



GRACE NOTES

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

The Beauty of Autumn

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



This old barn with its simplistic beauty surrounded by the fall colors reminds us of the wonders of God's world.

Photo by Judy Epperson

OCTOBER 2017

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran writes about things happening the rest of the year.



Rev. Robertson talks about the importance of the Human Family.

2

Ministry Reports



Autumn has come.

1



Bob Yinger reports on the last Council meeting.

3



October Outreach Project

3

Charge Conference

The charge conference will be held on October 8, 2017 immediately after church. District Superintendent, Margaret Gillikin will be with us and preach during the morning service.

Please mark this date on your calendars and plan to attend. This is an important event in the life of the

church and we need as many of the members there as possible. Coffee hour will follow.

Catherine's Commentary

As we move into fall with all the beautiful Colorado color and the dusting of snow covering the peaks, there are a few things to look forward to at Grace Church. One thing we hope to accomplish in the next few weeks is the posting of our new website. It is under construction now and well on its way. The new website will include all the basic information a visitor might be looking for as well as other features that our membership is hoping for. One thing we are planning that many of you have asked about is posting sermons. We plan to post sermons each week, and hope to be able to post past sermons as well. As soon as the website is ready, I hope you will all have a look and

let us know what you think.

October is also the month when we have our Methodist Charge Conference. I invite you all to be present on October 8th when District Superintendent Margaret Gillikin will be here to preach and will then join us for a congregational meeting. At the meeting, we will do some official business, such as review the results of our stewardship drive and elect new Council members, and we will hear from Margaret. The meeting will be right after the worship service.

We are also working toward filling the Church Administrator

Continued on page 4



As always, I ask your continued prayers for Grace Church, the clergy, and our lay leaders.

Sharon's Column



Last year, 2016, I decided that we need to have 366 Days of LOVE. Every day during the year I posted something about LOVE. When the Olympics were on TV last year I was inspired by a poem Maya Angelou wrote entitled "THE HUMAN FAMILY." At that point I decided that 2017 would be the year of THE HUMAN FAMILY. Every day this year I've been sending out something that grabs me about THE HUMAN FAMILY.

Not long ago I posted on Facebook, for the Women's Bible Study & in text messages to family members something that reflects THE HUMAN FAMILY. I posted the following: From a commercial I saw on TV: "What makes us rich? More money? More power? More strength? No! It's community!" It's LOVING THE HUMAN FAMILY that makes us "rich."

Today give God thanks for the people who make you "rich" because of their presence in your life! Be sure to tell those who make you "rich" & share your LOVE with each one!

Continued on page 4

Church Council Report

by Bob Yinger, Chairman



At the Council meeting on September 10, we focused on a number of items important to finishing out this year.

First, there was continued discussion on the 2017 and 2018 budgets. Most of the expense side of the 2018 budget has been

prepared after thorough review and input from various ministries. We are now waiting for the results of the stewardship drive to fill in the income side. We had excellent pledge participation on Stewardship Sunday that pushed us a long ways towards our giving goals. If you haven't yet submitted your pledge card, please do so as soon as possible! Regarding our 2017 budget, we are currently operating in the black and expect to end the fiscal year with a small surplus. In addition, we had excellent attendance over the summer, and a number of families have joined our congregation as new members.

Second, the Council finalized the Clergy calendar for the rest of the year. As many of you know, Sharon will be having surgery toward the end of next month, and Sharon and Max will be in Texas until January. This calendar is published elsewhere in this issue of Grace Notes. We are looking forward to Methodist Sundays being led by lay leaders from our own congregation!

Last, the Council discussed possible nominees for the three 2018 Council position openings, which will be voted on at our October 8 Charge Conference meeting. This year our Annual meeting has been moved to January 7, 2018. This will provide adequate time to get a more accurate budget proposal to the congregation and to let the annual committee reports to reflect the full year.

October Outreach Project

By Bonnie Young

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 at 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 boy or a girl
- Determine the age category for your gift: 2-4, 5-9 or 10-14

A LABEL FOR THESE FIRST TWO ITEMS IS PRINTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE OF THIS FLYER - PLACE IT INSIDE YOUR GIFT BOX. GRACE CHURCH WILL PAY THE POSTAGE

- Fill your container with gifts such as school supplies, small toys such as yo-yos or jump ropes, stuffed animals, hygiene items, hard candies or gum, t-shirts, socks, hair clips, etc.
- **Please do not include used items, war-related items such as toy guns or knives or military figures, chocolate or food, liquids or lotions, breakable items such as snow globes, or aerosol cans.**
- You may wish to include a personal note.

Thank you in advance for partnering with other churches in our community to help this program. Unassembled boxes will be available in the Parish Hall, or if you prefer, you can purchase a plastic shoe box to put your items into so that the children can use them as they wish to afterwards. Boxes must be returned by Sunday, October 29.

Continued on page 5

Sharon's Column

Continued from page 2

Let's share our LOVE with those who make our lives "rich!" That's a way that we also share God's LOVE for us through Jesus Christ & the power of the Holy Spirit!

Just so you know, Grace Church: my life is "rich" because each one of you are God's gift to the Church & Max & me!

Grace, Peace & LOVE, Sharon

Clergy Schedule

Oct. 1 - Sharon
 Oct. 8 - Catherine (Margaret Gillikin will preach) Charge Conference
 Oct. 15 - Sharon
 Oct. 22 - Catherine
 Oct. 29 - Ali

Nov. 5 - Becky Arthur
 Nov. 12 - Catherine
 Nov. 19 - Mike Frosolono
 Nov. 26 Catherine

Dec. 3 - Peggy Finkowski
 Dec. 10 - Catherine
 Dec. 17 - Mike Frosolono
 Dec. 24 - Catherine
 Dec. 31 - ?

Catherine's Column

Continued from page 2

position by the end of October or early November. If you happen to know anyone with accounting skills who is looking for an eight hour per week position, please send them our way!

Finally, this is the time of year when our summer visitors return to warmer climes, the choir winds down (haven't they been great!!), and our attendance levels off a bit. We'll also say goodbye to Sharon and Max for a couple of months. We will dearly miss them again!

As always, I ask your continued prayers for Grace Church, the clergy, and our lay leaders. And I thank all of you who give so much of your time and yourselves to make things work around here. You are truly appreciated! I wish you all a blessed autumn season and look forward to sharing it with you!

TRANSITIONS

Please keep Pastor Sharon in your prayers as she prepares for back surgery.

Martha Bauman had shoulder surgery and is doing fine.

Pray for Christina Randall as she recovers from a knee replacement.

Mary Lou Bouman is improving and would enjoy calls and visits.

Remember to pray for Carolyn Hayes who is still having health problems.

Danni Simpson is having back surgery later in the month and asks for our prayers.

Remember to pray for the hurricane victims in Puerto Rico.

And as always pray for peace and unity in our country and the world.

Church Council Report

Continued from page 5

The Charge Conference on October 8 is necessary to meet Methodist district requirements to have congregational approval of the Methodist Co-Pastor salary prior to the coming fiscal year. We will also vote to approve Council member nominations and hear remarks from Margaret Gillikin, our Methodist District Superintendent. Margaret will also be preaching that Sunday. Please plan on staying after church to participate in this important congregational work!

Thank you all for the many ways you prayerfully support Grace Church and our mission. We are strong, healthy, and making a difference to those around us!

Bob Yinger

Chair, Grace Council

Birthdays

10/1 Vi Hardy

10/3 Mary Lou Bouman

10/24 Sue Knippa

10/31 Bob Freed

Ladies Sewing Circle

Craft Show

Mark your calendars for the Christmas Craft Show on Saturday, November 4 from 9 am to 2 pm. Three local churches work together to offer crafts sales that morning—Grace, CUCC and Faith Lutheran. By attending each one, a prize will be given at the final church. Grace ladies are working hard preparing Christmas items, table runners, quilts, Bronco items, knick-knacks, toys, etc. and will have a wonderful selection. Some great gift ideas.

The moneys raised by Ladies Sewing Group go to support the Outreach projects of Grace Church. Recently, money was contributed to the UMCOR Disaster Relief for Hurricanes Harvey and Irma.

QOV

Grace Ladies Sewing have pledged to complete 12 quilts of valor this year that will be displayed and dedicated at the July 4 Patriotic Concerts. So far seven quilts are almost completed, including three quilts from Carol Covert, a former member of Grace. Since 2005, 260 quilts have been sent to military service members around the United States. Anyone is welcome to come on Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 11:30 am and be part of the QOV and the Ladies Sewing. There is always a need for someone to iron, cut and sew, bind or just straighten material. Also if anyone is interested in scrape booking, a QOV scrape book has been started. Contact Bonnie Young or Martha Bauman for more information.

Ladies Advent Brunch

Ladies mark your calendar for Friday, December 1, 2017 from 11 AM till 1 PM. Grace Church Annual Women's Advent Brunch. Once again a wonderful time to spend and start your holiday festivities, with friends and good food. If you are interested in joining our committee please contact: Dorothy Miller or Maryanne Freed. Thank you.

BV Strong Dinner



*Seen at the BV Strong Dinner
trying to keep warm.*

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

GRACE CHURCH

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

To: