

May/June 2015

Valmont VINTAGE

CELEBRATING *150 years* OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS!

Valmont Community Presbyterian Church



Pastor Eric

For much of my life the concept of *hope* wasn't a central aspect of my worldview. It always seemed too vague for my liking, almost like it was naïveté about an unlikely whim or desire. Was hope just wishful thinking? Yet here, on the other side of Easter, I wonder whether wishful thinking is really such a dangerous thing. Regarding wishful thinking the Presbyterian minister, Frederick Buechner writes:

Christianity is mainly wishful thinking. Even the part about Judgment and Hell reflects the wish that somewhere the score is being kept.

Dreams are wishful thinking. Children playing at being grown-up is wishful thinking. Interplanetary travel is wishful thinking. Sometimes wishing is the wings the truth comes true on.

Sometimes the truth is what sets us wishing for it.

When Buechner says that Christianity is mainly wishful thinking, he is not trying set it up as juxtaposed to truth (which I think had been part of my aversion to the idea of hope), but rather indicating the sort of truth we are to hope in. Truth is more than the sum total of facts, as Truth (in the capital-T-sense) is not so much an "it" as it is a "he." The Truth in which we hope is wishful thinking since the good news of Jesus is far better than that for which we had ever dared hope.

Concerning hope, Buechner comments:

For Christians, hope is ultimately hope in Christ. The hope that he really is what for centuries we have been claiming he is. The hope that despite the fact that sin and death still rule the world, he somehow conquered them. The hope that in him and through him all of us stand the chance of somehow conquering them too. The hope that at some unforeseeable time and in some unimaginable way he will return with healing in his wings.

The hope of Easter is wishful thinking, since it is the truth that sets us hoping. Easter gives me hope that God will be faithful to me beyond death. Easter gives me hope that the Holy Spirit is working new creation within me. Easter gives me hope that through Jesus nothing will separate me from the

love of God. And because Easter gives me hope in these things, I no longer can understand relationship with God apart from hope.

Perhaps it is wishful thinking in this day and age to expect for things like truth, hope, and love to be real and palpable, but that is exactly where Easter leads me. Perhaps people feel too enlightened to place much stock in hope -- trusting in something that cannot be seen. Yet,

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Ask a friend to join
you.

You Have A Friend At Valmont!

Sunday School: 9 am

**Worship Service:
10:30**

**Starting June 7
Worship Service in
9:30 w/ no Sunday
School**

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

303-442-2135
www.ValmontChurch.org

Bulletin Board

Elders:

Shirley Crowe Mike Greever
Rex Craig Ella Travis

Clerk of Session: *Joyce Glazer*

Deacons:

Don Lewis Anne Harris-Cross
Cindy Sexton

Treasurer: *Ruth Lewis*

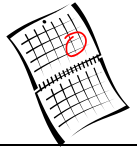
Church Administrator: *Ella Travis*

Choir/Worship Leader:
Mary Chapin Durling

Accompanist: *Madoka Asari*

Calendar

May 2	Presbytery Meeting at Highland's
May 8	Rockies Game with Thrivent
May 10	Mother's Day
May 11 @ 7:30pm	Deacon's Meeting
May 12 @ 2pm	Round Pantry
May 14	Ascension of the Lord
May 19 @ 5:30pm	Session Meeting
May 24	Pentecost
May 26 @ 2pm	Round Pantry
June 7 @ 9:30am	Switch to Summer Service
June 8 @ 7:30pm	Deacon's Meeting
June 9 @ 2pm	Round Pantry
June 16 @ 5:30pm	Session Meeting
June 21	Father's Day
June 23 @ 2pm	Round Pantry



Weekly Activities

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

Every Tuesday: Women's Association meets
 Second Tuesday at 10 am

Art group meets 4th Tuesday at 9:30 am

Iglesia meets 7-9 pm

Every Wednesday:
 Yoga Class 9 am

Tremble Clef Choir 11am

Session, third Wednesday at 5:30 pm

Choir practice at 7 pm

Every Thursday: Iglesia meets 7-9 pm

Parkinson's yoga group 11:30-2:pm

Every Friday – Valmont Victors 8-10 pm

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the name of Jesus continues to transform lives, challenge powers, and offer assurance beyond the grave.

The Apostle writes:

But we do not want you to be uninformed, brother and sisters, about those who have died, so that you may not grieve as others do who have *no hope*. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, emphasis added)

It may be wishful thinking to hope that Jesus will assure God's love and faithfulness to us after this life is over; however, this is exactly the truth claim that Easter makes. We do not live as a people without hope, but rather we look to the one who has gone before us -- we look to the founder and perfecter of this new way of life. Our hope is that we too will join with Jesus in the resurrected life that God has given him.

If this is wishful thinking, then let's get to wishing.

For the love of Christ,

Eric

Send Some Encouragement!

Look for the Card Writing Station in Fellowship Hall.

Grab a pen, write a card. We'll mail it!

Other ways you can support this ministry:

Make some hand-made cards

Encourage others to write cards

Help organize a card-writing table

Suggest people who need to receive cards

Talk to Anne Harris-Cross to find out more.



Handwritten cards mean a lot

Pig Roasts and Potlucks



Ingredients:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| * 1 lb small white potatoes | * 3/4 tsp fresh ground pepper |
| * 1 lb small red potatoes | * 10 Tbsp olive oil |
| * 2 Tbsp dry white wine | * 1/4 cup minced green onions |
| * 2 Tbsp chicken stock | * 2 Tbsp minced fresh dill |
| * 3 Tbsp white balsamic vinegar | * 2 Tbsp minced parsley |
| * 1/2 tsp Dijon mustard | * 2 Tbsp chiffonade fresh basil leaves |
| * 1 Tbsp kosher salt | |

Instructions

Cut potatoes in half, quarters if they are larger. Steam until cooked (can boil if you prefer). Drain in colander and place a towel over the potatoes to allow them to steam for 10 minutes. Place in medium bowl and toss gently with the wine and chicken stock. Allow the liquids to soak into the warm potatoes before proceeding. Combine the mustard, vinegar, salt, pepper and slowly whisk in the olive oil to make an emulsion. Add the vinegarette to the potatoes. Add the green onions, dill, parsley and basil. Serve warm or at room temperature. The fresh herbs are essential--don't even try to make it with dried.





Clean Up Day Spring 2015

Participating were
Eric, Lu Ann, Dave,
Scott, Matt, Bennie,
Shirley, Don, Ruth L,
Debbie G and Mike

Due to a problem with some photos, the photos of **Matt, Bennie, Shirley, Don and Ruth** will not appear in this issue.



Thank you for your service to the church!

The property committee, Don, Dave and Scott, hosted a Saturday cleanup on March 22 to spruce up the church for Easter. Below are just a few of the things that were done. It really made a difference!

- ◆ Tilled the community garden
- ◆ Removed damaged rope lighting from the cross
- ◆ Painted the sanctuary molding.
- ◆ Cleaned out gutters.
- ◆ Picked up litter and trash around the property
- ◆ Cleaned and organized the kitchen.
- ◆ Weeded and prepped the flower gardens.
- ◆ Refreshments were served.
- * Reviewed the irrigation well and pump system.
- * Repaired/sealed concrete wall by the pastor's office door.
- * Dismantled/reassembled/cleaned the lit road sign.
- * Repaired and mounted a down spout.
- * Cleaned the bathrooms
- * Picked up limbs/branches/leaves and raked the lawns
- * Replaced spent light bulbs.



Deacons' Caring Basket

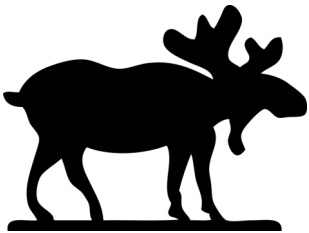
May: Collecting food for the Round Pantry. ... cereals, baby food, bottled (not frozen) juices and items containing protein (canned, not fresh).

June: We will again be collecting items for the Bags of Grace & in July, it will be time for back-to-school items. (Bags of Grace are done on a quarterly basis, so we would normally collect those items in July, but we switched due to back-to-school items usually go on sale in July.)

See Cindy, Don or Anne

HIGHLANDS HIGHLIGHTS

*Highlands – A Sanctuary for the Spirit, a School for the Mind,
a Joy for the Heart and a Shelter in the Storm.*



Many exciting things are happening at Highlands. The refinancing of the mortgage has been completed. Major maintenance items have begun around the camp. The furnace in the Horse Lodge has been replaced and new ductwork installed. Additional improvements to Horse Lodge will be done during the fall and winter including new windows and doors. New computes have been purchased for the office and are being brought on line. The internet service is being worked on to secure a more reliable connection. New tables and chairs are going to be purchased for the retreat center. Roofs are to be replaced on several buildings. Visitors are always welcome to visit and explore the grounds. A family of moose have become a common sight on the grounds. If you choose to visit, please check in at the office to let them know you are on the grounds.

The Council of Plains and Peaks has also approved a matching grant of \$35,000 for debt reduction to be raised by December 31st. If that amount is raised from donors, the Presbytery will match the amount. There will be additional information on this grant in the months to come. The Highlands Camp Committee is confident that the mortgage will be completely paid off by the 75th anniversary of the camp in 2021.

The Presbytery of Plains and Peaks will hold their meeting at Highlands on May 2nd. This is a one day meeting that begins at 9:00 AM and includes lunch.

2016 will be the seventieth anniversary of Highlands as well as the tenth anniversary of Maria Shupe serving as Executive Director. Plans for the anniversary year have begun. Watch for details in the coming months.

I hope you will keep the Highlands ministry in your prayers. It is your support that makes this ministry possible.

Blessings,

Ruth Lewis

Moderator

Highlands Joint Camp Committee



Women's Association

Until the end of May, **Women's Association** is collecting items for personal care bags for workers in the San Luis Valley. The same kind of bags used for Bags of Grace will be filled with donations of these kinds of items:

Toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrush, cap covers, bar soap, hand cleaner/sanitizer, deodorant, plastic razors, shaving cream, small bottles (sample size is good) of shampoo and conditioner, hand lotion, large hand towel, comb, socks. Items for both men and women are needed. Items for children can be included as well.



The goal is to fill 20 bags to be delivered to LaPuente in Alamosa in June. At our May meeting we will be assembling Migrant Worker bags to be taken to La Puente shelter in Alamosa, which is a very depressed area. If you would like to donate to help fill the bags, please see Ella or Cindy. The pictures show the front door and one of the guest rooms.



The **“pennies project”** will continue until July. Small pill bottles, used as a visual reminder, hold about 61 pennies. That small amount will provide enough Vitamin A for one year for a child in a developing country. Of course, larger donations are equally welcome. Women's Association had agreed to participate as a short term mission project.



Homemade cookies have been collected for Attention Homes at the regular Women's Association meeting the third Tuesday of the month. The cookies are delivered that same day. Members of Women's Association thank our Valmont members and friends who generously donate to this mission project.



A Women's retreat is planned for one Saturday in October. Please keep that in mind. We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month (June, July, & August, excepted)

If you know of a project Women's Association might be interested in, please tell Cindy Sexton, our president.

Ella Travis, secretary

1 Corinthians 11:23-34 New International Version (NIV)

²³ For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread, ²⁴ and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.” ²⁵ In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.” ²⁶ For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

²⁷ So then, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ Everyone ought to examine themselves before they eat of the bread and drink from the cup.

²⁹ For those who eat and drink without discerning the body of Christ eat and drink judgment on themselves. ³⁰ That is why many among you are weak and sick, and a number of you have fallen asleep. ³¹ But if we were more discerning with regard to ourselves, we would not come under such judgment. ³² Nevertheless, when we are judged in this way by the Lord, we are being disciplined so that we will not be finally condemned with the world.

³³ So then, my brothers and sisters, when you gather to eat, you should all eat together. ³⁴ Anyone who is hungry should eat something at home, so that when you meet together it may not result in judgment. And when I come I will give further directions.

Did You Know Trivia ...

Alaska

- * More than half of the coastline of the entire United States is in Alaska.



Amazon

- * The Amazon rainforest produces more than 20% of the world's oxygen supply.
- * The Amazon River pushes so much water into the Atlantic Ocean that, more than one hundred miles at sea, off the mouth of the river, one can dip fresh water out of the ocean.
- * The volume of water in the Amazon river is greater than the next eight largest rivers in the world combined and three times the flow of all rivers in the United States.

Antarctica

- * Antarctica is the only land on our planet that is not owned by any country.
- * Ninety percent of the world's ice covers Antarctica. This ice also represents seventy percent of all the fresh water in the world.
- * As strange as it sounds, however, Antarctica is essentially a desert. The average yearly total precipitation is about two inches.
- * Although covered with ice (all but 0.4% of it, i.e.), Antarctica is the driest place on the planet, with an absolute humidity lower than the Gobi desert.

Brazil

- * Brazil got its name from the nut, not the other way around.



Canada

- * Canada has more lakes than the rest of the world combined and is an Indian word meaning "Big Village."

Chicago

- * Next to Warsaw, Chicago has the largest Polish population in the world.



Detroit

- * Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Michigan carries the designation M - 1, named so because it was the first paved road anywhere.

Damascus, Syria

- * Damascus, Syria, was flourishing a couple of thousand years before Rome was founded in 753 BC, making it the oldest continuously inhabited city in existence.

Istanbul, Turkey

- * Istanbul, Turkey is the only city in the world located on two continents.



Los Angeles

- * Los Angeles's full name is El Pueblo de Nuestra Senora la Reina de los Angeles de Porciuncula -- and can be abbreviated to 3.63% of its size: L.A.

New York City

- * The term "The Big Apple" was coined by touring jazz musicians of the 1930s who used the slang expression "apple" for any town or city. Therefore, to play New York City is to play the big time - The Big Apple.



Reprinted from 2007 Edition



This poem was written for Nancy Gonacha
by John and Nancy's daughter Cindy.

May Flowers

When I die, place my ashes under the apple
tree. Let the rain work them into the earth and
rotting leaves until they reach the roots and lie
dormant for the winter.

In the spring, when the sap runs draw them up
and into the tree let them spread until they be-
come the young green leaves fluttering in the
breeze and turning their faces to the warm sun.

Let them bloom into fragrant white blossoms.

One fine spring day as you walk by, draw a
deep breath smell the lightly scented air and
remember me.

Reprinted from 2007 Edition



Eric's Preaching Schedule

Date	Title	Bible Text	Sermon Series
May 3	Ecclesiology (Body of Christ)	1 Corinthians 11:23-34	Communion
May 10	Ascension	Acts 1:1-11	
May 17	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-13	
May 24	Prologue	Exodus 20:1-2	Ten Commandments
May 31	Singularity of God	Exodus 20:3-7	Ten Commandments
June 7	Sabbath and New Creation	Exodus 20:8-11 Deuteronomy 5:12-15	Ten Commandments
June 14	Proper Love of the Other	Exodus 20:12, 14, 16	Ten Commandments
June 21	Killing/Murder/War	Exodus 20:13	Ten Commandments
June 28	Stealing and Coveting	Exodus 20:15, 17	Ten Commandments

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 mgreever@rmprohomes.com or give to **Ella in the office**

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