



# GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211  
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## Headline

*Persons, places, vistas we have seen*



HAPPY MAY DAY!

This is a picture of the house across the street taken Friday,  
April 29, 2016.

“When it’s Springtime in the Rockies.....”

## MAY 2016

### From Our Pastors



Rev. Cummings writes about his futures plans in relation to Grace Church.

2



Rev. Tran shares memories of her daughter Helen’s wedding.

2

### Ministry Reports



Will Spring ever get here?

1



Peggy Finkowski reports on the last Council meeting.

3



Brenda Nesbitt writes about the backpack ministry of Arkansas Valley Christian Mission

3

## Happy Mother’s Day

The real religion of the world comes from women much more than from men — from mothers most of all, who carry the key of our souls in their bosoms. ~Oliver Wendell Holmes

## Cummings Commentary

"What's the buzz? Tell me what's a happenin'" is a line sung by the disciples in "Jesus Christ Superstar." It is a line many at Grace may be using about this time as well. There has been some speculation about how much longer I may continue as your lead pastor. So let me share with the whole church family what I shared with our Staff Parish Relations Committee and our leaders at the Church Council Work Session last month.

Over the past six months or so my body has been whispering to my head "slow down." We love what we are doing, we adore serving Grace Church, but the pace we are keeping is beginning

to wear on us. My health is good. I just don't have the energy of a 40 year-old any more. Plus there are things we want and need to be doing that we simply do not have time to get to.

So it seems good to Bonnie and me to step down as your lead pastor at the end of the 2016-2017 Methodist Conference year which will be June 30, 2017, or fourteen months from now. Why announce this so far in advance? Two reasons. One, the Methodist system requires local churches and pastors to declare their wishes regarding a renewed annual appointment by December 1 each year. So, in

**Continued on page 4**



*Let's also be in prayer together as we ask for God's guidance in this process*

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## Catherine's Column



Dear Friends:

I was deeply touched when I found that you had all signed a card and included a gift for my daughter Helen and her fiancé, Cooper. Thank you so much for your love and support. They were married on April 28<sup>th</sup>.

Pictures on page 5

**Continued on page 5**

## Church Council Report

By Peggy Finkowski, Chair



The Council reviewed and balanced the budget. Some reductions were necessary, but will be reviewed for next year. We will drop funding for the Children's Chime Time group at the end of May and the Radio Ministry Funding

will also be dropped. The last radio program aired on April 24, 2016.

Peggy Finkowski

### Say Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary To:

#### Birthdays

5/4 Martha Bauman  
5/5 Judy Deardorff  
5/15 Clay Edmonds  
5/16 Maryanne Freed  
5/22 Pickles McKinley  
5/23 Catherine Tran  
5/28 Dick Rausch  
5/28 Jim Finkowski

#### Anniversaries

5/25 Tom and Martha Bauman  
5/29 Ed and Margaret Butler  
5/30 Dan and Jo Rodeheffer  
5/31 Bill and Junia Fitzgerald

## Report from SPRC

By Jeff Deardorff, Chairman

The Staff/Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) is responsible for supporting and maintaining harmony with Grace's clergy and staff, responding to the needs and issues identified by our clergy, and helping develop job descriptions for all employees. It confers with the Methodist District Superintendent (DS) on matters related to our Methodist pastor, and conducts his/her annual evaluation. This Committee also assists in the performance of Mutual Ministry Reviews in which our Episcopal clergy and the congregation are evaluated for ministry effectiveness.

Last year Council formally approved the Policies and Procedures for the SPRC. While required by our Methodist polity, SPRC has no counterpart in our Episcopal polity. Nonetheless Catherine, under circumstances unique to Grace Church, felt the SPRC's role and responsibilities should be inclusive of both pastors. So SPRC works with both of our clergy to fulfill its responsibilities.

With Rev. Cummings' recent announcement of his intent to "re-retire" in June of 2017, the SPRC will soon start the process of helping select another Methodist pastor for Grace Church. As in other endeavors we've undertaken, this process will be another "adventure" as Grace attempts to accommodate the prescribed processes of our respective polities, as well as the desires of our congregation and Catherine.

Continued on 4

## SPRC

Continued from page 3

So somewhat early in this process, SPRC must advise our DS if we will be seeking a new Head Pastor or another Co-pastor. Accordingly, the SPRC welcomes input from the congregation about these matters before we begin to develop criteria upon which we will seek candidates for the available position. Please feel free to speak confidentially with any of the Committee's members listed below:

Jeff Deardorff, Chairman

Junia Fitzgerald

Danny Simpson

Janet Yinger, Senior Warden

Margaret Butler, Methodist Lay Leader

## Don's Column

Continued from page 2

seven months our Staff Parish Relations Committee will need to give our Methodist District Superintendent some guidance about Grace's needs for pastoral leadership on the Methodist side of our life together. Two, every change in pastoral appointments creates an opportunity for a congregation to re-think its leadership needs. This is especially so in the case of our dual pastor configuration here at Grace. Both the congregation and Staff Parish Relations Committee need adequate time to develop a new leadership profile for moving forward in 2017.

In the meantime, we still have fourteen months together to make the most effective impact for the Lord's Kingdom that we can. Let's also be in prayer together as we ask for God's guidance in this process.

See you in church!

Don

## TRANSITIONS

Gary Nesbitt received a good report from the eye doctor on his transplant.

Please pray that he continues to improve.

Sharon and Max Robertson ask for our prayers as they travel to Texas to put Sharon's 97 year old mother in assisted living.

Please continue to pray for Jennifer Wright's sister as she awaits pathology reports.

Martha Bauman requests prayers for safe travel as she and Judy Edmunds go to France with friends.

The Love family wishes to thank everyone for their many kindnesses and prayers on the loss of their mother, Billie.

Please keep Don and Bonnie Cummings in your prayers while they are travelling and are in Cleveland.

As always, keep Grace Church in yours prayers during this year of transition.

## Catherine's Column

Continued from page 2



Tam and Helen



Helen and Cooper take their vows.

## May Outreach Project

By Brenda Nesbitt

The Arkansas Valley Christian Mission is a Colorado based non-profit corporation, governed by a Board of Directors. Financial support comes from local churches, individual contributions, private business donations and community food drive events. All clients are accepted where they are in their life, be it in a temporary crisis, unemployed, underemployed, in the midst of family difficulties, in chronic need due to illness, or unable to get assistance elsewhere. One need not be affiliated with a church to serve or be served.

The Mission was created to supplement the efforts of other private and governmental care agencies, to provide immediate basic necessities, to encourage change toward a more responsible lifestyle and to facilitate that change, and to spread the Gospel of the Lord, Jesus Christ. Their purpose is striving to meet the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those affected by life's struggles, as well as providing information about the various resources in our community that can assist toward those end.

In addition to providing such services as the Food Pantry, Employment resources, Health Care Reference, Prescription Co-Pay assistance and fuel vouchers, the AVCM provides meals for holidays, a Children's Christmas Gift Shop and a school supply drive for registered students. Our May Outreach project is to help provide backpacks for school children in Buena Vista.

**The average cost of a backpack is \$15.0**

If you would like to help provide backpacks for children in Buena Vista, please make a check payable to Grace Church with the footnote "backpacks" and we will place an online order for those backpacks and have them shipped directly to the AVCM where students can choose a backpack in July along with other school supplies in preparation of the new school year.

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## Tidbits from the Treasurer

By Annette Dickinson



Grace Church is looking for a couple of volunteers for the following responsibilities:

- Memorial Fund acknowledgements
  - This person writes thank you notes on an as-needed basis to individuals making memorial donations to Grace Church. The Church provides the note cards, envelopes and postage. You provide your nice handwriting, the time to write the note cards and a listing of all memorial donations to the applicable family.
- Membership
  - This person would handle all aspects of Grace Church membership, such as:
    - enter membership data in a computer program;
    - distribute a membership form periodically to all members;
    - maintain the member picture bulletin board in the Parish Hall;
    - transfer individual membership to/from Grace Church as needed; and
    - update and print the paper directory occasionally.

If you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Annette at [adickinson@bxgsystems.com](mailto:adickinson@bxgsystems.com) or 719-395-5889.