



GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Bishop Visits Grace Church

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



Bishop Karen Oliveto at Grace Church on April 15, 2018.

Photo by Max Robertson

MAY 2018

From Our Pastors



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Bishop Oliveto Visits Grace Church

Bishop Karen Oliveto's visit to Grace Church on Sunday April 15, 2018 was an inspirational and awe inspiring experience. Not only is Bishop Oliveto a pioneer in the United Methodist Church, with many firsts to her including being one of the first female bishops, but she is an outstanding speaker. Grace church was honored

to host her and was inspired and renewed by her message of love and peace for all people. We hope to have her return again in the future.

Catherine's Commentary

I strongly encourage all of you to join us in the process of re-envisioning Grace Church within our current cultural context. Please be here on Sunday, May 6th after Fellowship or Saturday, May 12th at 10:00am for an information and feedback session. Both meetings will cover the same information and will be in the Parish Hall. For the first part of each gathering, we will provide a presentation. The presentation will be followed by time for questions and feedback.

These discussions will help us reflect on the challenges of being church in our secular society. 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. When the Council began examining this question, they had some profound and exciting insights into who we are as a congregation in BV and how we can respond in our cultural climate. At our two gatherings, we will be talking about how we reach those people and invite them in and how we might provide a spiritual community for those who may not be interested in religion as it is popularly perceived today.

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Be part of our efforts to address the challenges of being church in contemporary culture

Sharon's Column



One of the important parts of my ministry wherever I've served is to be a part of a Bible study. The reason it's important for me is because I heard my call to the Ordained Ministry during *Disciple* Bible Study. After reading 80% of the Bible in *Disciple 1*, Max was God's out loud voice sending me to seminary! Once he said he was called to send me to seminary we didn't look back & off I went to seminary! Thank you, God, for helping me hear you through Max!

That said, I'm looking forward to leading The Cats in a new version of *Disciple* Bible Study. (The Women's Bible study meets on Monday mornings at 9:30 - we'd love to have others join us!) The new version of *Disciple* is a little shorter but still requires each person to listen to what God is saying to us through Bible study & how God is calling us to live our *discipleship* every day. After worship each week Catherine & I hope that you've heard a new word from God that calls you into a new way of serving your neighbor as you hear Jesus say, "Love God & Love your neighbor as I have Loved you!"

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Church Council Report

By, Evelyn Baker, Chairman



The focus of the Council is to working through the goals we set at the beginning of the year.

Bob Yinger will lead Re-envisioning sessions for the Congregation to help us face the challenges of being a church in a secular society. Reverend Tran

will make the presentation that she presented to the Council earlier this year on the meaning of Re-envisioning. This presentation will be follow-up by time for questions and feedback. The first meeting will be on Sunday, May 6, after fellowship, and the second on Saturday, May 12, at 10AM. We invite everyone to attend.

The council will also meet in May to start planning for the Blessing of the Animals service. Our plan is to hold this sometime in late August. If you want to help us make this a special event for the entire community, please contact Judy Epperson or Reverend Tran.

Kurt Miller has been working to get some much-needed building renovations completed. We will soon have refinished hardwood floors, new carpet in the sanctuary, and new tile in the entry of the church. All of these renovations will be completed during the week so we don't anticipate any interruptions to our services.

Hello to Grace Church

By David Erickson, UMC Pastor

Hello, Buena Vista, Grace Church!

I am, maybe just like you, both excited and a little bit apprehensive.

Beginnings are always like that for me.

This change reminds me of something David Whyte says in "Clear Mind, Wild Heart: Finding Courage and Clarity Through Poetry". In it, he quotes Antonio Machado, speaking about the calling to courage in this way, "Anyone who moves on, even a little, walks like Jesus on the water." That is a good reminder for us in these days of change. Moving on, saying "yes" to God's calling in our lives is a small miracle every time we manage it. Embracing change and finding the opportunities it holds for us that is not so far removed from the miracle of walking on water.

I am anxious to join you, to get to know you as individuals and as a church. I am honored and humbled by the opportunity to minister with you in Buena Vista. So let me take the first stab at introductions.

I am 61 years old. This is my first appointment as a Local Pastor. My love for Jesus Christ and my connection to the Holy Spirit are what centers me in my life. For the last 8 years, I have been the Lay Leader at Calvary UMC in Colorado Springs. In 2015, I retired from Lockheed Martin Corporations after 35+ years as a Senior Program Manager. The other loves of my life are my wife, Lenee' and my two young adult children. Lenee' and I have been happily married for 37 years. Lenee' works part-time for some friends of ours as an office manager. Brent is 28, living in Aurora, CO, working for an accounting firm, EKS&H in their tax department. He is getting married to a wonderful young lady Alyssa on June 9, 2018. Bethany (Beth) is 24, living in Fort Collins, CO, working as an activity director in a Columbine skilled care facility. She is getting

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Sharon's Column
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Therefore, I encourage you to become a student of the Bible! If you want to join the Women on Monday mornings, come on! If you want to study the Bible in another group, let me know! If you need help finding a Bible that helps you study the Bible better, let me know! We all need to be people who discover what the Bible has to say to us - because I'm telling you the same Bible verse will mean something different when we read it in a month, 6 months or a year from now! (Oh! I promise if you get involved in Bible study God won't call everyone to go to seminary!!)
Grace & Peace, Sharon

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

- 5/4 Martha Bauman
- 5/16 Maryanne Freed
- 5/23 Catherine Tran
- 5/28 Jim Finkowski

Anniversaries

- 5/25 Tom and Martha Bauman
- 5/29 Ed and Margaret Butler
- 5/30 Dan and Jo Rodeheffer
- 5/31 Bill and Junia Fitzgerald



Catherine's Column
Continued from page 2

This is one of those many times when membership calls for responsibility in cooperation with the leadership. This will be your opportunity to let the Council know what you think, so we hope to see you! Be part of our efforts to address the challenges of being church in contemporary culture. Be here on the 6th or the 12th and join the excitement!
Catherine

Announcements

Remember the re-envisioning meetings on May 6 after coffee hour and on May 12 at 10:00 am in Parish Hall.

The preaching schedule for May is as follows:

- May 6, and 13- Catherine
- May 20 and 27 - Sharon.

We are in need of a chairman for the pot luck dinners and Lenten meals. If you are interested, please contact Judy Epperson at eppersonjudy51@gmail.com or 395-6380. Thanks.

TRANSITIONS

Please pray for Sherry Thomas who fell and broke 3 ribs while on vacation.

Continue to pray for Mary Lou Bauman. She is better, but still needs our prayers and support.

Ed Butler is recovering nicely, but is still in need of our prayers.

Please remember Gene Priese in your prayers. He continues to have health problems.

Also remember Kim and Kathy Prather and their daughter Zoe in your prayers. Zoe is having some health issues

Please pray for the Finkowski's. Jim's mother is not doing well.

Congratulations to Bill and Junia Fitzgerald on the birth of their granddaughter, Alicea.

Please pray for Grace Church.

And, as always, pray for world peace and our nation's leaders.

Hello article

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married to a wonderful young man Chris on August 12, 2018. Both of my children and their future spouses are beautiful, grace filled, loving and fun people to know.

When I am not working, I enjoy reading, movies, outdoors and golf (I am trying to learn the game). I have discovered that there are many ways to find joy in life. I have enjoyed experiencing many of them and expect to experience more in the years to come!

There is much to celebrate, which is why I am more excited than apprehensive. Because I know, Grace Church is a place of grace and love. I know you are a people of courage. I know God is with us whenever we move on, even a little, in the direction of God's call. A small miracle, perhaps, but one, which will make a difference in our lives and in the life of the world we have been called to serve.

Grace, Peace (and Joy)

David Erickson



Dead Sea Scrolls

by Bonnie Young

Grace Church members will be visiting the Dead Sea Scrolls Exhibit at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Colorado on Monday, July 16. Cost is \$17.55 per senior, adults under 55 \$20.75.

We will be carpooling from Grace Church at 9 am, have lunch at the Museum and attend the exhibit. The tour should end around 3 pm. Rev. Catherine Tran and her husband Tam have invited the car pool group to stop by their home in Evergreen for wine and cheese. Return to Buena Vista should be about 8 pm. This will be a full, fun day that everyone is invited to attend.

Reservations are needed no later than May 13 so that tickets can be purchased. Checks should be written to Grace Church, memo line Dead Sea Scrolls. About the Dead Sea Scrolls This exhibition is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see authentic Dead Sea Scrolls, which are ancient manuscripts dating back over 2,000 years. Ten Scrolls will be on display at all times. In addition, more than 600 artifacts from the ancient Middle East including objects like weapons, stone carvings, terra cotta figurines, remains of religious symbols, coins and seals, clothing and jewelry are part of the exhibit.

The Dead Sea Scrolls represent one of the most significant archaeological discoveries of the 20th century. Please join us if you can. Sign- Up Sheet and more detailed information is in the Parish Hall or contact Bonnie Young. 719-395-8414 or byoung81211@gmail.com. Remember RSVP Deadline: Sunday, May 16.

Chime Time Players

There are nine children who play the Chimes; 4 boys and 5 girls. Two are 6th graders, two are 5th graders, one is a 4th grader, and 4 are 3rd graders. They meet for an hour after school, each Thursday to practice. Their Director, Randy Barnes, writes and arranges all of their music for 18 hands. He teaches them the songs, which they learn how to play on the Chimes. Randy has directed this group for six years. His wife, Carole, assists in various ways; including, playing her guitar with some of the songs. Sherry Thomas serves as the Grace Church chaperone, as well as assisting where needed. Each week, a player is assigned for duties as the Captain. Another Chimer is in charge of keeping track of the points they earn when they have a good practice. The parents take turns bringing treats.

What's Your View?



Chime Time players perform at reception for Grace Church

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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