



Grace Notes

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

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



AUGUST 2021

From Our Pastors



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Watermelon Day, August 3

Quick! Get to City Market or Legrees and grab a nice, juicy red watermelon! Ask the neighbors over, eat watermelon and spit the seeds into your backyard. Next summer, you won't have to buy your watermelon. You can pick it from your own vines in the backyard. Just think about it. Watermelons vines are green, and they have pretty flowers. They are great ground cover, and they don't need mowing. Better than lawn and the fruit is edible. Oops! Showing my age, watermelon don't have seeds anymore. Do it anyway. It's good for the weeds.

Catherine's Commentary

The last couple of months at Grace have been a bit hectic as we have reopened, hired our new Pastor, Rev. Seay, and worked to upgrade our technology, among so many other things. I think we have made great progress over the past several weeks, but we still have so much more to do to get back to where we want to be! I am *so grateful* to all of you who worked so hard during the lock down to keep us going. Thank you.

With reopening, many tasks that were unnecessary during the lock down are back on our plate. For example, the weeds around our property took over while we were gone! There were also many jobs that didn't apply

during lock down that are needing to be done again, such as serving at the altar, ushering, organizing cabinets and closets, and maintenance, for example. As we get back to gathering in-person, worshiping in the church, and regularly using our facility, the things that need doing seem a little overwhelming. But the good news is that we have a whole congregation full of folks to help do them!

This regathering season is a good time to reflect on where and how you are called to contribute to the work around the church. If you have spent years doing a particular job, this

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Now is a good time discern what your gifts are, what your interests are, and perhaps make some changes.

From the Desk of Rev. Seay



Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I thank Him for the wonderful cordial people of Grace Church that I have met in transitioning to the church as Co-Pastor. Adelfa and I enjoyed our first in person face to face meeting with everyone and with an appreciation to all for the lunch reception, and tour of the church facilities.

People want to know, so what's the new minister like? Tell them their right "he likes," I am a people person. It's just who I am, and in my own prayer life it's about people. Christian believers know who they are praying to and often they discovery it is not always about praying for but praying to. Allow me to elaborate.

In the mind's eye, a Christian praying should be seen as a privilege of grace. It is a very fortunate opportunity for a person to commune with God. I have seen what prayer in Jesus' name can do. It is why I encourage people to pray more and, in their

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Church Council Report

by Becky Arthur, Chairman



Grace to you all and
Peace from God our
Father and our Lord
Jesus Christ!

Well, maybe things
are settling down, and
then again, maybe not!
We are having the
bumps in our road of
returning to normal that
one might expect. Our

process isn't as smooth as we might like it to be, but I believe we are having growing pains.

Some of our old volunteers are bowing out after long and, in many cases, almost silent service. Kurt Miller has turned over the building and grounds to Kim Prather, and Jim Finkowski thinks he has had enough of maintaining the sprinkler system! We thank them, both the old and the new, from the bottom of our hearts.

One of the things we have discussed is the need for volunteers and our responsibility as leaders to create volunteer opportunities, communicate the needs to you, the congregation, and provide any necessary training. If you see something that hasn't been done lately, please step up to help us! If all of us participate, our family grows closer and stronger.

Ray and Ed have spent countless hours putting together an audio/visual system that seems to be working extremely well, and we owe them a debt of gratitude for hanging in there during confrontational and difficult times and getting the job done! Anyone who would like to help run the new system so one or both of them can have a break should speak to them. We are currently looking for one or two young folks to help us with the system on Sunday mornings.

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Outreach Committee

By Kathy Prather

MISSION STATEMENT:

To disburse funds to organizations that help those in need.

The Grace Church Outreach Committee is responsible for donating funds to nonprofit organizations (mainly local) in need. The funds are a small percentage that comes from your weekly tithes and plate offerings. So, because of your generosity, Grace Church is able to help many others who are far less fortunate.

Did you know?: Last year the Outreach Committee donated \$12,000.00 to Organizations like Valley to Valley Senior Care, the Alliance, NAMI, Boys and Girls Club, Shop with a Cop and many others.

So far this year, we have donated to the following organizations for a total of \$6250.00.

Ark Valley Mission

The Alliance

Elevate Her

Ark Valley Humane Society

BV Pregnancy Center

NAMI (National Alliance for Mental Illness)

BV Hope/ A21 (Human Trafficking)

Boys and Girls Club

We have also donated to disaster funds to help those affected by fires, floods or hurricanes.

Our Outreach team includes: Carolyn Hayes, Peggy Finkowski, Kim Prather and Kathy Prather.

If you would like a complete list of our donation recipients please contact Kathy Prather.

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praying, pray from their heart. The heart will speak the truth, often not in a lot of words.

There was a time when having a telephone in your home was a privilege. Not everyone had a telephone or could afford a telephone. Many areas were slow to install overhead wiring on telephone poles or in rural areas. Among those who had a telephone, they often shared that telephone and its transmission line with other people. Having a telephone, a two-parts box looking contraption in your house was seen as being fortunate or privileged because it allowed you to communicate with people over vast distances. Today, the phone (as it is called) is seen as a necessity to communicate and not just as a privilege. Its built-in battery requires no cranking before dialing, or rotary clicks to communicate. So, it is with prayer. As the song lyrics of Joseph M. Scriven said, "What a privilege it is to carry, everything to God in prayer." (What a Friend We Have in Jesus)

Prayer is an opportunity for the creature to address the Creator. Being fortunate by God's Grace to have the presence of mind to pray is more than just a great opportunity. It is the finite being petitioning an infinite one. . A consciousness choice in your spirit that is like a transmission line to the divine.

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is an opportunity to try something new. Maybe you have never ushered before and would like to try it. Maybe you are interested in assisting at worship and would like to be an acolyte. Or maybe you would like to serve in a leadership position or on a committee.

Now is a good to time discern what your gifts are, what your interests are, and perhaps make some changes. We require lots of people to help with so many jobs. Please think about how you would like to contribute some time and talent, what you would enjoy doing, or what new thing you would like to try. It is gratifying work! And Grace Church needs you!



Sherry Thomas took this picture of a Chickadee that sits in her tree outside her house. Thanks, Sherry for sharing this beautiful picture.

TRANSITIONS

Please pray for Newt and Deb, and Newt's family on the recent loss of his brother.

Continue to pray for Vi as she struggles with the last stages of cancer.

Please pray for Bob and Maryanne Freed. Bob just recently got out of the hospital after a bout of pneumonia.

Susan requests prayers for her friend, Cherina Heinitz, who has a detached retina.

Becky requests prayers for K'atrina and Gowan, recent visitors to the church that they may get their lives together.

Carolyn Hayes sends thanks for all the prayers and support she received during her recent back surgery.

Barbara O'Donnell asked for prayers for Jared, who is starting chemo.

Becky thanks all who worked on the new church audio and video system.

From the Desk of Rev. Seay

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Prayer is a sincere desire from one's own heart which grows from one's own inward recognition of themselves. Prayer is a key to heaven, where faith unlocks the door. Look at 2nd Kings Chapter 20, verses 4-6 in your Bible. I will have more to say in the upcoming newsletters on the importance of this privilege and what it means to pray.

Blessing Extended,

From the Desk of Rev. W. Clifford Seay,
Co-Pastor Grace Church

Visitor to Grace Church

Adelfa, Rev. Seay's wife accompanied him to church this Sunday. We are happy to welcome her to the Grace Church family and look forward to seeing her whenever she can get away to attend. Adelfa is an anesthesia nurse at Penrose Hospital, and works nights on the weekends, so it is hard for her to get away.



Rev. and Mrs. Seay

Photo by Sherry Thomas

Mini-Blessings

by Kathy Prather

Mini Blessings is a non-profit organization founded by Crissey Smith and our own, Susan Champine. They are dedicated to providing equine assisted learning and interactions for various individuals, including special needs and at-risk youth. It is the mission of Mini Blessings to provide a loving, non-judgmental atmosphere, with peaceful reflection in a natural environment. They serve the residents of Chaffee County and the Central Colorado Region.

Mini Blessings has seven miniature horses and a single full-sized horse. Their board members and dedicated volunteers are key to their great success, and they work with people of all ages. Their desire and purpose is to share the healing power of horses with the old, the young, the big, the small and most importantly with anyone in need of healing.

This year, Mini Blessings is introducing a new program, thanks to a grant from the Town of Buena Vista. They will be acquiring a mounting ramp in the next couple of months, which will help assist handicapped people to get on a full-sized horse.

If you are interested in knowing more about this great organization or would like to volunteer, please contact Susan Champine: 719-207-1867 www.mini-blessings.com



Council News

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We are settling in with Rev. Seay, who is putting up with us admirably. I have enjoyed the spirit he brings to worship, and hope you are enjoying him as well.

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

Beautiful Reminder of Summer

Sherry Thomas shared this picture of a sunflower that grew up by her mailbox, strictly volunteer, and has been surviving with minimal water and lots of sun. We can all take a lesson from this beautiful flower about perseverance. It has survived under adverse conditions and so will we. Let us all strive to have the strength of this little flower.'



Grace Church Choir

The Grace Church choir has been great this summer. They are a small group and sometimes their hard work isn’t appreciated. Being in the choir is a commitment of time and talent. The choir practices every Thursday afternoon, under the direction of Betty Dethmers, and again on Sunday morning, and sings at every service. Thanks to Betty and the choir.



The members of the choir are back row- Cheryl Vanderpooi, Susan Shampine, Ed Butler; front row- Becky Arthur, Sherry Thomas, Martha Bauman, Mary Hallman, and Carol Holze.

Photos by Peggy Finkowski



Church Ladies with Typewriters

Submitted by Carol Holze

They're back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services.

The Fast & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: "Jesus Walks on Water." The sermon tonight: "Searching for Jesus."

Ladies don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let work kill you off—le the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang "I will not pass this way again," giving obvious please to the congregation.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is Hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new Choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some older ones.

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For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A been supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

Please leave your donation in the envelope, along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment, and gracious hostility.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 pm – prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7pm there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Just thought we needed a laugh!

Announcements

Mini-Blessings is holding a workday on October 2, 2021, from 9am to 12pm. If you would like to come help with fall cleaning, contact Susan Shampine at 719-207-1867. Thanks.

Mark your calendars for August 29, 2021. There will be a congregational meeting for the purpose of approving the by-laws of Grace Church. The meeting will be immediately after the service. All members should try to be here.

The Grace Church council will meet on Sunday, August 8, 2021, in Parish Hall immediately following Coffee Hour. All members are invited to attend.

Grace Church is putting out a new directory. Please check your information in the current directory and inform Judy of any changes. Also, if you are new member or know of any new members, please send the information to Judy at admin@gracechurchbvco.org. Thanks.

Please send your birthdays and anniversaries to Judy at admin@gracechurchbvco.org so that they can be put in Grace Notes.

Still looking for pet stories and pictures for Grace Notes. Send them to Judy at admin@gracechurchbvco.org. Thanks.

The Women's Bible Study is starting a new book this week called "The Gospel According to Jesus." This would be a great time to join the lively group. If you are interested, contact Catherine Tran for more information.

The Coverts have a new address: 2180 W. Calle Casas Lindas, Green Valley, AZ 85622. Telephone: 520-849-6110.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays & Anniversaries

Birthdays

8/8 Susan Shampine
 8/14 Betty Dethmers
 8/14 Jo Rodeheffer
 8/14 Barry Hayes
 8/16 Judy Epperson
 8/21 Joyce Logan

Anniversaries

8/5 Chuck and Carol Covert
 8/9 Max and Sharon Robertson
 8/18 Tam and Catherine Tran
 8/25 Ray and Bonnie Stwalley

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