



# GRACE

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211  
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## Headline

*Persons, places, vistas we have seen*



Catherine presiding at Pentecost.

## JUNE 2018

### From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran talks about the spiritually homeless.



Rev. Robertson says good-bye as our co-pastor.

2

### Ministry Reports



Catherine presiding at Pentecost.

1



Evelyn Baker reports on the last Council meeting.

3



Bonnie Young writes about Quilts of Valor.

3

## Headline by

When Pentecost Day arrived, they were altogether in on place. Suddenly a sound from heaven like the howling of a fierce wind filled the entire house where they were sitting. They saw what seemed to be individual flames of fire alighting on each one of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other languages as the Spirit enabled them to speak.

Acts 2: 1-4 CEB

## Catherine's Commentary

When I was a child, turning twelve years old meant that I would soon be confirmed at my church. The bishop would come and lay hands my head and I would become an adult, or a full member, in the church. This membership was earned by attending church and Sunday school, and taking the Confirmation Class. Among other things, I remember being required to memorize the Nicene Creed and recite it for the priest. That's how it was if you wanted to belong to the church - you had to believe certain things, behave in a particular way, and then you could fully belong.

The spiritually homeless don't

understand church membership like that. If they need to believe and behave before they can belong, they are not interested. The spiritually homeless might feel more at home if they can belong first, then conform to behavior and belief. Or they may never believe and behave as we might expect even if they do belong.

With summer just beginning, we may find that some of those spiritually homeless show up at our doors. We can welcome them gracefully. We already do that in many ways, but there may be visitors who don't look or act like us, and so we have an

[Continued on page 4](#)



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## Sharon's Column



Thank you! Thank you! Thank you. . .for your Grace & LOVE while I've served as the Co-Pastor of Grace Church! These past 15 months have been a joy to share the Good News of God through Jesus Christ & the power of the Holy Spirit.

June 17 will be my last Sunday as the United Methodist Co-Pastor. The good news for Max & me is that we will still be sitting in Max's usual pew. We probably will not be as regular for a while in order for you to know Dave Erickson as your new Co-Pastor. Of course I will continue to herd the Cats for Bible Study on Mondays. Other than that I will serve alongside y'all however I am asked to serve!

David & Leneé have been in Buena Vista several times. They seem excited to become a part of Grace Church! (Who wouldn't be excited to be a part of Grace Church?) David & Leneé have gifts that will continue to bring the Gospel to not only the Church but also to Buena Vista.

[Continued on page 4](#)

## Church Council Report

By Evelyn Baker, Chair



The Council has been making great strides in meeting our goals for 2018.

Two Re-envisioning sessions were held with a good turnout.

Reverend Tran will make a brief presentation to the congregation to keep

everyone informed about this important aspect of our future.

A small committee met to start planning for the Blessing of the Animals service. We will hold this service on Saturday, August 25, from 10AM until noon, and plan to have the service on the lawn. This service will be open to everyone in the community, and all animals of any size will be blessed. We will ask for reservations for large animals to better accommodate them. If you want to help make this a special event for the entire community, please contact Judy Epperson or Reverend Tran.

If you haven't already seen the refurbished floor and new carpet, you are in for a treat. Thank you to Kurt Miller for all the work and coordination he has done to make this happen.

The Council is pleased to report that financially we are in good shape. Through April, our pledge income has increased over the budgeted amount and our spending is in line with the budget. If you ever have any questions or concerns about our financial strength, please come to one of us to express your concerns. And, as members of the congregation, you are welcome to attend our council meetings.

## Quilts of Valor

By Bonnie Young

In 2003, Blue Star mom Catherine Roberts, began the Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF) from her sewing room in Seaford, Delaware. Her son Nathanael's year-long deployment to Iraq provided the initial inspiration. "Casualties no longer were just numbers, but real men and women dying wounded". For every casualty there are 10 wounded. Catherine's desire was to see "that warriors were welcomed home with the love and gratitude". She hit upon the idea that quilts, which are made by a lot of people, would cover service men and women touched by are.

Quilts are now presented to any service person who served in any war or conflict reminding them of America's appreciation. The quilts go to military hospitals, entire service units returning from deployment, are awarded to VA's, or are presented to individuals. But no matter how a Quilt of Valor is given, the impact it delivers is unequalled. As one recipient said "My quilt isn't another military medal to be placed in a box and sit on my shelf. It will always be with me."

**As of June 2018, there have been 187,705 quilts awarded to service member/veterans. It still increases each day. The Grace Sewing Group has completed 15 quilts this year, bringing their thirteen-year total to 276.**

Over many years, the costs associated with this project are covered by Grace Church and "quilt sponsors" in our congregation. A donation of \$20 pays for sending on quilt to a recipient. If you wish to sponsor a quilt, please fill out the information on the form found in the bulletin insert on Sunday and submit with your contribution.

## Sharon's Column

Continued from page 2

Of course I could not have been in ministry with Grace Church without the support, guidance & LOVE from Catherine! Serving with Catherine I have learned she has a sweet servant's heart! She has gifts & graces that have given Grace Church an exciting vision for ministry with & for Buena Vista! With deep gratitude & appreciation, thank you, Catherine!

God has richly blessed Max & me since we have been a part of Grace Church. Serving with you has been one of the joys of my ministry. Let's continue the hospitality, joy & LOVE that is full of Grace - God needs Grace Church right here, right now in Buena Vista!



Sharon asked the cats if we could see anything in this cloud. Can you?

Photo by Max Robertson

## Catherine's Column

Continued from page 2

extraordinary opportunity to practice hospitality. There are several things you can do. It will be helpful for us "regulars" to sit close to the front and leave the back pews for visitors or late comers. If you see someone juggling books, hand them your hymnal or prayer book turned to the right page. If you see someone looking for a seat, scoot over and make room next to you. Invite visitors for a cup of coffee after the service. But most of all, be welcoming even to those who don't believe or behave like we do. We will be blessed by those who come as they are!



Catherine's grandson Forrest admires the window in the foyer at Grace Church.

## TRANSITIONS

We ask for continued prayers for Fred and Ampe as they deal with health problems.

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

Please pray for Max and Sharon's daughter and her family.

Judy Epperson would like prayers for her daughter, Christi, as she recovers from a broken hand.

Mike Frosolono has a cough he can't get rid of. Please pray for his healing.

Mary Lou Bowman continues to improve, but is still in need of our prayers.

Please pray for Crissey Smith and her friend Ruth on the death of their horse Squiz.

Pray for all the victims of violence in our country and for peace and understanding among our citizens.



## David's Column by David Erickson

It is springtime, which means we see new growth brought on by warming temperatures. In our yards, the growth is on our bushes, trees, flowers, grass and even weeds. Springtime is when new life comes out into the world and we see baby animals, birds, fish and bugs. We need to think about new growth.

For some us we are thinking about how to remove the winter growth we have put on. For others we are thinking about babies are growing up and becoming toddlers, toddlers becoming children, children becoming teenagers, teenagers becoming young adults, young adults becoming parents, parents seeing their families grow and adults become seniors.

Each of us should remember that if the generation before us had not been there growing and providing their wisdom and experience (i.e., planting their roots) we would not be here today providing our knowledge and experiences to others.

Our future is rooted in the past and without those roots, the new growth would not be happening. Each of us learns from those around us and those that came before us. I ask you to take time in thought and prayer about those who have helped you to grow. If they are still around, thank them for what they have done to help make you who you are today. Take your roots and apply them to help others learn and grow. As the Children of God we need to take the roots of our past, the wisdom of the bible, and the love from Jesus and God to grow into the person we are meant to be so that we can place our roots down deep to help those that come after us learn, love and grow.

Continued from column one.....

Thank you for allowing me to learn through your knowledge, experience, life's lessons, stories, gifts, service and love. As we grow as the people of God we set the building blocks for faith and church to grow. Let us all continue to cultivate our growth through Christ so that we and our church achieve new growth.

This spring plant a seed in yourself, in a friend, in a loved one, or in the ground so that new growth will take place.

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**Big Garage Sale**

Mini-Blessings  
15732 CR 306  
Buena Vista, Co

June 9  
2018  
8am—1pm Saturday

**Donations Accepted**

**For More Information  
Contact  
Judy Epperson at 395-6380**

No Clothes Please

## Announcements

**Mini-Blessings is having a garage sale on Saturday, June 9, 2018 from 8:00 am to 1:00 pm.** Donations will be accepted until noon on June 8. If you have questions, please contact Judy Epperson at 395-6380. We will be glad to meet you at Mini-Blessings to help you with your donations. **No clothes please.**

**The new walking group** will host a walk through our West Main neighborhood on Saturday, June 9, at 10:00am. The walk will be short - just a few blocks. We will take a leisurely pace with opportunities to chat with friends while reflecting on what it means to be a good neighbor. Meet at the parish hall and bring water, a hat, comfortable shoes, and an open heart. We hope you will join us!

### From the Congregational Church:

We are excited to introduce a new program at CUCC this year: Family Evening Camp! Think VBS & Family Camp all reinvented and rolled into one! And it's FREE!!! Would you please help spread the word in your churches, community groups, and tell every family you know?! And families come in ALL shapes and sizes for this! Even a family of one is welcome :)

Please contact Arlene Waldorf Registrar for more info. or to Sign Up! Volunteers most welcome too! With activities, cooking, clean up, adventures, you name it!

THANK you for helping get the word out!

Rebecca Poos

Pastor, Congregational UCC

719-252-6890

## Birthdays & Anniversaries



### Birthdays

6/3 Becky Arthur

6/8 Mary Lee

6/8 Carol Slater

6/8 Dan Rodeheffer

6/13 Keith Baker

6/18 Ray Stwalley

6/22 Margaret Butler

6/25 Danny Simpson

6/26 Tom Bauman

6/27 Lenee Erickson

*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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