



# GRACE NOTES

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

## Autumn in Her Best Dress

*Persons, places, vistas we have seen*



The glory of autumn has faded, but the memories linger. This is a picture of Forbay Reservoir taken at the height of the fall color.

Photo by Sherry Thomas

### OCTOBER 2016

#### From Our Pastors



Rev. Cummings talks about finding God's grace.



Rev. Tran reminds us of the importance of the Annual Meeting.

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#### Ministry Reports



Autumn at her finest.

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Peggy Finkowski reports on the last Council meeting.

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Brenda Nesbitt explains Operation Christmas Child

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## Autumn

As summer draws its final breath to prepare its curtain call, the monarch begin their epic trek to usher in the fall.

The northern wind breathes out its chill as songs begin to hush and paints the trees upon the hill with its artist's brush.

Autumn makes way for winter's reign, we bid farewell old friend, till summer's warmth begins to wane and fall returns again.

Anonymous

## Cummings Commentary

The glory of God has burst out all over! The aspens are past their peak by the time you read this, but weren't they glorious this year? As I drove across South Park on my way back to Shawnee last month it looked as if rivers of gold were flowing down from the mountains. Kenosha Pass was a parking lot on both sides of the road with through traffic slowed to a trickle. Not only were folks snapping pictures of the aspen, the resident family of Moose were out by the pond near the summit.

"And we live here!" We often say to each other, don't we? We are blessed to live in the midst of what millions of people come

from all over the world to see and experience.

We can say the same thing about the grace of God. "And we live here" in the grace of God. Through faith in Christ we have discovered the irresistible grace of God, the wonder of God's love, and the miracle of God's forgiveness.

People come from all manner of conditions from all parts of the soul to see and experience the amazing grace of God. We have the privilege and joy to welcome and receive them, for like the aspen leaves, we are the radiant reflection of the glory of God.

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## Catherine's Column



As we prepare for our Annual Meeting this month, it is a good time to remember our congregation and leadership in prayer. Our prayers are just one way we can support those who give so generously of their time and talent. We can pray

- that our leaders make wise decisions on the behalf of the congregation
- that our leaders feel supported and appreciated
- that their work on behalf of the parish is fulfilling and gratifying for them
- that the work of our leaders is fruitful and Grace continues to prosper in the eyes of God
- for a successful stewardship campaign in the next few months

You may also want to think about a good way to personally express your gratitude to those who have served faithfully in the past year. There are several people going off Council or stepping down from other responsibilities. These folks have generously given of their time and talent and it would be great for them to hear from you how much they are appreciated. A personal word of thanks goes a long way.

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## Church Council Report

By Peggy Finkowski, Chair



Council met on Saturday, Oct 1, for a combined September/October meeting. We approved the recommendations of the Staff Parish Relations Committee on pastor compensations for 2017. This included current pastors'

compensation for the first half of 2017, and also the 2<sup>nd</sup> half of 2017, when Catherine Tran will become the lead pastor. We also approved the recommendation for the future co-pastor's compensation and job description, so that it could be included in the 2017 budget.

After making some reductions to the proposed budget, the council approved the 2017 provisional budget. It will be presented to the congregation at the Annual Meeting, on October 9.

We heard a summary from the fundraising breakfast at the ATV color tour. We appreciate the hard work and dedication from this group. They served 115 breakfasts and cleared about \$750 for Grace Church. Carol Slater and Judy Epperson coordinated this project. We appreciate the assistance of Annette Dickinson, Bonnie Young, Martha Bauman, Evelyn Baker, Carol Armstrong, Susan Shampine, Bonnie & Don Cummings.

We also heard the BV Strong dinner was a big success. Our church was represented at 8 tables. The Council thanks Bobbi Eisenhand for coordinating the communication about this event. We also want you to know the Sewing group donated \$50 towards the dinner, and the Outreach committee donated \$250 of their budget to this event as well. Great job everyone!

## October Outreach Project

By Brenda Nesbitt

This month, Grace Church will participate in the Operation Christmas Child – “the power of a simple gift” project, which is part of Samaritan's Purse, an international relief agency run by Franklin Graham. A primary focus of the organization is to meet the physical and spiritual needs of abandoned, orphaned, and impoverished children around the globe, not just a Christmas, but throughout the year.

The idea behind this month's project is simply to fill a shoebox-sized box with school supplies, small toys, hygiene items, clothing, batteries and hard candies.

Please use the following guidelines for creating your shoebox gifts:

- Determine if your gift is for a girl or a boy.
- Determine the age category for your gift: 2-4, 5-9, or 10-14. Labels are available at the church- place one inside the box. Grace church will pay the postage.
- Fill your container with gifts such as school supplies, small toys, stuffed animals, hygiene items, hard candies, t-shirts, socks, hair clips, etc.
- Please do not include used items, war related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, breakable items, or aerosol cans.
- You may wish to include a personal note.

Thanks you in advance for partnering with other churches in our community to help this program. Unassembled boxes will be available in the Parish Hall beginning Sunday, September 25, of you can purchase a plastic shoe box to put your items in so that the children can use them as they wish. Boxes must be returned by Sunday, October 30.

## Catherine's Column

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As we look ahead to next year, we can all be praying for a year of healthy transition. We all know how difficult transition can be, but it can also be a fruitful time of growth and lead to wonderful outcomes. I will be praying that we can generously honor Don and Bonnie for their years of service and send them off with hearts warmed by our gratitude and filled with good memories. I will be praying that we will find just the right person to be our new Methodist pastor. And I will be praying that our transition process can be grace-filled and positive, and that we can move into the future with a sense of God's abundant blessing.

Thank you for your prayers on behalf of our parish family.

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

### Birthdays

10/1	Vi Hardy
10/3	Mary Lou Bouman
10/24	Sue Knippa
10/31	Bob Freed

### Anniversaries

10/10	Judy & Clay Edmunds
10/18	Judy & Jeff Deardorff
10/30	Judy & David Butler

## Don's Column

Continued from page 2

That's why I look forward to seeing you in church! Always!!

Don

## Annual Meeting

Don't forget the Annual meeting on October 9, 2016, immediately following the service. This is an important meeting and all members of the church need to attend if possible. See Catherine's article for more information on the importance of this meeting. There will be a pot luck dinner in Parish Hall following the meeting.

## This and That

If you have taken home flowers from the church, please remember to return the gold or silver plastic vase. We need to return them to Buffy's so she can put flowers in them. Just leave them in the Parish Hall and Judy Epperson will get them to the shop.

Please remember to sign up for coffee hour and to send flower dedications to Judy Epperson at epperj1@att.net.

## TRANSITIONS

Please continue to remember Nancy Bruce in your prayers.

Jan and Harold Schmid are in need of our prayers and support as Jan deals with serious health problems.

Also, Bob Freed needs our prayers while he recovers from his health problems.

Judy Epperson is happy to report that she suffered nothing but sore muscles from her fall last week and thanks the congregation for all their prayers and good wishes.

Many of our members are traveling either for pleasure or to get home. Please pray that they have safe journeys.



## BV Strong Dinner

By Judy Epperson

Grace church had seven tables at the BV Strong dinner on September 26, 2016. A great big thank you to Bobbie Eisenhand for coordinating the event for Grace Church and for the colorful purple tablecloths. We really stood out.

This event, begun to honor the Johnson family, is unique and the fact that it keeps growing every year is a credit to the community.

The 2016 dinner was the biggest ever with over 3000 people gathering for dinner on Main Street. It is a strong reminder of the importance of community and that we are better as a town when we join together and work together. And it just keeps growing. A major news network reported that it was the largest event of its kind in the country.

Way to go, Buena Vista!



## Help Wanted

Mini-Blessings is in need of a fall spruce up and needs our help. There will be a workday on Saturday, October 8, 2016 from 9am to Noon. If you enjoy working with your hands, a paint brush, or have a burning desire to trim trees, we need people to repair fences, trim those trees, and paint a shed, among other things. No experience required. We offer on the job training, and a free lunch! What a deal! Mini-Blessings would appreciate any time you have to help, from an hour to the entire morning. Contact Susan Shampine or Judy Epperson for more information.



Fall Clean Up  
At  
Mini—Blessings

**Come Join Us**  
**Work Day**  
**October 8, 2016**  
**9 am to Noon**  
**Lunch Provided**

Mini—Blessings  
15732 CR 306  
Buena Vista, CO  
395-5852



## ATV Tour Breakfast

Many thanks to all the people who helped with the ATV Tour breakfast on September 21, 2016. This was venture that Grace hasn't tried in several years and it was a great success. We served 114 people and made \$798.00.

Special thanks go to Carol Slater, who co-chaired the project and to all who donated food. I know many of us won't want to see an egg casserole or muffin for a long time. We appreciate John Slater's donation of hash browns and orange juice.

The riders were pleased with the food and said that we were very well organized.

Again, thanks for all your help. This is a great congregation!

## One of the Places on the Tour



*Cottonwood Lake*

*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 epperj@gmail.com*

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## GRACE CHURCH

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203 W. Main St.  
P.O. Box 1559  
Buena Vista, CO 81211

To: