



GRACE NOTES

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy Mother's Day

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers in the church. May your day be filled with many fond memories.

MAY 2019

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran writes about plans for the upcoming months.



Rev. Erickson talks about the impact of Easter on our lives.

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Ministry Reports



Happy Mother's Day

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Mike Frosolono reports on the last Council meeting.

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Margaret Gilliken writes about news from the District.

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Angels of Grace Celebration

In Honor and Memory of our Mothers, please wear a Prayer Shawl if you have one. If you don't have one, you can borrow one that morning at church (and keep it if you want!)

Catherine's Commentary

Summer is around the corner and we will be busy at Grace Church! In addition to all the year-round events and ministries that go on, we will be busy with yearly and seasonal events. As always, we will present our Annual July 4th concert, Quilts of Valor display and Craft Sale. The Council is also considering a spot in the 4th of July parade, so let us know if you would like to participate! The Blessing of the Animals will be on August 24th. Community walks will begin on May 25 (postponed from the 11th with hopes for warmer weather and to attract some of the holiday visitors). There will be one walk each month. A Renewal of Wedding Vows will take place at the service on June

23rd and all couples are invited to participate. We are also trying schedule some game nights.

The Council has invested some resources for radio advertising for these events. You may have heard our Easter radio advertisement. Our Easter attendance increased by about fifteen percent over last year, which I think is quite a success! We will continue to monitor the effects of the radio announcements throughout the year.

We are also counting on you to help spread the word about our summer events. I encourage

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Word of mouth is the most important way we can grow our congregation.

David's Column – Easter Continues



We have just celebrated the greatest day in the church year – the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. The day included festive music, a beautiful centrum, and chairs full of people – all bearing witness to love's victory over fear and hate!

What is next? What now?

More than a day, Easter is really something we live and celebrate year-round. As one person put it, "Easter is not so much a noun, but a verb." Easter is a process of transformation when our hearts and lives become more Christ-like. We take on the very work that Jesus began before the cross. Easter continues in your life and mine.

The gospel accounts of the first Easter report that the risen Christ would meet the disciples in Galilee. Why Galilee? I would have thought that Jesus would have marched straight into Jerusalem and said to Pontius Pilate and the religious leaders... "I'm back!" ... but no. He meets them in Galilee – the place where many of them

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Church Council Report

by Mike Frosolono, Chairman



The excess of expenses over income for March was primarily due to repairs on the ramp and addition of a handrail. The money for these repairs was taken out of the savings account and will be expensed as opposed to capitalized.

Council is confident that Grace Church’s finances are sound.

	March 2019		January
	February 2019		2019
	Actuals,	Actuals,	Actuals,
	\$	\$	\$
Income	8,671	13,788	16,100
Expenses	11,693	11,909	12,772
Total	-3,022	1,878	3,328

Council authorized: (1) Judy Epperson, Dorothy Miller, Becky Arthur and Mike Frosolono as signers for all Grace Church bank accounts; (2) Changing Grace Church’s eTrade account from a personal to a business account with Becky Arthur as the point person for Beneficial Ownership purposes. Because the account exists to facilitate gifts of stock to Grace Church, Council suggested that we move the money into savings.

Grace Church has a Certificate of Deposit that will mature later this year. Upon maturity, this CD will be split into one-year and two-year CDs so that we will have alternating maturities in case we need the funds.

Local newspapers published Catherine Tran and David Erickson’s press release opposing LGBTQ issues passed at the United Methodist General Conference 2019. Local radio stations began broadcasting our advertisements for Easter services about a month prior to this high holiday.

Trinity Views

by Margaret Gilliken

With the announcement that Bishop Karen Oliveto intends to appoint me to serve as Senior Pastor of Helena United Methodist Ministries in Helena, MT, comes the bitter-sweetness that accompanies all pastoral transition.

I am beyond ecstatic to return to the preaching life. For preaching is not just one of my favorite things in ministry, it is one of my favorite things, period. The grace I get to receive, channel and pronounce pulpit ministry is life-giving and energizing beyond any other form of spiritual discipline for me. To get to be regularly renewed in this way is an opportunity to re-sink my roots into the stream of Living Water Jesus provides and I am sighing with relief that this replenishment is on the horizon. I have been thirsty for quite some time and look forward to drinking deep.

This said, it is always hard for me to let go of the people in my care... and it is no different to leave the District as your Superintendent as it has been for me to leave congregations as pastor. I have been honored to serve you as DS. It has been a privilege to journey with you through the general ups and downs of pastoral ministry as well as the tensions of the past couple years in this conference and denomination. There is something about facing challenge together that is uniquely bonding, and I feel that with you.

My sense is that the future of the District is in good hands with Rev. Chris Carr as the incoming DS. Chris has served the Rocky Ford church in this District and other congregations on the “margins” of our conference, including Meeker, CO and Gillette, WY. Thus, he understands some of the tensions between Denver and Not-Denver perspectives. He also has recently been working with the conference Congregational Vitality committee and is excited about coming alongside you and our CRMs to pursue possibilities for vital

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David's Column continued from page 2

lived, worked, and served. Such is our hope still. Christ likewise comes and meets us in all the familiar places of our lives, enabling us to embody and reflect his ways in word and deed. We become the signs of Easter to others in all the places we live and work and play.

John Bell, in the hymn Christ Has Risen, writes: "Christ has risen and forever...lives to challenge and to change...all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange. Christ is risen, Christ is present...making us what he has been...evidence of transformation...in which God is known and seen." Easter continues. Alleluia!

Thanks, from Ali!

Ali has received many cards from Grace Church which she has enjoyed very much. However, Ali is very busy with her recovery and unable to respond personally to express her appreciation and to give updates on her condition. She has asked that we check her blog for updates. Sometimes Ali can write on her blog often, but at other times her writing can be infrequent. We must operate on the idea that "no news is good news." I encourage you to check Ali's blog because her writing is excellent. Here is how to get there..

Catherine's Column continued from page 2

you to continue inviting friends, family, and acquaintances to church on Sundays. Word of mouth is the most important way we can grow our congregation and we certainly have much to be proud about when we encourage folks to join us! It will be fun to encourage people to join us for the other events. We hope that people who are more comfortable joining us for one of our social events may consider coming on a Sunday morning when they see how great we are!

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Website: Inarticulating.com
From Home page, click More
From More, click Blog
If you need help finding this, please contact Margaret Butler at 719-395-8379 or elb-msb@gametrail.org.

TRANSITIONS

Please continue to remember Ali Lufkin in your prayers as she continues to fight cancer.

Keep David in your prayers as he faces tests and treatment related to prostate cancer.

Ampe and Fred are not doing well and could use our prayers and help.

Ampe would enjoy phone calls just to have someone to talk to.

Bob Freed is feeling better but is still in need of our prayers and support.

Bob Yinger had surgery and is recovering. Keep praying for him through his convalescence.

Judy Epperson's daughter, Christi asks for prayers for four-year-old Ben, the grandson of a friend of hers. He has been diagnosed with brain cancer.

And please pray for our church, our town, our state, our country and our world. May God's grace guide us all.

Church Council Report

by Mike Frosolono

Present plans are to have the bathtub in the annex Sewing Room removed to provide an area to house the handbells Margaret and Ed Butler propose to give to Grace Church.

Nashalla Love is making progress with sponsors and high school counselors to have a "teen night" each week in the Parish Hall. These meetings are planned to alternate between a game night and a LGBTQ night with one of the high school counselors leading the discussion. A member of Grace Church will be present for the meetings, which will fulfill a marked void for teenagers within our community.

Preparations are well underway for our participation in the July 4th parade as well as our blessings of the animals.

David agreed to apply, on Grace Church's behalf, to become a recipient of the City Market community rewards program.

Help Wanted!

The ARKANSAS VALLEY CHRISTIAN MISSION has need of volunteers. There is a variety of ways to contribute - pickup food at various sites as well as serving clients. For more information please call Sharon Sandefur at 395-2753.

Trinity Views

by Margaret Gilliken

ministry.

One of the things that had become clear to me over the past year is that with the increased geography and number of churches within this District, the way a Superintendent goes about this work must inevitably change. This would have happened if I had remained with you, as the pace I have been racing at was unsustainable. So, my prayer and request is that you would be gracious with Chris as he transitions into this role. I know you all to be collaborative and generous and hope you will bless him with your ideas for how to connect with your churches and communities in order that he might serve you in ways that are life-giving to all.

I look forward to seeing you at Annual Conference... sharing hugs and hopes for the future. Know that I will continue to hold you in prayer.

*"Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
Live in harmony with one another." Romans 12:15-16a*

Blessings on the Journey from your District Superintendent,

Margaret

Earning Kroger Rewards

Did you know that you can earn Kroger (e.g., City Market and King Soopers) rebates for Grace Church with your loyalty card? Grace Church is now enrolled in the Community Rewards Program. So, you can now enroll your personal loyalty card on line.

Using your loyalty card, also referred to as "City Market card" or "Kings card" will earn rewards for Grace Church.

If you already have a City Market, King Soopers or other Kroger account:

- Go to the official site (e.g., citymarket.com or kingsoopers.com)
- Click on my account
- Put in your password and login
- On the left side of the screen, click community rewards
- Search for Grace Church or our organization # which is: YY602 under "find an organization." Either will work.
- When search comes up with Grace Church's name, click on enroll

It is not possible to support 2 or more organizations simultaneously, but you may switch between organizations, by clicking on change organization.

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To create a personal account if you do not have one:

- Go to City Market's official site citymarket.com
- Click on Welcome / sign-in pulldown
- Click sign in
- At the bottom of the page on left, click create an account. You will need an email address
- Create a password
- Enter the # of your loyalty card found on the reverse side. An alternate ID may be used at any time at the store once you are personally enrolled and that alternate ID has been entered. Most use the 10-digit phone #
- Do not forget to go all the way to the bottom and click "create an account" on the bottom left

On a quarterly basis a rebate check will be sent by the appropriate Kroger Company to the church office.

Dedication of the “Billie Bell”

The Joyful Noise Bell Choir at Grace Church has a new big bell, purchased with money given in memory of Billie Love. Billie loved music and she loved the bell choir, so this bell is a truly appropriate gift in her honor.

The bell is the largest bell in the bell choir. It sounds a low F and is a tremendous addition. It was dedicated on Easter Sunday. Most of Billie’s family was present at the dedication. The picture below depicts the dedication. Holding the bell is Billie’s great granddaughter, Nashalla Love.



In the picture on the right, Sharon is playing Billie’s Bell during the rendition of “Make Me an Instrument of Thy Peace”, written by Kevin McChesney in memory of the 12 students and one teacher that died in the Columbine High School shooting. The “Billie Bell” is in her right hand.

This Month’s Events

- 5/4 Meal at St. George’s
- 5/25 Community Walks - 10:00 am
- 5/27 Memorial Day
- 5/31 PEO Book and Yard Sale Set-Up
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 6/1 PEO Book and Yard Sale
8:00 am - 4:00 pm
- 6/1 Meal at St. George’s
- 6/8 Community Walks - 10:00 am
- 6/9 Pentecost Sunday
- 6/13-16 Mountain Sky Conference
Annual Conference in Billings,
Montana (David will be
attending and not available)
- 6/23 Renewal of Wedding Vows

Sharon Playing the “Billie Bell”



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

5/8 Jennifer Wright

5/14 Martha Bauman

5/16 Maryanne Freed

5/23 Catherine Tran

5/28 Jim Finkowski

Anniversaries

5/5 Tom and Barbra Clark

5/25 Tom and Martha Bauman

5/29 Ed and Margaret Butler

5/30 Dan and Jo Rodeheffer

5/31 Bill and Junia Fitzgerald



Chime Time Players

Photo by Sherry Thomas

Thanks to the Chime Time Players who played at church for us last Sunday. It was a treat to hear these young people play the chimes. The Chime Time Players were started at Grace Church after Sherry Thomas donated the chimes in memory of her husband, Warren Thomas.

The students, all elementary age, are directed by Randy and Carole Barnes. The players are: Morgan Arnold, Sarah Coates, Caden Courson, Camden Courson, Paisley Crites, Brantley Gaston, Eva Montgomery, Esperanza Tafoya, and Shelby Tombaugh.

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 epperj1@att.net