

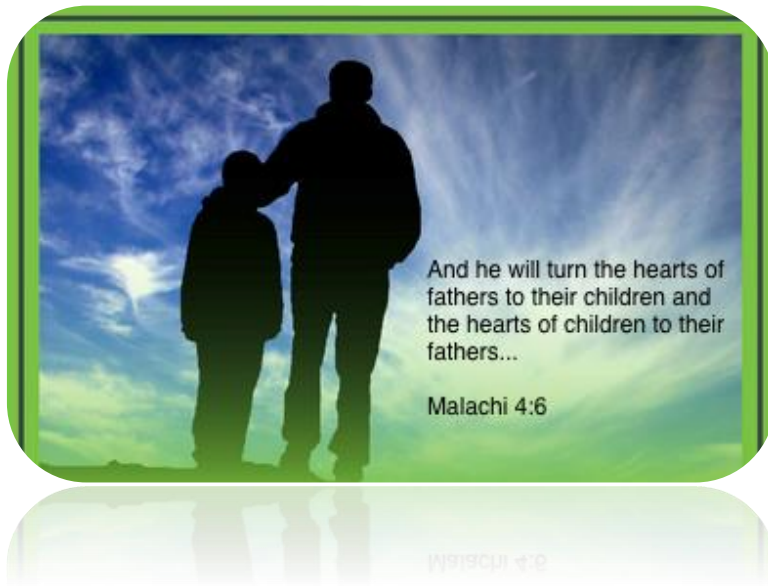


GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy Father's Day!

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



Wishing all the fathers in Grace Church a Happy Father's Day. May each of you be blessed on your special day?

JUNE 2016

From Our Pastors



Rev. Cummings reports on decisions made by the General Conference of the Methodist Church.

2



Rev. Tran talks about the importance of hospitality.

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Ministry Reports



Happy Father's Day to Grace Dads.

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Peggy Finkowski reports on the last Council meeting and

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Brenda Nesbitt writes about the Quilts of Valor project.

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Fathers Can Be Solitary Mountains

Fathers can be solitary mountains,
All their love rock-like, steep, and strong.
Though warm and caring, somehow they belong
Halfway home to mothers' bubbling fountains.
Each of us needs love that knows no quarter,
Reminding us of bonds that cross a border,
Strengthening our sense of right and wrong.

Author Unknown

Cummings Commentary

Have you been following the United Methodist General Conference?

It generated a lot of discussion in both the church and secular media. The over-arching issue grabbing most of the attention was the church's stance on human sexuality. Since 1972 Methodists have debated the statements in the Book of Discipline adopted then regarding the practice of homosexuality. Every General Conference since then has dealt with petitions to either discard or strengthen the official statement. Pressure to reverse the church's stance on what has become referred to as LGBT issues was greater this time than ever before.

When it became clear that no breakthrough for any side was going to happen, the delegates made a rare appeal to the Council of Bishops to exercise leadership in guiding the church to some resolution of this four decades old dispute. At stake, in the view of many people, is the survival of the United Methodist Church. Since the 2008 General Conference, ever more serious discussion and proposals for splitting the denomination have gained greater notice and support.

The Council of Bishops has been directed by the General Conference to appoint a

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As leaders continue to struggle with this potentially denomination-splitting divide, those of us in the pews can pray that God will give them patience and wisdom.

Catherine's Column



This summer, we will again have the opportunity to practice hospitality to our many visitors. We understand hospitality because God has been hospitable to us first. Hospitality is a spiritual practice. When we open our doors and invite people in, we can ground our practice of hospitality in our experience of God. And God is abundantly hospitable! We are always invited and welcomed by God.

Just as God is hospitable to us, we can be hospitable to God. In our prayer we invite the presence of the Holy Spirit. We prepare a place where the Spirit can dwell within us. We open our hearts to God's presence and call in our lives. We make sacrifices, loving God and others enough to give of ourselves. Our hospitality toward God can draw on the deep well of God's hospitality towards us.

We in turn can welcome others gracefully. We already do that in many ways, and this summer, we will need to be especially attentive to welcoming our guests. Since we will have only one service all summer, it will be helpful for us "regulars" to sit close

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Church Council Report

By Peggy Finkowski, Chairperson



The highlights of May's Council meeting:

We moved to continue our regular schedule of one service at 9am Sunday morning for the summer of 2016.

Since summer schedules are so busy, we do not have a council meeting

scheduled in July. So if there is anything that needs to be addressed, please let me know, so we can review it at the June 12 council meeting.

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for October 16.
Peggy - Council Chair

June Outreach Project

By Brenda Nesbitt

In 2003, Blue Star mom Catherine Roberts began the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) from her sewing room in Seaford, Delaware. Her son Nathanael's year-long deployment to Iraq provided the initial inspiration. "Casualties no longer were just numbers, but real men and women dying. Hidden behind the casualties were the wounded." (Statistic: For every casualty there are 10 wounded.) Catherine's desire was to see that returning warriors were welcomed home with the love and gratitude they deserved. She hit upon the idea that linking quilt-toppers with machine quilters in a national effort could achieve her goal of covering all returning service men and women touched by war. These wartime quilts would be a tangible reminder of an American's appreciation and gratitude. Quilts are awarded at many different levels: they may go to military hospitals where Chaplains award them to service members; there may be presentations of QOVs to entire service units returning from combat deployments; they may be awarded at VAs or presented individually. But no matter how a Quilt of Valor is given, the impact it delivers is unequivocal. As one recipient said "My quilt isn't another military medal to be placed in a box and sit on my shelf. I was moved to tears." As of April 2016, there have been 136,049 quilts awarded to service members/veterans.

The Ladies Sewing Group, serving as quilt-toppers, has completed 15 quilts this year, bringing their 11 year total to 249. As in the past the costs associated with this project are covered by "quilt sponsors" from within our congregation. A donation of \$90 pays for making and sending one quilt; however, any donation from \$20-\$90 would be greatly appreciated. If you wish to sponsor a quilt in honor or in memory of a special someone, or to commemorate a special occasion, please fill out

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June Outreach Project continued from page 3

the information on the form in the Sunday bulletin and submit it with your contribution. A photo acknowledgement will be mailed when the project is completed the first week of July. For more information, see www.govf.org or contact Judy Deardorff.

Announcements

Remember the Grace Church garage sale on June 18, 2016. We will begin collecting your treasures the week before the sale. Bakers of Grace, remember the Bake Sale on the same day.

We hope that everyone will turn out and support this fund raiser for the programs of Grace Church.

Mini-Blessings is holding a garage sale Saturday, June 4, 2016 from 9 am - 2 pm. Drop by and see all the great stuff we have.

Mini-Blessings will also be featured on Dr. Jeff: Rocky Mountain Vet on Animal Planet, Saturday, June 4, 2016 at 7 pm. It should be an interesting show featuring the mini horses.

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commission representing all views and charge it with hammering out a proposal to bring back to possibly a specially called General Conference before 2020 to bring this matter to resolution.

This is a complex issue. Convictions run deep and feelings run high. For forty-four years we have not been able to find common ground. As many feel ambivalent as do passionate about the issues around human sexuality. In the meantime the present statements and official stance of the denomination remain in force. If you would like to become more informed about the discussion, google UM General Conference and you will find a plethora of links to articles, open letters, episcopal addresses, etc. dealing with every side of this controversy. As leaders continue to struggle with this potentially denomination-splitting divide, those of us in the pews can pray that God will give them patience and wisdom.

See you in church,

Don

TRANSITIONS

Condolences to Max Robertson on the loss of his uncle.

Please pray for Nancy Bruce as she faces more treatment for her cancer.

Remember Barbara O'Donnell in your prayers as she has both knees replaced on June 15, 2016.

Pray for Sharon Robertson's mom as she continues to adjust to assisted living

Please pray for Curt Miller while he is recovering from rotator cuff surgery.

Happy Birthday to Carol Slater. She is 85 years young.

In light of the struggles the church is experiencing, please remember to pray for the Methodist church and the Episcopal Church that is going through similar trials.

Catherine's Column

Continued from page 2

to the front and leave the back pews for visitors or late comers. If you see someone juggling books, hand them your hymnal or prayer book turned to the right page. If you see someone looking for a seat, scoot over and make room next to you. Invite visitors for a cup of coffee after the service. Thanks for making Grace Church a place where a stranger feels like family!

June Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

6/3 Becky Arthur
 6/5 Roger Ezell
 6/8 Mary Lee
 6/8 Carol Slater
 6/8 Dan Rodeheffer
 6/13 Keith Baker
 6/16 Don Cummings
 6/18 Ray Stwalley
 6/19 Judy Butler
 6/22 Margaret Butler
 6/25 Danny Simpson
 6/26 Tom Bauman
 6/26 Jeff Deardorff
 6/28 John Rezac
 6/30 Brenda Nesbitt

Anniversaries

6/18 Dick and Donelda Rausch
 6/25 Rob and Carole Wimmer

Grace Goats

There are some old goats in the pew I'm sure that's not news to you.

But what you don't know, their hidden talents don't show; they've been known to take a good hike or two.

If you're longing to reach lofty heights, and you're seeking those far away sights, come join us and find some true peace of mind in all of God's natural delights.

The "Grace Goats meet in the church parking lot at 9:00 on Tuesday mornings. If you like to hike or would like to find out if you like to hike, come join them for a fun time.

Contact Dorothy Miller at 966-5250 for more information.

Happy Birthday!

Pickles McKinley celebrated her 90th birthday in May. We wish Pickles a happy birthday and hope she has many more.

Happy Birthday, Pickles!



Pickles and Argent at the 90th birthday party.

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

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