



GRACE NOTES

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

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



The heavens are telling the glory of God.

Photo by Sherry Thomas

FEBRUARY 2017

From Our Pastors



Rev. Cummings asks us to meditate on Psalm 1.



Rev. Tran talks about things happening in 2017.

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Ministry Reports



Sherry Thomas shared a beautiful pictures with us.

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Bob Yinger reports on the last Council meeting.

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Brenda Nesbitt writes about the February Outreach project.

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A Thought for Valentine's Day

It leaves all the other secondary effects to take care of themselves.

Love, therefore, is its own reward."

[Thomas Merton)]

Cummings Commentary

Don asked that we meditate on the words of this Psalm in lieu of this month's column.

Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.

But they delight in the law of the Lord, meditating on it day and night.

They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do,

But not the wicked! They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.

They will be condemned at the time of judgement. Sinners will have no place among the godly,

For the Lord watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.

Psalm 1

New Living Translation



*They are like trees
planted along the
riverbank, bearing fruit
each season.*

Catherine's Column



In the seven years I have served at Grace Church, one of the things I have heard again and again is what a blessing it is for so many of you to be part of our Grace family. If you asked members of our congregation why they chose Grace as their spiritual home, I think one of the main reasons many would say is because of the people. I feel the same way - it is a blessing and joy to serve such a positive and caring community.

When we gather on Sunday mornings, the greetings are boisterous and joyful. If you have been gone for a little while, we are so glad to see you again. When you were new to Grace, you were welcomed enthusiastically. If you need prayers or support, we are glad to provide that, too. I think we all know that all we have to do is ask.

At our meeting a couple of weeks ago, Council Chair Bob Yinger described how volunteers had stepped up quickly and generously to take on responsibility for ministries and to do the work that needs to get done around the church. Annette Dickenson described the generous giving that allowed us to restore our 2016

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Church Council Report

By Bob Yinger, Chair



At our January Council meeting we welcomed three new members to the Grace Council. They are Evelyn Baker, Martha Bauman, and Kurt Miller. We also conveyed our thanks for the three years of faithful service from Jeff

Deardorff, Judy Edmands, and Danny Simpson, whose Council terms expired in December. At this meeting, we approved the 2017 committee appointments. As I mentioned at the January 22 Congregational Meeting, I am struck by the generosity and commitment of our church members to volunteer the many hours to make our committees function. We are a giving congregation!

Speaking of giving, at our Congregational Meeting on the 22nd we received an encouraging report from Annette Dickenson that our 2016 Budget year ended with a surplus. We were able to restore nearly all of the budget cuts made to the Outreach Committee and put nearly \$3,000 into our savings account.

The 2017 Grace Operating Budget was also approved at this meeting. I am especially encouraged that the pledged income for the 2017 budget was increased by 6% over the 2016 budget. Again, we are blessed by more giving!

As we look ahead to the changes we face this coming year, there will be many opportunities for us to continue to be faithful givers-givers of ourselves to the work we face and givers of grace to those with whom we serve and worship. I look forward to serving with all of you this coming year.

Feb. Outreach Project

By Brenda Nesbitt

For the 11th consecutive year, Grace Church, in conjunction with other churches in Buena Vista, will be participating in the *Buena Vista Pregnancy Center* (BVPC) *Tree of Life* campaign. The Center, located in Buffalo Peaks Center, exists to “demonstrate the grace and love of Jesus Christ by meeting the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of those affected by pregnancy issues.” The BVPC strives to meet these needs by providing free confidential services that include:

- Pregnancy Tests
 - Education on pregnancy, abortion and adoption
 - Referrals for medical care, financial assistance and adoption agencies
 - Pregnancy loss support and guidance to healing after abortion or miscarriage
 - Maternity and baby items
 - Ongoing friendship and support
 - Earn While You Learn Program
 - Post-abortion Counseling
- 24 hour/7 day a week Helpline

A mini-tree now sits on a table in the Parish Hall and decorating the tree are gift tags representing the material donations that are needed to maintain the ministry at the BVPC. To participate, remove a tag or two, purchase the item/s for the BVPC in the month of February, and return the item/s to the green Outreach Collection Bin in the Parish Hall by month end. For further information, or to serve as a volunteer at the Center, call 395-6703.

In conjunction with this “material needs” collection, we will also participate in the *Baby Bottle Offering* this month. Sign out a baby bottle, including the inventory number written on the bottom of the bottle, fill it with your loose change in the weeks ahead, and return the bottle to the Parish Hall by Sunday, February 26th.

Continued...

Catherine's Column

Continued from page 2

Outreach budget and end the year with a surplus. Our 2017 budget reflects a surplus as well.

I think this all reflects who we are and how we can depend on each other. We are all blessed to be part of such a community. Certainly we are not perfect. We may miss-communicate, get testy, or disagree on things. But we all hang in there and we all care.

In 2017 – a transition year – we will be drawing on the strength of our community. With the guidance of our Transition Committee, chaired by Sharon Robertson, we will, together, navigate the challenges and gifts of this coming year. We will be depending on each other – on each of you – to move gracefully through this time. Here are a few things you can do:

- Go to the appropriate people with concerns and questions – such as the Council or Transition Committee.
- Skip the gossip and rumors.
- Tell the leadership what you think.
- Stay informed and engaged.
- Be open.
- Come to worship every week.
- Seek to unite, not divide.
- Keep on having fun.
- And don't forget to PILE ON THE GRACE!!

Lenten Schedule

March

March 1, 2017 – Ash
Wednesday – Grace Church –
Tenebrae Service

March 8, 2017 – CUCC

March 15, 2017 – Grace
Church

March 22, 2017 – CUCC

March 29, 2017 – Grace
Church

April 5, 2017 – CUCC

Each church will be responsible for 3 meals and services. The services would begin at 6:00 pm and the meal immediately following at 6:30 pm. I think this is how it's been done in the past.

The Seder meal will be on Maundy Thursday, April 13, 2017 at 6:00 pm and Catherine will do Stations of the Cross on Good Friday at 4:00pm. Details on these two services will be in Grace Notes in February and March.

If you have question, contact Judy Epperson.

TRANSITIONS

Please remember Mary Lou Bauman in your prayers. She has had many health issues and had to have a surgical procedure done this week.

Continue to pray for Pickles McKinley and her care givers. Pickles also enjoys calls, so if you have a minute, call her up and say "hi."

Crissey Smith is still having some health issues so please remember her.

Rob Wimmer is recovering from his heart attack. Please continue to keep him and Carol in your prayers.

Annette Dickinson's sister, Alice, had hip surgery and would appreciate our prayers.

Tidbits from the Treasurer

By Annette Dickinson

For those of you who weren't present at our congregational meeting, Grace Church ended 2016 with a favorable cash flow. As was described in our April 2016 letter to you, our original 2016 budget had a shortfall of \$8,595. Through a workshop in the spring, Grace Church members balanced the budget by splitting the shortfall between reductions to certain operational expenses and our 10% Outreach allocation, while continuing the historical "add-on" approach to Outreach spending. Council decided that to the extent we ended the year with a favorable cash flow, the Outreach Committee would receive their budget cut back up to the amount of the cut, which was \$4,297, or up to 10% of our total Pledge Income + Non-Pledge Income actual collections, whichever is less. Our cash flow enabled us to give back to the Outreach Committee \$3,797 or 88% of the Outreach budget reduction. In addition, after the additional monies were set aside for Outreach, the Finance Committee approved that the remaining cash flow, \$2,974, be placed into our Savings Account to start building it back up for the years it has been drawn down to fund operations.

Thanks to all those who managed to stay within their budget and to all of you Grace Church members who donated your time, talents and financial assistance to offset some of our operational expenses.

February Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

2/18 - Bev Gunderman

2/28 - John Epperson

Anniversaries

2/27 - Cleso & Brenda Harper

If you haven't seen your birthday or anniversary in Grace Notes, please let me know and I will add you to the list.

Thanks,

Judy Epperson

Happy Birthday, Sharon.

Our dear friend, Sharon Robertson, had a birthday on Monday, January 30, 2017 and the loyal “cats” of the Women’s Bible Study took her out to lunch. We had a great time of fun, fellowship, and laughter.

If you want to know how old Sharon is, you will have to ask her, but as you can see, it was a two cake affair.

What’s Your View?



Partying hard at Jan's with Sharon on her birthday!

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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