



GRACE NOTES

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



APRIL, 2017

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran talks about reconciliation



Reflections on Easter Sunday

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Happy Easter!

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Robert Yinger reports on the last Council meeting and other church business.

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Brenda Nesbitt writes about our April Project

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Easter Schedule

April 5, 2017 - Final Lenten Service - 6:00 pm CUCC

April 9, 2017 - Palm Sunday

April 13, 2017 - Maundy Thursday - Seder Meal - 5:30 in Parish Hall

April 14, 2017 - Good Friday - Stations of the Cross - Sanctuary, 4:00 pm

April 16, 2017 EASTER SUNDAY

Catherine's Column

Jesus and his disciples are walking along and come across the man born blind. The first words out the mouths of the disciples are about blame – who's a fault for the man's blindness! But Jesus refuses to place blame and instead provides a context of bringing glory to God. Jesus entirely rejects finding blame and fault!

Before long, we run into the conflict between Jesus and the Pharisees. This conflict is never reconciled. The Pharisees remain blind. They bring judgment upon Jesus and proclaim him a sinner.

The betrayal of the parents is another low point in the story. They throw their son under the bus because of their fear. They are terrified that they could be cut off from the community.

The Pharisees refuse to listen. They keep asking the same

question, saying the same thing. The man born blind says to them, "I have told you already and you would not listen." The Pharisees choose not to listen. They are entrenched and will not budge. They refuse to engage. Only Jesus and the blind man encounter healing, have vision, and experience radical transformation and redemption. They make different choices than the others

Imagine how things might end differently with a good dose of reconciliation. Reconciliation is a difficult process and requires a lot from us. When we come from conflict to reconciliation, we bring our **pain** – we bring ourselves in a protected posture. We bring our sides – we've all got a part of the story, what we have heard. We

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Reflection on

John 9:1-41

Easter Sunday



None of the biblical accounts explains how the Resurrection took place. The Gospel writers say nothing about how the stone was rolled away or what happened to bring Jesus back to life. Did his heart just begin beating and the other organs gradually restart? Did the Resurrection occur instantly or over a period of hours?

None of these questions is answered. The scripture simply tells us that people at Jesus' tomb were seeing the living among the dead. Perhaps the bible is telling us something important about leaving out the details: God is still doing something when we think God is done. Most importantly, the Easter story communicates by its lack of detail that we don't have to understand how God works in order for God to work.

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Church Council Report

By Robert Yinger, Chairman



No one told me beforehand how hard Grace Council members worked for the Church. Yes, it is a privilege, but also a big responsibility! In March our work, both in meetings and individually, was focused on our transition process.

Council members participated in the Wednesday “Lunch for Lent” meetings that began on March 1st to provide a forum for discussion of transition questions and issues. On Sunday, March 12 members of the Council met as a group to hear additional input and questions.

Much of the Council’s business meeting on March 19 involved discussion of transition input and remaining issues. As a next step, we appointed a Reconciliation Committee consisting of Catherine Tran, selected Council members, and invited individuals from the congregation. This group’s goal is to reach out to congregational members and to focus on healing and reconciliation where it is needed.

On a business note: This past week Grace Church hired a new book keeper. Her name is Cindy Helm, and she has for a number of years served as book keeper at our sister church, the Congregational United Church of Christ. Evelyn Baker and Dorothy Miller have generously volunteered to share church secretarial duties for the near future. Thank you both so much!

As we complete this Easter season, all of us become more attuned to the sacrificial and healing work of Jesus Christ. As his Church, we model this work in our own lives and community.

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April Outreach Project

By Brenda Nesbitt

Imagine what it would be like to have

to sleep in your clothes

or to not know what a new pair of pajamas is

Sweet Dreams Colorado is a nonprofit, 501(c)3 organization, strictly run by volunteers, that delivers new books and pajamas to children waiting and hoping to be adopted. These are children ranging in age from newborn to eighteen years of age, who live in group homes, foster care and orphanages in Colorado. These are children who do not know the comfort of wearing a pair of pajamas to bed.

There are over 12,000 children in El Paso County alone waiting and hoping to be adopted! Some of these abused and abandoned children have not known the comfort of a parent to tuck them into bed at night and read them a bedtime story. These children are sometimes taken from their homes in the middle of the night with nothing but the clothes they have on, and taken to people and places they have never seen or been to before.

For the simple cost of a latte, YOU

Could change the outlook of a child in need

During the month of April, Grace Church will sponsor a “Pajama Drive” in support of **Sweet Dreams Colorado**. The need is great for **spring / summer** pajamas, but any and all donations will be welcome. Right now, they **do not** need books. The pajamas **must be new**. Sweet Dream Colorado has a need for all sizes 24 months to adult size 3XL.

Please leave donated pajamas in the Outreach Box in the Parish Hall for delivery to Colorado Springs in May. Monetary donations are also welcome: Make your check payable to *Grace Church*, with the notation, “*Sweet Dreams.*” As always, your support is greatly appreciated!

Easter Sunday

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The women who went to the tomb on Easter morning expected to find a dead body. They did not expect a miracle but kept living faithfully and demonstrated their devotion. In the process, they experienced renewed hope and ran to share it with others.

Even when we don't feel like it, we can act on our faith, serve others, give generously, and worship faithfully. In this way, we put ourselves in a position to experience what God can do--- what God is already doing.

Rob Fuquay

Courtesy of *The Upper Room*



Catherine's Column

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bring our own life stories. Sometimes we come to reconciliation wanting to blame, judge, feeling betrayed, unable to listen, entrenched, or wanting to scapegoat someone. We all know that won't get us anywhere.

Reconciliation calls us to bring our best selves to the table. We need to bring openness, a willingness to listen, a receptive heart, a willingness to change, an acceptance our own part in the story, a letting go of being right, our courage, and a lot more. Imagine how our Gospel story would be different if the people in it had brought these things to the conflict.

Imagine if the son had gone to his parents with a heart for reconciliation. Instead of blaming them and being angry and unable to listen, and perhaps asked them what happened.

Who knows what can happen when we come to reconciliation from the right place?! What if we are ready to listen (after all, we don't know what others are thinking). What if we have our eyes opened! What if we come with a receptive heart, a willingness to change, accepting our own part in the story, letting go of being right, with our courage, and a lot more.



TRANSITIONS

Remember to keep Mary Lou Bowman in your prayers as she recovers from health problems.

Roger Ezell's mother is still in need of our prayers.

Keep Max Robertson's father in our prayers as he adjusts to some life transitions.

Pray for Junia Fitzgerald's sister who fell and broke her collar bone.

We are glad to have Ray Stwalley and Bonnie Young back after spending several months in New Mexico. Welcome home.

Please pray for Grace Church as we continue this time of transition.

As always, pray for our country and its leaders.

And as always, pray for world peace.

Many thanks to Roger and Judy Ezell for their years of service as Pot Luck Dinner Hosts.

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As we complete this Easter season, all of us become more attuned to the sacrificial and healing work of Jesus Christ. As his Church, we model this work in our own lives and community.

Announcements

The Lenten Soup -n- Bread meals. We want to thank all the wonderful soup makers in our church. Dorothy, Junia, Judy Epperson, Evelyn, Jane, Nancy, Bill F, and Peggy, As well as the great help we received from Carol S, Jo, Sherry and John Epperson. Another Lenten season has gone by. Thank you all and God Bless. Maryanne and Dorothy

The Seder Meal, will be Maundy Thursday, April 13th starting at 5:30pm for gathering and the service will start promptly at 6:00pm. For more information contact Bob Freed at 395-3588. Thank You.

Nancy Rem has a very large barn that is ready for somebody to rent to store a trailer, 4 wheelers, snowmobile, etc. Call her at 966-2686 if you are interested.

Help Wanted: Grace Church Members willing to serve on the Pot Luck Committee. Members of this committee will be asked to supervise, setup and cleanup at our monthly Pot Luck Luncheons. We need 4-6 members so that each committee member has responsibility for no more than 3 luncheons per year. Training on use of ovens and dishwasher as well as a survey of kitchen storage will be provided. Please let Judy Epperson know if you are interested.

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Buena Vista Pregnancy Center Totals for February Outreach Project:

30 juice pouches
 4 night lights
 2 boxes - 30 each trash bags
 1 hooded baby that towel
 3 - 15 oz. bottles baby bath, lotion, shampoo
 6 sleepers (3-6 months)
 2 sleepers (0-3 months)
 1 18 month outfit
 1 2T outfit
 26 ct training pants (2T-3T)
 2 tubes Oraljel
 \$20 Gift Card to City Market
 \$75 cash
 Baby bottles with loose change, amt. unknown

Birthdays

4/13 - Sherry Thomas
 4/17 - Janet Schmid
 4/18 - Bonnie Young
 4/28 - Brenda Harper
 4/30 - Tam Tran

There were no anniversaries this month.

Chime Time Players

The popularity of the Chime Time Players is growing. They have a full schedule of performances, so they will not be playing at Grace Church this spring. If you would like to hear them, we have been invited to attend one of their rehearsals at 4:00 on Thursday, April 20 in the Parish Hall. We also are welcome to attend their performance in the Chapel at the Darren Patterson Christian Academy on Friday, May 5 at 9:20 am. These 11 dedicated grade school age boys and girls have worked very hard to achieve this level of playing the chimes. I hope you will be able to hear them this spring.

Sherry Thomas

A Great Group of Kids



Chime Time Players

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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