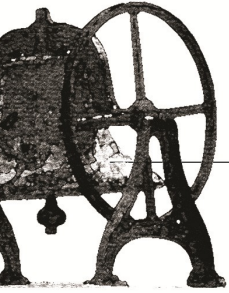


Nov/Dec 2015



Valmont



VINTAGE

CELEBRATING *150 years* OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS!

PCUSA

Valmont Community Presbyterian Church



Pastor Eric

In many ways the end of the year is about visitation. Come the end of November, families and friends will invest their time and resources into visiting one another. We will take the visits of our loved ones so seriously, that we will go to great efforts to make them feel welcome. We will make lavish meals, alter our schedules, and we will do these things gladly because of those coming to visit us.

In many ways Thanksgiving is a foretaste of Christmas. In our culture, Thanksgiving signals the start of the "Holiday Season," but Christianity, I believe, it bears witness to a deeper truth. As its name would suggest, Thanksgiving is a time to be thankful — it is a time to consider the many ways in which we've been blessed, and then to humbly and joyfully share those blessings with others. Thanks-

giving prepares us to welcome visitors into our homes and lives.

Christmas signals the arrival of the greatest visitor we will ever host. Will we open our doors to him? Will we welcome him with the same humble joy that led us to open up our homes to our families and friends? Sometimes welcoming Jesus into our homes seems like a daunting task. It might be nicer to meet him at a cafe somewhere, and then let him return to his home as I return to mine.

And this is why we need the season of Advent before we encounter the visitation of the Lord. Advent is a time of preparation — a time to put our house in order. It is a time to consider whether or not we are truly prepared to host Jesus (since I assure you that he is one guest who will have no qualms with rearranging your home!). Advent is a season of repentance, which is to say: a season of being honest with ourselves about how we may not actually be comfortable with hosting such a meddling Messiah. So we need to prepare ourselves for his arrival, since he's coming to visit whether we like it or not.

And who can know the nature of his arrival? Perhaps he will appear to you as a widow. Or maybe Jesus will come as an orphan. Then again, he may be the prisoner, whom you yourself need to visit in order for Jesus to truly be present in your home. For surely, when you welcome one of the least of these, you wel-

come the Master, himself. How will you prepare your home for the Lord's arrival this Advent season? How might you prepare for Jesus coming with the humble joy of Thanksgiving? The Messiah is coming, so let us put this house in order for him.

As an aside: I too would love to visit your homes. I would love to see where and how you live. However, I am not a visitor who likes to come uninvited, so please let me know if I can ever come over to join you for a cup of tea or a meal. I promise that I won't do any redecorating, unless explicitly asked.

For the love of Christ,
Eric

Ask a friend to join you.

You Have A Friend At Valmont!

Sunday School:

9 am

Worship Service:

10:30

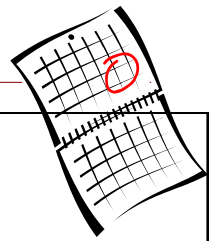
3262 N. 61st Street,
Boulder

(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

November 1: Daylight Savings Time ends.

Deacons: Operation Christmas Child
(shoeboxes) collection

November 8—Potluck with Hugh McGinty, honored guest

Deacons: Round Pantry

November 4 - Worship Team Meeting 3:00pm

November 9 - Deacons 7:30pm

November 10 -Round Pantry 2:00pm

November 15 Congregational meeting & Communion Sunday

November 17: **Deacons:** Cookies for Attention Homes
Session 5:30pm

November 22-- **Deacons:** Round Pantry ends
Christ The King Sunday and Decorating for Advent

November 24 - Round Pantry 2:00pm

November 25 - Community Thanksgiving Service at Niwot
United Methodist Church 7:00 pm

November 26 - Thanksgiving Day



November 29—Advent begins—
Deacons: Giving tree

December 2 - Worship Team Meeting at 3:00pm

December 8 - Round Pantry at 2:00pm

December 13: **Deacons:** Giving Tree ends
Eric out of town for a wedding

December 14 - Deacons at 7:30pm

December 15: **Deacons:** Cookies for Attention Homes
Session at 5:30pm

December 20--Christmas Joy Offering & Communion

December 22 - Round Pantry 2:00pm

December 24—Christmas Eve Service—7 p.m.

December 25 - Christmas Day

Weekly Activities

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

Tuesday: Women's Association meets
Third Tuesday at 10 am

Art group meets 4th Tuesday at 9:30 am

Session, third Tuesday at 5:30 pm

Iglesia meets 7-9 pm

Wednesday:
Yoga Class 9 am

Tremble Clef Choir 11am

Choir practice starts in September
5:45 to 7:15 pm

Every Thursday: Iglesia meets 7-9 pm

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

Every Friday – Valmont Victors 8-10 pm

Visits with Sam

Page 3

Each week Ruth Lewis & I visit, and take flowers, to a few residents in Boulder Manor and Manor Care, switching between the 2. When we first approached Sam about leaving flowers with her, she turned us down because she is Jewish. (I later learned that she thought we just wanted to proselytize.) One day Sam was having an especially bad day and a friend of hers asked that we stop & see her. Then, as we were passing her door some weeks later, she asked us to come in and pray for her. In the past couple of years we have learned to like and love her very much.

She has many health issues, including cancer (I believe it is in remission, although I've never seen her with any hair in the 2 years we've been visiting her), fibromyalgia, TIAs, and diminishing eyesight--being nearly blind in her right eye. In order to read, which she loves to do, she would wear glasses with the proverbial "coke bottle lenses," and use a magnifying glass, which she could only use for a few minutes at a time.

I asked my friends on Facebook to pray for her sight. One of my friends responded by asking if a Kindle would help. When we asked Sam this question, her face lit up like a Christmas tree, so my friend had one sent to her. She thanked us profusely and cried several times by the overwhelming love that someone, who doesn't even know her, displayed. She was so excited when she made the font size so big that her normal glasses were sufficient for her to read. Sam also received some gift cards to download books.

Blessings, Cindy



Cindy's 2 granddaughters, Kenna and Erika with Sam, as Kenna was helping get it set up.



Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas



Pig Roasts and Potlucks



Chocolate Brittle Surprise

"Like chocolate-covered toffee! Disappears like magic!"

Ingredients:

35 unsalted soda crackers

1 cup packed brown sugar

1 cup chopped pecans (optional)

* 1 cup butter

* 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips

Instructions:

Preheat oven to 350 degrees F (180 degrees C). Cover cookie sheet with foil.

Spray foil with cooking oil spray.

Place crackers on foil in 5 x 7 inch rows.

Microwave butter on high for 2 minutes. Add brown sugar and stir. Microwave on high for 2 more minutes, stirring every 30 seconds.

Pour over crackers. Bake 17 - 20 minutes (should bubble but not burn).

Sprinkle chocolate chips over hot crackers. Spread after 2 minutes (chips have softened).

Sprinkle nuts on top.

Refrigerate 1 hour. Break into pieces. Can be frozen.





Deacons

The continued generosity of the congregation continues to brighten lives of people in our community as well as that of some of our Valmont family. We've recently assembled and distributed 30 Bags of Grace, and sent \$400. worth of items to Covenant Youth of Alaska. In November we expect to deliver approximately 20-25 shoeboxes to Operation Christmas Child.

November 1-22, we're requesting food items for the Round Pantry.

November 29- December 13, will be Giving Tree time to help some of our VCPC family and the kids at Attention Homes to have a brighter Christmas. - Cindy

Dear Valmont Family,

To say that I was overwhelmed by your generous gifts would be a sincere understatement. When I created my classroom donation request, I never dreamed that God would provide everything I needed for this year and have some money left over for needs later on. What a blessing you are to me and my students.

So far, your donations have gone towards new office supplies (tape dispenser, stapler, etc.), craft supplies, a lesson planner to keep track of my lesson plans, and student-needed items (pencils, scissors, pens, folders, & copier paper). The list will go on as the year unfolds but just know that your gifts are going to the neediest of my students (students who have teared up when I ask them where their pencil is because they misplaced theirs and their parents can't afford more). We are currently 80% students at or right below the low-income-poverty threshold. Where I am though, I see God at work daily changing lives and I am humbled to be a small witness to a few kids of his. love. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for being a helping hand and for believing in me.



I love you all so much, Katrina Proctor



Here are three brave souls and a fever enjoying the fall colors on Peak to Peak Hwy.

The Angry Woodpecker - a Cheyenne story - Submitted by Ella

Once there was a young man who wanted to be a shaman, or Medicine Man (sort of a cross between a doctor and a pastor). As he walked through the forest, listening to the living earth around him, he heard a terrible sound in the distance. Someone was weeping and wailing, crying and sighing, fussing and cussing - someone was very unhappy. He walked toward the sound, and in a big tree, he saw Woodpecker, who was making the terrible noise.



The old ones say that in those days all creatures spoke the same language and understood each other.

The young man called, "Cousin Woodpecker, why are you so unhappy?"

Woodpecker sniffled and said, "Every morning, when the sun comes up, all the birds sing beautiful songs. But I can't sing. It's unfair!! I want to make music." The young man said,

"You know that when Creator shaped all the creatures, Creator gave everyone a special gift. For some, it is singing; for others, other gifts. You have something special, I'm sure."

"Yeah, said Woodpecker angrily, "I can peck holes in wood. Big deal! I want to make music!"

Cousin Woodpecker," said the young man, "stop your fussing and listen. Listen to your heart; listen to the wind - you may learn something." He went on walking.

After a while, Woodpecker quieted down, cocked his head to one side, and listened. The wind in the leaves seemed to speak. It said, "Look down." Woodpecker looked, and saw a branch that had fallen and had split in two.

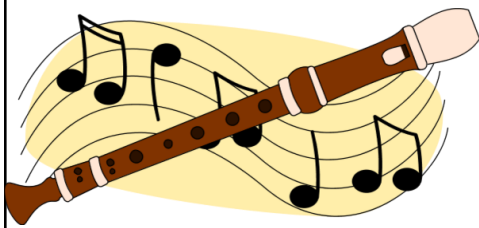
"Go down and peck out the middle of each piece," whispered the voice. It sounded pretty silly to Woodpecker, but he did it. Next, the voice said, "Now get some sticky pine pitch and glue the two pieces together." Woodpecker did it, and said, "Now I have a great big wood straw. Big deal! I want to make music!!"

The voice said, "Peck holes in the wooden straw - four holes for the four sacred directions, North, South, East and West; one hole for the earth below, and one for the sky above; and one big one for your nest."

Woodpecker did it. Then he said, "Now I have a wood straw with holes in it. This is silly! I want to make music!" But the voice said, "Now hold the wood piece up to the wind."

When Woodpecker did that, a sound was heard that had never been heard before. A soft, sweet note floated through the trees. The voice told Woodpecker to take the flute to the young shaman. The young man learned to play it, and then he said, "Look, cousin Woodpecker - your gift has brought a new music into the world; and when people hear this music, anger and jealousy and sorrow will float away." So the story is told.

Phillip Whiteman added, "It is so with us all; Creator gives each a special gift. If we moan and groan because we don't have someone else's gift, we just make noise; but if we use our own, we bring harmony and beauty into the world." (Notice that this echoes Romans 12 and 1 Corinthians 12)



HIGHLANDS HIGHLIGHTS

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



Lightning strike update – The elevator has been repaired and was fully paid for by the insurance company. Repairs on the program office have also been completed. The insurance company has approved \$58,070 of estimates for the replacement of 3,000 feet of phone lines which were melted by the strike. Conduit has been approved for the lines and the trenching has begun. It is anticipated that this project will take approximately two weeks as long as the weather cooperates.

In July, a Sanitary Survey of the water treatment and distribution system was done by the State of Colorado. The last survey had been done five years ago. We now have a list of items to change or correct. In the last five years, the regulations have changed and we do not meet the current requirements for water sanitization. It is unclear how soon we must bring the water plant into compliance with these new regulations. It is estimated that the repairs will run approximately \$535,000. The Highlands Camp Committee along with the Council of Presbytery of Plains and Peaks will be investigating options for financing the project.

2016 will mark the 70th anniversary of Highlands. We will kick off the celebration at the Annual Christmas party on Saturday, December 5th at 1:00 p.m. I hope you will consider joining us in this celebration!

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

Blessings!!

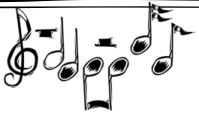
Ruth Lewis
Highlands Camp Committee



New Plaques at the Church

**The bell plaque was in honor of
VCPC's 150th anniversary.**





Musical Musings and Other Arcane Scribblings from the desk of the Student...

Some/many/most of you may know that I have embarked upon another adventure (transplanting myself to Colorado last year being the other most recent big adventure). I am currently enrolled at UNC in a Masters of Music—Choral Conducting program. It's exciting. It's exhilarating. It's a lot of work!

As I have started classes and research, I have stumbled across interesting (perhaps even slightly odd) things that I thought Valmont readers might also find interesting. My favorite three so far:

Favorite #1 After four workshop sessions focused on church music led by a hymnologist C. Michael Hawn from the Perkins School of Theology, Southern Methodist University, I have learned that since Vatican II, there are seven streams of songs to be found across the breadth of hymnals. These include Roman Catholic liturgical renewal hymnody, Protestant contemporary classical hymnody, African-American spirituals and gospels songs, revival gospel songs, folk song influences, Pentecostal songs and global and ecumenical song forms. We sing many of these at Valmont. And the presenter's thrust was that singing a wide variety of song types invites a wide variety of congregational members... food for thought at least.

Favorite #2. The term and concept of worship director came from an early Presbyterian church. I was convinced I had saved the specifics of this fact, but now cannot find it in my messy array of notes. But when I do, I'll share all the details. For now, enjoy knowing that your church had a significant impact on how music is incorporated into worship in churches today.

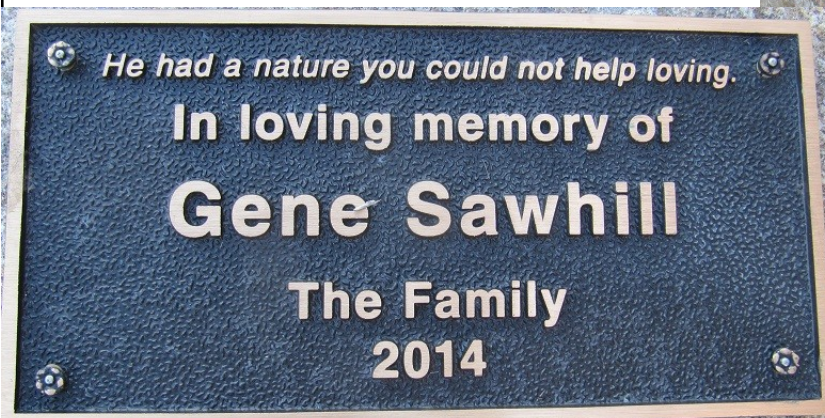
Favorite #3. In the Renaissance, the interval of a "perfect octave" (do to do) represented God. Adding the fifth (do and sol) represented the Father and Son. And the triad of do-mi-sol represented the Trinity. One article I read explained it as "do" being the fundamental pitch in the triad and overtone series. The fifth is "begotten" from that fundamental pitch while "mi" is the "sweet" median between the two. Renaissance music was deeply connected to the church and gives great credence to such lines of thinking.

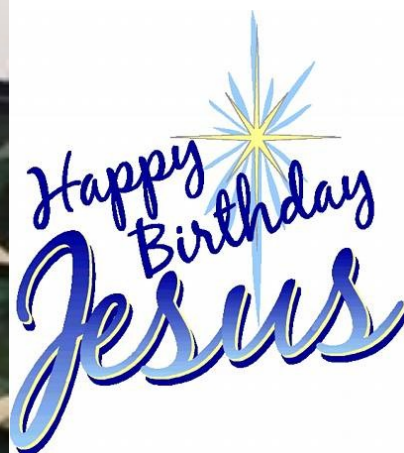
More unusual observations to come... but I'll keep better notes next time!

Mary
Music Director



Gene's plaque was paid for with funds donated in his memory.





Pastor Eric
lighting the
way

Eric's Preaching Schedule

Nov 1	Titus 3:1-15	A Little R&R (Rebirth and Renewal)	Letters of Mission	
Nov 8	Jude 1-25	A Timeline for Eternity	Letters of Mission	
Nov 15	Philemon 1-25	Are You My Brother?	Letters of Mission	Communion
Nov 22	1 John 4:16b-21 Psalm 23	Reign of Terror	[one off]	Christ the King
Nov 29	Luke 1:57-79	The Mind of God (Orthodoxy)	Mind/Hands/Heart of God	First Sunday of Advent
Dec 6	Luke 2:8-20	The Hands of God (Orthopraxy)	Mind/Hands/Heart of God	
Dec 13			[Guest Preacher]	
Dec 20	Luke 1:39-56	The Heart of God (Orthopathy)	Mind/Hands/Heart of God	Communion
Dec 27	John 3:16-21	Divine Imagination	[one off]	First Sunday of Christmas

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.