



GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy 4th of July!

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



JULY 2018

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran talks about the transition to a new UMC pastor.



Rev. Erickson writes about the importance of freedom.

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Ministry Reports



Happy 4th of July

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Bonnie Young writes about the Ladies Sewing Group

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Fourth of July Schedule

8:00 am - 3:00 pm - Ladies' Sewing Group Craft Fair

9:00 am & 1:00 pm - Patriotic Concerts

9:00 am - 3:00 pm - Quilts of Valor on Display

8:00 am - 3:00 pm - Refreshments

Catherine's Commentary

We are in a season of change. A year and a half ago, we asked Sharon to join us as our United Methodist Co-Pastor knowing that her term would end in June of this year. The time has flown by and here we are thanking Sharon for a wonderful 16 months and welcoming David as our new UM Co-Pastor. These Pastoral transitions can present certain challenges.

We are so glad that Sharon and Max are not going anywhere and will be back in the pew each Sunday! Sharon and Max will also continue their leadership with Bible studies and other activities they enjoy doing, but Sharon will not be our Co-Pastor anymore. That means that it will

be very important not to ask Sharon to do things we may be used to having her do. It will be important not to assume that Sharon will do pastoral calling or other things we expect of a Pastor. Sharon and Max are our friends just like they have been all these years, but Sharon is no longer our Co-Pastor.

Sharon will be helping us make this transition. She is wise about the Pastoral boundaries and sensitivities that are part of this transition. So please try to understand that if you ask her to do something that is David's or my responsibility, she will refer you to me or David. This is not

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We are responsible to David and the best way we can welcome him and Lenee into our loving community is let David do what he is called to do!

David's Column: Freedom – Well Worth the Effort



"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" Psalms 33:12

Here we are again in the middle of the Year. Independence Day on the 4th is on our minds as the next significant event we celebrate here in America ~ our birthday as an independent nation. I do not know about you but on the 4th I am planning to run through my traditional routine like many others and I will top off the evening by watching another amazing fireworks show light up the night sky.

Recently, I began to take note of things that I believe have added to my perspective on celebrating our liberty and it has made it even more meaningful and precious to me.

I try to exercise more faithfully and so I walk and play golf as a part of my regimen. As I walk, of course I notice more as I pass by. For instance, I noticed that since Memorial Day there have been plenty of patriotic decorations going up. I noticed moms and dads out enjoying their beautiful homes, yards and gardens. It drove home the truth that we really live in a bountiful place ~ America ~ and it made me think

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Church Council Report

By Evelyn Baker, Chair



The Council of Grace Church would like to extend our heart-felt thanks to Sharon Robertson for filling in as our United Methodist Co-Pastor for the past year. We have been blessed to hear some great sermons from Sharon, even if they

were delivered with a bit of a Texas twang.

As we move forward with Sharon sitting in the pew, David Erickson, serving as our new co-pastor, will fill the pulpit. We extend a hearty welcome to David and his wife Lenee' as we move into the second half of this year.

The committee working on the Blessing of the Animals met again in late June, and we are happy to report this event is on track. The service will be held on our lawn on August 25, and is open to the community. We will publicize additional details in the near future. Community members will be welcome to bring all animals, large and small, to receive a blessing, although we will require a reservation for the large ones.

The hiking group went on their first hike around town and had a total of ten people. This event is also open to the community and is a time of reflection as well as moderate physical activity. If you would like to join them, the next hike is July 21.

Kurt Miller is continuing to lead the charge on building maintenance projects. In addition to much needed replacement of the window behind the organ, there will be improvements to the ramp, railings, and some repairs to the concrete on the front steps of the parish hall.

Bob Freed reported there is no interest at this time in a weekly service with the Jewish community; however, it is possible they might be interested in holding services for Rosh Hashanah or other holidays.

Ladies Sewing Group

By Bonnie Young

Grace Ladies Sewing will have a display of personally-made items for purchase in the Parish Hall on Wednesday, July 4 from 10 am to 3 pm. There will be table runners, table placemats, neck pillows, kitchen towels, aprons, quilts, bird houses etc. etc. They even have gifts for dogs to celebrating the 4th. Come in and shop.

Ladies Sewing was started 14 years ago by Carol Covert who truly believed that outreach was important part of any church. Over the years, this group of women have completed projects like quilts for Alzheimer Memory Quilts and La Puente Shelter; stuffed animals for children who are removed from their homes; pillowcase dresses for Dress A Girl Around the World and so many more. Quilts of Valor was added 13 years ago; they have completed 276 quilts to date.

The sewing group has also had many craft shows in the summer and around Christmas selling the items they have made and baked goods. All the proceeds go to support Grace Outreach Projects, including Arkansas Valley Christian Mission, St. George Episcopal Church Community Meals, Disaster Relief, BV Pregnancy Center, Chaffee County Search and Rescue and many more. New members are always welcome to come on Wednesdays at 9 am in the Annex. Contact Martha Bauman or Vi Hardy for any questions.

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David's Column

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about the price of it all ~ the price of this freedom to have and do all that we enjoy ~ and most importantly, the founding values of our nation that motivated so many to pay the price.

I cannot help but say that it is something we are starting to take for granted here in America as we watch and listen to the media. Perhaps the reason is we are so used to freedom that we feel comfortable in even attacking its foundations and values. We are so used to always having plenty of running water, electricity, great food, jobs and places to go that are safe, beautiful and fun not to mention our religious freedom in Christ that is the bedrock of our "ONE NATION.... UNDER GOD." To sustain it came and STILL COMES at a price ~ an incredibly steep price that many in our country I am afraid no longer fully comprehend. So I decided I would write this article to say let us not abandon these things.

Liberty is not something that just happens or is sustained without our continual attention. It is possible to lose the liberty we have achieved. Since we established our independence, we have never for one moment had the luxury of sitting back and just allowing things to take their course. We have protected ourselves and others with God's help, because freedom is not something that "just is." It is not a one-time achievement on which

Catherine's Column

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personal, it is about good boundaries and appropriate relationships. This doesn't mean that Sharon won't visit you if you are in the hospital or help you with something, it just means that she does it as a friend, not a Pastor. If you have a request of her and it sounds like a pastoral concern, Sharon will ask permission from me or David to follow up with you.

It is time to turn to David when we have UM Pastoral needs and expectations. We are responsible to David and the best way we can welcome him and Lenee into our loving community is let David do what he is called to do! And I have every confidence that he will do a wonderful job and bring great energy to his work! We are blessed to have David and Lenee with us!

This year, the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado will be electing a new bishop. The Diocesan Convention to elect the new bishop will be Oct. 26-27th at St. John's Cathedral in Denver. We are allowed one lay delegate. Please let Catherine know if you would be interested in attending.

TRANSITIONS

Our prayers are with Mary Lee and her family on the death of Pete last week.

Please continue to remember Mary Lou Bouman as she continues to improve.

Pray for Bev Herle and her husband Chuck, who is in the hospital being treated for complications of diabetes.

We ask prayers for all the people affected by the fires in Lake and Park counties.

Please pray for Carol Slater who is having eye problems.

This 4th of July please ponder on the foundations and importance of the liberties we have in this country.

Pray for the enlightenment of our nation's leaders that they can make good decisions for the future of the country.

David's Column

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we can casually rely. We have to want it and seek it and tend to it and pray for it and sometimes fight for it because outside influences will never cease to be a threat. Our freedoms THAT WE SEE AND EXPERIENCE ALL AROUND US must be worked for and protected. For us to be free, it means we must submit ourselves ~ to and for one another and most importantly to God who is above all.

May God continue to bless America!

Church Council Report

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These dates have been noted on the church calendar in the parish hall.

The Council made a decision to allow employees from the Buena Vista Library staff to park in the church parking lot on a non-interfering basis. They are allowed to park in the four spaces on the north side of the lot, plus one handicapped space. Please notify Judy Epperson if you plan an event that requires the use of all our spaces so she can notify the Library staff that parking is unavailable during that time.

Birthdays

7/16 Peggy Finkowski



Immigration

by Mike Frosolono

The history of the Frosolono family predisposes me to favor legal immigration into this country. My great-grandfather, Federico Frosolono (1855-1892), came from Marsico Nuovo in southern Italy. He married Rosa Concello, also from that region. Federico became enamored of a worldwide Marxist organization and resigned his position in the Italian army. The growing Frosolono family traveled through Europe while Federico recruited workers to the organization. My grandfather, Michael Concello Frosolono—the youngest of Federico's three sons—was born in Marseilles, France.

The Marxist organization subsequently assigned Federico to recruit workers in the United States along the eastern seaboard. He brought his family with him to this country in 1885. Federico had great success in recruiting workers to the organization, especially in Montgomery, AL, so much so that mill owners hired an assassin to kill Federico.

My family history testifies to how qualified, hardworking immigrants can become productive citizens to the benefit of our country.

My Judeo-Christian principles propel me to justified anger at recent events along our southern border. Legislators and a president of good will should be able to craft a rational and effective immigration system of which this country can be proud. Separating children, much less babies, from their parents should neither be part of that system nor tolerated. Incarceration of potential legal immigrants prior to adjudication of their requests for asylum should not be allowed. Who can say how many of the people who want to immigrate into the United States will become productive citizens like the Frosolono family?

Sharon's "Retirement"

Last Sunday, June 24, we said good-bye to Sharon Robertson as our United Methodist co-pastor and hello to Sharon Robertson, our friend. We had a great time at the farewell pot luck.



Top picture: Sharon admires cross given to her as a "retirement" present.

Below: Sharon's Cake

Photos by Sherry Thomas

David's First Day



David & Lenee' with Catherine

Photo by Sherry Thomas

July 1, 2018 was David Erickson's first day as our new United Methodist co-pastor, and he played to a packed house. We are happy to welcome him and his wife Lenee' to our Grace family. He will be at the 4th of July festivities, so if you missed him on Sunday, drop by and say hello on the 4th. Here is his contact information: Cell phone: 719-659-2943 and his email is deerikson@comcast.net. Feel free to contact him at any time.

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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