



GRACE NOTES

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

Christ Is Born!

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



May each and every one of you and your families have a joyous Christmas.

DECEMBER, 2017

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran



Rev. Robertson writes about her surgery and Advent.

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Ministry Reports



Merry Christmas to Everyone!

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Bob Yinger reports on the last Council meeting.

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Bonnie Young reports on current outreach projects.

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Christmas thought from Martin Luther

Good News from Heaven the Angels Bring

Glad Tiding to earth they sing.

To us this day a child is given,

To crown us with joy of heaven.

Catherine's Commentary

You are invited to check out our new website. Please go to gracechurchbvco.org and have a look!

The website is designed to be simple and beautiful. The Home page has the basic information about our church and includes upcoming events. The About page covers the many ministries that we offer, the staff, and our history. On the Events page, you will find a calendar and a section that highlights our most popular yearly events. The Media page links to sermon recordings and newsletters. The Contact page has a form that visitors can fill out to contact us by email. On each page, the website visitor can subscribe to our newsletter and see worship times, address and phone number.

You'll see that the website features

many photos of the beautiful Upper Arkansas River Valley on every page. Thanks to Max and Sherry for all the wonderful pictures they provided which make our site a pleasure to see. And many of you appear on the site in pictures of our friendly parish family. I think our new website captures who we are very well.

We have a small team of people who will be maintaining the website. Judy Epperson will be updating the calendar regularly, so please contact her if you have something that needs to be added. The sermons and newsletters will be posted as they become available. Finally, for all of you who have asked, those sermons will be available to listen to again or for the

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Our new website is a wonderful asset for us as we move into the future!

Sharon's Column



Howdy, Y'all! As I write to you from Texas, know that I've missed you & have prayed for God's presence in each of your lives.

First of all I THANK YOU for your prayers as I had back surgery & am recovering from the surgery. Two weeks after surgery I received a good report from the doctor. I go see the doctor again in a week & expect another good report. Your prayers have been important to me, as well as Max!

We are in the season of Advent! This time is when we wait, expect & anticipate the arrival of a new life in each one of us. Stop! Wait! Let God prepare you for a new life! Then live that new life with joy. Your new life will fill you with LOVE for God & for your neighbor! When the Christmas season comes & passes into the New Year, may Grace Church be the light of Christ in Buena Vista!

Church Council Report

by Bob Yinger, Chairman



This month I would like to share with you an important new activity that the Council is beginning called Mutual Ministry Review (MMR). The purpose of this process is to involve the Pastors, Council members, and the congregation in assessing together the work of the Church in relation to a set of explicit

goals, accomplishments, and challenges. MMR begins with the both the Pastors and the Council looking at the past year in terms of expectations and accomplishments. This analysis specifies what goals were satisfied, which were not met, what the difficulties were, and what might be done differently in the future. This step also results in developing a set of next-year goals from both the Pastors' perspectives and the Council's perspective.

Next, we combine this work into a mutual analysis of the past year and create shared goals for the coming year. The MMR process specifies ways to focus on specific outcomes and how the Pastors, Council, and congregational members will be involved. We plan to accomplish this joint work at a special Council workday on January 6. The results of this workday will be shared at the Annual Meeting on January 28 and then, based on congregational feedback, refined further at our Council retreat on February 3-4.

Catherine, Sharon, and the Council believe that this Mutual Ministry Review process will be an important step for Grace Church. It should add a new level of transparency about how the church leadership believes we are doing and provide specifics about where and how we want to proceed. It should also allow each of us to assess how we can become a part of achieving Grace's mission and goals. Please pay attention to this work in the next few months and look for active ways to participate!

Bob Yinger

Grace Church Council Chair

Outreach Happenings

By Bonnie Young

Craft Fair

The Ladies Sewing made over \$3,000.00 from the Craft Fair in November. They will use this money for outreach projects including St. George Episcopal Church. Congratulations and thank you to all the ladies who worked so hard throughout the year to prepare for it. A special thank you to Maryanne Freed and Dorothy Miller who coordinated the food items that were sold.

St. George Episcopal Project

Grace Church has provided three full meals on the 1st Saturdays evening of October, November and December for the St. George Episcopal Community Meal mission. A menu was planned and Grace members prepared the food; then a team of Grace members traveled to Leadville on that Saturday. They set up the meal, ate with attendees and cleaned up. It has been a 3 hour well spent time. Everyone who participated has so many positive moments. Anyone interested in participating, meals are coming up in January, February and March. A signup sheet is in the Parish Hall or contact Bonnie Young.

Several members of Grace have knitted winter scarves and hats that St. George will present to people in need at Christmas. In addition, Grace was also very helpful in getting a huge pine tree removed that loomed over the church threatening to fall. The Outreach has offered to financially assist in this effort.

There are other projects coming up that will need some volunteers. Please sign up in the Parish Hall. We will keep you posted.

Thank you to everyone who is involved. St. George is so appreciative.

**More Outreach Happenings
Continued from page 3**

Quilts of Valor

Nine quilts have been completed. We are getting very close to the goal of 12 for the year. Carol Covert, a former member, has sent Grace four quilts. All the quilts will be on display during the July 4 Patriotic Concert. If anyone would like to work with this mission, please come to the Wednesday morning sewing in the Annex from 9 am to 11:30 am. They are always looking for women with sewing skills but there are many other jobs--ironing, hand binding and other projects. If you are interested in participating, please contact Martha Bauman.

Outreach Committee

The Outreach committee made the following donations for the month of December:

- \$500 Arkansas Valley Christian Mission
 - \$250 to St. George's in Leadville
 - \$250 to Valley to Valley Senior Care Center
 - \$10000 to Arkansas Valley Christian Mission Building Fund.
- Grace Church also send 15 shoe boxes to Operation Christmas Child.

The committee is also looking for two new members. If you are interested in serving on this worthwhile committee, contact Peggy Finkowski or Martha Bauman.

**Catherine's Column
Continued from page 2**

first time if you miss the service. You can also contact me if you have suggestions, corrections, or contributions to the content.

Thanks to Hal Fickett, our webmaster, to the generous donor who made this possible, and to everyone who contributed content and photos. Our new website is a wonderful asset for us as we move into the future!

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 12/7 Evelyn Baker
- 12/8 Olivia Powell
- 12/8 Micah Rem
- 12/19 Millie Cochran
- 12/27 Junia Fitzgerald
- 12/29 Bob Cochran
- 12/31 Barbara Cochran

Anniversaries

- 12/16 Pete & Mary Lee



TRANSITIONS

Prayer is requested for Mike and Andrea Frosolono. Andrea is having some health issues.

Remember Mary Lou Bouman as she continues to be in ill health.

Carolyn Hayes is on the mend but still needs our prayers.

Remember the Yinger family in your prayers. They lost Bob's father last month.

Also, keep Max and Sharon Robertson in your thoughts and prayers while they remain in Texas. Sharon is recovering from back surgery.

Please pray for Barbara O'Donnell's daughter, Tanya, who will have gall bladder surgery on December 22, 2017.

Also remember Danny Simpson who is finally going to have her surgery this month.

Christmas Opening

Buena Vista Christmas Opening. Grace Church opened its doors for the Christmas Opening to support the effort. There was open singing to anyone who came to the church accompanied by Judy Epperson and Junia Fitzgerald. As part of the Chocolate Walk, Grace members made about 150 Chocolate Christmas Mice that were given to visitors. Thanks to members who greeted visitors--Maryanne Freed, Bonnie Young and Cheryl Wildeman. And thanks to everyone who came to "green the Church the same day.



Church mice visit Grace at Christmas opening.



The church altar all decked out for Christmas.

Office Announcement

For the past six months, we have had a transitional team keeping the office going. Our team included Evelyn Baker, Dorothy Miller, Judy Epperson, and Cindy Helm. Since March, these four have done all those things that keep us afloat administratively. Cindy has served as our bookkeeper, and Evelyn and Dorothy took over the other regular duties that needed to be kept up. Judy continued doing bulletins and newsletters, as well as a few other duties. Early on, we knew that Evelyn and Cindy were temporary as they both have needed to attend to other obligations. We have deeply appreciated their great work!

For 2018, we have reconfigured of the office staff. We have hired Cathy Pergola as an hourly contractor to do our books. Cathy works for Genesis Accounting Services. You may run in to her in the office from time to time. Dorothy has agreed to take on everything that has to do with pledging, so please take any concerns or questions about your pledge to her (but please, not on Sunday mornings!). And Judy Epperson has agreed to volunteer for three hours a week to manage all of the other administrative duties. Judy will have regular office hours from 9-noon on Tuesdays, so that would be a good time to contact her with your office questions (again, please not on Sunday mornings!). Both Judy and Dorothy have generously offered to volunteer their time and expertise.

Thanks again to Evelyn and Cindy! And thanks to Judy, Dorothy, and Cathy, for stepping up! We are in good hands!

Church Contact Information

The Grace Church Contact information is listed below. There have been some changes in email. If you want to contact the administrative assistant, or bookkeeper, please use the emails below:

admin@gracechurchbvco.org for Judy Epperson, administrative assistant or

bookkeeper@gracechurchbvco.org for Cathy Pergola, bookkeeper.

The other information remains the same:

Grace Church – P.O. Box 1559; phone 719-395-8868.

Check out the new website at gracechurchbvco.org.

Super Moon



Super Moon setting over Buffalo Peaks.

Photo by Sherry Thomas

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 admin@gracechurchbvco.org.

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