

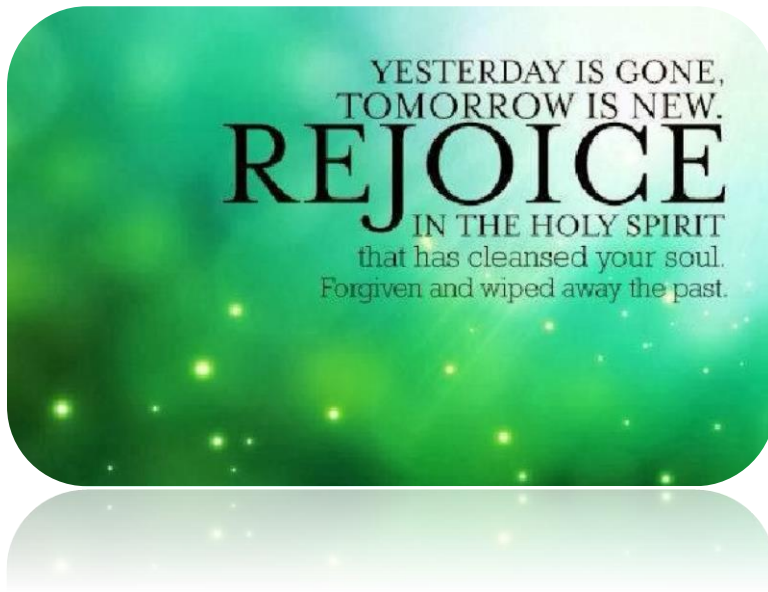


GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy New Year

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



May you all have a productive, prosperous, and blessed New Year.

JANUARY 2019

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran writes about the changes in the church.



Rev. Erickson talks about the types of clergy in the United Methodist Church.

2

Ministry Reports



Happy New Year!

1



Evelyn Baker reports on the last Council meeting.

3



Trinity Views by Margaret Gilikin

3

In the New Year.....

”Let go of yesterday. Let today be a new beginning and be the best that you can, and you’ll get to where God wants you to be.” - **Joel Osteen**

Catherine's Commentary

The Annual Meeting at Grace Church will be on January 27th after the worship service. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend! At the meeting, we will elect new Council members, review and report on 2018, and approve the budget for 2019. But as we go about the business of the church, it is helpful to remember that the facts and figures are not what we are really all about. Lou Blanchard, recent Canon to the Ordinary in the Episcopal Diocese of Colorado, writes about the "business" of the church in an article called "The Gospel, The Church, and a Consumer Society". These are a few excerpts.

"Perhaps Christmas more than any other season reminds us that we live in a consumer society. As we all heave a sigh of relief that it is now safely packed away for another year, we realize that we are now caught up in budgets and annual meetings with all the needs and wants of the Church. How do we in the Church live faithfully according to the Gospel of Christ when the consumerism mindset surrounds and penetrates every aspect of our lives?

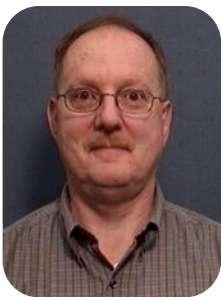
"When the Church seemed to be in its hay day in the 50's and 60's, the core value of our society was progress. The Church, like every other

Continued on page 4



May we manifest through our lives and through our congregations the Gospel of Christ counter to the consumer society in which we live and support one another as we discover ways to do it more faithfully.

David's Column



Have you ever wondered who the Clergy are, and what it means to be ordained in the United Methodist Church (UMC)? The excerpts below from our denominational websites might help to answer some of those questions. The types of Clergy in the UMC include:

Elders

Elders are ordained United Methodist clergy who are ordained to a ministry of Word, Sacrament, Order, and Service. This means elders preach and teach the Word of God, provide pastoral care and counsel, administer the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion, and order the life of the church for service in mission and ministry.

Continued on page 4

Church Council Report

By Evelyn Baker, Chairman



We want to thank Bob Yinger, Peggy Finkowski, Carol Slater, and Bob Freed for the time, energy, and diligence for serving on the Council. Your leadership throughout the past few years has been immeasurable. We have four members

who have graciously accepted nominations to fill the opening positions: Mike Frosolono, Becky Arthur, Ray Stwalley, and Danny Simpson. We will present their bios and vote on their membership at the annual meeting.

The council held their last meeting for 2018 on December 9. Cheryl Wilderman, Treasurer, reported that we are in good shape financially, and she and our bookkeeper are working on the draft budget for 2019. The council will review the budget at their January meeting, and will present it to the congregation at our annual meeting on January 27.

At our annual meeting in January, the Council will present our 2019 goals. Some, like the Blessing of the Animals, and Walking to Connect, were successful this past year and will be continued. In February, the council will hold a retreat in the Parish Hall, where we will flesh out steps to implement the 2019 goals. If you have any ideas that you would like to see implemented, please contact one of the board members.

We are looking for a few people to help with some duties here at Grace. We need someone to accept responsibility to shovel the walks, put ice melt out before the services, and rake the leaves. We will also need a new grounds person in the spring.

Trinity Views

By Margaret Gilikin

Happy New Year and Epiphany Greetings!

As we enter 2019, I pray this finds you in good health and spirit, still treasuring the gifts of heart and life that came to you this Christmas. I hope that you have room for one more Holy Day (the origin of holiday) tradition... perhaps not one you've encountered before.

In some places around the world, it is the custom on January 1st for people to return home and receive a blessing from their parents. It is a lovely practice, with mothers and fathers placing their hands on their children's heads and praying for them, whether they are 5, 15 or 50 years old. Granted, not all of us still have parents to return home to at this stage of life. But this is a gift that nurturing soul-friends might provide one another in the life of our congregations. And, any of us who have young people we connect with might consider offering them a blessing, whatever the "official" relationship. Frankly, I don't believe it's possible for young people to have too many adults who love them. Bring on the "borrowed" grands and aunts and uncles!

Scripture is filled with blessings that can be prayed for and with one another. One of the most famous comes from Aaron's words from Numbers 6:22-27. "May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. May the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace." I suspect that many of you might have these words memorized from regular use in some way. If these exact words feel overly formal, or just awkward to speak aloud over someone, you might consider how you would naturally express the deeper meaning they convey. How does this person bring you and God delight? How are the bonds of relationship between the two of you and with God a gift? What hopes for well-being and goodness in life do you hold for this

[Continued on page 6](#)

David's Column

Continued from page 2

The servant leadership of the elder takes place both in parish ministry as well as in extension ministries, like chaplaincy. Elders itinerate, which means they serve in ministry settings (appointments) where the bishop assigns them.

Deacons and Diaconal Ministers

Deacons are ordained United Methodist clergy who lead the church in relating Christians to their ministries in the world through worship leadership, preaching, teaching, nurturing spiritual vitality and leading ministries of service, love, and justice. They may work primarily in congregations or they may work primarily in settings like hospitals, social-service agencies, mission agencies, schools, counseling centers, denominational agencies, and more

Licensed Local Pastors

Local pastors are not ordained but are licensed to preach and conduct divine worship and perform the duties of a pastor. They are appointed, but need not make themselves available as itinerant ministers. Local pastors may also serve in extension ministries settings. They are not elected into annual conference. A local pastor answers God's call to serve the mission of Jesus Christ through serving a local congregation in The United Methodist Church. When

Catherine's Column

Continued from page 2

institution was built up in numbers, dollars, programs, services, buildings, values, and spiritual improvement. To some degree, we rode that wave into the 90's, but it is clear now that the core value of our society has shifted to one of choice. Choice has become not only a value but a right. We believe that we have the right to choose what we want in every aspect of our lives. This includes our spiritual lives as well. One of the difficulties we face in the Church is that we, too, have been kidnapped by the consumer mindset in many ways. People expect to receive spiritual goods and services from clergy, leaders, and churches. When folks no longer receive what they want, they go elsewhere. People church shop.

"It is not surprising that churches that are being blessed today are those that intentionally return to trying to faithfully live the Gospel apart from the consumer mindset. How do they do it? They focus on the core value of self-giving love as Jesus lived it and as the core value of God's reign being manifest in the world. They see themselves as part of God's mission, participating in God's life and love for the sake of the world. They raise the expectations of what it means to be a member and do not allow anyone to be a passive consumer by expecting full participation of everyone in the faith community.

Continued on page 5

TRANSITIONS

Please pray for Kim and Kathryn Prather and their family. Kim's father died last month.

Pray for the immigrants at the border. May their situation improve in the new year.

Please pray for Grace Church as we enter a new year with new council members. May the transition be smooth and effortless.

Please pray for the President and our other national leaders. We are entering a year of change and more conflict. Pray that the people of the country remember that we have more similarities than differences.

Remember the people that are without their paychecks during this government shut down.

And remember to pray for world peace and a safe and peaceful 2019.

David's Column

continued from page 4

appointed, the local pastor performs the usual duties of a pastor, including preaching and teaching; leading in worship and liturgy; receiving new members; performing the sacraments of baptism and Holy Communion; and performing the services of marriage (where state laws allow), burial, and confirmation. The local pastor's authority is only within the appointment setting and does not extend beyond it. The local pastor is not ordained, and serves under the authority of a license for pastoral ministry after completing the steps outlined in ¶ 315 of The Book of Discipline (2012) and meeting any annual conference requirements.

As a local pastor is required to successfully complete an 80-hour licensing school, pass a psychological evaluation and be approved by both a local church's Staff Parish Relations Committee (SPRC) and District Committee on Ordained Ministry (DCOM). A local pastor is evaluated and relicensed annually. An appointed local pastor must complete the 20-module Course of Study (COS) education. A full-time local pastor has 8-years to complete the Course of Study modules and a part-time local pastor has 12-years. Some modules may be taken on-line (normally a 10-week period), while others are taken on-site (1-week) at an offering seminary.

Elders, Local Pastors, and Deacons make up the local clergy who are members of the annual conference and not the local church. A local pastor does not have voting authority in the annual conference.

Catherine's Column

continued from page 4

They commit to prayer always listening for what God is doing so they can join in whether it is in the church itself, or in their daily lives in the world. "Unplugging ourselves from the consumer mindset is not easy. It takes the support of other Christians walking this counter cultural life together. It means placing a priority on our formation as Christians in the Gospel value of self-giving love. It means raising the expectations of commitment as members of the Body of Christ. It means coming to terms with money and our relationship with it individually and corporately. It means making God's reign the first and highest priority in our lives and in our congregations.

"May we manifest through our lives and through our congregations the Gospel of Christ counter to the consumer society in which we live and support one another as we discover ways to do it more faithfully.

Help Wanted

We need someone to accept responsibility to shovel the walks, put ice melt out before the services, and rake the leaves.

We will also need a new grounds person in the spring.

Wanted: A chairperson for the Soup and Bread Meals during Lent. We will have three meals and the chairperson would be responsible for coordination setting up the Parish Hall, getting people to provide soup, buying bread and clean-up after the meals

We also need people to take charge of Coffee Hour. This person would be responsible for providing simple refreshments, making coffee and cleaning up afterwards. Anyone interested in doing either of these should contact Judy Epperson.

Trinity Views continued from page 3

person? Truly, how would you bless the space between you?

Whether you actually lay hands upon a beloved one, or simply pray blessings in your heart, I invite you to begin this calendar year with a spiritual gift, blessing those who matter to you.

While you're at it... I request that you join me in offering prayers of blessing for Sarah and Major Rettig, our newly hired Trinity District Congregational Resource Ministers (CRMs). They begin their work with the District this month, even as they continue serving as pastors of the Hugo and Limon churches.

As we live into a new season of growth together, I pray that we may all find abundance of hope and vitality as we serve in Jesus' name.

Blessings on the Journey from your District Superintendent,

Margaret

Happy Birthday



January Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays
None

Anniversaries
1/1 Keith and Evelyn Baker

You can help us out. If you are new to the church and don't find your name on the birthday and anniversary list, please contact Judy Epperson at eppersonjudy51@gmail.com with your birthday and anniversary. We need to update our list. Thanks.

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