

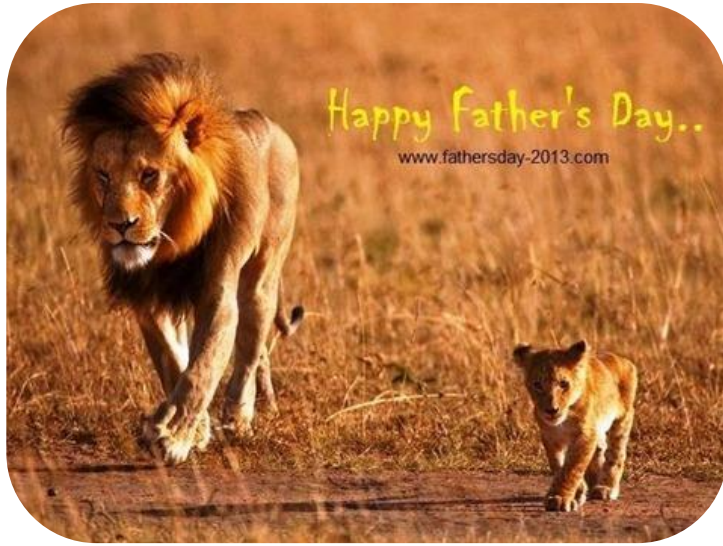


GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy Father's Day

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



It takes a special person to be a dad. Happy Father's Day to all the father's in Grace Church.

JUNE 2017

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran talks about full communion between the Episcopal and United Methodist Churches



Rev. Robertson writes about the importance of Pentecost

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Ministry Reports



Happy Father's Day

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Sherry Thomas reports on the last Council meeting and

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Brenda Nesbitt writes about Quilts of Valor.

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A Good Father

A good father is one of the most unsung, unpraised, unnoticed and yet one of the most valuable assets in our society.

Billy Graham

Catherine's Commentary

Excerpted from the Episcopal News Service

A group of Episcopalians and Methodists has released its proposal for full communion between the two denominations.

Full implementation of the proposal will take at least three years. The Episcopal Church General Convention and the United Methodist Church General Conference must approve the agreement, which culminates 15 years of exploration and more than 50 years of formal dialogue between the two churches. General Convention next meets in July 2018 in Austin, Texas. The General Conference's next meeting is in 2020.

The 10-page proposal, titled "A Gift to the World, Co-Laborers for the Healing of Brokenness," says it "is an effort to bring our churches into closer partnership in the mission and witness to the love of God and thus labor together for the healing of divisions among Christians and for the well-being of all."

Montana Bishop Frank Brookhart, Episcopal co-chair of the dialogue, and Bishop Gregory V. Palmer, United Methodist co-chair, wrote in a recent letter that "the relationship formed over these years of dialogue, and the recognition that there are no theological impediments to

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Both churches have somewhat similar understandings of bishops, according to the proposal. "We recognize the ministries of our bishops as fully valid and authentic."

Sharon's Column



To Grace with LOVE:

With a grateful heart, I am thankful to God for the gift of the Holy Spirit that can shine in each of our hearts! This season of Pentecost reminds us of the joy of being filled with the Holy Spirit! When we are filled with the Holy Spirit we are God's presence for those with whom we come in contact.

A few weeks ago I asked the Congregation "How Do You LOVE Jesus?" No one had been prompted that I would ask that question so people had to take a second or two to form their answer. Many times the answer was that to **try** to live in LOVE with Jesus through LOVING family, friends and people with whom they work. Notice **try** is the operative word! When we are **trying** to live in LOVE with Jesus, our family, friends and co-workers, we are living a life that shows others we are followers of Jesus! By the way, I was asked the question in Bible study the next day . . .my answer was: I come here on Mondays to lead this Bible study! That is the truth! As I said last

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Church Council Report

By Bob Yinger, Chairman



Grace Church Council met for its regular monthly meeting on May 14. We had reports and discussion related to three important activities.

First, we are working with Catherine and Sharon to create flexibility in weekly

pastoral scheduling for summer and fall in order to accommodate important personal and professional commitments. These schedule revisions will be communicated as far in advance as possible. The Council has heard many positive comments from the congregation on how our new pastoral team is working together in worship and in other pastoral duties. Thank you, Catherine and Sharon, for the energy, enthusiasm and joy you are bringing to Grace Church!

Second, there has been much important work behind the scenes establishing new systems for financial reporting and church administration. Evelyn Baker and Dorothy Miller continue to shoulder the majority of this work. Thanks again to both of you for this commitment!

Third, the Council heard an update on efforts to continue communicating and reaching out to our friends who are no longer attending Grace. As both Catherine and Sharon have stated in recent sermons, we need to seek prayer and guidance in these activities and look for the ways to best love each other at this time.

At our up-coming June Council meeting we will begin discussing working processes for longer term agenda items. These include updating Grace Church's Bylaws, looking for ways to strengthen our formal Charter with the United Methodist Church, and beginning the 2018 budget process.

June Outreach Project

By Brenda Nesbitt

In 2003, Blue Star mom Catherine Roberts, began the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) from her sewing room in Seaford, Delaware. Her son Nathanael's year-long deployment to Iraq provide the initial inspiration. "Casualties no longer were just numbers, but real men and women dying. Hidden behind the casualties were the wounded. (Statistic: For every casualty are 10 wounded.) Catherine's desire was to see that returning warriors were welcomed home with the love and gratitude they deserved. She hit upon the idea that linking quilt-toppers with machine quilters in a national effort could achieve her goal of covering all returning service men and women touched by war. These quilts would be a tangible reminder of an American's appreciation and gratitude. Quilts are awarded at many different levels: they may go to military hospitals where Chaplains award them to service members; there may be presentations of QOV's to entire service units returning from combat deployments; they may be awarded at VA's or presented individually. But no matter how a Quilt of Valor is given, the impact it delivers is unequivocal. As one recipient said "My quilt isn't another military medal to be placed in a box and sit on my shelf. I was moved to tears." As of February 2017, there have been 153, 270 quilts awarded to service members/veterans.

The ladies of Grace Sewing Group, serving as quilt-toppers have completed 12 quilts this year, bringing their twelve-year total to 261. As in the past, costs associated with this project are covered by "quilt sponsors" from our congregation. A donation of \$20 pay for sending one quilt. If you wish to sponsor a quilt in honor of or in memory of a special someone, or to commemorate a special occasion, please fill out the information on the back of this insert and submit it with your contribution. A photo acknowledgement will be mailed when the project is completed the first week of July. For more information, see www.qovf.org.

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Sharon's Column

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month, Bible study is a passion of mine. However, I LOVE Jesus by **trying** to live in peace, joy and LOVE with all who God brings my way.

The next step is to DO! Try until we DO LOVE JESUS! Try until we DO LOVE OUR NEIGHBOR AS OURSELVES! That is all Jesus left us with when he ascended to live eternally with God and for us! Let's keep the question within us: How Do I LOVE Jesus? Then we can be God's presence wherever we go!

Sharon

Birthdays

6/3 Becky Arthur

6/3 Roger Ezell

6/8 Mary Lee

6/8 Carol Slater

6/8 Dan Rodeheffer

6/13 Keith Baker

6/18 Ray Stwalley

6/19 Judy Butler

6/22 Margaret Butler

6/25 Tom Bauman

6/28 John Rezac

Catherine's Column

Continued from page 2

unity, pave the way for this current draft proposal."

In the coming months, there will be opportunities for feedback, regional gatherings and discussions on the proposal. "We encourage you to reach across denominational lines to establish new relationships and deepen existing relationships by shared study of these materials and mutual prayer for the unity our churches," Brookhart and Palmer wrote. "We believe that this proposal represents a significant witness of unity and reconciliation in an increasingly divided world and pray that you will join us in carrying this work."

The Episcopal Church defines "full communion" to mean "a relation between distinct churches in which each recognizes the other as a catholic and apostolic church holding the essentials of the Christian faith." The churches "become interdependent while remaining autonomous," the church has said.

The Episcopal Church-United Methodist Dialogue Committee, which developed the proposed agreement, says the two denominations are not seeking a merger but that they are "grounded in sufficient agreement in the essentials of Christian faith and order" to allow for the interchangeability of ordained ministries, among other aspects of the proposed agreement. The ministries of lay

TRANSITIONS

Please pray for the following members and friends:

Mary Lou Bouman who is waiting on test results.

Bob Freed who is recovering from gout.

Catherine Tran's daughter, Helen who is in the last stages of pregnancy.

Barbra Clark who got a great report on her MS.

Also pray for the graduates of the class of 2017. May their plans and dreams be fulfilled?

Pray for the President of the United States and all our leaders.

Please pray for the victims of the recent terror attacks.

And as always, please pray for world peace.

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people, deacons, Episcopal priests and United Methodist elders or presbyters (elder is the English translation of presbyter) would all be seen as interchangeable yet governed by the “standards and polity of each church.”

Both churches have somewhat similar understandings of bishops, according to the proposal. “We recognize the ministries of our bishops as fully valid and authentic.” The Episcopal Church and the United Methodist Church would pledge that future consecrations of bishops would include participation and laying on of hands by at least three bishops drawn from each other’s church and from the full-communion partners they hold in common, the Moravian Church and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Catherine

Big Garage Sale

Mini-Blessings is having a garage sale on June 9 & 10, 201, from 8am to 2 pm on Friday, June 9 and from 9am - 12 pm on Saturday, June 10. Our thanks to all who donated things to the sale and we invite all the church to come and shop this week end. There are lots of good bargains.

Family Faith Builders

We have had a busy but wonderful month. May 9th, after a wonderful dinner, we went to the school to hear the band concert and cheer Micah Rem on! He was wonderful on the tuba and even had a solo! WAY TO GO MICAH. May 16th found us once again at the school (after another wonderful meal) to hear the choir concert and cheer Dillon Eisenhand on. WAY TO GO DILLON. It truly was a wonderful concert and everyone should plan on attending the fall concert. The last song surprised us with “backup” from adults in the community, including our own Susan Shampine! It was beautiful. Tonight (May 23rd) is our last meeting for the summer. We are going to the river. MARK YOUR CALENDARS: we are working on planning a weekend camping trip up to Cottonwood Lake in June. JULY 29 - we are going to the Colorado History Museum in Denver and on the way home stopping at Catherine’s for burgers! Please see Bobbi, Jennifer Wright, Bonnie Young, Judy Ezell, Nancy Rem or one of the pastors if you would like to attend. More information will be given later (cost of tickets, time we are leaving, etc.). We would like people to bring side dishes to share at Catherine’s and I will have a couple coolers in my car with ice to keep food cold while we are in Denver. Hope to see you this summer at one of our events!!!!

Summer Preaching Schedule

The summer preaching schedule will be as follows:

6/4 Sharon Roberson (SR)
6/11 Catherine Tran (CT)
6/18 CT
6/25 CT
7/2 SR
7/9 SR
7/16 SR
7/23 CT
7/30 Ali Lufkin

Honoring our Graduates



Seniors Tyler Lockett and Amanda Eisenhand receive Bibles from Rev. Sharon Robertson

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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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