



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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National Teddy Bear Day

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



SEPTEMBER 2021

From Our Pastors



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Hug Those Teddy Bears!

Teddy Bear Day is celebrated on September 9 annually, a day set aside for everyone to bring out all their teddy bears to thank them for their companionship, the wonderful moments we've had with them, and all the days and nights they've comforted us. The teddy bear is one of the most popular toys for children, and it occupies a particular place in the hearts of many adults as well. Teddy Bear Day is a holiday dedicated to this adorable teddy animal. It allows people to take Teddy out of the closet and make them the focus of attention. So, grab a Teddy Bear and give it a hug today. If you don't have one, buy one. They make really good friends.

Catherine's Commentary

Thank you all for your expressions of care and concern regarding my diagnosis of Parkinson's Disease. Your prayers and love are overwhelming. It was so encouraging to hear about others you know who lived or are living long and relatively normal lives with the disease. Many of you shared personally about experiences, possibilities, and hope. Thank you.

I am just beginning to learn about Parkinson's and what it means to live with it. Because I am in good health otherwise, it is possible that I will do well for a long time. I understand that exercise helps a lot, and since I have exercised regularly for many years, it is easy to continue

that in my routine. For the most part, I feel well and am only bothered by a tremor in my left hand. Other symptoms such as fatigue and stiff muscles seem manageable for now.

My family and extended support network have been so important to me as I begin this new journey. I am also beginning to forge connections with medical providers and look forward to having more information and medical advice. I intend to find a Parkinson's support group and, if appropriate, participate in studies. Tam may look for a care provider's group.

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Life's twists and turns do seem to focus our attention and shake us out of complacency

From the Desk of Rev. Seay



In continuing my thoughts on Prayer, a child's who had memorized the Lord's Prayer for an Easter Recital said, "and forgive us for our trash basket, as we forgive those, who put trash in our basket." The child did not say it correctly (trespasses), but the child was not wrong with the meaning implied.

Some wonder does God really hear our prayers. The answer is yes! He that knows all, sees all, can do all, works in a mysterious way; Yes, God not only hears, but He also answers prayer. The answer can be yes, no, or wait. It is the latter of these two answers most people have a problem with. Some people want God to answer them quickly, like hurry up, tired of waiting on the unknown. The ancient ones have said, God may not come when you want Him too, but he is always on time.

People thought God was late at the Red Sea but only the Egyptians drown. God was on time to save. They thought Jesus was late in coming to bless His sick friend Lazarus. Jesus showed up almost a week after Lazarus died. Nevertheless, Jesus was

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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!

I think fall is in the
air! It's been getting
cooler at night and the
Flourish Maple in
Janet's yard across the
alley is getting
flamboyant and red.

We have a skunk in the neighborhood who has begun to regularly visit my yard and spray my dog, so I think the skunk is tanking up for the winter, too. All the signs point to a change in seasons!

We're nearly at the end of Betty Dethmers' visit this year, and we have so much to be thankful to her for. She corrals the commotion that is our choir and gets us to make a joyful noise to the Lord each Sunday. She has freed Ed up to work with Ray to perfect our Audio-Visual system and make Zoom possible.

We need a person to help run that equipment each Sunday now that Ed will be busy playing the organ full time again, so if you can do that or know someone who can, we will be happy to pay them for an hour and a half of their time every Sunday, or almost every Sunday. Of course, you are free to volunteer as well! Ed and Ray will be thrilled to train you, and it will allow them to travel from time to time.

We are starting to schedule meetings of the knitters again for Angels of Grace – knitting is a lot easier in the cooler months! Sitting in the summer with a long or lengthening warm (WARM) shawl is less than fabulous, but in the winter it's grand! If you like to knit, crochet, or just visit and eat goodies while others knit and crochet, please let Jennifer Wright know and she'll add you to the list of email recipients!!

Valley to Valley Sr. Care

By Carolyn Hayes

Valley to Valley Senior Care Center has been operating for eleven years and offers day respite care at an affordable alternative to their caregivers. This provides them with a break from their 24/7 responsibility. They are a non-profit 501c3 organization. The leaders are "Certified Dementia Specialists". State inspections find them with no deficiencies.

The Center offers quality care for seniors from a compassionate and professional staff. They offer them a chance to form new friendships and enjoy activities adding to the quality of their lives.

Their services include:

- Help with personal hygiene
- Assistance with daily living
- Physical therapy
- Medication administration
- Speech and respiratory therapy
- Supervised arts and crafts
- Outdoor field trips

I have visited the facility. The space has six rooms including a full kitchen and adequate space for all the activities. They even have an area for naps. There are three bathrooms. A lovely vegetable and flower garden is a favorite among the seniors.

This organization surely meets a valuable need for our valley.

A new respite care facility offering overnight stays is underway to open in Saquache. Their financial goal for this project is close to being achieved.

For more information, contact:

Valley to Valley Senior Care Center
348 G Street
Salida, CO 81201
719-539-4396

Rev. Seay's Column continued from page 2

on time, calling Lazarus out from his grave. God hears, and God answers prayers and is always on time with the answer. Patience is a virtue in prayer that makes faith stronger, not speed in the answer. Words spoken or unspoken, the sincere desire from one's own heart is always heard by the Divine. Consider those sixty-six words in the Lord's (model) Prayer, with no singular pronouns. It is about our, us, we, them, and those, and not about I, me, or mine.

Words spoken or unspoken, the sincere desire from one's own heart is always heard. Our sincere prayers enable us to conform to God's will in our lives. "Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Prayer will change things. However, our prayers may seem to not change the situation or condition we pray about. Often, the change is in how we respond, how we view, even react to that situation or condition. No wonder people say, prayer will change things. If nothing else, it will certainly change you. See Gospel of Matthew chapter six.

Catherine's Column continued from page 2

Since the course of Parkinson's Disease is different for each person, I don't know how things will unfold and how my life will change, but I feel optimistic. As we gather more information, Tam and I have a lot of decisions to make in the next few months. Life's twists and turns do seem to focus our attention and shake us out of complacency. That's kind of how it feels for us right now.

The Sunday I made my announcement, so many of you had suggestions and offered to share stories, experiences, and helpful information. As you can imagine, it was an emotional moment and I'm afraid I will never remember all of your generous offers to help, encourage, and inform. So, forgive me if I don't reach out to you to follow up and, if it seems like a good idea to offer again, please remind me. I value your generous offers of support, care, and wisdom.

TRANSITIONS

Please pray for the family of Bob Cochran, who passed away last month. Also pray for his wife, Millie, who is recovering from COVID.

Remember Catherine Tran and her family in prayer as she makes decisions on how to deal with Parkinson's Disease.

Please remember Vi Hardy's family in your prayers as they deal with her death.

Remember our District Superintendent, Chris Carr in your prayers. He has been hospitalized with a blood disorder.

Please pray for the Afghan refugees as they relocate to a new homeland, and for the people that have not yet been evacuated from Afghanistan.

Remember the victims of Hurricane Ida as they try to rebuild after the devastation.

And as always , pray for Grace church.

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The Ladies' Sewing and Craft Group is also active and always welcomes volunteers! Again, one of the mainstays is the visit, but we also create things to sell at our semi-annual sales. Any craft is good! We have materials for a host of crafty things, and if you want to do something we haven't thought of, we'll be happy to get more stuff. We meet every Friday morning from 10:00 a.m. to whenever the last person leaves. Come when you can.

The congregation approved the updated by-laws, and they will be going to the Mountain Sky Conference and the Episcopal Diocese for their blessings, so we believe we're on track with the business end of things. The church is in good shape financially - really much better than we dared hope when COVID landed on us last year, so thank you for your continued support. And thanks to Judy and Dorothy for their tireless work to keep all of the financial and business details running smoothly.

May God's abundant and rich blessings be with us all as we move into Fall.

Death of Bob Cochran by Judy Epperson

Bob Cochran, a long-time member of Grace Church, passed away on August 21, 2021, from COVID-19. He and his wife, Millie, were summer residents of Buena Vista, and loyal attendees during all of the Grace Church summer activities. They were living in Texas at the time of Bob's death. Services are pending, as Millie is still recovering from COVID.

Cards can be sent to: Millie Cochran, 2551 Alma Road, Apt. 11-D, McKinney, TX 75070. Her home phone is 214-973-5033.



Bob Cochran

Photo by Bonnie Young

Vi Hardy's Funeral by Judy Epperson

Family and friends said their final goodbyes to our sweet Vi Hardy at a beautiful Celebration of Life Service led by Catherine Tran, held at Grace Church on Saturday, September 4, 2021. After the service, attendees enjoyed a delicious Taco Bar, provided by the family. Vi was an integral part of the Grace Family for many years and will be greatly missed. It was our privilege to have her with us for so many years.

Vi was active in the Ladies Sewing Group, and the Quilts of Valor. She made many quilts over the years that were given to our brave service men and women. She was a quiet person, but was always willing to listen, and offer advice, if asked. She was a brilliant seamstress and helped many of us improve our sewing skills. She will be missed.



Picture by Sherry Thomas

Pictures from Vi's Funeral



The Altar at the Funeral



Picture of Vi and Howard



Vi's Family Outside the Church



Angel and Brother

Pictures by Bonnie Young

Vi and Charlie

Many of you remember the story that was in *Grace Notes* a couple of months ago about Vi making the teddy bear and giving it to Charlie as a toy. Sherry Thomas was at the Ladies Sewing Group that day and took some pictures.



Vi working on bear

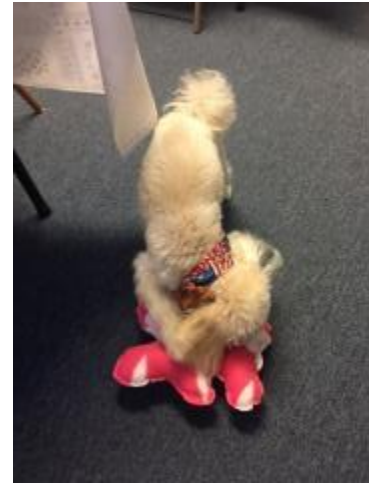


Charlie wants her to hurry up!



Almost finished!

Vi and Charlie continued from the first column



His at Last!

Photos by Sherry Thomas

Christina told this touching story at Vi's Memorial Service. These pictures show how happy Charlie was to get his bear. He still has it.

This is just one example of the love that Vi had for her friends and that she always had time to do a kindness for someone, including a cute little dog named Charlie. He will never forget her, and neither will we.

Announcements

The BV Pregnancy Center Celebrate Life Run, Bike, Walk Fundraiser will be held on Sunday, September 12, 2021, at Valley Fellowship Church from 1pm to 4 pm. Festivities include Games, Popcorn Cotton Candy, Phot Booth, BBQ, Prizes and an appearance by Owen, the Clown. For information call the BV Pregnancy Center at 719-395-6703 or go to their website www.bvpregnancycenter.com/celebrate life.

Celebrate the beginning of Fall. CUCC is holding their annual bazaar on Friday, September 17, 2021, from 9am to 1pm. Lunch will not be served this year, but there will be lots of great items for sale. Go by and support the CUCC.

The Ladies Sewing Group is working on items for the Annual Christmas Bazaar. All are welcome. If you don't have a talent, they will find you one. They meet on Friday mornings from 10am until everyone goes home. Bring a lunch. For more information, contact Martha Bauman.

People are needed to run the new AV system. Betty is leaving and Ed will have to play the organ. Ray and Ed will train. If you are interested in helping with this important ministry, contact Ed Butler or Ray Stwalley.

People are needed to sign up for coffee hour and flower dedications. The sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board, just inside the Parish Hall door. If you have questions, contact Judy Epperson.



Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays

9/1 Kim Prather
9/1 Max Robertson
9/6 Carol Covert
9/29 Christina Randle

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