Lee has the flu. Please remember them both in your prayers.

Prayer has been requested for the family of Ray Stwalley and Bonnie Young's neighbor who died tragically this last week.

Kurt Miller's son is having hip surgery and Kurt requested prayer for him.

## Catherine's Column

### Continued from page 2

followers to fearless preachers and missionaries spreading the word of God. We celebrate the Ascension of Christ forty days after Easter day (always a Thursday), and ten days later we arrive at Pentecost. The feast day of Pentecost is a celebration of the coming of the Holy Spirit.

I wish you all a very blessed Easter season – let the feasting begin!

Catherine

## Treasurer's Tidbits

By Annette Dickerson

Members of our congregation have primarily sponsored the following items. Each of these funds is running a little low and could use your support.



### Samaritan Fund

The purpose of the Samaritan Fund is to provide local assistance to the needy, aid to the poor and other purposes that Rev. Cummings considers charitable and consistent with the mission of Grace Church. Recent distributions from the fund include such things as assistance with rent, overnight lodging, a meal or a tank of gas for a person or family who is having some financial difficulties.



Flowers will be available for purchase for the altar starting back on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The price for Sunday altar flowers is **\$22**. Please sign the schedule in the Parish Hall for the Sunday you select. If you have a specific dedication for your flowers, please send your dedication to **Judy Epperson** at [epperj1@att.net](mailto:epperj1@att.net) so that your dedication may be placed in the church bulletin.



### Radio Ministry

Our weekly radio ministry, "Living in Grace," is broadcast every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. on KBVC 104.1 FM. Each weekly radio spot costs **\$60**.

**If you are interested in sponsoring any of these items, please indicate the applicable item in the memo section of your check, and drop your check in the collection basket. Grace Church appreciates your on-going support!**

Continued in next column

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## The Monkey's New Clothes

Doesn't Nehemiah look great in his new Easter clothes? He wants to thank Judy Deardorff for making him this great new suit, including a bow tie. He says he likes being able to dress up and look great at church on Sunday. Keep watching for more information about Nehemiah and his adventures.

## Wow! Go Nehemiah!



*Nehemiah in his new Easter Outfit.*

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*Grace Notes is a publication of Grace Church in Buena Vista, Colorado*

*Grace is an Episcopal-United Methodist Ecumenical Fellowship where people of all Christian faith traditions are finding a spiritual home.*

*Please send articles and pictures to Editor Judy Epperson at [epperj@gmail.com](mailto:epperj@gmail.com)*

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## GRACE CHURCH

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203 W. Main St.  
P.O. Box 1559  
Buena Vista, CO 81211

To: