



The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Hummer on Sherry's Deck

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



Photo by Sherry Thomas

OCTOBER 2019

From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran writes about the changes in October.



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National Chocolate Day

Did you know that chocolate is a fermented food? Who knew! That's right, once the Cacao pods are picked, cleaned of pithy white material from the fruit and dried, the cacao beans are fermented. The papery shell is removed, and cacao nibs are revealed. Chocolatiers then grind them into cocoa mass, separate into cocoa solids

and cocoa butter and processed and re-combined with milk and sugar, or in the case of white chocolate just the chocolate butter with milk and sugar. Join us on October 28th, as we celebrate *National Chocolate Day*



Catherine's Commentary

October already! I hope you all are ready for October at Grace! There's plenty to attend to.

First of all, the calendar is a little mixed up. Oct. 4-7, I'll be in Annex and preaching on the 6th. We will also have our October Council meeting that day (all members are welcome to attend). David will preach on the 13th. The service will be followed by the Charge Conference and the new United Methodist District Superintendent, Chris Carr, will be here. Please make sure the Charge Conference is on your calendar and plan to attend. On October 20th, we return to our regular schedule. Being a 3rd Sunday, David will preach. I will be in the Annex the 24th through

the 28th and preach on the 27th. The 27th will be our Stewardship Sunday so bring your pledge card that day. If you can't be here on the 27th, we hope you will mail your pledge card in ahead of time.

But hold on, even our Sunday worship calendar may change at the last minute! My grand baby is due on October 25th! So be prepared for the possibility that David will be here on the 27th. If he needs to cover that Sunday for me, I will do the first and second Sundays of November. After that, we don't anticipate anything unusual about our Sunday worship schedule.

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Please make sure the Charge Conference is on your calendar and plan to attend

David's Column – Go for It!



In Luke 9:51-62 is a story of Jesus extending invitations to follow him and the people give various responses. On the one hand, I like the story. I, like the biblical characters Jesus invited, I used all my excuses before saying, "yes." I worked for over 35-years and was retired for over 6-months before I responded to 'the call'. That takes a lot of excuses!!

"Schindler's List" is a story of call and response, too. Here is an article as I received it: Jesus reminds us that our past is in the past. How we respond from this moment forward is what counts. Consider the story of Oskar Schindler, who was featured in the 1993 movie Schindler's List. He was an enthusiastic member of the Nazi Party in the early 1930s. Yet, gradually he became convinced that the over 1,000 Jewish employees in his factories deserved to be saved from Hitler's murderous plans. He paid large bribes and went to great extremes to keep "his" Jewish workers safe. His lifesaving work is cherished by the State of Israel. They

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Church Council Report

by Mike Frosolono, Chairman



The Grace Church council met on September 9, 2019, but lacked a quorum, so no business could be conducted. Several things were discussed.

Bob Freed reported that the Memorial

Board was in place and that a brass plaque with the words "In Remembrance" would be placed at the top of it. Brass plaques can be placed on the wall for people whose ashes aren't buried in the Columbarium.

The question was presented whether the church should be more heavily invested in stocks or bonds in the Endowment account. Some discussion was had, with about equal opinions on each option. The members present thought we should have more information before any decision to change investments was considered.

The finance committee is working on the budget and all committee chairmen should turn in their budget requests by November 1. Print outs of last year's expenditures can be requested from Cheryl Wilderman.

Margaret presented a preliminary report from the Personnel Committee. The Committee completed the personnel review and a congregational questionnaire. Margaret will present a final report when it is written. Some preliminary suggestions by the congregation included improved attendance by the Council, right sizing the budget to accommodate the shrinking membership, and new cushions for

October Outreach Project

By Bonnie Young

Grace Church is selecting two different choices this year. One is Operation Christmas Child sponsored by Samaritan's Purse and the other is Spirit Lake Ministry led by United Methodist missionaries in North Dakota. More information is provided below. If you participate, appropriate boxes are available in the Parish Hall starting Sept 29. **ALL BOXES ARE DUE BACK BY NOVEMBER 2.** Any questions can be directed to Bonnie Young

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD (OPC), sponsored by Samaritan's Purse, is a non-denominational evangelical Christian organization. Churches around the country and many Buena Vista Churches participate. About 1,000 are collected in BV each year. 160 million boxes have been shipped to third world countries in 25 years.

Grace Church has supported this project for 8 years as its OCTOBER OUTREACH. Pre-printed Operation Christmas Child boxes are filled with school supplies, toys, new clothes, and hygiene items like toothbrushes, combs, soaps etc. NO candy, military toys or liquid items. Shipping cost is paid by Grace Church.

The Spirit Lake Ministry Center is dedicated to supporting the peoples of the Spirit Lake Nation and is an approved United Methodist Volunteer in Mission destination located in Sheyenne North Dakota.

SHOEBOX CHRISTMAS. On the reservations, up to 70 percent of the children do not get a Christmas gift. Shoe boxes are collected by Spirit Lake Ministry Center and are distributed to children in reservations in North Dakota, South Dakota and Minnesota. Close to 6,000 gifts are

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*honored him with the title
"Righteous Among Nations."
Schindler is buried in
Jerusalem, where his
gravestone reads (in German)
"The Unforgettable Lifesaver."*

*Oskar Schindler had the
potential to do great harm by
being part of a political party
dedicated to anti-Semitism.
His initial response of "no" to
compassion and caring toward
the suffering of others evolved
into an astonishing "yes" that
saved lives.*

*We are asked to say yes to God
and to trust that God can use
our gifts and our efforts. God
is not asking us to judge
whether we are worthy or
whether we have the correct
skill-set for the challenges
ahead.*

*God can use our "yes"; God
will use our willingness and
our desire to serve. Let us say
yes and leave the rest to God.*

How we respond from this moment forward is what counts. Oskar's story might be similar to yours already. Or maybe your redemptive chapter is yet to be lived. Either way, know that every "yes," to God's call or to humans and even organizations, institutions, clubs, groups... every "yes" carries within it many "nos."

Catherine's Column continued from page 2

So please bear with us in October as we adjust our schedule to accommodate District Superintendents, pledge drives, and grand babies. We thank you for your flexibility!

On a personal note, I ask your prayers for my daughter, Helen, during these last few weeks of pregnancy and the delivery. We are all a little anxious about the birth since the last birth was difficult! Thank you!

I just received an email from Sharon Robertson requesting prayers for her friend Esther Nicole, who was a foreign exchange student in Hico when Sharon was there.

Esther Nicole, her husband, Carlos, and their 2-year-old son, Simba live in Hong Kong in one of the protest areas. Conditions are terrible and they are exposed to tear gas and other dangers daily.

Please pray for this young Christian family living in these terrible conditions.

TRANSITIONS

Our deepest sympathies to Ampe Swart and her family. Fred passed away earlier this week. Please remember this family in your prayers.

Prayer is also needed for Barbara O'Donnell and her family. Her son-in-law has terminal cancer.

Bev Herrle is in the hospital in Salida. She has something wrong with her legs. Please pray for her quick recovery.

Vi Hardy is undergoing treatment for cancer. Please remember her in your prayers.

Please pray for the people of Salida. The Decker fire continues to burn and is getting closer to Salida. Over 100 people have been evacuated. We need to pray for them, the firefighters and the people that are providing care for the victims of the fire.

Remember to pray for
Grace Church.

David's Column

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The same is true, of course, for groups – even the church! There are more worthy and deserving projects, ministries and needs than we can respond to. In fact, God does not expect us to do everything. But God does expect us to engage in that which we have been provided the resources to address. The important thing is that once that “yes” has been determined we give our best effort.

One way to know if you are swimming with Christ or against Christ? Seldom does Jesus ask or expect us to do the easy thing. Frequently we will be expected to do that which is hard, perhaps even unpopular, and difficult. After all, if it were easy, God would not need YOU!

Allow your faith to inform each of your responses. Then? GO FOR IT!

Council Report

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the pews.

The Stewardship Campaign in will begin on Sunday, October 6, 2019. The schedule is as follows:

Oct 6 – Episcopal and council meeting – stewardship talk

Oct 13 – Methodist and Charge Conference – stewardship talk

Oct. 20 – Methodist – stewardship talk

Outreach Report

by Peggy Finkowski

Our Outreach committee has selected 12 organizations to receive \$5,800 so far in 2019.

Those organizations are: Ark Valley Mission, The Alliance, Boys & Girls Club, CUCC Backpack ministry, Good Samaritan Fund at Grace Church, Ark Valley Humane Society, BV Strong Dinner, Hope A21, Mini Blessings, St George Meal Program, Elevate Her, and the BV Pregnancy Center. We will select more organizations as funds become available.

Our committee determines where the Outreach funds are to be distributed.

Our committee members are Martha Bauman (chair), Peggy Finkowski, Kathy and Kim Prather.

Council Report

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Oct. 27 – Episcopal – Stewardship Ingathering to gather pledges.

Recent events were discussed. The Blessing of the Animals was poorly attended. There were no townspeople, only members of the church. The event will be evaluated for next year.

The nominating committee will be Evelyn Baker, Kurt Miller and Martha Bauman.

October Outreach Project continued from page 3

Dakota and Minnesota. Close to 6,000 gifts are collected each year; they have collected shoe boxes since 2015.

If you decide to provide a Spirit Lake shoe box, get a plastic container in the PH with instructions. Fill it with items like winter caps or hats, mittens or gloves, school supplies, hygiene items, new toys, (NO CLOTHES please). David Erickson will take the boxes to Calvary UM in Colorado Springs. Grace will provide money for shipping as requested by Calvary.



Blessing of the Prayer Shawls

Photo by Sherry Thomas

Thank You from St. George's by Susan Fishman

Hello wonderful volunteers! On behalf of Ali and the St. George's Community Meals, I'd like to personally thank you for your generosity in providing Saturday evening meals for the program. Because of your commitment, I was able to present Ali with a full calendar for 2019! We could not be more grateful.

As most of you know, we are thrilled that Ali is back with us for meals and mass on Tuesdays. However, as she continues to recover, she is cutting back on many of her other tasks, one of which was lining up volunteers for Saturdays.

It was a great joy to be able to fill some gaps (definitely not the shoes) in Ali's absence. Now, with Ali proposing a more limited schedule, I am excited to tell you that Luz will be stepping up as the meal coordinator! One of her roles will be to set the 2020 Saturday schedule. She will be contacting you shortly to see if you or your organization would be willing to commit again in the coming year.

Again, I am so appreciative of the gifts of time, energy, food, and goodwill that you provide. You have made my interim year so much easier and joyful!

With sincere gratitude,
Susan

Help for the Decker Fire by Bonnie Young

Several members are wondering if there is anything, we could do for the people who are affected by the Dexter fire in Salida area. Churches in Salida are housing some of the evacuees but not serving the meals. Red Cross is providing meals. Animals are also being evacuated including the large animals. Ark Valley Humane Society here in BV is rescuing a lot of the cats and dogs. Large animals will be at the BV Fairgrounds.

HERE IS HOW WE CAN HELP.

*Make a cash donation at church on Sunday. We will purchase dog and cat food for Ark Valley Humane Society.

*Other donations. Go online [*ark-valley.org](http://ark-valley.org) Donation will purchase specific items needed by Ark Valley.

*Red Cross select Donation, then Your Local Community. It says nothing about the Dexter fire.

*The Chaffee County Community Foundation (CCCF) is local that connects individuals, families and businesses with people and nonprofits committed to our county.

THEIR EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND. CCCF is launching a permanent Emergency Response Fund to allow individuals and businesses who would like to contribute to emergency response in Chaffee County. This fund will support the Decker Fire response and recovery. CCCF will work closely with the County and responders: Red Cross, and other relief stakeholders.

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Fund donations are tax deductible. MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO CHAFFEE COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, Memo line Emergency Response Fund, put into the collection plate. Grace outreach will vote to match. Or send your check to CCCF, P.O. Box 492, Buena Vista, CO 81211.

Announcements

If you are interested in joining the Ladies Sewing Group, contact Martha Bauman. They are working on items for the annual bazaar on November 23rd and could use some help.

The Charge Conference will be held on October 13, 2019, followed by a pot-luck dinner. Please join us for this important meeting.

Committee Chairs please remember to get your budget requests to Cheryl Wilderman for the budget committee before November 1.

The church needs people to sign up for coffee hour for the rest of the year. Also, Judy Epperson is looking for someone who would be willing to organize the Wednesday Lenten meals. If you are interested, contact Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org.

Three people will be going off the council in January. If you are interested in serving on the council, please see Catherine or Mike Frosolono.

Bulbs Available

Karen Thompson, our gardener can get a good deal on bulk bulbs. The prices are listed below.

Mixed Naturalizing Daffodils 50 bulbs for \$25, 500 bulbs for \$220

Mixed Tulips 14 bulbs for \$10, 50 bulbs for \$25, 250 bulbs for \$100

Mixed Spring Bag, containing 10 ea Red/Yellow Tulips, Yellow Daffodils, Blue Dutch Iris, Blue Muscari, Mixed Crocus--total of 50 bulbs for \$35
Blue Grape Muscari or Hyacinth 10 bulbs for \$4
Giant Crocus in either Purple or Yellow 25 bulbs for \$13; Mixed purple white and yellow 12 bulbs for \$13

Allium varies anywhere from 1 bulb of giant for \$14 to 25 bulbs of Blue Allium to 5 bulbs for \$12---it varies greatly

Bearded Iris typically go for around \$15 per rhizome, they have about 2 dozen different kinds
The small Dutch Iris and Dwarf Iris are around 12 bulbs for \$8, 25 for \$13 about 5 different colors/varieties

Lilies, Asiatic, Calla, Day, Tiger, Stargazer, Martagon Hybrid, OrienPet, Foxtail, Fritillaria, Flowering Tulip.....These vary in price so much, I can't even begin.

She needs to have the order by this Tuesday to get the prices, so if you are interested, please let Judy Epperson know by email, either at eppersonjudy51@gmail.com or admin@gracechurchbvco.org before Tuesday.

Birthdays & Anniversaries



Happy Birthday & Happy Anniversary

Birthdays

10/1 Vi Hardy
10/3 Martha Bauman
10/24 Sue Knippa

Anniversaries

10/4 Kurt & Dorothy Miller



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