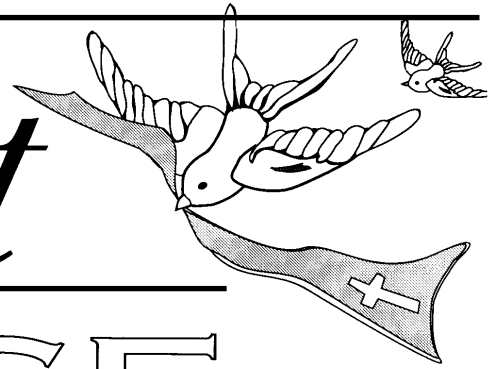


Valmont

VINTAGE



Sept/Oct 2011

Valmont Community Presbyterian Church

Bird's Eye View ...

I was doing all right until Mike asked me, "So do you have your last 'Bird's-Eye View' ready?" Last?! That sounds so final. Suddenly I am fighting the rookie "first sermon syndrome" to dump every bit of theology I know into the message. So what do I say?

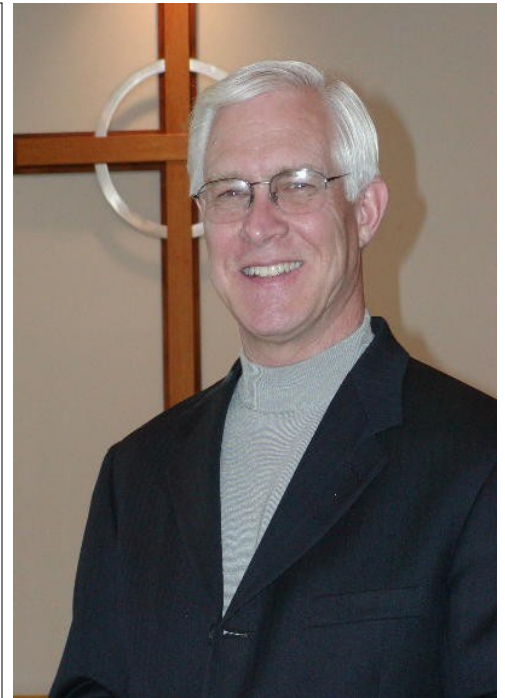
I think the best thing I can say is simply, "Thank-you, Valmont." What a privilege and honor it has been for me to serve as your pastor. As Dottyanne and I are preparing to depart on a new career adventure, I am reminded that some fifteen years ago I was respond-

ing to God's call. A call that led me to Valmont, the oldest Presbyterian Church in Colorado - and the only one with its own lake! Lessons?

#1. At age 49 I wasn't so sure if it wasn't too late too be getting into the pastoring business, but then as now I learned that God calls at unexpected time and then prepares us to accomplish His work. As God called young Samuel and David, or Moses and Sarah later in life, so we need to be ready and open to what God is calling us too be.

#2. Valmont Church was here long before each of us came, and Valmont Church will be here long after. The work that Christ is doing in and through Valmont takes the little bits that each of us contributes and works them for the glory of His kingdom. I rejoice that I was able to be a part of the life and ministry of Valmont for fifteen years, but praise God that the Church goes on following Christ's Spirit in new and exciting directions.

#3. What about the lake? That a worn out gravel pit can be turned into a beautiful pond supporting all sorts of wildlife is surely a good sermon illustration. But I offer it as a challenge. What innovative ministries are percolating in someone's mind that will make use of the lake? How can



Valmont leverage our pond for the glory of Christ's kingdom? Listen for the Spirit's leading.

And finally having resisted the "first sermon syndrome," I will just leave you with the same advice that was given to me in seminary. Almost all church questions have one of two answers: Grace or the Session. Use them liberally and wisely.

Pray for me, as I will pray for you.

In Christ's Service,

The Rev

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:

Claudette Moloney-Walpole *Chris Brickey*
David Hustvedt *Joyce Glazier*

Clerk of Session: *Deb Starin*

Deacons:

Ruth Tisdale
Dottyanne Bird
Ken Crowe

Treasurer: *Ruth Lewis*



Activities



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

Every Thursday – Iglesia meets 7-9 pm

Every Friday – AA meets 8:00-10:00pm

August 30 – Last summer meeting of Adult Bible Class, 5:30pm in Fellowship Hall

Sept 7—Session Meeting at 5:30pm

Sept 16-18—Women's Retreat

Sept 11—Worship Change to 10:30am

Sunday School starts at 9:00am

Sept 11—Special Congregational Meeting following worship

Presbytery Meeting; Oct 28-29

Camping and Enjoying God's Wonder



The Greevers and the Walpoles went camping a couple weeks ago. They had a great time! Good food and fellowship.

Let's go camping as a group next year ... maybe up at Highlands



WHY IS THE BIBLE TRUSTWORTHY



Compare the New Testament to the *Iliad* by Homer.

- 24,000 manuscript copies of portions of the New Testament, more than any other ancient book. The *Iliad* has only 630 surviving manuscripts.
- The earliest portions of the New Testament were written within 30 years of the events. The *Iliad* was written after a gap of 500 years.
- The New Testament has about 20,000 lines with only 40 lines in question (one half of one percent). The *Iliad* has about 15,600 lines with 764 lines in question (five percent).
- A careful study of the few questioned passages in the New Testament reveals that none of them affect a single doctrine of Scripture.

If we question the accuracy of the New Testament, we must question the accuracy of every other ancient book.

The accuracy of the Old Testament



- Before the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the oldest complete Hebrew manuscripts were dated 900 AD.
- In the Dead Sea Scrolls was a complete text of Isaiah, dates approx. 1`25 BC, over 1000 years older.
- Comparing the two, there is only one word (3 letters) in question after 1000 years.
- Even though the Old Testament texts were copied by hand for hundreds of years, they have survived with almost complete accuracy.
- How reliable were the authors writing the books?
- They wrote as eyewitnesses or from first-hand information. (See Luke 1-3; II Peter 1:16; I John 1:3; Acts 2:22, and others)
- The people they were preaching to, both enemies and friends, also were witnesses and knew they were telling the truth.

Many other ancient historians, both Christian and non-Christian, agree with the writings of the New Testament. If the disciples had been writing inaccuracies, many people would have been quick to discredit them.

These notes were extracted from *Evidence That Demands a Verdict* by Josh McDowell, published by Here's Life Publishers, Inc., San Bernardino, CA.

Castro Elementary T-Shirt Drive



Thank You, Valmont, for your generous response to the T-shirt drive for Castro Elementary School. And, an extra "thank you" to the anonymous donor who matched the amount collected by

the congregation. Your generosity will provide over 40 T-shirts, which serve as uniforms for the students at this inner-city Denver school. Your willingness to extend your hand outside of our geographical boundaries is representative of the size your hearts. Valmont is truly a little church with a HUGE heart! Submitted by Dottyanne



Pig Roasts and Potlucks



Overnight Rolls From the kitchen of Dottyanne

Ingredients:

- * 1 - package frozen dinner rolls -- Do NOT thaw
- * 1 - package butterscotch pudding mix (NOT instant)
- * 1/2 cup margarine
- * 3/4 cup brown sugar
- * 1 cup pecans -- chopped

Directions:

Grease a 9" X 13" pan. Sprinkle pecans over the bottom of the pan. Place rolls in pan & sprinkle with pudding mix, brown sugar & top with small pat of margarine.

Keep in cold oven overnight. Next morning turn oven to 350 (without opening the oven door) & bake for 30 min. Turn upside down on aluminum foil or serving tray. Serve warm.



From Stu and Edith

Our thanks to you Pray-ers for your prayer

August, 2011

Good News:

Three recruits now in Papua New Guinea, two in France for language learning en route to Cameroon, two headed toward Brazil, two headed toward Nepal, two headed toward U.S. headquarters in Orlando, and two headed toward the JAARS Center in Waxhaw, N.C. where an amazing amount of technical support for Bible translation speeds completion of the Great Commission.

And there are another two dozen at various stages of training. It will take years and much guidance and encouragement for some of them to be ready, as it has taken many of those above, but they're *moving*, and they're headed in the right direction.

We keep bumping into would-be mission pilots! Seems God has us tripping over them, or them over us, but it is exciting to be in a position to provide answers for their many aviation related questions—and validation plus ongoing direction for their long, complex preparation (Yes, we still need *lots* of pilots.)

The total number of contacts we're working with is currently about 160. It's a bit like pastoring a church that size, except that every message we give is tailored to individual situations. *Lots* of interaction.

Not so good:

Not all interaction yields results. We usually have to invest heavily in contacts before we can know if they are really serious. We long for a higher "conversion rate" from interest to commitment.

A normal weekend out of our home office to take care of necessities results in an overflowing in-basket. Any more than a weekend puts us behind and scrambling to catch up. But prompt response is crucial.

(Continued on page 5)



DEACONS' NEWS BOX

Deacons news...

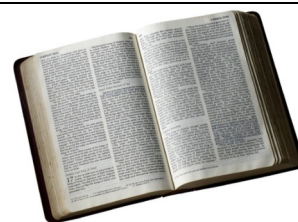
Your Deacons for 2011 are Ken Crowe, Ruth Tisdale and Dottyanne. Please help us do our job! We're waiting to hear from YOU

Caring Basket: SEPTEMBER African hospitals - sheets, blankets, layettes
OCTOBER/NOVEMBER Shoebox drive



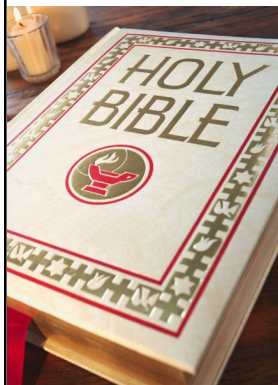
(Prayer People from page 4)

We have to fit our "schedule" around our contacts' availability, so we do a lot of juggling, whereas we both prefer routine. Lack of routine impacts sleep and energy. We've tried various things to help over time, but with little success. Plus we're needing to squeeze in a major extra project wherever we can.



The Biggie:

One of our June Prayerers letters came back to us unopened. We had sent it to a widowed lady who has prayed for and written to us for *years*, and now we have no way to contact her, or even know if she is alive. We've also lost other seasoned warriors like that. We miss them! And we can feel the difference. Would you prayerfully consider being our advocate to anyone you know who might take their places? Everything necessary for us to do this work hangs on prayer. Beyond that, the *results* of our work totally hang on prayer. Someone has said, "*When we work, we work. When we pray, God works.*"



Thank you for praying. As we've said before, your prayers help staff Great Commission completion!

Steve & Edith

The Gifts of God for the People of God

This familiar communion invitation has recently taken on new meaning for me. In June, while visiting Stephen's mother in Spokane, we were the recipients of the gifts of God's people at Valmont. Fourteen of our precious church friends turned out to help speed us on our way to Wycliffe by repairing drywall in the Bird House, packing and staging the house, landscaping and even roto-tilling the garden! For two days these ambitious workers plugged away on the "to do" list of chores that we were NOT looking forward to coming home to. What a wonderful surprise!

We are humbled by your expressions of love and encouragement, dear Valmont. Even tho' it is so very hard to leave, your support will keep us encouraged and focused on doing His will. I know now that the people of God ARE the gifts of God -- and you have gifted us in ways that you will never know.

Come see us in Waxhaw – Lovingly, Dottyanne



News from the Session

By now, you should have received a letter from Stephen officially announcing his departure date from Valmont to be September 30, 2011. There will be a congregational meeting on September 11, 2011, following the morning service, to vote on acceptance of Stephen's resignation request.



Dan Saperstein, Executive Presbyter of Plains and Peaks Presbytery, will preach on October 2nd. This is the first Sunday after Stephen and Dottyanne are expected to leave. If you are interested in preaching one of the Sundays in October, please talk to one of the Elders.

Valmont will be searching for an interim pastor for the transition period until a permanent pastor is called. The Presbytery will provide a liaison from the Committee on Ministry to help Valmont select the interim pastor. Please see one of the Elders if you have questions or concerns as we are all learning the process for calling a new pastor and the expectations from Presbytery.

A 2011 initiative for Valmont church is to open our church building and grounds to at least three groups of people who currently do not worship at Valmont. So far we have an art show being organized for October and an Adult CPU class. A date has not been set for the CPU class. If you have a suggestion for an event or know of a group who might be interested in holding an event at Valmont, please complete a suggestion form. Forms are online at ValmontChurch.org or on the table in the back of the sanctuary.

Planning continues toward installing a new dishwasher, stove and water heaters for the kitchen and bathrooms and building storage cabinets in Fellowship Hall. Dave Hustvedt told the session, 'things are easy until you start looking into getting them done'. Dave is working with the contractors who will be involved with possible electrical upgrades and water heater installation.

Dave Hustvedt has also compiled a list of outstanding property issues. Some items are good projects for a work day. Look for information coming out on a fall workday. Other items including lake maintenance will require money be budgeted for 2012.

Budgeting for 2012 will begin in September. Other preparations for the Annual Congregation meeting in November include the Personnel Committee and the Nominating Committee completing their assignments for this year. The Personnel Committee will be requesting your input before conducting reviews with each of the church employees. The Nominating Committee will find nominees for elder and deacon positions which need filling beginning January 1, 2012. These nominees will be voted on at the Congregational meeting.

Roy Burger, our neighbor to the north, is leasing some of the church property between where the VAAG building is located and Mr. Burger's own property. Stephen Bird and Dave Hustvedt have approached Mr. Burger about terminating the lease on this section of property and selling another piece of church owned property to Mr. Burger. This second piece of property is located north of Mr. Burger's personal property. More conversations are planned with Mr. Burger about the property.



Judy Holmes will be taking over the Coffee Hour Card Ministry in the near future. Thank you to Claudette Moloney for starting the card ministry bubble and for dedicating so much of her time and energy. Receiving the hand-written cards from a member of the congregation is a powerful way to show Valmont's love.

Joyce Glazier, Elder

Appropriate Passages

A new pastor was visiting the homes of his parishioners.

At one house it seemed obvious that someone was at home, but no answer came to his repeated knocks at the door. Therefore, he took out a card and wrote "Revelation 3:20" on the back of it and stuck it in the door.

When the offering was processed the following Sunday, he found that his card had been returned. Added to it was this cryptic message, Genesis 3:10."

Reaching for his Bible to check out the citation, he broke up in gales of laughter.

Revelation 3:20 begins "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Genesis 3:10 reads, "I heard your voice in the garden and I was afraid, for I was naked."

Submitted by Anne



SESSION REPORT



Clerk's Report

Voted and Approved by the Session

May 23, 2011

1. Joshua Perme is accepted under the care of Valmont Church to begin the process as an Inquirer. Session will appoint a liaison elder between Joshua and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.
2. Dave Hustvedt will initiate the purchase of two tankless water heaters, one for the bathrooms and one for the kitchen.

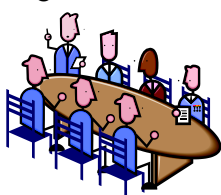
June 29, 2011

1. Dave Hustvedt is authorized to go to a suitable store to buy and install a new dishwasher. The price is not to exceed \$700.
2. Approved expenditures of grocery card income: \$1,500 to buy two tankless water heaters; \$800 for storage projects.

July 11, 2011

A fee of \$10 will no longer be charged to use the truck. People will refill the tank with the amount of gas they use.

August 15, 2011



1. Beginning October 2011, VCPC will provide \$150 per month to support Rev. and Dottyanne Bird's Wycliff mission service.
2. A special congregation meeting will be held on September 11 for the purpose of accepting Rev. Bird's request of resignation.
3. Elder Joyce Glazier will mentor Joshua Perme during the Inquirer process and will be the liaison between Joshua and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Deb Starin, Clerk of Session

Jenn Fischer is in Thailand!

Jenn is participating in a 18-week-long study-abroad service project. She is participating in a program with CIEE called Development & Globalization.

She will be based in Khon Kaen, Thailand which has one of Thailand's largest universities. She will be living part-time on campus and participating in four week-long home stays with various Thai host families studying a particular issue and helping the family. Those interested in more details on the program can check out their website at:

<http://www.ciee.org/study/programOverview.aspx?PID=53#1rightForYou>

Getting ready for this program was a whole-summer-long project for Jenn and her mom (lots of nasty immunizations including rabies, typhoid and Japanese encephalitis, getting water purification equipment, applying for a Visa etc etc). We shopped endlessly to find her clothing that was both cool and also modest to Thai standards (no showing of shoulders or upper arms, shorts and skirts below the knee, etc) and of course she left about half the things we bought behind at the last minute!

If anyone would like to send Jenn a note, she can be reached at:

Jenn Fischer
c/o CIEE Khon Kaen
P. O. Box 91
Khon Kaen University
Khon Kaen 40002
Thailand

Prayers for safety and health will of course be greatly appreciated.



The Road of Life

At first I saw God as my observer,
my judge,
keeping track of the things I did wrong
so as to know whether I merited heaven or hell when I die.
He was out there sort of like a president,
I recognized His picture when I saw it,
but I really didn't know Him.

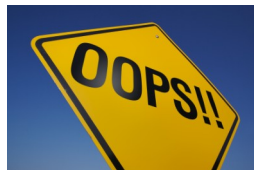
But later on
when I met Christ,
it seemed as though life were rather like a bike ride,
But it was a tandem bike, and I noticed that Christ
was in back, helping me pedal.

I don't know when it was
that He suggested we change places,
but life has not been the same since.
When I had control, I knew the way.
It was rather boring, but predictable...
It was the shortest distance between two points.



But when He took the lead,
He knew delightful long cuts,
up mountains, and through rocky places
at breakneck speeds.
It was all I could do to hang on!
Even though it looked like madness,
He said, "Pedal!"

I worried and was anxious and
asked,
"Where are you taking me?"
He laughed and didn't answer,
and I started to learn to trust.
I forgot my boring life
and entered into the adventure.
And when I'd say, "I'm scared,"
He'd lean back and touch my hand.



He took me to people with gifts I needed,
gifts of healing,
acceptance,
and joy.
They gave me gifts to take on my journey—
my Lord's and mine.

And we were off again.

He said, "Give the gifts away: they're extra baggage, too much weight."

So I did, to the people we met, and I found that in giving I received, and still our burden was light.

I did not trust Him, at first,
n control of my life.
I thought He'd wreck it;
but he knows bike secrets,
knows how to make it bend to take sharp
corners,
knows how to jump to clear high rocks,
knows how to fly to shorten scary pas-
sages.



And I am learning to shut up and pedal
in the strangest places,
and I'm beginning to enjoy the view
and the cool breeze in my face
with my delightful constant companion, Jesus Christ.

Found at VCPC: A Child's Prayer

Father, whom I cannot see,
Look down from heaven on little me.
Let angels 'oer the darkness spread,
Their holy wings above my bed.
Keep me safe because I am
The heavenly shepherd's little lamb.
Teach me to do as I am told,
And help me be as good as gold.
Amen.

(No date, no name)
Ella



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.