



GRACE NOTES

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

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



Lent: a forty day journey to healing and understanding.

MARCH 2017

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran talks about the duties of rector.



Sharon Robertson writes on the purpose of the Transition Committee. 2

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Lenten Spring

The Lenten spring shines forth,
the flower of repentance!
Let us cleanse ourselves from all evil,
crying out to the Giver of Light:
"Glory to You, O Lover of man!"

From Thomas Hopko, *The Lenten Spring*

Catherine's Column

We have been anticipating a change in clergy leadership at Grace for a while, but it has happened sooner than expected. With Don leaving early, we – the Council and I – have had to move quickly to get things in order. Contracts have had to be revised, services have had to be covered, and the search for a Methodist Co-Pastor has intensified. All the while, the daily business of being church goes on and we enter into the Lenten season with events and services to be planned.

In my new position as lead pastor, I will normally be in BV from Thursday till Tuesday around the 2nd and 4th Sundays. But since I have a few commitments already on my

calendar for the next three months, I'll be juggling a little bit and may do a little more coming and going back and forth to Morrison. In March, Tam and I have tickets to *An American in Paris* on a Thursday evening, but otherwise I will be here during my regularly scheduled times. In April, you will see me every Sunday except for the 30th. The 2nd is our Bishop's Visitation, the 9th and 23th are regular Episcopal Sundays, and the 16th is Easter! I will also be in town for my regularly scheduled times except for the 22nd, when I have a wedding. In May, I will be doing some teaching that will keep me busy on Thursdays, but will be

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We've known each other for years, but now we begin to know each other all over again.

Report of Transition Committee



This Committee is composed of: Evelyn Baker, Clay Edmands, Roger Ezell, Catherine Tran & Sharon Robertson, Chairperson.

Our responsibility is to lead and guide the Congregation into a new era of change in Lead Pastor from Don Cummings to Catherine Tran. Typically change occurs slowly & with a sense of loss, grief, mixed emotions and eventually expectations of how we move forward with new and exciting ways to be in ministry.

The Transition Committee met for the first time on Saturday, February 11, 2017, in the Parish Hall. The decision of the Committee is to provide opportunities to talk with each other in small group settings. One of the ways we want to encourage the Congregation to participate is with a series of lunches in the Parish Hall.

Wednesday, March 1, 11:30, we are having the first "Lunch for Lent." Subsequent lunches will be held at 12:00 noon. Bring your brown bag lunch, & tea, water & coffee will be available.

Each Wednesday during Lent we will have a lunch for the main purpose of talking with each other and asking God to send the power of the Holy Spirit to lead

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Church Council Report

By, Robert Yinger Chairman



February became a month of rapid transitions for the Grace Church Council. We were surprised and saddened upon receiving Don Cummings' announcement on February 6. We had anticipated that that we

would have more time before Don and Bonnie's departure. We are deeply grateful for the many gifts and joys they have shared with us over the past years, and they will be dearly missed.

Having received notice of this announcement prior to our meeting on February 5, the Church Council had an extended discussion about the actions necessary to meet our immediate pastoral needs and to allow us to move forward in a positive and productive manner. The Council approved the appointment of Catherine Tran as Lead Pastor effective March 1, 2017. The Council also accelerated our work with Margaret Gillikin, our Methodist District Superintendent, to identify a candidate for our next Methodist pastor. It appears at this time that this process is nearing completion and should be finalized prior to April 1. In the meantime, Reverend Gene Sharp, a retired pastor living in Florissant, CO will be our supply pastor for the Methodist Sundays in March.

The Grace Church Council is committed to making the coming transition as open and transparent as possible. To facilitate this process, the Grace Church Transition Committee led by Sharon Robertson will be sponsoring discussion groups at lunch time on Wednesdays during Lent.

Bob Yinger

Chair, Grace Church Council

Outreach Report

By Judy Epperson

The outreach committee was able to make the following donations as a result of an end of year short fall:

- \$200 Alliance Against Domestic Abuse
- \$100 Ark-Valley Humane Society
- \$1000 Ark Valley Christian Mission
- \$200 Boys and Girls Club Chaffee County
- \$300 Chaffee County Fire
- \$585 Chaffee County Search and Rescue for a new truck.

- \$200 Mini-Blessings
- \$100 La Puente
- \$1000 St. George
- \$600 The Navigators
- \$200 Valley to Valley Senior Care.

These were payments that were reduced due to budget cuts in 2016.

We also made the following donations to our February budgeted projects:

- \$200 HOPE
- \$500 La Puente Home Inc.

If you have any questions about any of these projects, please contact Brenda Nesbitt or Tom Clark.

This year we will be doing monthly projects with in kind donations every other month. Our February Monthly project was the Buena Vista Pregnancy Center. The Outreach committee thanks all of you who gave so generously to help this much needed organization. Our next monthly project will be in April.

Again, if you have questions on the monthly projects, please contact Brenda Nesbitt.

Transition Committee

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us into the future. Each week we plan to have some fun things to do as well as the whole group conversation.

In worship on February 12, I told the Congregation about these lunches. I asked the Congregation to remember a sermon from a couple of weeks ago when we heard "what the Lord requires of you/us!" God requires that we "do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with God!"

All of us can practice these requirements today, through Lent and every day!

May God bless Grace Church as we continue to DO and BE the Church for Buena Vista!

Grace & Peace,
Sharon Robertson

Catherine's Column

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in BV otherwise. After that, my schedule will settle into its regular rhythm.

During the past several years, my time in BV has been limited to Sunday mornings, which has made it hard for us to get to know each other. I'm looking forward to that changing! You're invited to come by the office for a visit anytime (best to call first to make sure I'm not out doing visiting of my own!). Here is my cell number (720-440-0059). We've known each other for years, but now we begin to know each other all over again. Our new relationship will be a blessing and gift to me.

Catherine

TRANSITIONS

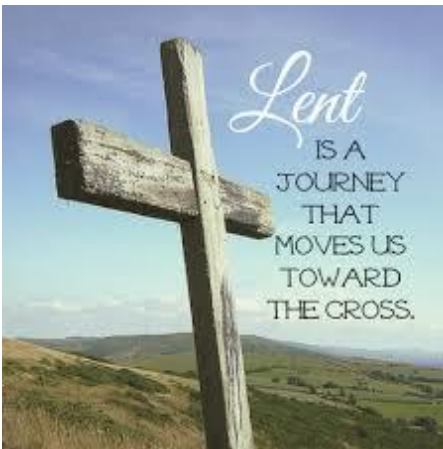
Please pray for Roger and Judy Ezell and Roger's family. His mother has been moved to hospice care.

Remember Max and Sharon Robertson and Max's father, Max, as he starts a new stage of his life in assisted living.

Mary Lou Bauman had a surgical procedure on Thursday and is doing well. Please pray for her speedy recovery and that she gets good test results.

Grace Church is need of all our prayers as we go through this challenging time of transition.

Please pray for our country and its leaders, and for peace in the world.



Lenten Schedule

March

- March 1, 2017 - Lunch for Lent - Parish Hall
- March 1, 2017 - Ash Wednesday - Grace Church
- Tenebrae Service
- March 8, 2017 - Lunch for Lent - Parish Hall
- March 8, 2017 - CUCC
- March 15, 2017 - Lunch for Lent - Parish Hall
- March 15, 2017 - Grace Church
- March 22, 2017 - Lunch for Lent - Parish Hall
- March 22, 2017 - CUCC
- March 29, 2017 - Lunch for Lent - Parish Hall
- March 29, 2017 - Grace Church - Women's Bible
Study
- April 5, 2017 - Lunch for Lent - Parish Hall
- April 5, 2017 - CUCC

The lunches will start at noon with the exception of the one on March 1, 2017 which will start at 11:30 am. Bring your own Brown Bag Lunch. Coffee, Tea, and water will be provided.

The Seder meal will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017. Bob Freed will have a signup sheet and recipes in Parish Hall very soon.

Announcements

Please remember the soup and bread meals on Wednesdays after the Lenten Services. If you would like to make soup or help with setting up or clean up, please contact Maryanne Freed. She still needs soup.

We need people to sign up for Coffee Hour for March. It doesn't have to be a complete meal, just a few snacks to go with our coffee.

If you want to dedicate an Easter lily, look for the form that will be in the bulletin each Sunday in March. The lilies will be displayed in the Sanctuary on Easter Sunday and for 2 weeks after Easter.

We are missing some of the plastic gold and silver vases that we use for the altar flowers. If you have taken flowers home after a Sunday service, please check and see if you have one of the vases around the house.

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 3/2 Chuck Covert
- 3/4 Harold Schmid
- 3/6 Annette Dickinson
- 3/25 Celso Harper

Anniversaries

- 3/2 Burl Gibson & Annette Dickinson
- 3/5 Bob and Maryanne Freed

Don Cummings Retires

February 19, 2017 was a bitter-sweet day for the members of Grace Church, as we said good-bye to our Methodist pastor, Don Cummings and his lovely wife, Bonnie.

What's Your View?



Saying Good-bye to dear friends.

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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