



GRACE NOTES

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

Come on Down!

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



Rev. Sharon Robertson rose to great heights during her sermon on Zacchaeus during Sunday's Service. Like the little tax collector in Jesus' time, she climbed a tree to see Jesus better.

Photo by Max Robertson

NOVEMBER 2016

From Our Pastors



Rev. Cummings writes about National Bible Week



Rev. Tran. talks about changes coming in the new year.

2

Ministry Reports



Rev. Sharon Robertson was our guest speaker Sunday, October 30, 2016.

1



Peggy Finkowski reports on the Annual Meeting.

3



Valley to Valley Senior Center is the November Outreach Project.

3

Salute to Veterans

In honor of Veteran's Day, the Alpine Orchestra will present a special concert of Military and Patriotic favorites, with guest vocalist Mario Garcia. Concerts are free, but donations are accepted.

Concerts will held Friday, November 5, 7:30 pm at the Salida SteamPlant, Saturday, November 5, 7:30

pm at Lake County High School in Leadville and Sunday November 6, 3:00 at Clearview Community Church in Buena Vista.

Please plan to attend this great concert honoring our veterans.

Cummings Commentary

Did you know this?

Since 1941, starting with President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, every US president has declared the week of Thanksgiving, National Bible Week. This, our 75th year, we again commemorate and honor God for giving us His Word.

The National Broadcasting Company (NBC), a leading national radio station at the time, invited the founders of the National Bible Association to read the Bible on air all day. They were also invited by

President Franklin Delano Roosevelt to come to the White House on the following day to present him with a Bible to inaugurate the first National Bible Week. These glorious plans were in place but tragedy interrupted them. The day set to read the Bible on NBC radio was December 7th, 1941, the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

The founders sent President Roosevelt a telegram telling him that they and the nation



What kind of book is the Bible? What good is it for today?

[Continued on page 4](#)

Catherine's Column



2017 will be a year of transition at Grace Church. Things are changing. Don will be leaving us at the end of June. We are already grieving the loss. We'll miss him and Bonnie and are grateful for all they have done for us over these past years. It will be hard to say goodbye.

People may be wondering what it will be like when I become the lead pastor. You may feel like you don't know me as well as you know Don. That's true. By design, my role has been much more limited than Don's. Although I have freely shared my opinions when asked, I have been careful about staying within the boundaries of my role.

With the coming leadership transitions, it is not surprising we get a little anxious about things. Sometimes, when we get anxious, we don't know what to do with our anxiety so we direct it toward others. We might blame or scapegoat someone for our troubles, take sides, become reactive, or withdraw our support or involvement. It is times like this that we need good self-awareness and gracious

[Continued on page 4](#)

Church Council Report

By Peggy Finkowski, Chairman



Our Annual Meeting was held Oct 9, 2016 with about 55 Grace Parishioners present. Also present were our clergy, Rev. Don Cummings and Rev. Catherine Tran as well as Rev. Margaret Gillikin, United

Methodist Trinity District Superintendent.

Clergy & Committee reports were reviewed. Council Chair, Peggy Finkowski thanked everyone who submitted or presented reports.

Highlights for 2016 at Grace Church

- Vitality of our small group ministries
- Purchase of an AED
- Publication of a picture directory, with portraits taken by Don Cummings.

Our district superintendent, Rev. Margaret Gillikin, spoke about challenges with transitions in the church. She challenged us to love our neighbor in the coming year.

New members to the Grace council, (Evelyn Baker, Martha Bauman & Kurt Miller) were unanimously approved by the congregation.

The meeting was adjourned and everyone enjoyed a potluck in Parish Hall.

November Outreach

By Brenda Nesbitt

Valley to Valley Senior Center in Salida is a nonprofit, 501 (c) (3) organization whose mission is to provide quality care to each person in a safe, secure and friendly environment where friendships bond. They offer caregivers affordable rest time or free time while their senior family member enjoys the company of friends in a safe, fun, and home-like environment. They provide adult day services to meet nutritional needs, provide activities to support clients' physical and mental skills, and administration of medication. Their professional staff is caring, compassionate, and competent.

Valley to Valley believes the Bible and the Golden Rule are the ultimate authoritative Word of God, and the instruction manual for ethical care of our seniors, staff and everyone involved".

As one caregiver has shared, "...I have tremendous guilt trying to balance my employment and caring for my parents and my family. Your facility has provided tremendous support by relieving me of the guilt..."

*In order to help Valley to Valley provide a Thanksgiving dinner for their seniors we are collecting **Thanksgiving meal food items** to be used for this holiday meal or you may purchase **City Market** or **Safeway** gift cards which can be used to purchase necessary food items*

Please put your items in the green collections box in Parish Hall to be delivered to Salida on November 21.

Valley to Valley is recognized by the Alzheimer's Association as a "Leader in Dementia Care", certified by the State of Colorado as a "Specialized Care Facility" being able to care for those that need socialization to those with heart issues, dementia or Alzheimer's, are listed with the BBB and listed with the Colorado Secretary of State as a recognized charitable organization.

Catherine's Column

Continued from page 2

attitudes for ourselves and towards others. It is times like this when we need to pile on the grace.

When we are grieved, when things seem a little out of control or uncertain or just different – it is even more important that we remember who we are, what it means to have the name *Grace*. In grace, we can reach out to each other, we can listen with open hearts, refuse to listen or spread gossip and get the facts, assume the best of each other, let go of judgment, give more of ourselves. We can draw deeper from the reservoirs of grace-filled love in our hearts.

Things have been good at Grace Church. It is a great place to be. It is up to all of us to keep it that way. My hope and prayer is that we will drink deeply of the grace of God. Let us make this a year of Grace. Let us *be* Grace.

November Birthdays

11/5 – Bill Fitzgerald

11/20 – Judy Edmunds

11/29 – Judy Ezell

11/30 – Ed Butler

Don's Column

Continued from page 2

would be praying for him and that of course they would not attempt to come to the White House. NBC called and told them that though they could not read the Bible all day on the air, would they come to the studio and read the Bible on air between the news reports about the disaster.

Radio stations across America piggybacked on NBC's programming at this point as they were only one of the few broadcasters nationwide who at the time had same day international coverage. So that day, Americans heard the comforting words of the Bible as they contemplated the worst single day foreign attack on US soil in history. *(Quoted from the National Bible Association website.)*

Please join us for worship on November 20 for a special message on the Bible as I explore two important questions: What kind of book is the Bible? What good is it for today?

See you in Church

Don

TRANSITIONS

Remember Tom and Barbra Clark in your prayers. Tom is having tests done at Mayo Clinic this week.

Joyce Logan and John Epperson are both having minor eye surgeries. Please remember them in your prayers

Bob Freed is having a day surgery procedure done on Wednesday, November 2, 2016. Please remember him.

Janet Schmidt continues to improve, but could still us our prayers.

Pray for our nation as the elections come to a close. Let's hope that the nation will heal and come together to work for the good of all our citizens.

Announcements

Stewardship Sunday

November 13, 2016 is Stewardship Sunday for Grace Church, Pledge cards will be collected. Each of our lives is enriched in so many ways by being a part of Grace. Please consider how God is calling you to share in the support of Grace Church. We serve the Lord by being good stewards in the care of our congregation and staff, our buildings and grounds, our community and beyond. Your stewardship packet should have already arrived by mail. Please fill out the portion of the card labeled "A Pledge in Support of Grace Church" and submit by mail or when collected on Stewardship Sunday.

Junia Fitzgerald, 2016 Stewardship Chairperson

Craft Show

Remember the Craft Show and Bake Sale November 5, 2015 from 8am to 2pm in Parish Hall. Drop in and see the great crafts and other things that are for sale. Maybe there will be one or two Bronco things.

Women's Advent Luncheon Friday, December 2, 2016 1:00 AM - 1:00PM

Ladies of Grace Church tickets are available for our annual Women's Advent Luncheon. The cost is \$15.00 and we will be serving chicken breast with a cranberry sauce served of bed of rice pilaf, vegetable salad and dessert. We will have a similar menu that will be gluten free. Please advise us of your gluten free request when purchasing your ticket. Our speaker is Margaret Gillian our Methodist District Superintendent. Entertainment will include a music program and a carol sing along. For tickets and more information please contact our committee. (Martha Bauman, Judy Edmands, Judy Epperson, Maryanne Freed, Brenda Harper, Carolyn Hayes, Dorothy Miller, Jo Rodeheffer, Jane Shoemaker, Bonnie Young) Get your tickets early as this event sells out quickly.

Treasurer's Tidbits

By Annette Dickerson

Grace Church is looking for some volunteers for the following areas:

- Buildings & Grounds Committee
Members & Chair: this committee takes care of all aspects related to our buildings and grounds, such as
 - recommend contractors for our cleaning, mowing, tree-trimming, gardening, etc.;
 - get quotes from contractors for non-routine jobs;
 - ensure that the parking lot and walkways are cleared of snow and ice;
 - recommend items for repair or replacement;
 - attend our fire and boiler inspections;
 - Etc.
- Assist us in applying for a grant from the History Colorado State Historical Fund.
 - We are hoping to apply for a grant by April 1, 2017 to help us pay for some upcoming major repairs to our historical church, such as:
 - Refinish the wood floors;
 - Replace the carpet; and
 - Seal the stained glass windows;

If you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, please contact Annette at adickinson@bxgsystems.com or Peggy Finkowski at pfinkowski@gmail.com

85 and Going Strong

Happy Birthday!

Say "Happy Birthday" to Bob Freed who turned 85 years young on October 31, 2016. (Spooky!) Bob shared his Birthday with the members of Grace Church during Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 30, 2016.

Bob is an active member of the congregation at Grace and a wonderful asset to our church family.

Happy Birthday, Bob! May you have many more!



Bob Freed and his birthday cake.

Photo by Max Robertson

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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