Dear Friends of Montview,

We just learned something pretty cool. Apparently, Alexi Musselman and Emma Heth, who grew up at Montview and are now off at college in different cities, sit down almost every week to watch Montview’s worship service on Facebook and then chat about it online.

How about that? In an age when “nones” are on the rise (those who claim no religious affiliation), it warms a pastor’s heart to imagine these two young people still finding connection and spiritual food from the community that shaped them.

It’s a good reminder of the many lives Montview touches each week, whether it’s the hundreds of people who pass through on their way to preschool, Girl Scouts or an AA meeting, or members of our own community gathering for a committee meeting, Youth Group, Wednesday Open Chapel or bell choir practice.

Where at Montview do you find your spirit fed? Are you as involved and connected as you want to be? A church’s real strength is not in attendance numbers or dollars given. A church is made strong by the connections we feel – connections to each other and to God as we seek to follow Jesus together. In a culture that is increasingly divided and isolated, one of the most important functions of the Body of Christ is to remind us of just that – that we are one body. Even though we’re different in so many ways, we are connected to each other as Children of God and our lives are richer and deeper when we find ways to help and be helped within this community of faith.

In the pages that follow, you’ll see examples of the ways Montview connects people who might not otherwise find each other. Whether it’s watching worship “together” online or trying out something new you found in the bulletin insert, we hope more and more people will make connections through the halls of Montview Church. And if you’re not sure what’s next for you or how to get more involved, please be sure to talk to us. We’d love to help.

Together in faith,

Clover

Ian
The Sabbatical Plan

As most of you know, I'll be on sabbatical from May 1st to August 1st. The goals of clergy sabbaticals are rest and spiritual renewal. To facilitate this I'll be doing a number of things to reconnect with family, God and myself. I'll spend three weeks at my parents' house in Georgia building a cedar canoe with my dad. Then Laura and the kids will join us for some time at the beach near Charleston, SC. From there, Laura and I will celebrate our 20th anniversary in upstate New York where we spent our first year together. The rest of the time I'll be at home (in Denver) reading, journaling and exploring Colorado. I look forward to returning in August refreshed and recharged for what God has in store for us next at Montview!

While I'm gone, we've asked Dr. Peter Hulac, our Minister of Visitation, to take on additional hours of pastoral care during the week. In addition, we have pastors including our Parish Associate Rev. Amelie Buchanan, and retired minister Rev. Terry Woodbury, who we can call on for additional care, if needed. Sandy Prouty will play a larger role partnering with Clover to make sure Sundays run well, and we have an all-star lineup of guest preachers.

Here’s the preaching schedule:
May 6  Rev. Jerry Herships (Pastor, After Hours Ministry)
May 13 Rev. Clover Beal
May 20 Rev. Matthew Benz-Whittington, Transitional Coordinator for Youth
May 27 Rev. Terry Woodbury
June 3  Mr. Adrian Miller, J.D. (Exec. Dir., Colorado Council of Churches)
June 10 Rev. Clover Beal
June 17 Rev. Tawana Davis (Shorter AME and Soul to Soul)
June 24 Rev. Nadia Bolz-Weber (Pastor, House for All Sinners and Saints)
July 1  Rev. Clover Beal
July 8  Dr. Peter Hulac, Minister of Visitation
July 15 Ms. Sandy Prouty, Minister of Children and Families
July 22 Rev. Clover Beal
July 29 Ms. Amanda Osenga, new Minister of Youth and Families
Aug 5  Rev. Ian Cummins (back in the saddle!)

Remember, the summer is also the best time for my co-pastor, Clover, and the rest of our staff to take time for their own rest and renewal. Please expect things to move more slowly the next few months as they find time for their own vacations while juggling the added work that will come in my absence. You can support them with your prayers, encouragement and by checking in with them to see what they need.

As you can imagine, I am delighted to have this time away, but I will also miss seeing you all and being a part of the life of the community. As excited as I am, it is also hard to go. The time will go quickly, though, and August will be here before we know it. Thank you again for this gift and for supporting ministry sabbaticals.

With love and gratitude,

Ian

From Baptist to the Presbyterian

When Pastor Ian Cummins came to Montview in 2003, his ordination was with the American Baptist Church, USA (American Baptists are more mainline Baptists who split with Southern Baptists over slavery). In 2013, a process was agreed upon between Montview and Denver Presbytery for Ian to move his ordination to the Presbyterian Church, USA. This will allow Montview to formally install him in his role as co-pastor. Ian recently completed the five exams required as part of that process, clearing the way for Montview to form a Co-Pastor Nominating Committee or CPNC. Rather than conduct an open search, the agreement permits the CPNC to move directly to recommending Ian for installation. At that point, the congregation would vote on this and Ian would go before the floor of Presbytery to be received into the Denver Presbytery. There are still a few complications to navigate, but we are hopeful that sometime this fall or in early 2019, we will have an installation ceremony, and after 15 years Ian will finally be able to moderate a Session meeting!
Defining Unconditional: A Lived Lesson

Working with children as parents, grandparents, mentors, teachers and friends is a poignant, active experience. We constantly move back and forth along continuums between talking and listening; telling and asking; and requiring and inviting as we work with them. So often our work involves maintaining our connection with them as they move on in size, capabilities and independence. Keeping up with this ever-changing circumstance requires us to be alert and brave, for just when we have thoroughly thought through a response, the issue changes. Just when we have achieved balance, the scale tips. Just when we feel quite confident, the children reintroduce us to humility and the culture reinforces our return.

I have recently been focusing on the reality of bullying in our times. Bullying is an age-old issue. Our children can find themselves on all sides of this experience. They may be the bully, the bullied or the bystander, as defined by Barbara Coloroso in her book *The Bully, The Bullied, and the Bystander*. This is not a new issue but changed circumstances have called us to greater vigilance and courage.

The advancements in technology and the prominence of social media have had profound unintended consequences regarding bullying. Quite simply put, children with access to the popular networking sites can also access bullying that knows few limits on meanness and longevity. Our children can participate in bullying every and any hour of the day and night. Our children can participate in bullying without the guard rails of courtesy and face-to-face moderation. These generalizations likely do not apply to very young children, but as they grow older they may experience bullying, and will be called upon to respond.

So, where do we begin? Maybe we begin our prevention in the same arena where bullying levies its price, in the self-worth of our children. We as the adults in their lives have a responsibility to reinforce the inherent value of each child. We are the partners that walk with them as they discover their unique gifts and ours are the voices that give specific encouragement along the way. We are the arms that hold them and help build their foundation of security and agency. We are the storytellers who share the unconditional nature of God’s love and our own. We help them question the comments and comparisons of the world while helping them believe in goodness, potential and adventure. We help them claim the undeniable nature of their worth; the value of their unique differences, talents, interests and the reward of human kindness both given and received. We can help them learn the term unconditional and apply it to their precious place in our hearts and in the steadfast love of God.

We can do this. We can have the conversations needed. We can set the limits required and teach the strategies for coping and problem solving. We can believe with Tim Cook, CEO of Apple, that “privacy is a human right” and claim it for ourselves and for the children. We can put down our phones. And most importantly, we can say our prayers that each child will know that she or he is loved enough and believed in enough to make it through to the other side of anything the world places in their way their whole lives long. We pray each child will know that constant change and uncertainty are part of life for all of us and that love and faith can pull us through together. Love wins. Love always eventually wins. Amen.

Minister of Children and Families
Miracle Math: Pulpit Players K-5 sermonized/dramatized

We’re Having Fun!

If you were to come to the church on a Sunday afternoon, you would most likely hear the voices of our youth having fun and running around! For me, that is one of the sweetest sounds anyone can possibly hear. Beginning in January our youth group has returned to meeting every Sunday night with JAM meeting first and MOB showing up at dinner time and meeting second. During the winter and early spring we have played games, dug into scripture and learned from one another. In January JAM drove to the mountains for a wonderful Snow Retreat at Timberline Lodge. There was ice skating, tubing down a hill and watching moose from a safe distance. The staff of adults and college students facilitated games and led us through a weekend devotion centered around the faith of Abraham.

In late January our Confirmation Class of 2018 began meeting. We have twenty students enrolled this year and we are working our way through a PC(USA) curriculum. Students have learned what it means to be a Christian and even more specifically what it means to say we are Presbyterian. The students have worked on personal faith statements through the course and presented them to the Session at the April meeting. Many thanks to the guest teachers who have shown up to lend their voice and experience to a lesson, to the adults of the church who have agreed to be a mentor to a confirmation student and to everyone who has kept us in prayer.

In March MOB went to YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch for a ski weekend at Winter Park. Many of the students said it was the best skiing they had experienced in years. We could attribute that to good weather, but I would also like to think that everything is better when Presbyterians are gathered in community. We focused on the texts from Galatians of Fruit of the Spirit. We had a Saturday night devotion where we focused on what it means to be a part of God’s beautiful creation. The text was chosen because it would also be the text for Youth Sunday. Five seniors preached and we celebrated their life growing up in the church and where life will take them next.

March also provided us with the opportunity to bring back the Agape Latte Fundraiser. Thank you to everyone who showed up and our talented performers. We raised $2,400 that night!

We thank you for everyone in the church who has kept our youth ministry in your prayers and we ask for continued prayers as we prepare for our summer work trips. MOB will fly to Chicago and have an urban work trip experience. JAM will drive to Ghost Ranch and work on the grounds and in the community. I know that God will provide our youth with wonderful opportunities and their eyes will be opened to the world around them.

Thanks and blessings,

Matthew Benz-Whittington
Temporary Youth Ministry Coordinator

Congratulations to Our Graduating Seniors!

Charlie Heth • Caroline Ellsworth • Anna McCollum • Luke Neureiter • Abby Harder • Jessie Aldridge • Riley Easton • Sam Tracey • Jack Stenson
Meet Our New Minister of Youth and Families!

Amanda Osenga, M.Div.

As part of a military family, Amanda has had the opportunity to call many places home, establishing roots in Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Ohio, England, and Germany. Having lived in so many places has nurtured her love for travel and adventure. She has trekked through the Himalayas in Nepal, climbed Mayan temples in Guatemala, seen the depths of the Grand Canyon, and summited a few Colorado fourteeners. She also enjoys frequenting local coffee shops and takes pride in being a regular at the neighborhood pub. She admits to having no natural musical talents, but has taken on the challenge that “you’re never too old to learn something new” by attempting to learn to play the violin.

For the past six-and-a-half years, Amanda has lived in Decatur, Georgia, where she has served as the Director of Children, Youth, and Family Ministries at North Decatur Presbyterian Church. Having been involved in Christian Education for over a decade, Amanda has also served in congregations in Cleveland, Ohio, where she developed a love for confirmation and Ocala, Florida, where she helped to establish an interfaith youth group. Before earning her Master of Divinity from Candler School of Theology, Amanda served as a Director of Youth Ministry at Forest Hill Church Presbyterian, in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, where she moonlighted as a barista, learning more about people and being part of a church than serving coffee.

Over the years of working with youth, her commitment for faith formation has only deepened. In a culture that is increasingly becoming noisy with distractions and dominated by individualism, consumerism and superficiality, it is essential to create spaces that offer deeper meaning where youth can be taken seriously for their theological questioning and yearnings.

Fifteen years after leaving Denver, Amanda is delighted to be coming “home” and to nurture her roots here. She is particularly looking forward to accompanying the youth of Montview on their spiritual journeys as they deepen their own roots of faith and claim their God-given gifts.

We will welcome Amanda to our staff at the beginning of July!

By Rev. Clover Reuter Beal
Thank You!

Dear Montview Friends,

As I look back on our year together, there is so much to be thankful for! THANK YOU to all of our talented and dedicated volunteer musicians! From the soloists who woke up early to provide music for the 8:30 a.m. worship service, the Timbrel Choristers who spent weeks learning a brand new composition by John Kuzma, the junior high and high school kids who participated week in and week out in the Jubilate Singers, to the Westminster Choristers who provided glorious music at countless worship services throughout the year.

There are 200 (!) of you who make our music program live, breathe and minister. Without a doubt, our music ministry would cease without you!

THANK YOU to these Montview members for their generosity:

- Linda & Robert Alvarado
- Garry Frederickson
- Chin Tan
- Lorraine Alcott
- Paul & Carol Lingenfelter
- Russ & Margaret Wehner
- Paul Barrett
- Ken Long
- Marcia Whitcomb
- Jim & Jenny Bock
- Dave Lott
- Barb Williams
- Richard Cornelius
- Jonathan & Emily Musser
- Phil & Molly Worth
- Jim & Marilyn Craft
- Carol Quinn
- And several anonymous donors

The folks listed above donated to our Organ Restoration Project. Did you know that there are over 1,400 handcrafted leather pouches that control the airflow in and out of each organ pipe? Did you also know that those same leather pouches were original to the organ, making them almost 60 years old? They needed to be replaced before they stopped working! And as you can imagine, it wasn’t the cheapest of projects either. Thank you to our project supporters, who helped us ensure another 50 years of service from our pipe organ.

THANK YOU to our music staff, especially those who volunteer their time. Heidi Shriver has given so much to our music & arts program, leading our Cantate Singers and helping with Pulpit Players. Barbara Wollan and Jim Craft have accompanied our kids, playing piano for rehearsals throughout the year. And, of course, Jean Sibley and Dennis Shull continue to be the driving force behind Musique & Masque and Pulpit Players—a real labor of love for them both.

As we head into the summer, there are still ways for YOU to be involved in our music ministry. Summer Choir is a fun and easy way to experience singing in the choir for worship. We meet at 9:00 a.m. in the choir loft each Sunday in June. There are also our summer reading sessions—a great chance to experience singing through music of the choral repertoire. This summer we’ll focus on choral music with a jazz influence—including music by Duke Ellington, Dave Brubeck and Francis Poulenc. We meet 7:00 - 9:00 pm on Thursday nights in June.

With peace,

Minister of Music
Evensong at Montview

On February 25, the Sanctuary Choir led an Evensong at Montview Presbyterian Church. This was a ground-breaking event for Montview, but the basis for the service goes back for centuries in the Anglican tradition. The congregation seemed to enjoy the service, judging from feedback we have received. Perhaps this can become a tradition during the Lenten season.

In the Anglican tradition, Evening Prayer is a liturgy that is typically celebrated in the late afternoon or early evening. When it is rendered chorally, it is commonly known as Evensong. The service is roughly the equivalent of vespers in the Roman Catholic and Lutheran churches, although the Anglicans originally formed Evening Prayer by combining the monastic offices of Vespers and Compline. Of course, the service really has its origins in the Roman Catholic liturgy, but Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury during the reign of Henry VIII, is responsible for the earliest form of the Anglican service, which dates to 1545.

In a fully choral service of Evensong, all parts of the service except the penitential introduction, Scripture lessons, and some of the final prayers are sung or chanted, sometimes by an officiating cleric or lay person, but often by the choir. This is how the Montview version of Evensong was done.

Two of the key parts of the Evensong are the “Magnificat” and the “Nunc dimittis.” Some may be surprised at the inclusion of the “Magnificat,” since it usually is associated with Advent, with Mary rejoicing at the news that she is to be the mother of Jesus. However, it is almost always sung during Evensong. Perhaps one way to think about the “Magnificat” is that it is a song of expectation, and Lent, like Advent, is a time of expectation.

The “Nunc dimittis” is Simeon’s song of rejoicing upon seeing Jesus. He had been promised by the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. When Mary and Joseph brought the baby to the Temple in Jerusalem for the ceremony of consecration, Simeon was there. Simeon then took Jesus into his arms and uttered the words that make up the “Nunc dimittis.”

Evensong services are conducted by Anglican churches (as well as a small but increasing number of other Protestant churches) all over the world, including the USA. In the United Kingdom, large Anglican churches conduct Evensongs every day of the week, except possibly Sunday. During the summer, when choirs tend to be on vacation, guest choirs from other parts of the world are invited to substitute for the regular choir so that Evensong can continue.

Evensong would be a lovely tradition to have at Montview, somewhat analogous to the traditional service of lessons and carols held during Advent.

By Jim Craft

Musique & Masque Announces Fall Show 2018

Yes, there will be a fall show this year!

DEAR EDWINA is coming to the Miller Center September 14-16 (2 evenings and 2 matinées).

In keeping with our new format of doing a major Broadway musical every other year, and scheduling alternative projects in the “off” years (i.e., Broadway Comes to Montview with Mara Davi in 2016), we are planning an off-Broadway piece that showcases our kids this fall, with back-up provided by the adults in the company. DEAR EDWINA is the story of Edwina Spoonapple, who just wants to have an award up on the fridge like her talented siblings – she feels that her only talent is giving advice, and hopes to win a spot in the Kalamazoo “Advice-a-Palooza” festival, with a subsequent award of her own. Through musical numbers, utilizing various music styles (rock, opera, country, etc.), Edwina provides advice in response to questions/problems from her friends. DEAR EDWINA is a show-within-a-show, as she and her friends are actually staging a mini-musical from her garage. At the end of the day, Edwina realizes that we all must “sing our own song.”

While speaking and/or some vocal parts will be carried by our teens and pre-teens, the chorus numbers will be anchored by adults members of the company, working with the kids. Thus, we are looking for a large youth component to pull off this project – to our “regulars” in the company, we suggest that you recruit your friends to join you for a fun summer project, as the show has up to 20 roles for kids! Yes, we will include our youngest kids in chorus numbers as well! Rehearsal schedule will be similar to previous years – beginning August 1 and running through mid-September. If you are not currently receiving Musique & Masque e-mails regarding our shows, but would like to be included on our list, please contact Jean Sibley (jeanannsibley@gmail.com) to receive audition materials.

AUDITION DATES: SATURDAY, JUNE 2 (9AM – 12NOON) AND WEDNESDAY, JUNE 6 (7-9PM) IN MILLER CENTER. Audition materials will be provided by e-mail.

DON’T MISS THIS ADVENTURE WITH MUSIQUE & MASQUE! Put these dates on your calendar now: September 14, 15 & 16.

By Jean Sibley
A Message from Montview Mission Life

2018 Grant Recipients – Hunger Relief Efforts – Mission Programs for All Ages

Our rich history of Mission at Montview encompasses a wide range of financial support and volunteer opportunities for numerous organizations. In addition to funding key mission outreach programs sponsored by the Presbyterian Church USA at the national level and the local ministries of the Denver Presbytery, Montview’s annual Mission Life grants will continue to be evenly split between specific local and global outreach efforts championed by our congregation. In February, the Mission Life Committee granted $60,000 to more than a dozen organizations working on issues related to homelessness, hunger relief, education and housing.

2018 Local Grant Recipients

- Central Visitation
- Denver Inner City Parish
- Habitat for Humanity
- Homeless Packet Project
- Iglesia Presbiteriana de Valverde
- Impact Empowerment Group
- Montview Manor
- Park Hill Tutoring
- Senior Support Services
- Stedman Elementary School
- Women’s Homelessness Initiative

2018 Global Grant Recipients

- Ethiopia Reads
- International Development Enterprises (IDE) Nepal
- The IPODERAC home for abandoned children, Puebla, Mexico
- Musana Community Development Organization, Iganga, Uganda
- Nepal Youth Foundation
- Seeds of South Sudan

2018 Mission Theme: Hunger

In addition to providing financial and volunteer support to the programs named above, the Mission Life Committee is creating church-wide opportunities to shine a spotlight on hunger relief efforts throughout 2018. Working in conjunction with the Deacons Soul Food group, the mission team is promoting a monthly opportunity to prepare and serve a meal to the clients of Senior Support Services. The Soul Food group also provides weekly meals for Montview Manor and families at Stedman Elementary, and is planning to expand its reach to families in need at two other Park Hill schools: Smith and Hallett. Contact Montview Deacon Paul Heitzenrater at p.r.heitzenrater@comcast.net to get involved in these home-cooked hunger relief opportunities.

Montview Community Day of Service

On Sunday, June 24 the Mission Life Committee is partnering with Metro Caring to package beans and rice that will be distributed in their market. Watch for your invitation to sign up for this intergenerational Montview Community Day of Service. We’re also planning an opportunity for members of all ages to participate in packaging ready-to-eat meals that will be distributed across the world through a global hunger relief organization. Stay tuned for details as they become available.

A heartfelt thank you for all those working in mission at Montview!

Warmly,

Jennifer Seward
Mission Life Coordinator
Nepal 2017 Trip Report

We returned from Nepal in December with memories we’ll treasure forever. From digging trenches alongside the village women to camping in a rice field, playing with the kids and dancing with the villagers, the trip was, in a word, unforgettable. And we accomplished our mission: the villagers now have a MUS (Multiple Use System) that’s delivering water to their households and irrigating their vegetable crops. The women and girls are no longer hauling water. With irrigation, the villagers can grow cash crops and augment their meager incomes. We visited nearby villages that had hosted other Montview worktrips and witnessed the ways that economic success is beginning to change their lives, all thanks to water.

Back in Kathmandu, we worked with the sixth, seventh and ninth grade girls at the Mary Ward school. Our three lead teachers had developed lesson plans based on a Peace Corp curriculum called GLOW: Girls Leading Our World. Using journals, games, music and small group activities, we watched with joy as the girls embraced and expanded their thinking around self-esteem, nutrition and health, gender, dreams and aspirations, and leadership. They were nothing less than exuberant in their enthusiasm for the material. GLOW was a home run!

When most Americans think about Nepal, we get a mental picture of Mt. Everest and trekking in the Himalayas. We were surprised to find bamboo, banana plants, and orange trees and to learn that rice was one of the main crops. There were wild monkeys everywhere.

The Nepalese people, young and old, followers and leaders, welcomed us warmly, provided for us sumptuously, educated us profoundly, enriched us socially and lifted us spiritually.

Being in Nepal made us realize tangibly that we are all one world - that we live on one globe. We are interdependent, and indeed we are all connected in our humanity.

Our favorite moments were those spent with the children of Nepal. It helped reinforce our belief that children the world over, no matter what the circumstances, want the same things: to be loved by others as well as loved by God. And they all love the joy of play and learning as long as they are allowed those freedoms and opportunities.

As we pulled away in our van, and villagers and visitors alike wiped away tears, some of us realized that we thought we had great conversations with the villagers, and of course we had not. So why did we drive away feeling we’d shared conversation? Somehow, it had happened: digging trenches across from each other; sieving sand through a rough screen; being pulled up by a villager to twirl body and hands in dance; watching a village young teen with long black braids daily scan the camp to seek me out after school. Each of these times, eyes had met and lingered, and we broke into simultaneous grins. Yes. We might not have spoken, but we definitely communicated.

By Lindy Doty, Lynn Hetterich, Christy Honen, Suzy King, Gilbert McKenzie, Susie Pappas, Jeanne Robb and Scott and Vivian Showalter
Montview Garden Columbarium Commission—2017

The Structure to Administer the Montview Garden Columbarium (1977, rev. 1980) requires the Montview Garden Columbarium Commission (“Commission”) to make an annual written report to the Session. This is a shorter version of the report provided to Session.

The Commission has nine members who are elected for three-year terms in annual classes of three. The Columbarium is also supported by a dedicated group of former Commissioners. Rev. Ian Cummins is the Commission’s pastoral representative. Peter Hulac assists Ian with these duties. The Commission cares for the Columbarium, makes future management and operational decisions, and encourages crypt sales.

During 2017, there were 12 interments in Individual Crypts and one interment in the Common Crypt. Of the original 900 Individual Crypts, 567 remain unsold.

The Columbarium observed its 40th anniversary during the Memorial Day Reception. The Commission is looking forward to a large celebration in 2027 for its 50th year.

In 2017, the Commission reviewed and updated its Policies and Purchase Conditions. The revised policies were approved by Session. The Commission collected and culled files accumulated since the Columbarium’s inception and organized the remaining historical and working documents. Some materials will be stored in the office and others will be stored in Montview’s History Room. The Commission also prepared draft procedures for new office staff. The Commission is coordinating with Sara Hashman (office clerk), who is reviewing, supplementing and updating the office’s Excel spreadsheet and Montview’s files per purchase.

The Commission reinvested its Endowment Fund’s 2016 distribution ($2,318) in the Fund and approved one $5,000 transfer from its checking account (held by the Church) to the Endowment Fund. In the last several years, the Commission budgeted and transferred larger than normal amounts to the Endowment Fund, exceeding its annual income, to make up for years when no transfers were made. In 2017, expenses ($7,414) exceeded income ($4,940) by $2,474. Beginning in 2018, the Commission will not budget a specific sum for transfer, but will wait until the Fall to determine money transfers, based on earnings and expenses.

By Susan Schneider Homiak
Chair, Montview Garden Columbarium Commission

Pat Harper Celebrates 20 years at Montview Manor

It was 1998 when Pat Harper first arrived at Montview Manor, the senior living apartment building located at 1663 Steele Street near City Park South, a non-profit operation inspired by members and clergy of Montview Church. But she did not move in as a senior resident. Instead, Pat Harper was hired to manage the facility after she replied to a job listing in The Denver Post.

With a background in hotel and apartment complex management, Pat hadn’t heard about the Manor before she applied for the job. She did know she preferred to work with people who “stayed in the setting,” as she put it. She preferred to build relationships with her tenants, and she certainly has done so at Montview Manor.

For the job interview, she met with members of Montview Boulevard Presbyterian Church, and says she “appreciated that the Manor was run by a church.” When asked what Montview Manor was like when she arrived, Pat recalled “It was a very warm and inviting place, congenial and happy. Several people who had lived here for years were members of Montview Church.

“However,” she continued, “the physical building was lacking. Improvements were made very slowly because it was a HUD property until 2000. Rents were low, but there were not a lot of amenities.” She added that the building was beginning to age and there was not always the money to repair it. The board had to decide what was most important and what could be deferred.

Since 2000 and under Pat’s management, there have been many building improvements. The Manor always had a dining program, but now they also have foot care, flex classes, and a weekly shoppers’ bus. Volunteer Montview members provide rides to Sunday services and concerts.

Montview Manor Background

Fifty years ago, Montview Rev. Dr. Arthur Miller was inspired to develop a community to meet the physical, social and psychological needs of seniors. The result was Montview Manor, which offers...
Sojourners Fellowship Group

Sojourners is a Montview Fellowship group for people who were born between 1/01/1948 to 12/31/1961 (some of our partners may be a tad younger or tad older which is fine). It is comprised of singles (unmarried, divorced, widowed, widowers, gay, straight) and couples. It began 30 years ago, with activities determined by the ages of our young children at the time. New members are added all the time.

We are primarily a social group. Occasionally we rally the group to do a service project together. We are always open to ideas and someone who wants to organize an event. We no longer organize activities around kids. Our kids grew up! We meet when the group plans an activity. In 2017 we met three times. We had a White Elephant Epiphany Party in January; a documentary/potluck night in April where we showed 13th, an award winning documentary around the abuse of the 13th amendment in perpetuating Jim Crow laws into current times; and a Bocce Tournament/BBQ in September.

For more info contact: Marilynn and Jeff Ackermann at mjackermann@msn.com.

By Marilynn Ackermann

The 2018 Easter Tea

The Easter Tea is a popular Montview tradition, with crafts for the children and coffee, tea and goodies for the adults. Finding a coordinator, however, often presents a challenge. But not this year!

Ben Lusz quickly and graciously responded to the request to coordinate this year’s Tea. He assembled a team of talented volunteers to help. His team included Todd Rembe, Deb Saint-Phard and Nancy Van Burgel, who were critical to Montview Church becoming a part of More Light Presbyterians. Ben was impressed by this important step and believed that “in addition to discussing LGBTQ people, we should also highlight the contributions of LGBTQ congregants to the church, and the Easter Tea is the perfect opportunity.”

Todd was in charge of recruitment and Ben kept the train on the track. Mike Bufton also volunteered to lead, believing “why should we make something great, when we can make it fabulous!” And FABULOUS is exactly what Mike made happen at the Easter Tea by thinking outside the box on the floor plan, décor, and food.

Many from the LGBTQ community, as well as supportive allies and numerous new and longtime Montview members, stepped up to volunteer their time and talent. The result was a fun morning for our congregation with many smiles, laughs, sweetness fulfilled and piano music in the background provided by Kevin!

Many thanks to Ben, his team, and all the Montview community who volunteered and brought treats. You made this year’s Tea a huge success!

By Carol O’Dwyer

Opera Colorado

On March 22, 300 children from Stedman and Park Hill Elementary Schools filled Fellowship Hall. They were the enthusiastic audience for a presentation of Cinderella by Opera Colorado. This was a wonderful enrichment opportunity for the children. We thank Montview member, Erika Neale, for her passion and leadership of this event and her continued creativity and loving vision for similar events in the future!

By The Children’s Committee

Photos: Mike and Ben, helper RaeAnn, the fabulous table setting and some of the happy guests. Photos courtesy of Todd Rembe.
COMMUNITY @ MONTVIEW

May is Habitat for Humanity Month

For the 18th consecutive year, Montview will be helping to build a Habitat for Humanity (“Habitat”) home in metro Denver. We will be building this summer at Sheridan Square, which is Habitat’s largest housing project in Colorado. The development is located on a 4.35 acre site in Sheridan, just southeast of Knox Court and Kenyon Ave, which was once home to Fort Logan Elementary School. When completed, the project will include 63 energy-efficient homes and provide permanent affordable housing for 355 people – 130 adults and 225 children. The specific unit that Montview will be sponsoring will have four bedrooms and two bathrooms.

Affordable housing is in short supply in metro Denver. Data from February 2018 indicate that the average single-family home in Denver sold for $444,429, which is well beyond what many metro residents can afford. Financial contributions and the efforts of construction volunteers enable Habitat to offer affordable housing. Low income families that apply for a Habitat home undergo a rigorous selection process and must be able to demonstrate need, a steady income and the willingness to put in at least 200 hours of “sweat equity” in lieu of a full down payment. Their monthly mortgage payments including estimated utilities and insurance costs are set at 30% of the family’s gross monthly income.

As in prior years, the Montview Habitat Committee is seeking your help to make this year’s build a reality. We need to raise $10,000 to fulfill our financial commitment to the Sheridan Square project. There will be special donation envelopes in the pews at Church throughout May, or you may make a check out to the Church and write “Habitat” on the Memo line or follow the links on the Montview website to donate online. We will also be seeking volunteers to help with the actual building efforts. Montview has been assigned six building dates in June and early July. You can register for one or more of these work days on the Montview website. No experience is needed and it is a fun and rewarding experience working with your fellow Montview members on such a worthwhile project.

The Habitat Committee will have a table set up on Sundays in May and June, so please stop by if you have any questions.

Pat Harper/Montview Manor

affordable apartments to seniors and today remains a thriving community. The Board of Managers for the Manor, a non-profit corporation, is comprised of members of Montview, residents of the Manor and selected community representatives. Through the years, the dedicated Boards have not only kept the Manor self-supporting, but have also maintained and upgraded the physical structure and apartments. The building has extraordinary views of City Park to the north and the mountains to the west.

Continued Kudos to Pat Harper.

Pat Harper was born in the Bronx and moved to South Florida due to an asthma condition. Pat went to school in South Florida and then took business administration at Broward Junior College.

Pat says that Bella, her miniature Schnauzer, is probably her favorite hobby, and she also enjoys genealogy. She spends as much time as possible with her two grandsons, who are students in Denver Public Schools.

Pat Harper reminds us that financial contributions to Montview Manor are always welcome. Checks should be sent c/o Administrator, Montview Manor, 1663 Steele Street, #101, Denver, CO, 80206.

By Pat Pascoe and Juli Davidson

(continued from page 11)

Taking a Stand on Gun Violence

Montview was well-represented by about 25 members who took a stand against gun violence by participating in the March for Our Lives on March 24 in downtown Denver.

Pat Harper/Montview Manor

By Bob Homiak


Montview members at ‘March for Our Lives.’ Photo courtesy of Susie Pappas.

Queer Theology

Montview’s five-week adult ed lecture series Queer Theology: Understanding LGBTQ Persons and the Journey of Faith explored issues facing the LGBTQ community and questions that confront our church as we work to become a more welcoming community for all. Tim and Sophie Beal began this series by defining some shared vocabulary, and by unpacking what the Bible might have to say (or not say) about these issues. Are there other ways to read and translate the “Clobber Passages” some Christians use to condemn non-heterosexuality? Next, a panel of Montview members shared about each of their family’s journeys toward understanding and acceptance of their transgender family member. Week three featured a discussion of what it means that Montview is becoming a “More Light Church.” The fourth week, Rev. Dr. Paula Stone Williams shared her story of being “Christian, transgender, and faithful.” If you missed it, we recommend watching her TED Talk. Finally, we heard from Jenna Glover, a specialist in research and clinical work with LGBTQ youth at Children’s Hospital Colorado. This was an enlightening and formative series in the life of Montview Church, and we look forward to continuing to listen and engage with one another on this journey as a community of faith.

Ecotheology and Beyond

The creation story is not only about us. That was one message Patricia K. Tull delivered in her lead-off talk in the four-week Adult Education series on Ecotheology. The series Ecotheology and Beyond explored the ties between the Bible and ecology and then moved beyond that framework to how we might become indigenous to Earth and closer to Nature.

Tull, an Old Testament Biblical scholar, is the author of “Inhabiting Eden: Christians, the Bible and the Ecological Crisis.” In her talk on April 8, she traced the story of creation and humans’ relation to the natural world from Genesis to Jeremiah. The Bible verses she cited illustrate that humans were a part of the creation story, but not the main event.

Tim Beal took another approach in Week 2, examining the Bible with “deep green” eyes.

Speaking on Earth Day, Montview member Karen Kudebeh reflected on how indigenous peoples, like the prophets of old, focus on the places where they live and acknowledge human dependency on the natural world. Karen has a background in environmental policy and is a student of both western science and indigenous perspectives. Last fall she attended the Presbyterians for Earth Care immersion event with tribes of the Columbia River.

At the April 22 presentation, Karen demonstrated how our landscapes are imprinted with the deep time story given to us by science, and how we can tell those stories from seven directions to enhance a sense of belonging in this place. She also summarized actions being taken by the Presbyterian denomination to address root causes of our disassociation from Place, caused in large part by the “Doctrine of Discovery,” a series of papal bulls in the 1400s and 1500s that justified the destruction, killing and taking of lands of indigenous peoples through colonization. She identified several very encouraging actions being undertaken by our denomination and other Christians as we face the truth of our history and align ourselves with the biblical imperative to care for all of creation.

As individuals and as a congregation, we can minimize our carbon footprint and draw closer to nature, as Montview member David Lucas demonstrated with his discussion of the Rocky Mountain Arsenal National Wildlife Refuge in Week 4.

So while God’s Creation is not all about us, it IS up to each of us to serve and preserve this Earth. We don’t get a do-over.

CITIZEN Series Coming Soon!

Montview’s Race & Privilege Steering Committee invites you to participate in an upcoming four-session discussion series centered around the NY Times bestseller, Citizen: An American Lyric by Claudia Rankine. These sessions will be conversations about race and social justice. The book was the focus of a six-week Denver Talks program in the fall of 2017. Citizen, now Montview’s summer all-church read, was the winner of the National Book Critic’s Circle Award. Books can be purchased in the Commons after services on Sunday.

By Jan Paul

By Rebecca Gale
NEW MEMBERS

Received February 2018

LINDSAY & THOMAS ANDERSON
Lindsay and Tommy both teach at Denver’s East High School. Lindsay teaches World History and Tommy teaches Psychology. They are the parents of two children: kindergärtner Parker and toddler Austin. The family lives in Stapleton and enjoys being outdoors and traveling in their spare time.

CHRISTOPHER AND LINDA BEARDSLEY
The Beardsleys have attended Montview for some time now and have forged many lasting friendships as a result. Linda teaches Sunday School and is part of Montview’s Garden Club. Their children are Connor, a 6th grader, and Fiona, a 4th grader. The kids enjoy the children’s programs and serve as acolytes. The family enjoys skiing, traveling, and tending their vegetable garden.

ESTELLE & CHUCK BENNETT
The Bennetts lived in Denver in the 80’s and have recently returned, moving from Minnesota. They live in Park Hill and enjoy their walk to church. Chuck is a retired environmental executive and continues as a consultant and mentor. The Bennetts have two children and four grandchildren. They enjoy Winter Park where Chuck skis and Estelle hikes.

SUSAN HELDMAN
Susy and her husband Peter moved here from San Francisco about ten months ago due to a job relocation. She works as a controller for Schwab Charitable Fund. She served as a deacon in her previous Presbyterian church. Susy likes to travel, hike, snowshoe, bake, and cook. She is fluent in Spanish, having lived in Peru as a child.

LAURA & SCOTT DANGEL
Laura and Scott and their son Spencer, 8 months old, live in north City Park and will soon be building in Stapleton. Scott is an architect and lovingly remodeled their house. Laura has worked for The Children’s Hospital for 9 years. The couple moved to Denver from Nebraska where they met at the University of Nebraska. When younger, Laura was very involved in her Presbyterian church’s youth groups and is an ordained deacon. The Dangels enjoy playing golf and tennis.

JENNIE FOSTER
Jennie has attended Montview for four months. She finds that there are a lot of opportunities for seniors. Jennie likes to read and write children’s books.

PHYLLIS KESTER
Phyllis is a retired teacher with continued interests in journalism, writing, and historical research. She attended Montview over 50 years ago. Upon relocating to Denver after many years in Colorado Springs, she re-connected with Montview as a homecoming. Phyllis embraces Montview’s social justice and music programs and says, “Its people and hospitality are irresistible.”
NEW MEMBERS

Received February 2018

ADELE LAFRANCE & JOHN MUELLER
Adele and John moved to Park Hill recently from Wichita. Adele is a psychologist and university professor. John is an energy professional. Both love being close to the mountains for skiing and hiking. They value the sermons and Montview’s commitment to inclusivity and the neighborhood.

SHERRI & DARREN DENNSTEDT
Sherri and Darren are both educators and live nearby in Stapleton. They both enjoy hiking, biking, fishing, and kayaking. They have three adult children: Collin, Kaitlyn, and Kelly and one son-in-law, Ethan (who is serving in the Army and stationed in Brussels).

GREG FISHER
Greg has attended Montview for about four and a half years, moving here from Michigan in 2007. He is an over road truck driver accompanied on trips by Buster, his golden/lab mix. Greg is a swimmer and biker and has participated in triathlons and Ride the Rockies. Greg looks forward to meeting new friends, being an usher, participating in mission trips, and many other things.

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Received April 2018

SANDRA COPENHAVER-BROWNE
Sandra, her husband Duncan, and their children Aidan and Amanda moved to Denver from Princeton, New Jersey. Aidan is in 8th grade; Amanda is in 6th grade. Sandra is an attorney and serves as in-house counsel for Air Methods Corporation. She enjoys skiing, tennis, yoga, and reading.

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NEW MEMBERS

Received April 2018

NANCY GETZINGER
Nancy has been involved at Montview for many years as a member of the choir. Her music experience includes being a professional organist, a piano teacher, and a choir director. She and her husband Lee Bonsall are active in the Celtic community, belonging to a Scottish clan, the Colorado Welsh Society, and doing Irish dancing. Nancy also enjoys reading, walking, hiking, and travel. She has a daughter, who is also a professional musician, and a granddaughter, who is also showing musical abilities.

EMILY & RUSSELL HAYTHORN
Emily and Russell live in Stapleton with their preschool daughters Savannah and Holland. Russell is a TV news reporter. Emily designs women's golf, tennis, and tote bags. Russell's interests include farming, skiing, swimming, and writing. Emily enjoys crafts, being outdoors, and golf.

BEN & MEGAN KIRKLEY
Ben and Megan moved to Denver from Chapel Hill, North Carolina. They are both physicians. Ben also owns a bicycle shop. Their son Sam is almost one year old. Ben enjoys biking and being outdoors. Megan likes to cook, bake, and garden.

KRISTA MCFARLAND
Krista and her children moved to Denver recently from Richmond, Virginia. The children are Grayson, who is a 1st grader, and triplets Isla, Sydney, and Charlie who are pre-schoolers. Krista works as a consultant and enjoys hiking.

MAC MCLENNAN & GLEnda PROSSER
Mac and Glenda have attended Montview for about a year. Mac is already active as an usher. He is a retired electrical engineer. Mac enjoys reading, skiing, hiking, snowshoeing, woodworking, tutoring, and music. Glenda is a retired librarian. She has been active with the Soul Food group. She also enjoys hiking, snow shoeing, and working with the League of Women Voters.

NANCY ROGERS
Nancy Rogers moved to Denver a year ago from New Braunfels, Texas. She has attended Christmas services at Montview the past five years while visiting her children and grandchildren during the holidays. She is a Global Rater in clinical research. She enjoys walking, cooking, and being a grandmother.
NEW MEMBERS

Received April 2018

ERICA WANG
Erica and her husband Sam are the parents of Marik, a toddler. She is a pharmacist at Rose Medical Center. Erica enjoys being outdoors with her family and taking in the scenery that Colorado has to offer.

AFTON WILLIAMSON
Afton is originally from Centennial, Colorado. She had been living in Seattle and recently moved back from there to Park Hill two years ago. She is a nurse practitioner with the DU Health and Counseling Center. She and husband Scott are the parents of Micah who is 3 years old and Gabriel who is 6 weeks old. In her spare time she enjoys reading and skiing.

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GIVING
IS EASIER THAN EVER
WE OFFER MULTIPLE WAYS TO GIVE.

Your support makes it possible for us to continue the many ministries that serve the Montview Church community. We thank you for your generosity!

Go to our website for Online Giving: www.montview.org/giving

Summer Church Hours
The main office will be staffed from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. Building open hours will vary somewhat, depending upon active events.

Watch for Your Giving Statements via Email
Just a reminder that if we have your email address on file you are receiving your Montview Statement of Giving by email. If you are still receiving paper statements and would like to switch to emailed statements, please contact Dan Gasser in the church office at gasser@montview.org to provide this information. Thank you for helping us save staff time, postage and trees!

STATEMENT OF MISSION
We believe that the love of God surrounds us. Our call is to nurture this love in ourselves and each other. Through prayer, worship, education, outreach and mission, we seek to foster spiritual fulfillment, community, tolerance, peace, non-violence and social justice. We dedicate ourselves and our church to follow the Spirit of Christ by word and deed. (Adopted by Session, July 1998)