



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy Father's Day

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



JUNE 2021

From Our Pastors



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A reminder of the importance of friendship.

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Father's Day Quotes

"A father's tears and fears are unseen, his love is unexpressed, but his care and protection remains as a pillar of strength throughout our lives." **Ama H.Vanniarachchy**

"The greatest mark of a father is how he treats his children when no one is looking." **Dan Pearce**

Catherine's Commentary

With the news from the Centers for Disease Control about changes in managing COVID pandemic issues, we find ourselves moving quickly into re-opening. Alleluia! What a blessing it is to have people back in the church! How wonderful it is to be together again! I look forward to welcoming visitors again!

...but in some ways, it is also a challenge.

I know there are some who are not comfortable being in crowds indoors. I understand how it might take some time to be comfortable with all the changes and be around

people again. No reason to rush things, so please take your time and know that we are there and look forward to seeing you again as soon as it feels right for you.

We are also working on many details that need to happen to get things back to where we want them. The Council and others are attending to these, but it may take some time to get to our "new normal." Here are a few things that need to happen:

- We need our worship support schedules back on

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It is going to be a demanding summer and your participation will make a difference.

No Truer Words....



A newlywed young man was sitting on the porch on a humid day, sipping iced tea with his Father. As he talked about adult life, marriage, responsibilities, and obligations, the Father thoughtfully stirred the ice cubes in his glass and cast a clear, sober look on his Son.

Never forget your friends," he advised, "they will become more important as you get older." "Regardless of how much you love your family and the children you happen to have you will always need friends. Remember to go out with them occasionally (if possible) but keep in contact with them somehow."

"What strange advice!" thought the young man. "I just entered the married world; I am an adult and surely my wife and the family that we will start will

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Church Council Report

by Ray Stwalley, Chairman



Grace to you all and
Peace from God our
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And what a month it has been! To have the COVID restrictions lifted so abruptly has been a joy and a wake-up call. Since the last Grace-Notes and the last council meeting we've met in person twice in the sanctuary, gotten all new guidelines both from the CDC and from the denominations, and learned that our ability to mix an in-person and Zoom service has some serious improvements that need to be made!

Ray, Ed, and I met with a company who sells and installs audiovisual equipment, and we hope to have a quote any day now from them. Our wish list includes two TVs – one for the sanctuary and one for the fellowship hall – the sanctuary on a cart – so we can see a remote pastor preach for a hybrid service and see each other (the Zoom folks and those who are in the sanctuary). For the Zoom participants, we want a mic to pick up congregational singing and the piano and organ, a way to sync the zoom and our sound system, and a good multi-directional mic or polycom in the fellowship hall so we can have good sound for the bible studies and other groups.

Quilts of Valor

By Bonnie Young

Grace Church Ladies Sewing Group has completed 16 Quilts of Valor this year. This brings their total to 327 over 16 years of participation. They will be displayed in the church in July. It is expensive to make these quilts especially this year with the increased mailing costs and making travel bags that had been done by a member.

Over many years, the costs associated with QOV are supported by Grace Church and “quilt sponsors” in our congregation. A donation of \$50 covers the cost of preparing and mailing one quilt. If you wish to sponsor a quilt in honor of or in memory of someone, or to just support this project, you can fill out a sponsorship form and send it with a check to Grace Church, memo QOV, P.O. Box 1559, Buena Vista CO 81211.

Forms will be available in the Parish Hall. Or donate online at gracechurchbvco.org and click “donate”. The “give now” form will come up. Under the “fund” select Quilts of Valor and make your donation.

You will be contacted to complete the sponsorship form. Acknowledgement of donations will be made at the showing at Grace Church on July 4. For more information about QOV, see gracechurchbvco.org.



Continued...

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be everything I need to make sense of my life." Yet, he obeyed his Father; kept in touch with his friends and annually increased their number.

Over the years, he became aware that his Father knew what he was talking about. Inasmuch as time and nature carry out their designs and mysteries on a person, friends are the bulwarks of our life.

After 70 years of life, here is what he, I and you will have learned:

Time passes. Life goes on. Children grow up. Children cease to be children and become independent. And to the parents, it breaks their heart, but the children are separated of the parents because they begin their own families.

Jobs / careers come and go. Illusions, desires, attraction, sex ... weakens. People cannot do what they did physically when they were young. Parents die but you move on. Colleagues forget the favors you did. The race to achieve slows.

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track such as flowers, coffee hour hosts, acolytes, ushers, and altar guild.

- We need to organize worship on UM Sundays. This will require lay leadership until we have a new UM Pastor.
- The organ and stained-glass windows need maintenance.
- The Council is working to purchase, install, and train people to operate the new technology that will be required to have hybrid Zoom/in-person worship and meetings.
- The lawn, garden, and other maintenance services need to get back up to speed.

Some of these things are already being taken care of, but others need more support. And there are probably other things that we have not anticipated. If you are able to help with any of these tasks, please let us know. You can contact me or Judy, or the person who is responsible for an area that interests you.

It will take all of us to get fully re-opened and functioning. It is going to be a demanding summer and your participation will make a difference. Please plan to help where you can. Thanks.

TRANSITIONS

Please pray for Rick and Nancy Fox. Rick broke his heel and requires surgery.

Continue to pray for Vi Hardy. She is in hospice care.

Prayers are requested for Carolyn Hayes. She is seeing an orthopedic surgeon this week about her chronic back pain.

Susan Champine is healing nicely from her shoulder surgery. Please pray for her continued healing.

Pray for all the veterans of our country, who risk or gave their lives that we might live in freedom.

Keep Mary Lou Bowman in your prayers. She is doing fine but is still in poor health.

Carolyn Hayes requests prayers for her friend, Laura, who is suffering abdominal pain.

And, as always, pray for the leaders of our country, and for an end to the divisiveness that exists today.

No Truer Words continued from page 4

But true friends are always there, no matter how long or how many miles away they are. A friend is never more distant than the reach of a need, intervening in your favor, waiting for you with open arms or in some way blessing your life.

When we started this adventure called LIFE, we did not know of the incredible joys or sorrows that were ahead. We did not know how much we would need from each other. Love your parents, take care of your children, but keep a group of good friends. Stay in touch with them but do not impose your criteria.

Share this to your friends (even those you seldom see) who help make sense of your life.... I just did to you.

Break the Bank Again

Because of the generous contributions of our members, we have broken the bank again for the St. George Episcopal Church Community Meal Program. We have sent them a check for \$750. We welcome more contributions for this wonderful outreach that offers a food store and community meal program free for those who need it. Help Break the bank again. Thank You.



Council Report continued from page 3

We are moving as fast as we can to our goal of including all of us in quality worship and other activities. It doesn't feel fast enough, and it's bound to get a little rocky in spots until we have it fine-tuned, so please bear with us while we take those first wobbly baby steps! Any and all comments as to how to improve the experience are welcome.

We are planning to have lay-led services until we get a Methodist pastor on the 3rd Sunday of each month, and we hope to begin that in June, or July at the latest. We'll have some training, and we definitely want to hear from you if you are interested in leading a service. We can find sermons and meditations online and use them as long as we give credit (more to come on that), so you wouldn't have to write a sermon unless you want to. Talk to me or Catherine, or to another council person if you're interested.

We intend to start having services led in person even when a remote pastor preaches as soon as possible. We understand the hybrid Zoom experience needs to improve, but we think it important that we meet in person as often as possible, so it's possible that the in-person experience would include listening to the pastor without being able to see her/him until the TV is in place.

Council Report
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Kathy, Jennifer, and Susan are meeting to get some "advertising" started, which will include regular updates of our Facebook page, updated brochures for Realtors, hotel lobbies, etc. and more. They are amazing and are helping us lead the charge into our future.

The council will meet to discuss how to proceed - this is my distillation of things that have happened outside of formal council meetings, since things are moving so quickly.

Woo Hoo!! Our life is about to get even richer (May you live in interesting times?)

May God's abundant and rich blessings be with us all as we look expectantly into the future!!

Western Tanager at Sherry's Feeder

Photo by Sherry Thomas



Pet Spotlight - Vi's Dog Maddie

God gave me Maddie 2 years ago. She came from an animal shelter and needed me as much as I needed her. Two weeks later, I had surgery for colon cancer; followed by 6 weeks recovery time, and 3 months of chemo. We had lots of mommy and Maddie time, and we bonded fast.

She is very smart and has learned fast. At first, she didn't even know what a toy was for. Then I gave her miniature tennis balls, and she started to make up games. Her favorite is basketball. She sits on the arm of my recliner, throws her ball into my magazine rack, and then tells me she has made a basket, and that I need to retrieve her ball. Maddie is 2 & 1/2 years old and half Haverese and Poodle. She is very cute with lots of energy and personality.

Now our time is coming to an end. My colon cancer has come back and I'm in Hospice. I've found a friend that will become Maddie's new mom, after I'm gone. I love Maddie with all my heart and thank God for our time together. I pray that Maddie will love her new home.

Maddie, all my love forever and always.
Vi



National Alliance on Mental Illness By Peggy Finkowski

NAMI (the National Alliance on Mental Illness) Chaffee County is our Outreach spotlight organization for June 2021.

NAMI Chaffee's mission is to build a community of recovery and hope by educating, supporting, and advocating for individuals and families affected by mental illness. It's a 501©(3) nonprofit organization. NAMI offers understanding to anyone concerned about mental illnesses and/or treatment.

Contact NAMI Chaffee County:

By email: info@NAMICHaffee.org.

Or phone: 970-823-4751

Or on-line: namichaffee.org/contact/

By mail: PO Box 332 Salida, CO 81201

From their website:

NAMI started as a small group of families gathered around a kitchen table in 1979 has blossomed into the nation's leading voice on mental health. Today, we are an association of more than 500 local affiliates who work in your community to raise awareness and provide support and education that was not previously available to those in need.

Please reach out for support, educational materials, advocacy questions and concerns, to share your story, or with any other general question or concern. To reach our office call or text 970-823-4751 or fill out the form on our contact page. If your life or someone else's is in imminent danger, please call 911.

NAMI National Help Line: 800-950-NAMI (6264)

Wedding Bells By Judy Epperson

Cheryl Wilderman and Bob Vanderkooi were united in marriage in a beautiful ceremony at the Nazarene Church on Saturday, May 29, 2021, at 1:00 pm. The ceremony was followed by a delicious lunch. Several Grace members present to witness the ceremony and congratulate the happy couple. The newlyweds are currently on their honeymoon in Mexico.



Photo by Sherry Thomas



Cutting the Cake

Photo by Betty Dethmers

Announcements

Carol Slater

There will be a Memorial Service for Carol Slater on Saturday, June 19, 2021, at 1:00 pm in the Columbarium at Grace Church. All members are invited.

Church Services

Grace is currently having in person church on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, which are Catherine's Sundays. These services are also available on Zoom.

For the time being, the first and third Sunday services are only on Zoom, since we don't have a United Methodist pastor, and currently don't have the necessary technology to do the services on Zoom and in person. As soon as we have the capability, these services will also be in person and on Zoom.

From Max and Sharon

To our Beloved Grace Church:
Thank you for your cards, your emails & simply your sweet & LOVING prayers for our family following the death of my Mother, Weeze Daniel. She enjoyed her one visit to Buena Vista & especially Grace Church. You are a wonderful Church which we hold in our hearts & of which continue to be a part, even in Texas! Thank you for being the Church everyone needs!
Grace, Peace & LOVE, Max & Sharon Robertson

Quilts of Valor

Remember to fill out a sponsorship form for the Quilts of Valor. A copy of the form will be sent out under separate cover.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

6/3 Becky Arthur
6/8 Mary Hallman
6/13 Keith Baker
6/18 Ray Stwalley
6/22 Margaret Butler
6/25 Danny Simpson
6/26 Tom Bauman
6/27 Lenee' Erickson

Anniversaries

None

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