



GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Joy Comes in the Morning

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



This beautiful sunrise reminds us that while “weeping may endure for a night, joy comes in the morning.”

Psalm 30:05

Photo by Sherry Thomas

SEPTEMBER 2018

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran talks about new opportunities for leadership in the fall.



Rev. Erickson writes about setting a routine in the coming months.

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Ministry Reports



Joy in the morning

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Evelyn Baker reports on the last Council meeting.

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Margaret Butler talks about the Personnel Committee.

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A Prayer for Labor Day

Creator god, thank you for providing us with the gift to share our talents.

Provide our community, our nation, our world, the fortitude to provide work for all which is decent and fair.

Make us faithful stewards of your creation to enhance the human dignity of our global family.

We ask this in the name of Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit now and forever.

Catherine's Commentary

The fall is here already! With the summer ending, Grace enters into a new season with our warm weather residents leaving and the work of the congregation turning toward Charge Conference, budgeting, and leadership transition. The Council, as usual, is attending to these things, but there are still important obligations for all of us to be aware of.

There will be leadership and service opportunities opening up. I hope you will begin praying about how you might be called into leadership and service at Grace. We have plenty of things that need to be done. Most importantly, we will be looking for new Council

members to replace those who are going off Council next year. And there are also openings for bean counters – we need a few people to count and record the Sunday offerings.

One of the unique needs at Grace is for help when people leave for extended vacations. For example, Bonnie Young has organized our St. George meal for the first Saturday of each month. Bonnie and Ray will away for a couple of months so we will need someone to cover that ministry short term. If you would like to try something new for a few months or take on a limited or short term

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There are so many things to do around here and so many opportunities to be involved. Just let me know what you are interested in and we'll plug you in!

David's Column



For many, the arrival of September brings a certain level of disorientation. Even as the memories of vacations, visits, or simply “veg’ing” out remain fresh in our minds, visions of backpacks and books dance in our heads. As the hot days of summer linger on, the cool, colorful days of autumn seem only weeks away. Though we have enjoyed our annual opportunity to get away from the frantic pace of life, we are ready to get back on a regular schedule. Like it or not, most of us are creatures of habit, and we are ready for a return to routine.

If you are anything like me, your routine revolves around things to do and people to see, with a smattering of eating and sleeping. With each passing day, I watch as my calendar fills up little by little with meetings, appointments and obligations. No doubt, your routine includes commitments to your work, to your friends, to your family, and to yourself.

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Church Council Report

By Evelyn Baker, Chairman



What a great blessing we had at the Blessing of the Animals! It was held on Saturday, August 25, on the front lawn of the church. We had about 40 dogs and one miniature horse, who was representing all of the horses at Mini-Blessings. Reverend

Tran and David Erickson gave each animal a blessing as they were brought forward by their owners. After the service, there was a light lunch on the back lawn. We feel there was a great response and hope to make it an annual event. Special thanks to Peggy, Judy, Catherine, David, and Ed for all work they did to make this happen. Thanks also to everyone who contributed food for the lunch.

In other news, we continue to on track for our financial goals and are on solid footing as we move into our budget review and setting a new budget for 2019. We would especially like to thank Cheryl Wilderman for taking over the position as Treasurer, and to Becky Arthur who has been our Treasurer for the past year.

Kurt Miller has been overseeing the window repair, but reported a delay due to some issues with paint color. He is also looking at improvements/repairs to the ramps.

The Personal Committee (SPRC) has been meeting on a regular basis and is beginning the annual review process for Reverend Tran. Because David has only been with us a short time, we are not required to conduct a review for him.

Personnel Committee

By Margaret Butler

The Personnel Committee is the new name for what was previously known as the SPR (Staff Parish Relations) Committee. The purpose of the committee is to serve as liaison between the staff and the congregation, to recommend individuals for staff positions to the Grace Council, to assist the Council in performance reviews of administrative staff and clergy, to recommend clergy salary increases, and to work with the appropriate bodies in the Episcopal Diocese and the Mountain Sky Conference of the United Methodist Church when pastoral changes become necessary.

The process of creating a Personnel Committee at Grace has taken place over a period of years because of functional differences between our two denominations. Things are still in progress.

At Grace, we are all very proud of having come from many different religious backgrounds, each with their own rich traditions. Since 2002 we have worked very hard to respect the traditions of each other in our worship, our fellowship, and in our administration. With respect to clergy it turns out to be impossible to have a single policy that works for both denominations at Grace. This spring and summer the committee has been working to thoroughly understand the denominational differences regarding the hiring or appointment of a pastor at Grace Church so that the church is prepared the next time a pastoral vacancy occurs. The committee will, in turn, provide education about these policies to the Council and the congregation in an ongoing process. Currently, the committee is working on personnel reviews.

Current members of the committee are Martha Bauman, Evelyn Baker, Margaret Butler, and Catherine Tran. Sharon Robertson has served with us this summer to help us understand processes in the United Methodist Church.

David's Column

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Let us not forget to include God in our routine this fall. With so much going on in our lives, it is easy to run out of the time and energy needed to sustain a committed relationship with God. As the earliest Christians knew well, a healthy spiritual life is best attained through disciplined spiritual practices. They knew the power and presence of God was most readily experienced through a regular routine of prayer and Bible study, not to mention communion, fasting, and frequent visits to the sick, the poor, and the imprisoned. For them, a routine filled with these things (and more!) was an essential means of giving and receiving God's grace.

As we begin this September together at Grace Church, I invite you to add God to your routine in some new or renewed way. Invite God into your life outside your regular attendance of Sunday worship services. Join a study or ministry. If you are already nurturing your faith with prayer and study, why not start transforming our world by serving (e.g., be a greeter, liturgist, potluck director)?

May God's grace and peace be with you this month as you return to your routine.

Catherine's Column

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commitment, this kind of opportunity would be a great way to do that.

We always need people to serve as Acolytes on Episcopal Sundays, readers, and ushers. Or you could help with Sunday morning fellowship or you could sing in the choir or knit prayer shawls. The sewing group can always use help with quilts and crafts. You can help with Outreach or Buildings and Grounds, or special events.

There are so many things to do around here and so many opportunities to be involved. Just let me know what you are interested in and we'll plug you in!



TRANSITIONS

Please pray for Bev Herle and her family. Her husband is improving, but her son is having health problems and is having tests this week.

Please remember Fred and Ampe Swart as they continue to deal with his health issues.

Prayers of joy for Mary Lou Bouman. She received a good report on her last doctor's visit.

Please pray for the St. Georges meal program. We need volunteers to help with this important ministry.

Dorothy Miller is going to Portugal and has asked for prayers for safe travels.

We need to continue to pray for the fire victims and for the people of Hawaii whose homes have been devastated by severe flooding.

And as always, pray for our nation's leaders and for unity in this country.

Church Council Report

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Thanks to Bob Freed, the local Jewish community has decided to accept our invitation to hold a service once a month, possibly on a Monday or Tuesday evening. Bob was also able to locate a TORAH that may be able to be purchased at a reasonable price. We really look forward to having the Grace Way extended to our Jewish community.



Thank You from Pete Lee's Family

I just want to take this Grace Notes opportunity to again thank everyone from Grace Church who helped make Peter's Celebration of Life such a lovely, loving, meaningful, and beautiful service. I have tried to write everyone a personal note but am sure I left someone out. My special thanks to Catherine for her help in organizing the service and presenting such a thoughtful message, David for his help with the service, Betty and the Choir for singing so beautifully, and the extra participants who came back to sing after the 4th of July concert. Marianne and Dorothy, the two of you make quite a team...thank you. Judy, thank you for your help with the flower surprise, and your patience with the bulletin...I kept making typos for you to deal with. Then there was Bonnie and the Quilt. The sewing group created such a beautiful piece of art and I have no idea who was involved in total, but Martha and Vi...I know you were there. However, my thanks to each and every one.

It was wonderful to have all of Peter's children and grandchildren present. I know they all appreciated your efforts and were comforted by the church family and friends who honored his memory. As Peter's wife, I was overwhelmed by the outpouring of love that day, and also for your inclusion, patience, understanding, and care, in the days, months and years preceding his death. It was not always easy. And to all who attended his service...God Bless you all.

Mary

Announcements

The BV Strong Dinner is on September 24, 2018 and Grace Church is sponsoring 6 tables. We have 3 tables left that need sponsors. The table sponsor is responsible for finding people to fill the table, organizing the food for the table and providing paper goods and drinks. If you would like to sponsor a table, please let Judy Epperson know at eppersonjudy51@gmail.com.

The Grace Choir is trying to reorganize for the winter months. If you are interested in singing in the choir, contact Ed Butler at elbmsb@gmail.com for more information.

The Spiritual Discovery group is accepting new members. If you are interested in being a part of this uplifting group, contact Rev. Tran for more information. Registration deadline is September 20, 2018.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

9/1 - Max Robertson

9/6 - Carol Covert

Anniversaries

9/12 John and Judy Epperson

9/22 Jim and Peggy Finkowski

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Blessing of the Animals



Some animals came on their own

The Blessing of the Animals was a great success. We had 40 people 40 dogs, 1 horse and 2 deer. All the animals got along well and there was lots of food, fun, and fellowship. No animals or humans were harmed in the performance. Pictures of the event are interspersed throughout Grace Notes, so see if you can find them. Photos were contributed by David 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.

Please send articles and pictures to editor Judy Epperson at eppersonjudy51@gmail.com