

The Rico Community Church

February, 2005 Newsletter

From the Pastor's Desk...

The view from my office window is truly inspiring. The mountains form a beautiful backdrop for the billowing sea of snow to present a splendid picture of God's handiwork against a San Juan cobalt blue sky. We have settled in for the winter months following the excitement of Advent and Christmas. Thank you for all the encouraging cards, letters and gifts. I am enjoying the warmth and gracious hospitality and enthusiasm of the members of our congregation who brave the 70 plus inches of snow on these Sundays.

On December 5th, five brave persons from Rico and six of my children and grandchildren drove over snow covered roads to attend my Ordination Service in Durango. Many from the Rico congregation were involved with the Rico Community Arts and Crafts Faire (old fashioned spelling) on the 11th, 12th, and 13th. There were activities for children at the school while parents did their "Faire share of shopping." Many of our youth, and even your pastor offered helping hands during craft time. Jared and Julie Hemphill along with Todd and Kim Jones made the annual Chili Supper at the Fire House on the 18th a fantastic success.

On the 19th our congregation enjoyed visitors from Ouray and Ridgway for the Annual Candlelight and Communion Service followed by a delicious homemade soup supper. With contributions from many, we ate until we were stuffed. Guest speakers included Pastor Dick Engdahl, Roger Henn and yours truly. It was a great blessing as over forty of us celebrated the Lord's Supper together. On Christmas Eve we were blessed with 25 folks for the Worship Service. Following the 5:00 Communion Service, we lit candles and sang "Silent Night."

On Sunday, February 6 we will begin a Sunday morning Bible study here at the church. Those interested in this study please meet at 9:00 AM and join us later for a time of fellowship before the 10:30 regular Worship Service. Please continue to pray for us that we all may be God's faithful witnesses in Rico.

With Christian Love and Joy,



Pastor Carol Burgeson



Welcome to Pastor Carol

Executive Presbyterian Dick Craft and Rev Jim Petersen from Montrose participated in a welcoming service in Rico for Rev Carol Burgeson during morning worship, January 9th. More pictures from this event are on the church website www.ricochurch.org.



970- 967-2463

and

RicoChurch@Juno.com

We have a telephone answering machine and also an email address. Both are usually attended to (depending on weather) towards the end of the week.

Our mailing address is:
P.O. Box 208
Rico, Colorado 81332

For Younger Believers

The youth enjoyed a Pizza Night at the church, Friday, January 28th.

A special thank you to Lee and Mac Vergari who continue to serve the church as acolytes, ushers, and readers. They were kept busy on January 9th helping Dick Craft by carrying in the new hymnals and Bibles, gifts from the Presbytery of Western Colorado.



A lesson on Baptism

Music Ministry

We have been blessed at several services by the talents of the Rico Mountain Harmonies.



Many thanks to Julie Hemphill, who filled in for Steve Snelling while Steve was traveling to New York City on business.

Steve has been our pianist for several years, and is much appreciated. He is making plans to further his musical career by moving to San Francisco this spring. Steve – you will be greatly missed.



WWW.RicoChurch.Org

That's the address of our web site, updated frequently. It is easy to navigate, even for beginners.

We generally update the site monthly, and add pictures of special events from time to time. Please take time to visit. Suggestions for the site are welcomed.



Our new treasurer, Julie Vergari

Julie Vergari, born in St Peter, Minnesota, was baptized Presbyterian as an infant. She grew up in Minnesota, and at the age of 14 moved to Longmont, Colorado, falling in love with the mountains. Later, wanting to better herself and travel, she went to the Federal Building to visit the Peace Corps office, but, as she was not yet 18, they wouldn't take her. Walking down the hall, she ended up in the army recruiting office, and joined. She was stationed at Fort Carson, Colorado, where she was married. They had a daughter, Jessica, and then were stationed in Germany for three years, on to Fort Hood, Texas, and then to Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. While in Hawaii, Julie attended a community college to obtain a degree. They were then transferred to North Carolina, where her two sons, Lee and Mackenzie were born.

In North Carolina, Julie joined a warm and inviting Presbyterian Church. She was soon asked to be an assistant treasurer, and when the treasurer left suddenly, was asked to fill that position. She obtained an Associate Accounting degree and, in 1994, was ordained as an Elder of the Reilly Road Presbyterian Church in Fayetteville. She was a stay-at-home mom, holding many volunteer positions, serving as treasurer for ten years.

After her divorce, Julie was determined to return to Colorado. She moved to Rico in June 2004 with her boys; Jessica, now an adult, remained in North Carolina. Julie chose this area because her brother resides here; she took a job with the town of Mountain Village in accounting, four days after arriving. She finds Rico a wonderful place to live. Her boys attend school in Telluride. The Rico Steering Team appointed Julie on 1/19/2005 to be our church treasurer.