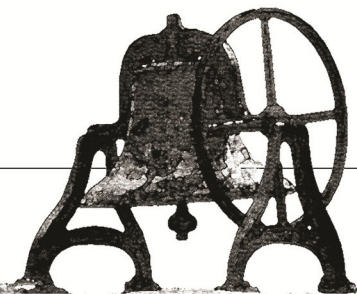


Sept—Oct 2025
Fall issue

Valmont



VINTAGE

CELEBRATING *160 years* OF GOD’S FAITHFULNESS!



Valmont Community Presbyterian Church



THE Fellowship OF PRESBYTERIANS



Teddie McConnell
Bridge Pastor

I was born Dorothea Ruth Tomboulian in White Plains, NY. I was named after my two grandmothers, and my grandmother Dorothea didn’t like Dotty or Dory as nicknames, but had been called Teddie by a friend and liked it, so she suggested it as a nickname for me. Dorothea means “gift of God,” and Theodore means “lover of God.” So when I was old enough, I changed my name legally to make Teddie my middle name. I have a great-grandfather who was a Methodist minister in Colorado.

I attended Rochester Institute of Technology for a degree in Photographic Illustration and graduated with highest honors. My ex-husband, who was not a believer, and I moved to Denver after graduation. I worked doing portrait photography nights and weekends for a few years as we started a family. I have a son, a daughter, and two grandchildren.

Once my kids were in school, I decided to find work I could do during the week days, so I earned a Teaching Certificate in Art and taught at three elementary schools. After 24 years of marriage, my ex and I divorced. I later married Tom McConnell, an old friend, and we moved to Arkansas to be closer to my parents. Fifteen years later, we moved back to Denver. Our marriage was much closer than my first, mostly because Tom and I were both committed Christians. Shortly after we returned, we found out that Tom had kidney cancer. He fought it hard, but passed away five years later. During that time, I worked in several office jobs, including being a dispatcher at a trucking company and the administrator for Westminster Presbyterian and later for Good Shepherd in Northglenn. The ministers I worked with encouraged me to take the online classes from Dubuque University that were required to be-

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come a Commissioned Pastor and helped me gain the hands-on experience I needed. I worked for 18 months as the pastor of a small church in Denver, then decided to do pulpit supply work for a time. I met my husband David Wolters through an online dating service. He was also widowed and also loves art, so we have a lot in common and understand each other well. We married in 2020. He and I volunteer with a Christian retreat weekend called Koinonia.

I’m delighted to be serving God by serving you all at Valmont, and look forward to getting to know you all better.

Blessings, Teddie



Pig Roasts and Potlucks

Air Fryer Spaghetti Squash From Allrecipes



Ingredients

- ◆ 1 (3 pound) spaghetti squash * 1 teaspoon olive oil * ¼ teaspoon sea salt
- ◆ ⅛ teaspoon ground black pepper * ⅛ teaspoon smoked paprika

Instructions

Using a sharp knife, make a dotted line lengthwise around the entire squash. Place whole squash in the microwave and cook on full power to help it cut more easily, about 3 to 5 minutes. Transfer to a cutting board and cut the squash in half lengthwise, using the dotted line as a guide. Wrap one half in plastic wrap and refrigerate for another use.

Spoon pulp and seeds out of remaining half and discard. Brush olive oil over all of the flesh and sprinkle with salt, pepper, and paprika.

Preheat an air fryer to 360 degrees F (180 degrees C). Place spaghetti squash half skin side -down in the basket. Cook until squash is tender, about 18 to 20 minutes.

Transfer to a dish and fluff with a fork to create "noodles".

Garish with some dried or fresh parley



Butternut Squash Soup—from Allrecipes

Ingredients

- ◆ 1 ½ tablespoons butter * ½ onion, sliced * 2 cloves garlic * 2 sprigs fresh thyme
- ◆ ½ butternut squash - peeled, seeded, and cut into 1-inch cubes * 4 cups chicken broth
- ½ cube chicken bouillon * pinch ground cumin * pinch ground allspice
- salt and ground black pepper to taste

Instructions

Melt butter in a large pot over medium heat. Add onion, garlic, and thyme and sauté until onion has softened, about 5 minutes. Add squash and chicken broth; bring to a simmer, then cook until squash is tender, 10 to 15 minutes. Crumble bouillon into the soup. Season with cumin, allspice, salt, and pepper, then remove from heat.

Working in batches, pour soup into a blender, filling no more than halfway. Hold the lid in place with a kitchen towel, then carefully start the blender using a few quick pulses to get the soup moving before leaving it on to purée. Pour soup into a serving bowl. Alternately, you can use a stick blender and purée the soup in the pot.

Pastor Nominating Committee (PNC) - The Search Continues!!

The PNC has learned a lot about how the Presbytery Church Leadership Connection system works during our pastoral search process. While the PNC has been provided with 74 “matches” to our Mission Discernment Profile, we sometimes question why we are presented with certain candidates. [For example, a match from a candidate who lived in South Korea and desired to give Sunday sermons from Korea via Zoom!] Once we review a candidate’s personal discernment profile, the PNC decides if we wish to invite a candidate to apply. To date, we have asked 43 candidates to apply. If the candidate says “Yes”, the PNC is provided the candidate’s name and contact information, and we set up a Zoom interview. If the candidate says “No”, they are dropped from consideration. Candidate “Yes” replies have led to 9 candidate interviews by the PNC. After each interview the PNC discusses the candidate and makes a determination if we wish to proceed with a second interview.

That is quite the down select process but we know this is one way God is guiding us to the right pastor.

The PNC has placed information on the job boards of four Theological Seminaries. This is not a unique approach; as we found hundreds of church openings posted at each Seminary. To date, we have not received an inquiry from this approach.

And so the search continues! Please continue to pray for the PNC’s discernment in this challenging process. Please also pray that God will send us the perfect pastor for Valmont!

Steven Clem

Women's Association

For decades, VCPC has supported a spirit filled organization connected to the community and beyond. With caring, fellowship, and learning, our members exhibit enthusiasm and imagination to complete their mission. As a member and now President of Women's Association, I am very proud of the long history of our organization. Projects in the past included:

Making cloth bags to fill with hygiene articles for migrant workers in Alamosa, CO

Making quilts and baby articles for Warm Hearts-Warm Babies in Brighton, CO

Making cookies for 2gether House, a residence for at risk youth, for which Women's Association won an award

Making baked goods for a well-attended Arts & Craft Fair; donations used to give to Sarah's Home, residence for sex-trafficked girls in Colorado Springs, CO

Helping to organize a very successful all church pie auction. Proceeds used to purchase new blinds in our fellowship hall.

The Women's Association is poised to begin a new season starting in Sept through May at 10:00 am to noon followed by a potluck lunch. Making youth and baby blankets or quilts for Project Lynus is our ongoing project. Study time this year is to be determined, but in the past, we have enjoyed authors like Max Lucado, Beth Moore, and Maxie Dunnam.

Submitted by Pres, Peggy Moore

God's Creation

On the evening of August 4, 2025, our Church Astronomy Club welcomed an enthusiastic group of Boy Scouts and Girls Scouts from Boulder for a memorable event. The event kicked off with pizza and a warm welcome from our club members, who shared their passion for astronomy with the young scouts. We started with a presentation on Astronomy and science and the potential for careers and sharing the love of astronomy. The evening was carefully planned to engage the scouts' curiosity while fostering a deeper appreciation for the wonders of the universe.

Our Astronomy Club president, Scott Starin, opened the event the talk on the basics of astronomy, tailored to inspire the scouts. Topics included how to navigate the night sky, the importance of dark-



sky preservation, and fun facts about the planets and star. The scouts, eager to learn, asked thoughtful questions that sparked lively discussions among the group.



The highlight of the night was the telescope viewing session. We set up our new video telescope and we viewed globular clusters, open clusters and different nebula. For many, it was their first time seeing such celestial wonders, and their excitement was infectious. Club members also shared tips on astrophotography, showing the scouts how to capture basic images of the night sky using smartphones and telescope adapters. Cloudy skies to the north and a time limit did not allow for a viewing through our large telescope, although the scouts were able to tour the Strickler-Crowe Observatory and ask questions about the equip-

ment.

We shared stories of famous astronomers and connected the evening's observations to the scouts' merit badge requirements, ensuring the experience was both educational and rewarding. The Boulder Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts brought incredible energy to the event, and their enthusiasm reminded us all why we love sharing our passion for astronomy. The event was a testament to the power of community collaboration, blending the scouts' adventurous spirit with our club's dedication to exploring the cosmos.



We extend our heartfelt thanks to the scout leaders, parents, and our dedicated Astronomy Club volunteers who made this event a stellar success. We're already looking forward to future collaborations and more opportunities to inspire the next generation of stargazers. Keep your eyes on the skies, and we hope to see you at our next event, an open to the public star party in September!

Blessing Scott



“My Story” Joy Elizabeth Keeter



I was born on December 16, 1938 in Boulder Community Hospital to George and Ruth (Hutchinson) Sawhill. My family was living on the family farm in the East County. My father's parents, Lewis and Maggie Sawhill, had moved to Colorado from Winterset, Iowa in the 1890's. His childhood home was at the foot of Valmont Butte on the road to the cemetery. He was one of five boys, of which two had died young. Dad was the only son who married and had children. My mother's family was thought to be from Ireland. She had been a teacher, came to Colorado from Kansas to meet George, and they were married in 1922. In 1933, after George's mother passed away, they moved into the family home.

George (Dad) and his brothers John and Charlie grew up working on the Sawhill farm, the land where I have now lived for 85 years. They grew beets and raised Jersey and Holstein dairy cattle; they sold the milk, cream and butter to the Dairy in Boulder. Feed crops such as alfalfa and corn were also cultivated, with silage stored in the tall brick silos still standing off Valmont Road. The brothers had helped hand dig the early ditches which provided irrigation for the east county farmers on otherwise dry land. At that time, all the land east of Boulder was farm land. The farm families lived through hard times during the Depression and drought.

I was one of four children, the youngest kid sister, “the brat ” they called me. My siblings were Kathryn Ruth (15 years older), Walt Keith (11 years older), and George Eugene “Gene” (9 years older). Gene and Walt worked with father. [Gene is the father of my niece and neighbor, Valmont church member, Kathy Houghton.] I attended Valmont School, the old stone school building which is still standing on 63rd St. across from the church. In 1953, the county built Douglass Elementary, consolidating nine small country schools, and I was in the first class. Mr. Platt (who Platt MS is named after) was a teacher at Douglass, and my 9th grade teacher. Platt had grades 7-9. Then we went to Boulder High School, which is where I met my future husband, Buddy Keeter. Buddy lived on 28th St. in Boulder in a flagstone house his father built; his Dad worked for the Public Service. We graduated in 1957 when I was 18 (Buddy 6 months younger) and were married that June 30, 1957 in Valmont Community Presbyterian Church!

I remember going to Vacation Bible School at Valmont and wonderful big Christmas Eve celebrations. Everyone sang and there was candy and popcorn! All the farm families came to church at Valmont. Meanwhile Boulder city kept expanding east into the open land, past 28th and 30th. Uncle Charles came to our farm every Sunday, played the organ at church, and took the family photographs! At home, we liked to listen to Country Western music Saturday nights on the radio and one time Buddy and I went to the Grand Old Opry in Nashville.

Father eventually sold the Sawhill Lakes property to a gravel company. Since the ground water was high, the gravel mining operation was constantly challenged with pumping out and draining the water which rose as they dug. Originally, the ditch water was owned in shares by those along the ditch. The Jones & Donnelly Ditch and the Butte Irrigating Mill Ditch still extend all the way east to Hwy 287.

A couple years after Buddy and I were married, Buddy started as a truck driver. Then at age 19, he decided to buy his first truck and run his own trucking business. This was the beginning of Keeter Trucking. We first lived in a trailer house across the ditch, then in the little house next door to my parent's home. We moved into the big house when mother passed away. She died too young, age 65, of cancer. Dad sold Buddy and I the two houses and five acres in 1966. We remodeled and added the office. My father, George lived to 94 ½. I took care of him in the big house his last 6 ½ years. He never complained, read hundreds of books and watched ball games. He was a dear.

Buddy and I worked the trucking business together, Buddy on the road delivering gravel while I ran the office. There were no computers at that time so all the business and bookkeeping was by hand on paper. Marlene Brining, a current member of Valmont, worked for me for 15-20 years, thus our strong connection and long friendship. Meanwhile, I was a home mom raising our three children - Kristine Elizabeth born May 1958, Paul Lynn born October 1959, and Benjamin Charles born June 1961. The kids worked haying on neighboring farms, and took part in rodeos and 4H.

Continued on page 8

The Deacons' Corner—Submitted by Debby G.

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30

We continue the "My Story project as you will see with Joy Keeter's story in this issue of the Vintage. We are happy to meet with anyone who would like help writing their story. Please let us know.

A great big thank you for all the food that has been donated and delivered to the Round Pantry. As food shortages at food banks continues, we will continue gathering food in our Deacon's basket for the Round Pantry, and make you aware of any particular shortages they are experiencing.

As the weather turns to Fall we start looking to the holidays. We will once again be looking for outreach areas for the holidays. If you are aware of organizations, or particular families that need assistance especially at this time, please let us know.

A friend of mine shared a story on Facebook that I think is worth repeating:

Today, our mail carrier's truck broke down. The neighbor, where the truck got stuck, came outside and offered to look at her engine. She was able to start her engine, but it quickly stalled and died again. At the point, the older gentleman invited her into his home. I have not met this man yet, but I really want to now. He showed the kind of compassion, care, generosity and love for another human being in need that we should all be doing for each other. He wasn't upset that the truck was blocking his driveway. He invited her in for over 2 hours while she waited for a postal mechanic to show up. This older gentleman showed up. I remember a friend sharing a brief message that she named, "Just show up." It doesn't have to be fancy or extravagant, just show up.

The deacon's at VCPC want to be there for our congregation. Please let us know how we can "show up" for you and our congregation.

Your faithful VCPC Deacons: John Olson jolson100@yahoo.com, Debby Clem debcclem@comcast.net,
Debbie Greever debgreever@gmail.com



Jack performing "In the garden" by Austin Miles (1912). Inspired by his vision of Mary Magdalene's encounter with the Risen Jesus on the morning of the resurrection.

Our dynamic duo performing outrageous music!

Continued from page 4—Joy’s story

After the kids were grown, in the 1970’s and 80’s, Buddy and I travelled in the motor home. We particularly enjoyed the Northwest and seeing the Arizona family in Yuma. Occasionally I joined Buddy in the truck. He was gone weekly hauling freight. We ran the Keeter trucking business together from the home office right from the current location on Valmont Road. Then the kids drove the trucks. In the early days, they hauled gold and silver (in chunks of rough rock) out of a Nederland Mine bringing it to Valmont Butte for milling. The tailings pond was right there. The mill “General Chemical,” was bought by Tom Hendricks, when the gold value was high. Then the Keeters hauled it to British Columbia, Canada. Today, Paul lives in Las Vegas and hauls between Las Vegas and Colorado weekly, as well hauling grains and bird seed from New Mexico, and hardware supplies.

I was lucky to be able to work with my husband; we did a lot together and our kids grew up involved in the business. When we built the shop it was a big deal! And Keeter Trucking is still going today. Scooter runs the cement and gravel business with his Dad, my granddaughter also works at the shop. It is very satisfying to see the business you built well continue on with the next generation, a legacy. “If you’ve got it, a truck brought it.”

Adult Education

It is coming this fall at 9 am



Phil arranged to get this great interactive white board donated to the church.
Thanks Phil

Valmont Community Presbyterian Church

*164 years of loving God, caring for others
and being Christ’s witness to the world.*

It’s your Vintage

Anyone who would like to contribute articles, pictures, recipes or anecdotes, please submit by the 20th prior to publication month to **Mike Greever** via email at mgreever53@gmail.com or give to **Ella** in the office.
Publication Months: Jan (Winter), Mar (Spring), June (Summer), Sept (Fall), Nov (Christmas).