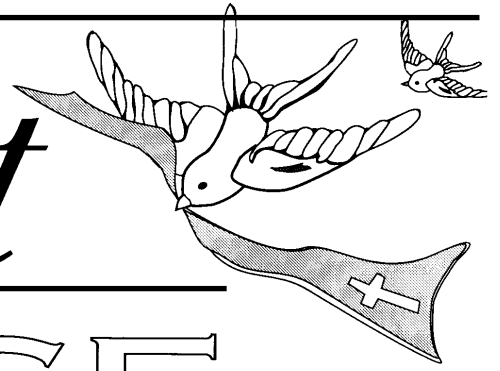


Valmont VINTAGE



Sept/Oct 2010



Valmont Community Presbyterian Church



A Bird's-Eye View ...

To a large degree how we respond to conflict is a choice that we make beforehand – or perhaps due to lack of a choice. We all too often don't give it a thought and let our emotions rule the day. However, even in the midst of overwhelming grief and sorrow we can let the love, the model, of Christ lead us.

I know you all remember the senseless killings at Columbine High School in 1999. In the aftermath of that horrific act, a memorial site was prepared for the people who died there...all except

two. The community was so enraged by the inexplicable violence that they couldn't admit that the deaths of Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold were a tragic loss of life, as well. The emotions-fueled fury ruled out forgiveness.

In contrast, consider how the Christian Amish community responded to their own tragedy at the Nickel Mines School, Pennsylvania in 2006. Charles Roberts shot eleven young school girls, killing five, and himself. Were the families distraught in grief? Certainly. Did some harbor desires for vengeance? It wouldn't surprise me. But how did they respond? "One question they asked might surprise us outsiders. What, they wondered, can we do to help the family of the shooter? Plans were already underway for a horse-and-buddy caravan to visit Charles Carl Roberts' family with offers of food and condolences."

(Sally Cohn, "What the Amish Are Teaching America," Common-Dreams.org)

The families in Nickel Mines grieved no less, were shocked no less, and wanted justice no less than the families in Highlands Ranch. But I am convinced they operated from a foundation based on the grace and forgiveness of Jesus Christ that predis-

posed them to forgiveness. They had chosen beforehand to lead lives of forgiveness – in small things and large. Sadly, they encountered a very large tragedy. But we can style our day to day forgiveness by Christ's example grace and love they put in action.

in Christ's service,
The Rev

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)

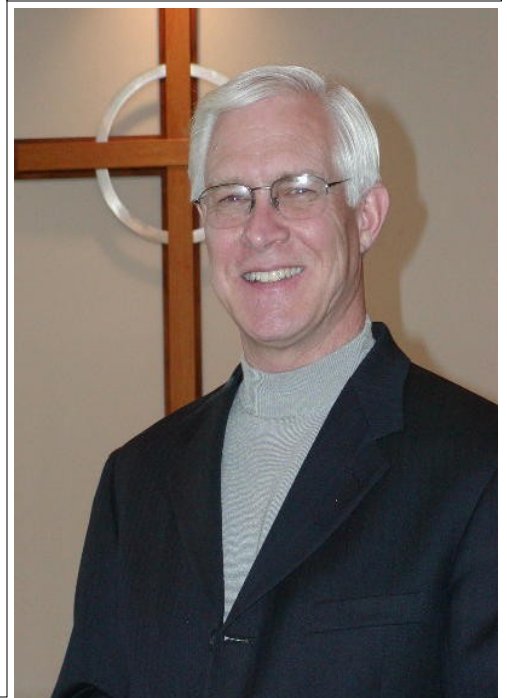
Ask a friend to join you.

You Have A Friend At Valmont!

Sunday School: 9:00
Worship Service: 10:30

3262 N. 61st Street, Boulder
(61st Street & Valmont Road)

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Bird
303-442-2135
www.ValmontChurch.org



Bulletin Board



Elders:

Cheryl Craig

Chris Brickey

David Hustvedt

Joyce Glazier

Clerk of Session:

Anne Harris-Cross

Deacons:

Stella May Montgomery

Ruth Tisdale

Dottyanne Bird



Activities



Every Sunday – Iglesia meets 3:00-5:00pm

Every Tuesday—Choir meets at 7 pm

Every Thursday – Iglesia meets
7:00-9:00pm

Every Friday – AA meets 8:00-10:00pm

Sept 4; Burke Family Reunion

Sept 10-12; Women's Retreat

Sept 12; 10:30 Worship begins

Sept 18; Work Day – Paint

Sept 19; Sunday School begins

Oct 17; Annual Reports due

Oct 29-30; Presbytery Meeting

Sept 22; Session

Sept 29; Session (Budget)

Oct 6; Session (If needed)

Oct 20; Session



The Making of a Clerk of Session

At the beginning of this year when Valmont needed to find a new Clerk of Session, we approached Deb Starin about the position. She was perfect except that she was not an elder, which is what the Presbyterian Church requires for the Clerk. Because of this Deb has been our recording secretary and Anne Harris-Cross has been the Clerk. In order to make Deb a full Clerk of Session she will need to become an elder. When we talked to the Presbytery Exec, Dan Saperstein, about our dilemma, he suggested that an elder withdraw in the last month or so of their term and then Deb could be elected to fill out that term. Once she has been elected and ordained a serving elder, she will be eligible to be a Clerk of Session.

With this in mind, since I am the only elder who will be transitioning off of session this year (after serving for four years), I will be resigning in the middle of November so that Deb can be elected. Deb's election to session will take place at the annual congregational meeting. She will then serve on Session until the 2011 class is installed in January.

We are very pleased that Deb has agreed to be our Clerk of Session and she has been a wonderful asset to our session meetings already

Cheryl Craig, Elder



PRAISE THE LORD



Pig Roasts and Potlucks

Chocolate Chip Oatmeal Cake From the kitchen of Marilyn Coppage

Ingredients:

- | | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| * 1 c. quick cooking oatmeal | * 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. boiling water | * 1 c. brown sugar |
| * 1 c. granulated sugar | * $\frac{1}{2}$ c. butter | * 2 eggs |
| * 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ c. flour | * 1 t. baking soda | * $\frac{1}{2}$ t. salt |
| * 1 T. cocoa | * 12 oz. pkg chocolate chips | * $\frac{3}{4}$ c. chopped walnuts |

Directions:

Pour boiling water over oatmeal and let stand for 10 min. Add brown and white sugars and butter. Stir until butter melts. Add eggs and mix well. Sift flour, soda, salt and cocoa together. Add to sugar mixture. Mix well. Add 1 c. chocolate chips. Pour into a greased and floured 9x13 cake pan. Sprinkle with remaining 1c. chocolate chips and walnuts. Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.



Revisiting Forgiveness

(I dredged this up from a November, 2000 “Bird’s-Eye View.” Considering my current sermon series on forgiveness, I thought it germane. By the way, if you have missed any of the sermons in the current series, you can download the podcasts at www.valmontchurch.org/worship. 83)

In a recent interview, Charles Colson commented, “We live in a ‘get even’ society.” When things don’t go our way, right now, we get angry. We live in a society obsessed with self. (If there is any question, take a look at the magazines on the racks at the supermarket or the self-help sections in a book store.) I believe it is this attitude of self before anyone else that is being increasingly displayed as road rage, short tempers and violence at home, school and work.

Conflict is inevitable, but it is conflict without forgiveness that leads to destructive, dysfunctional behavior. As Charles Colson said, “The inability to forgive others, the inability to consider others needs, is right at the heart of the malaise that has gripped our culture.” People who want to get even, who want to get “theirs” before everybody else does, will never get chance to experience the grace and joy of forgiveness.



The beautiful thing about forgiveness is that it is an act of grace that we exercise in the same way that God exercised grace towards us. As disciples of Jesus we strive to live Christ-like lives. What a tremendous opportunity to do just that, when we set aside our right for reprisal and graciously forgive someone else. Filled with gratitude for what Christ has done for us, we pass it on.

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. (Ephesians 4:32)



RECOMMENDED READING ...

Books on Forgiveness

How to Forgive...When You Don't Feel Like It
By June Hunt

Forgive and Forget: Healing the Hurts We Don't Deserve
By Lewis B. Smedes

Forgiveness: I Just Can't Forgive Myself
By Robert D. Jones

God of the Second Chance by Greg Laurie

I Should Forgive, But... by Chuck Lynch

Forgive, and Love Again: Healing Wounded Relationships
by John Nieder and Thomas Thompson



Valmont Community Garden

The garden is growing and a new solar powered watering system has been installed. Submitted by Dave



DEACONS' NEWS BOX

Deacons news.....

Your Deacons for 2010 are Stella May, Ruth Tisdale and Dottyanne. Please help us do our job! We're waiting to hear from YOU

Caring Basket:

September - African hospitals (in conjunction with the Women's Association) - sheets (no pillow cases), blankets and layettes (small sizes)

October/November - Operation Shoe Box, Christmas Gifts for International Children

From Dottyanne: I have just returned from visiting several of our Valmont family members who are no longer living in their own homes or, perhaps living at home but unable to enjoy the freedom to come and go as they once did. Their eyes light up when they see you enter their rooms or homes! The smiles on their faces say far more than all the words of thanks that they will shower upon you.

One hears a definite theme from these dear friends. Even when they don't say the word, you "hear" the sounds of loneliness. How often have you driven by Boulder Manor or Frasier Meadows Manor and thought, "So and So lives there - I should stop in sometime and say "Hi"?"

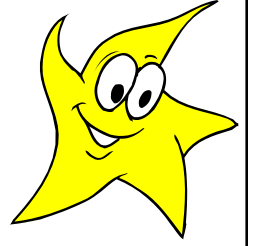
You're right! You should. Yes, yes - I know - we're all so busy, but your visit needn't be long to be meaningful. Just a few minutes of pleasant conversation can put a new face on an otherwise monotonous day and lift a lagging spirit.

So, next time you think, "I should . . ." - please DO!





News from the Valmont Amateur Astronomy Group



The Roof is done on the building!
Look for more Star Parties!

Some of those memorable old phrases:

1. **A Bone to Pick** (someone who wants to discuss a disagreement)
2. **An Axe to Grind** (Someone who has a hidden motive. This phrase is said to have originated from Benjamin Franklin who told a story about a devious man who asked how a grinding wheel worked. He ended up walking away with his axe sharpened free of charge)
3. **One bad apple spoils the whole barrel** (one corrupt person can cause all the others to go bad if you don't remove the bad one)
4. **At sea** (lost or not understanding something)
5. **Bad Egg** (Someone who was not a good person)
6. **Barking at a knot** (meaning that your efforts were as useless as a dog barking at a knot.)
7. **Barking up the wrong tree** (talking about something that was completely the wrong issue with the wrong person)

On Top of the World



Chris & Dave on their hike up Elbert.



THE WIDOW'S FIRE From MODERN PARABLES

By Fulton Oursler

Submitted by Bob Travis

In the mountains that rise beyond the campus and buildings of the University of Colorado at Boulder, there was once a town with the odd name of Oradelfen. During the gold boom many pioneers from the East settled in Oradelfen in their search for wealth lying hidden in the ground. Some came out poor and went home rich for there were gold strikes at the Poor Man Mine and the Golconda.

But for the few who found gold, there were many who found nothing but sorrow and misery, like the widow we shall call Hattie Jones.

Larkin Jones, her husband, had been killed in a powder blast, and the wife was left with two small children, no money, and poor health. She supported herself by taking in washing for the wives of prospectors and miners. But there were long periods when she was too ill to work, and then Hattie Jones would have no money to pay the rent for the ramshackle log cabin, or to buy food and firewood.

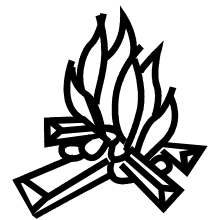
In the midst of all tribulations, however, Hattie Jones remained the stanchest (sic) Christian in Oradelfen. Hungry or cold or facing eviction, she was never known to falter in her faith. And this confidence in Providence she maintained in spite of constant ridicule from a neighbor called Bart Atkins.

Bart was the town atheist and quite proud of his heathenism. On every possible occasion he would start a religious argument, and he seemed to take a persistent pleasure in pointing out to Hattie Jones that the God she prayed to seemed quite unconcerned about her distress.

"Do you expect He's going to perform miracle just for you?" Bart would taunt the widow.

"Yes, I do," she told him. "He can soften the hardest hearts."

It was late autumn then, and the family needed firewood, but Hattie had no money to buy it with, and everybody in town was too busy digging for gold to chop down trees for a widow. One freezing morning she knelt down with her two children and prayed long and fervently for God to help her by sending some firewood.



Just outside the cabin window Bart Atkins stood listening.

"It's just a stinkin' shame," he muttered. "That trusting fool woman refuses to learn anything from experience. . . . On her knees there now praying to empty air, that's all. . . . I'll show her."

He started off down the road with grim determination on his face. But a curious neighbor stopped him.

"Where you headed for, Bart?"

"I'm going to prove to Hattie Jones once and for all there ain't no God," snapped the unbeliever. "He won't answer her prayer. He won't send her no firewood. So I'm getting her the firewood myself!"

Of course there are always different views about these matters. Some would argue it was only a coincidence, but for the rest of her life Hattie Jones insisted that God softened Bart Atkins' heart that morning, and she thought that was a greater miracle than she had dare to pray for. And she used to add:

"I'm thankful for the wood, too!"

Continued on page 8 ...

Stories Submitted by Elaine

Stork Story



Coming through the door after school one day, little Johnny hollers out, "Okay everyone in the house, please stand advised that I, little Johnny Elis Smith, have on this date made a complete fool of myself in class by repeating stories concerning storks, as told to me by certain parties residing in this house!"



"For ye shall laugh." Luke 6:21

The Doilies

As a new bride, Aunt Edna moved into the small home on her husband's ranch. She put a shoe box on a shelf in her closet and asked her husband never to touch it. For fifty years Uncle Jack left the box alone, until Aunt Edna was old and dying. One day when he was putting their affairs in order, he found the box again and thought it might hold something important. Opening it, he found two doilies and \$82,500 in cash.

He took the box to her and asked about the contents.

"My mother gave me that box the day we married," she explained. "She told me to make a doily to help ease my frustrations every time I got mad at you."

Uncle Jack was very touched that in fifty years she'd only been mad at him twice..

"What's the \$82,500 for?" he asked.

"Oh, that's the money I made selling the rest of the doilies."

"A merry heart doeth good." Proverbs 17:22



Continued from page 7 ...

That Bart did chop the wood for Hattie Jones is history. I had the story from Helen Worden (Mrs. John Erskine), whose mother was a little girl when it all happened in the now vanished town of Oradelfen, Colorado.

Oursler, Fulton, Modern Parables, Permabooks, Garden City, New York, 1952 (in paperback)

A parable in Chapter III, Prayer is a Living Force, pp 99-101

Helen Worden (1896-1984) was the granddaughter of Col. Wilbert Barton Teters who moved to Oradelfan circa 1875. He discovered rich ore in the "Potato Patch Discovery" at the Livingston mine in 1902. Helen was schooled at Boulder Preparatory and University of Colorado at Boulder, and became a columnist for the *New York Herald Tribune*, writing the Dorothy Dix advice column in the 1960s. Her first husband was John Erskine, a president of *The Julliard School* in 1926, director of the *Metropolitan Opera Association*, and president of the *Poetry Society of America*. Source: Marti Anderson, Carnegie Branch Library, Boulder, CO, 3/1/10

It's your Vintage

Anyone who would like to contribute articles, picture, recipes or anecdotes, please submitted by the 20th prior to publication month to **Mike Greever** via email at mgreever@prestigerealtygroup.com or give to **Ella in the office**

Publication Months: Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov.