

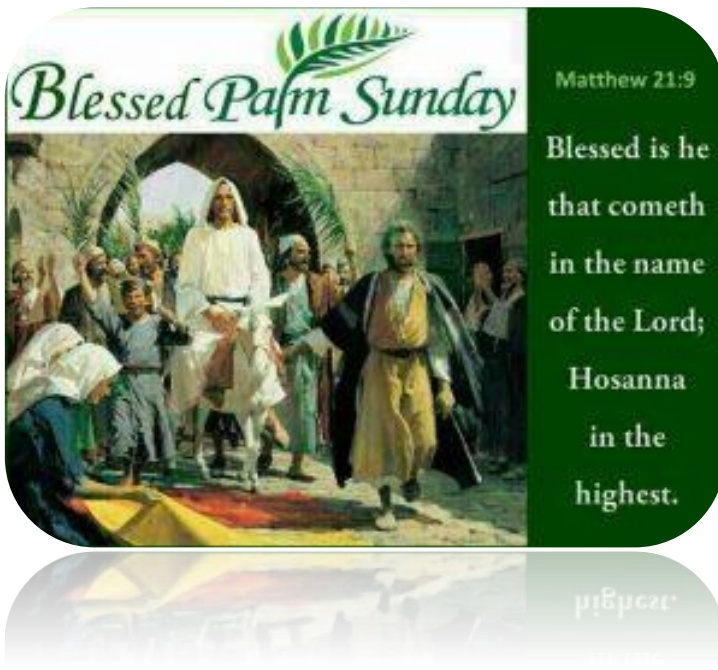


GRACE NOTES

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

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



MARCH 2018

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran reports on re-envisioning the church.



Rev. Robertson writes about Lent.

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Ministry Reports



Palm Sunday

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Evelyn Baker reports on the last Council meeting.

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Community Meals at St. Georges

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Palm Sunday

“When Christ entered into Jerusalem the people spread garments in the way: when He enters into our hearts, we pull off our own righteousness, and not only lay it under Christ’s feet but even trample upon it ourselves.” (Augustus Toplady)

Catherine's Commentary

For the past several months, the Council has been in a process of discernment. Hopefully, you have been keeping up with the articles and reports about this work (please refer to newsletters, annual meeting minutes, and sermons on the website). As a part of this process, the Council spent some fruitful time talking about church in the context of contemporary culture.

These discussions helped us to reflect on the challenges of being church in our secular society. We had some profound and exciting insights into who we are as a congregation in BV. We know that Grace Church is a special place and we want to share it with others, but so many people

who might be searching for a spiritual community are no longer turning toward religion or churches as places to find that spiritual home. We had to ask ourselves, "How do we reach those people and invite them in?" and "How do we provide a spiritual community for those who may not be interested in religion as it is popularly perceived today?" We imagined ways we might reach out to this growing population.

We would like to invite everyone in the congregation to join us in this process of re-envisioning Grace Church within our current cultural

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"How do we provide a spiritual community for those who may not be interested in religion as it is popularly perceived today?"

Sharon's Column



Ok, I give up! I won't say "Alleluia" during Lent! Catherine has finally "made" me believe that during Lent we can't be "alleluia-types!" But I do want to tell you that in the United Methodist tradition we continue to "celebrate" on the Sundays of Lent because we believe that every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection! However, I will refrain out of respect for the Episcopal tradition!

During Lent we spend time reflecting on our relationship with God: how are we tempted to be lead astray from the God of our creation; how are we living every day as people who believe the life, death & resurrection of Jesus make a difference in our lives? Reflect, contemplate, during these days of Lent, what temptations & daily sins will you make you different when you celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter!

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Church Council Report

By Evelyn Baker, Chair



In addition to our regular, monthly Council meetings, the members of the Council and Clergy held a Council's Retreat on February 2 & 3. During this time, we developed an action plan to implement the goals we

presented during the annual meeting.

Mission Statement: Restore all people to each other and to God.

Overview of Goals: We focused on goals that allow us to go out into the community to reach those who might not come into our church for traditional services.

Fellowship Opportunities for Men. A new group to bring together men in our community for a time of fellowship outside the traditional Bible Study group. Activities such as fishing, motorcycles, jeeps, smoking briskets, etc.

Monthly Evening Service. An additional service, held once a month to target the local community. The focus would be a spiritual service with prayer and meditation. Each month's service would have a different focus, i.e., events happening in the U.S, world leaders, etc.

Blessing of the animals. We will hold a special event for the Blessing of the Animals, with a target date of August 25 or 26. This event will be open to anyone in the entire Buena Vista community, including visitors. The animals will be required to be properly restrained on leash, in a carrier, etc. If we believe the interest is great enough, we will consider having the event in one of the town parks.

Mission Opportunity

By Judy Epperson

Jesus said "when you do it to the least of these, my brethren, you do it to me." If ever there was a chance to serve the "least of these" it is at the Saturday evening meals at St. George's Episcopal Church in Leadville. The ladies of Grace Church have been serving one meal a month at St. George's since October and I can tell you it is a real treat to be involved in this project.

I had a chance to go to Leadville and help with the dinner in February, and I must say it was an uplifting experience. It was a unique opportunity for me since, I don't have occasion to associate with people who are less fortunate. Everyone at the meal was wonderful. These people were very open and giving and made us feel right at home. Many of them come early to enjoy coffee and fellowship, and I realized that many of them were good friends.

Dinner was served and we stayed and ate with them. It was a simple meal --- stew, salad and dessert, but it might as well have been a banquet, as far as those people were concerned. Sadly, I don't remember their names, but I do remember the lively conversation, companionship, and warmth that filled the room as we ate, talked, and laughed together.

These meals are an excellent opportunity to meet and get to know people, we might not otherwise meet and it is a wonderful gift for the heart and soul. If you are interested in a unique experience and a chance to help someone in need, please talk to Bonnie Young or Dorothy Miller about how you can become involved.

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Church Council Report Continued from page 3

Re-envisioning the church (new thinking). Looking ahead we want to determine the focus of the church, i.e., what is happening within church congregations and how can we capture that here.

Neighborhood Spiritual Discovery Group. Catherine will reach out to the West Main neighborhood to begin a Spiritual Discovery Group, similar to the one she has been leading here for the past three years. This group would start in June or July, and would meet once a month. We will advertise this through our website, the Chamber of Commerce, door flyers, etc, to reach members of the community.

Spiritual Hiking. A monthly hike, from June through September, with a focus on hiking and spiritual reflection. These easy hikes will be open to members of the Buena Vista community. Possible locations are Interlocken, Raspberry Gulch, the Barbara Whipple trail, etc.

20 somethings and young families. It was noted during the Christmas Eve service, that a large number of attendants were young people and young families. We want to find a way to reach out to them. One example would be to have a free, monthly meal during the summer months.

Catherine's Column Continued from page 2

context. Please join us on Sunday, May 6th after Fellowship or Saturday, May 12th at 10:00am for an information and feedback session. For the first part of each gathering, we will provide a presentation. The presentation will be followed by time for questions and feedback. This will be your opportunity to let the Council know what you think, so we hope to see you there!



And God said, "I do set my bow in the cloud and it shall be a token of the covenant between me and every living creature upon the earth.....that that the waters will never again become a flood to destroy the earth.

Photo by Sherry Thomas

TRANSITIONS

Our thoughts and prayers are with Mike Frosolono and his family on the loss of Andrea on February 14, 2018

Please remember the family of Miloise Lyford, a longtime member of our church who passed away on February 12, 2018. She was 104 years old.

We need to continue praying for Mary Lou Bouman as she continues to struggle with health issues.

Please remember Ed Butler in your prayers. He continues to suffer from back problem

Remember the families of the shooting victims in Florida and other places.

The Women's Bible Study asks you to pray for world peace.

Remember St. George's Episcopal Church and their ministry in Leadville.

Questioning God

by Mike Frosolono

A MEDITATION DERIVED FROM SHARON'S SERMON FEBRUARY 18, 2018

When questioning God in the midst of tragedy, we should keep the following in mind:

1. Always ask questions, always question answers.
2. The quality of the answers we receive depends upon the quality of the questions we ask.

Asking God why God permits tragedies to happen, is not a helpful question because no satisfactory answer exists. The only answer we are apt to receive is basically God's response to Job: My ways are not your ways and what I choose to permit is my business, not yours.

A much better question when we face tragedies is: How can we best, in these situations, act as implements of God's will and as agents of God's ministry to our brothers and sisters? That is, we don't need an explanation concerning why God designed the universe to include tragedies in order for us to minister to our brothers and sisters. The ministry is the important issues.

This and That

If you are out of town and would like to dedicate a lily for the Easter Lily Garden, please email the information: who you are dedicating the lily to or who it is in memory of, to Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org. The cost of the lilies is \$20.00.

The Seder meal will be held on Tuesday, March 29, 2018 at 5:30 pm in the Parish Hall. If you are coming please sign the sign-up sheet in Parish Hall. We would like your reservations by March 14, 2018 so we can determine how much food we will need. A sign-up sheet for food will be in the Parish Hall on March 14, 2018.

Sharon Robertson will be doing the Good Friday service which will be held at 6:00 pm. on Friday, March 30, 2018. Please plan on attending. It will be a great service.

Bishop Olivetti will be preaching on Sunday, April 15, 2018 at Grace Church. A pot luck dinner will follow.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

3/2 Charles Covert

3/4 Harold Smith

Anniversaries

3/5 Bob and Maryanne Freed



Please wish these people Happy Birthday or Happy Anniversary.

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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