



GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Fourth of July

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



As we celebrate the Fourth of July, let us pause and remember the true meaning of freedom in this country and thank those who have paid the price so we can enjoy it.

JULY 2017

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran writes about Resurrection and progress at Grace.



Rev. Robertson reports on the United Methodist Annual Conference.

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Ministry Reports



Happy Fourth of July!

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Bob Yinger reports on the last Council meeting.

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Tom Clark reports on the Outreach committee donations.

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Fourth of July Schedule

9:00 am Patriotic Concert

9am -3pm – Open House and Quilts of Valor in Sanctuary

1:00 pm – Patriotic Concert

10:00 am to 3pm – Craft Sale and Refreshments in Parish Hall

Catherine's Commentary

With the coming of summer, we enter into Ordinary Time in our liturgical calendar. Ordinary Time begins with the end of the Easter Season on the Feast of Pentecost (June 3rd this year). Ordinary Time is a season of nurturing the new life that comes at Easter. We change our focus to the work of growing in discipleship and nurturing the gifts that come with the new life of resurrection.

The Easter promise of resurrection is in full bloom at Grace Church! Together, we have been called to become a new creation and I think we are living into that Easter calling in a remarkable way. Resurrection is what we are about around here. It is something we do every day.

But resurrection doesn't come easy.

We have been through a Lenten time. Lenten times always leave us with the marks of the struggle. There may be some grief and loss that comes with the journey. We have moved through a time of conflict these past few months – and we still have more to do in that regard – but those clouds are beginning to break up. Through all of it, we know that the Lenten journey *always* brings us to Easter. Resurrection is the promise at the end of the Lenten road.

Resurrection doesn't mean things are perfect. We still have

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Sharon's Column



Bonnie, Ray, Max & I attended the Rocky Mountain Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church in Denver June 15-18, 2017. We attended worship services, break out groups about Immigration & Sanctuary Movement, Water Is Life & Feeding the Hungry. Bonnie, Max & I worked at an Urban Garden in Denver (see them working hard while I took pictures!)

One of the wonderful worship services was the opportunity for Bishop Karen Oliveto to baptize 2 clergy babies. After baptizing the two babies, Bishop Oliveto carried the babies throughout the Congregation where we could celebrate these babies as members of Christ's Church.

The following pictures were taken by Sharon at the annual conference. Aren't the babies cute!

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Church Council Report

by Bob Yinger, Chairman



At our regular meeting on June 4 the Grace Council elected Becky Arthur as the Council Treasurer. Becky, who is Chair of the Grace Church Finance Committee, will assist the Council in the preparation and analysis of the monthly

financial reports and work with us on the annual budget planning process, which will begin in August.

In other business, the Council approved a review of the Grace Church Bylaws. In the past year a number of places in the Bylaws have been identified needing clarification, addition, and revision. To begin this process the Council appointed a Bylaws Review Committee consisting of Peggy Finkowski, Tom Clark, Carol Slater, Catherine Tran, and Sharon Robertson. We are hoping to have revised Bylaws to the Congregation in time for a vote at our annual meeting on October 8.

The Council also approved financial support for the attendance of Sharon and Max Robertson, Bonnie Young, and Ray Stwalley to attend the Methodist annual conference in Denver last week. All have reported a productive and inspirational meeting, and they are preparing a report to the Congregation in coming weeks.

Outreach Report

By Tom Clark

We had a very good response to the relief efforts for the displaced residents in the D St apartments in Salida.

We were able to give \$900 to the relief fund set up at High Country Bank. This consisted of \$270 from members, \$130 from the Ladies Sewing Group and \$500 from Outreach's Disaster Relief account. Thank you very much as financial assistance is still needed for 3 of the families are still having to stay in a motel while searching for more suitable housing.

The Outreach Committee also sent checks to Chaffee County Fire Protection - \$300 and Chaffee County Search and Rescue - \$500, for the April budgeted projects.

In June, the Outreach Committee made the following donations: \$500 Chaffee County Boys and Girls Club (May project), \$500 Arkansas Valley Christian Mission (June project), and \$250 St. George Church in Leadville (June project).



Sharon's Column

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Catherine's Column

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all the day-to-day challenges and tasks that we are called to move through together. We will encounter difficulties from time to time. But resurrection does mean that life has a different quality to it.

Can you feel it? We have become a new creation at Grace Church! Every Sunday morning it becomes more and more evident that we are different than we were before. There is a new energy and a new spirit! We still have that joy in coming together as we have always had – but there is something more. I can see the new life! Can you?

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

7/16 Peggy Finkowski

7/17 David Butler

7/28 Patricia Regan

Anniversaries

7/2 Harold & Janet Schmid

7/31 Roger and Judy Ezell



TRANSITIONS

Please continue to pray for Mary Lou Bouman, Carolyn Hayes, Danny Simpson, and Pickles McKinley as they struggle with health issues.

Remember Ed Butler's sister, Jenny who is having colon surgery and needs prayer for good results.

Joyce Logan is having an MRI on her shoulder and asks for our prayers.

Please pray for Catherine Tran, her daughter Helen and Helen's husband, Cooper as they await the birth of their baby.

Pray for our country and its leaders as we celebrate the 4th of July.

Let's remember all who are serving or have served in the nation's armed services.

And as always, please pray for world peace.

Celebration of Ministry

by Carol Slater

At the regular service on Sunday, July 23, 2017, there will be a "Celebration of Ministry" led by our clergy, Catherine Tran and Sharon Robertson.

Following the service, all are invited to an old fashioned Church Picnic on the lawn outside the sanctuary and parish hall. There will be entertainment, a pie judging contest. Hamburgers, brats, buns and condiments will be provided by the church, along with iced tea and coffee.

It would be appreciated if members would bring a side dish, lawn chairs, any other beverage they wish and, of course, a pie for the contest. Another for dessert would also be nice.

More information will follow. If you have questions, feel free to contact Carol Slater or one of the pastors.



In God. Nothing Is Too Extreme.

BV Strong Dinner

The BV Strong Dinner will be held on Monday September 27, 2017. Bobbi Eisenhand has reserved 6 tables for Grace Church. Four of these tables have already been reserved. If you would like to sponsor a table, or would like to attend and need a seat at a table, please contact Bobbi so she can get your name on the list.

If you sponsor a table, you need to provide 1 side, 1 salad, BBQ sauce, drinks dessert and table settings (silverware, plates, napkins, etc.) for 8 people.

Tables can also be reserved by going to www.bvstrong.com, if you would like to reserve your own table or one for a business.

If you have any questions, please contact Bobbi Eisenhand.



Catherine Showered with Gifts

The ladies of Grace church surprised Catherine with a “new Grandma’s shower” on Monday, June 26 at a brown bag lunch held after the Women’s Bible Study. She was totally surprised and received a number of great gifts from books and toys to clothing and blankets for her new grandson.

She was heard remarking that after the shower, the whole thing seemed to be real. We wish Catherine and her family the best as they embark on this new adventure.

Remember, Catherine, a grandmother’s job is to spoil the baby. Leave discipline to the parents!

The quilt and bear in the picture were made by the Women’s Sewing Group.

What’s Your View?



The happy Grandma!

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.

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