



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Johnny Appleseed Day

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



SEPTEMBER 2020

From Our Pastors



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Rev. Erickson writes about getting not our autumn routine.

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September 26 is Johnny Appleseed day. Apple lovers unite!

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When confronted with the legend of Johnny Appleseed, most people are surprised to discover that this American legend was a living, breathing, historical human being!

It's true. Far from being simply the stuff of folklore and folk tales, Appleseed (real name: John Chapman) was an American nurseryman who introduced apple trees to the Midwest, including Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois. He was also a conservationist and missionary during the earliest days of the United States.

And yet, despite his living, breathing status, Appleseed was, indeed, a living legend. And Johnny Appleseed Day on September 26 is celebrated in his honor.

Catherine's Commentary

You are probably aware that the Grace leadership is working on our reopening plan. For now, we have submitted plans for opening the sewing room and conducting outdoor services. We have also resubmitted our communion plan. These all went to the Diocese of Colorado a couple of weeks ago and we are waiting for their response. The Diocese tends to be very cautious, but we are hopeful. Two things I ask of you as we go through this process:

1) Be patient. Reopening depends not only on the thoroughness of our plans, but also on how the unpredictable virus behaves. If we have

another wave of Corona in the fall, things may be delayed. Reopening carefully is a slow process for good reason – our health and safety.

2) Comply. Please be careful about following the recommendations we already have in place. If you happen to be on church property, always wear a mask unless you are alone. Even then, have a mask available if you encounter someone. Also, maintain social distancing and hand washing. Clean and sanitize surfaces. Gather virtually. If we are not complying with the plans we submit, our reopening may be

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We are all looking forward to when we can be together.

David's Column – Returning to Routine – Not Quite



For many, the arrival of September brings a certain level of disorientation. Even as the memories of vacations, visits, or simply “veg’ing” out remain fresh in our minds, visions of backpacks and books dance in our heads. As the hot days of summer linger on, the cool, colorful days of autumn seem only weeks away. Though we have enjoyed our annual opportunity to get away from the frantic pace of life, we are ready to get back on a regular schedule. Like it or not, most of us are creatures of habit, and we are ready for a return to routine.

In 2020, returning to routine is different than it has been in the past. We are still dealing with the Covid-19 virus, which means wearing masks, social distancing and waiting for when we are allowed to meet in-person indoors first as small groups and eventually in larger groups.

If you are anything like me, your routine revolves around things to do and people to see, with a smattering of eating and sleeping. With each passing day, I watch as my

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Church Council Report

by Ray Stwalley, Chairman



In August, Plans for holding in person Vesper or Evening prayer type outdoor services either in the church yard or another suitable location (the meadow at Mini Blessings for example) and for

resumption of the onsite activities of the Ladies Sewing Group were developed and forwarded to the denominations for approval. As of this writing, no definitive response has been received.

The requirements for continuing to hold virtual services and meetings when in person activities indoors are permitted are being studied. At this time, it is felt that some form of mixed service will be required for the near term to allow the entire congregation to participate in the life of the church. Funding requirements and sources are being studied.

The congregation is reminded that as we move into fall, several activities will occur:

The annual stewardship drive will be held, so please begin to evaluate your anticipated level of support for our faith community next.

The Methodist conference will be in October, at this point, we anticipate that it will be virtual, so plan accordingly, no potluck etc.

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Christmas Shoe Boxes

By Bonnie Young

The peoples of the Spirit Lake Nation are of the Dakota Tribe that has been in this area since 1867. The reservation is located in one of the most beautiful parts of the Dakotas on one half million acres. It is located northwest of Fargo, ND.

The Spirit Lake Ministry Center is dedicated to supporting the peoples of the Nation year-round. One of their main missions is the Christmas Shoebox Program for children who are not likely to have a Christmas. In partnership with Calvary United Methodist Church in Colorado Springs, last year, Grace members filled 12 boxes with school supplies, books, warm hats and gloves, candies, etc. for children from infancy to 13 and up. (No clothing) The cost of the boxes and the shipping will be paid by the Grace Outreach.

If you are interested, boxes with instructions will be available in the Grace Parish Hall starting October 1 and need to be returned by the end of October. Rev. David Erickson will transport the boxes to the Springs to join Calvary UM in this mission.

In past years, Grace members supported the Operation Christmas Child Program through Samaritan's Purse (a Franklin Graham Foundation). Boxes are also available in the Parish Hall for anyone who is interested. All costs including the shipping are the responsibility of the Grace member. Again, boxes need to be returned by the end of October.

Any questions about either program can be directed to Bonnie Young, 395-8414 or byoung81211@gmail.com.

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calendar fills up little by little with meetings, appointments, and obligations. No doubt, your routine includes commitments to your work, to your friends, to your family, and to yourself.

Let us not forget to include God in our routine this fall. With so much going on in our lives, it is easy to run out of the time and energy needed to sustain a committed relationship with God. As the earliest Christians knew well, a healthy spiritual life is best attained through disciplined spiritual practices. They knew the power and presence of God was most readily experienced through a regular routine of prayer and Bible study, not to mention communion, fasting, and frequent visits to the sick, the poor, and the imprisoned. For them, a routine filled with these things (and more!) was an essential means of giving and receiving God's grace.

As we begin this September together, I invite you to add God to your routine in some new or renewed way. Invite God into your life outside your regular attendance of Sunday worship services. If you are not involved in a study group, get involved. Join a study or ministry. Convince your family members to get involved as well. In addition, if you are already nurturing your faith with prayer and study, why not start transforming our world by serving in some fashion. You can always reach out with prayer or conversation to others.

Catherine's Column continued from page 2

delayed even further.

We are all looking forward to when we can be together. This whole Corona Virus thing is tiresome and frustrating, but the cost of complacency is too high. For now, the only gatherings we are approved for are the small connection groups on the patio. It has been such a blessing to actually *see* people and catch up. If you would like to attend a gathering, please let me or David know.

I long for the day when we can worship together in our sanctuary. I can't wait for the time when we can break bread and share the cup at our altar. I am tired of Zoom for worship, Bible Study, and meetings. I miss our fellowship so much. But I try to be patient and I continue to pray. I know that our return to our beautiful Grace Church will be all the sweeter if we can come through this time safe and sound. Let's each do our part – for ourselves and each other – and make it so.

TRANSITIONS

Our prayers go out to Jo and Dan Rodeheffer who lost their beloved Beowulf on Saturday.

Please pray for David's mother and his family as she moves into hospice care.

George Randel asks for continued prayers for the success of his book and also for his blood pressure.

Martha asks for prayers for the teachers and students as they return to school.

Please pray for Max and Sharon and Max's family as they attend his father's funeral next weekend.

Jennifer Wright asks for prayers for her friend Lisa, who has lost her job and is difficult financial straits.

Please pray for the grace, peace and understand of the people of the country.

Please pray for David's daughter. Her workplace was hit by COVID-19 this week.

David's Column

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May God's grace, peace, love, and comfort be with you as you return to your Covid-19 modified routine.



Deer at my Door

Photo by Sherry Thomas

Photo in column 2 by Martha Bauman

Council Report

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The nominating committee is going to be seeking next year's class of council members so please prayerfully consider a request to serve. The council does serve as the leadership of the church so service on the council is not a waste of your time but a valuable contribution to the life of Grace Church.

Thank you for your time and support of Grace Church.

For the council,

Ray Stwalley



Community Still Strong, but Different This Year

The BV Strong Community Dinner arose out of time of sadness and challenge for our community. This year, we again find ourselves in a difficult time as we serve visitors and yet try to protect ourselves from COVID-19. Those of us who organize the BV Strong Community Dinner could not be prouder of the way our community has worked together to survive and thrive during these difficult times.

Difficult times require flexibility and change. It is with great disappointment that the BV Strong Community Dinner Board announces that the 7th annual event scheduled for Monday, September 21, 2020, will not take place as planned. While we are convinced that this annual event is vital to keep our community strong and connected, we can't, in good conscience, sponsor an event that would bring so many of us in close proximity during this time of the coronavirus. The overall safety of our community is more important than holding the Dinner this year.

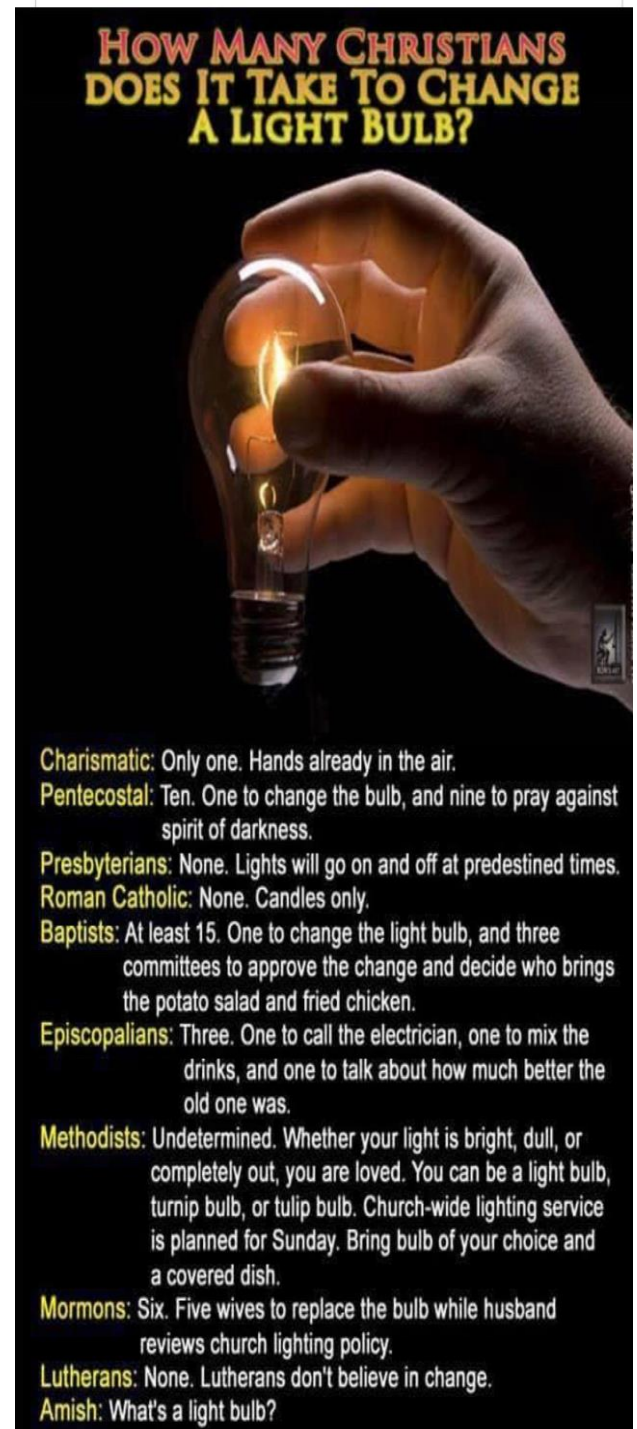
Instead, please plan to dine with your family on September 21st, take a photo, and [post it on our Facebook group](#) with the hashtag #BVStrong. We will be BV Strong together... digitally this year!

Please save the date for next year's dinner on Monday, September 20, 2021.

We will have even more to celebrate as we come through the pandemic... together. We're looking forward to breaking bread with you in 2021!

The BV Strong Community Dinner Planning Team,

Just a Little Humor.....





The Grace
Cookbook
Is
Here!

Believe it or not, the much-anticipated *Cooking with Grace* cookbook has gone to press and will be out by the middle of September!

A must have for any cook and a must for any kitchen where it's happening; this cookbook is bound to be at the top the Grace Notes Best Seller list.

The recipes were culled from the kitchens of the great cooks of Grace Church, so you know they will be delicious. It's a United Methodist and Episcopal tradition.

Many are old family traditions and shared with the committee under the greatest vows of secrecy to not disclose them to Betty Crocker or Better Homes and Gardens.

Your meals will be better, your health will improve, and your mouths will water every time you use one of the special recipes in the book.

Don't be left out and have to wait for the second edition. Pre-order yours now by September 31, 2020 by emailing admin@gracechurchbvco.org and let Judy know how many you want. Please remember to include your name!

THE BRIDGE BUILDER

Will Allen Dromgoole

An old man going a lone highway
Came at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and wide and steep,
With waters rolling cold and deep.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim,
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.

"Old man," said a fellow pilgrim near,
"You are wasting your strength with building here.
Your journey will end with the ending day,
You never again will pass this way.
You've crossed the chasm, deep and wide,
Why build you this bridge at eventide?"

The builder lifted his old gray head.
"Good friend, in the path I have come," he said,
"There followeth after me today
A youth whose feet must pass this way.
The chasm that was naught to me
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be;
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim
Good friend, I am building this bridge for him.

Announcements

Remember to pre-order your cookbooks by September 31, 2020. See the article in this edition of Grace Notes for more information. They make great Christmas Presents.

Drive through communion is coming. Watch your email for more information. We will do the first one on September 13, 2020. Reservations will need to be made. More information to follow.

Stewardship letters will be going out soon. If your mailing address has changed, please let me know by email at admin@gracechurchbvco.org.

Judy and David are working on a new directory for Grace Church. If you are new and would like to be included in the directory, please let Judy know by email at admin@gracechurchbvco.org.

If any of the study groups are planning to do an Advent study, please let Judy know so she can order the books.

The next council meeting will be on September 20, 2020. If you have an item you would like to have put on the agenda, please contact Ray Stwalley and let him know. His email is araystwalley@gmail.com.

If you would like to serve on the Church Council for the next 3 years, please contact a member of the nominating committee and let them know. The people on the nominating committee are Judy Epperson, Carolyn Hayes, David Erickson, and Catherine Tran. Nominations need to be in by the first of October.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary

Birthdays

9/1 Kim Prather
9/1 Max Robertson
9/6 Carol Covert

Anniversaries

9/12 John and Judy Epperson
9/22 Jim and Peggy Finkowski



Grace Notes is a publication of Grace Church in Buena Vista, Colorado

Grace is an Episcopal-United Methodist Ecumenical Fellowship where people of all Christian faith traditions are finding a spiritual home.

Please send articles and pictures to editor Judy Epperson at eppersonjudy51@gmail.com