



GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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He Is Risen!

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



This beautiful cross decorates the entry to Grace Church as a symbol of the Risen Christ.

Photo by Christina Sell

APRIL 2018

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran writes about the changes in the Methodist co-pastor position.



Rev. Tran writes about the importance of professing our faith.

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Ministry Reports



He is risen.

1



Evelyn Baker reports on the last Council meeting.

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Rev. Tran writes about the Gibson endowment.

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Easter by Joanna Fuchs

Our Lord died on Good Friday,
But the cross did not destroy
His resurrection on Easter morn
That fills our hearts with joy.

Now we know our earthly death,
Like His, is just a rest.

We'll be forever with Him
In heaven, where life is best.

So we live our lives for Jesus,
Think of Him in all we do.
Thank you Savior; Thank you Lord.
Help us love like you!

Catherine's Commentary

When Sharon became our United Methodist Co-Pastor last year, we knew it would only be for the one year and that we would need another Co-Pastor beginning in July of 2018. The Council has been in contact with the United Methodist DS Margaret Gillikin over the past couple of months to work on finding a replacement.

Several weeks ago, Sharon and I met with Margaret to discuss the process. One of our priorities was to make sure that Sharon and Max would be able to simply transition back to where they were prior to Sharon stepping up to help us out. Margaret was agreeable to that.

So after June of this year, Sharon and Max will be back in the pew where they have always been. They will still be involved in Bible Study leadership and all the other activities they have always enjoyed. We are all thankful for that!

One thing that will be important for us, when our new UM Pastor arrives, is to remember that Sharon is not our Pastor anymore! That means that we need to respect Sharon's and Max's "regular member" status and boundaries and not expect them to step up to anything that the new Pastor will be doing. We need to readjust our thinking

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I'm counting on all of us to provide Grace Church sized piles of love and support to the new pastor as he begins his new assignment.

Sharon's Column



In the Women's Bible Study, better known as the Cats, we are finishing a study on The Apostles' Creed. We say The Apostles' Creed and The Nicene Creed in worship. Each Creed is a statement of what we believe as Christians. Each Creed reminds us of God's activity through Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit.

The Creeds seem to be so familiar that we often say them from memory. Often we say the Creeds fast because we know them from memory; therefore we may not really pay close attention to what we are saying! How often do we stop to ponder what we are saying when we "recite" the Creeds? Right now consider what you're saying and what you **believe** when you say either The Nicene Creed (stated first below) and The Apostles' Creed (stated second below):

1. We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,. . .
I believe in God the Father Almighty,. . .
2. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,. . .
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord:. . .

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Church Council Report

By Bob Yinger, Chairman



The Grace Council has some really exciting news to share – we have found a new Co-Pastor, David Erickson, who will be serving us as a UMC Licensed Local Pastor. We look forward to having David, and his wife Lenee', join our

congregation, starting July 1, 2018, after Sharon completes her commitment as our interim Co-Pastor. The Council, Catherine, and Sharon, were able to meet with the Ericksons on Friday, March 30. After in-depth discussions regarding Grace's history, our congregation and local ministry, the Council unanimously approved the appointment.

Catherine and Bob Freed have been talking about offering our Parish Hall for future Jewish services. Bob responded with appreciation for our offer and reported on possible use on Saturday mornings and other meetings, perhaps with Salida and Leadville people. He also stated it would be nice to have a place to come together on Jewish Holidays. The council supported Bob Freed's exploration of this matter and look forward to additional information as this possibility moves forward.

Bob Yinger will lead meetings on May 6 and May 12 to continue the re-envisioning sessions for the Congregation, which is one of the Council's goals for 2018. Catherine has offered make the presentation she presented to the Council earlier this year on the meaning of Re-envisioning. There will be follow-up meetings for feedback.

In other news, Judy Epperson placed a large calendar for display in Parish Hall. Activities and reservations will be posted on this calendar for everyone to see.

Church Legacy

By Catherine Tran

Did you know that Grace Church has an endowment? Our endowment was donated by the Gibson family. If you look at some of the plaques around the church, you will see the Gibson name and perhaps some of you remember the Gibson family. The endowment has around \$30,000 in principal. This principal is not available to be used but the interest that accrues is. The Gibsons designated the interest income to care for our historic church. That interest has been accruing for quite some time and has now reached about \$10,000!

If you have paid attention to the Council's work for the past few months, you know that we have been discussing some work that needs to be done on the church. There are some areas on the outside of the building that need some repair and paint. There are a few windows that need carpentry work (the stained glass will not be affected). The wood floor in the sanctuary needs to be refinished and the carpet needs to be replaced. We are hoping that the endowment interest will pay for most of this work.

Kurt Miller is managing these projects (Thanks, Kurt!). He has been gathering bids and finding contractors. The plan is for the work begin on the exterior of the building as soon as the temperature warms up. After the outside work is done, we will begin the inside work. Our goal is to have the least disruption possible and we don't think our Sunday worship will be effected. We may be asking for some help with moving furniture and that sort of thing.

Fortunately, we have contact information for Kay Gibson, who now lives in Boulder. At some point, I will write her a letter to thank her and her family for leaving a fruitful legacy and let what her know what we accomplish this year. If you would like to donate to our endowment, please contact a Council member to let us know. You can be part of a legacy that lives into the future!

Sharon's Column

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3. . . .was incarnate of the Holy Spirit. . .
 . . .conceived by the Holy Spirit,. . .
4. . . .and the Virgin Mary..
 . . .born of the Virgin Mary,
5. On the third day he rose again. . .and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 . . .the third day he rose from the dead;. . .and sits at the right hand of God;.
6. We believe in the Holy Spirit,. . .
 I believe in the Holy Spirit,. . .
7. We believe in the one holy catholic and apostolic church. . . .
 (I believe in). . .the holy catholic church,. . .
8. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. . . .
 (I believe in). . .the forgiveness of sins,. . .
9. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.
 (I believe in). . .the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Those lines from the Creeds are not the whole Creeds, but the main beliefs in each Creed. Try to be intentional in Worship to hear and pay attention to what we say when we "profess our faith!"
 Grace, Peace & LOVE, Sharon

Catherine's Column

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and turn to our new Pastor for the support and care that we were used to receiving from Sharon.

Speaking of the new UM Pastor, the Council met with David Erickson and his wife, Lenee, on March 30th. David is our new UM Pastor! He comes to us from Calvary United Methodist in Colorado Springs. This is his first appointment, so I'm counting on all of us to provide Grace Church sized piles of love and support as he learns the ropes and works hard at his Licensed Local Pastor course work!

David and Lenee have a busy summer ahead. Both their children are getting married, one in June and the other in August! Not to mention David's course work beginning, starting a new call here, and a cruise to Alaska that was scheduled before all this other stuff came about!

I know you all will welcome Pastor David and Lenee the way you always welcome new folks. I am confident that they will be blessed by all of us just as we will be blessed by them!

TRANSITIONS

Please extend prayers and sympathy to Jennifer Wright on the death of her father.

Please continue praying for Bill and Junia Fitzgerald's grandchild.

Ed Butler had surgery on his neck and is already back playing the organ. We need to keep praying for his continued recovery.

Please pray for Pat Flescher and Jeanette Libal as they deal with the death of a family member

We need to pray for Jim Finkowski's mother, Hele. She has turned 95 and is facing some life changes.

Congratulations to Carolyn Hayes on the birth of a new granddaughter.

Please be in prayer for the congregation of Grace church as we face transition to a new Methodist pastor.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Remember Bishop Oliveto will be preaching on April 15, 2018. There will be a pot luck dinner following the service. The church will provide ham and a cake. We need the members to bring salads and vegetables that will go with ham. Maryanne, Judy and Dorothy will be setting up for the dinner on Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 10:00 am. If you are free and would like to come help, please contact Maryanne Freed or Judy Epperson.

Mini-Blessings will be having a work day on Saturday, April 21, 2018 from 9:00 am to noon. Lunch will be provided. If you would like to come help Mini-Blessings with our Spring Cleaning project, please contact Judy Epperson at 395-6380 or eppersonjudy51@gmail.com.

The Alpine Orchestra 2018 Spring Concerts will be held on Friday, April 13, at 7:30 pm in the Old Church in Leadville, Saturday, April 14, 2018 at 7:30 pm in Salida at the Steam Plant and Sunday, April 15, 2018 at 3:00 pm at Clearview Community Church in Buena Vista. The program features selections by Brahms.

April Birthday

4/13 Sherry Thomas

4/17 Janet Schmid

4/18 Bonnie Young

4/30 Tam Tran

Easter at Grace



Meet the new co-pastor

Our new pastor is David Erickson and he comes to us from Calvary United Methodist Church where he served in many areas the most recent being as Lay Leader, a position he has held since 2012.

David is new to the ministry and is studying to be a Licensed Local Pastor. Grace church is his first appointment, and the council is excited about his coming to us. He has considerable experience in the church as a lay person and will be a great asset to Grace.

David has been married to his wife Lenee' for 35 years and they have two children

New Man in the Pulpit



David Erickson, new United Methodist Co-pastor

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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