

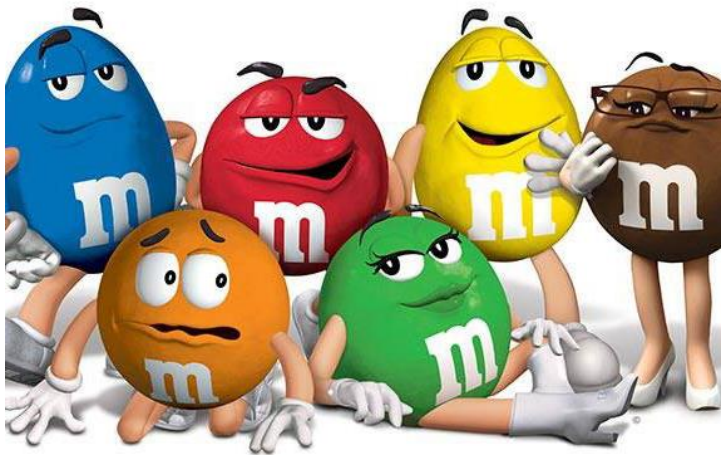


# Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211  
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## National M&M'S Day

*Persons, places, vistas we have seen*



### OCTOBER 2021

#### From Our Pastors



Rev. Tran talks about her retirement.



Rev. Seay discussed the importance of reading the Bible.

2

#### Ministry Reports



National M&M's Day

1



Becky Arthur reports the Council News.

3



Kathy Prather writes about the Alliance.

3

## National M & M'S

Kids love 'em, adults feel nostalgic eating them, and they won't melt in your hand, just in your mouth – we're talking M&M's here. It's National M&M Day, so get ready to celebrate. Created in 1941, this iconic candy has been a staple for over 75 years. So, on October 13, 2021, buy a big bag of M&M's, curl up in your recliner, watch an old television show, and pig out on M&M's.

## Catherine's Commentary

On Sunday, Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>, I announced my retirement from Grace Church. My last day with you will be November 28<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for all your kind words and congratulations. This was a difficult decision, but I feel confident that it is the right thing to do.

We have accomplished a lot together since my first Sunday at Grace in 2010 and survived – and even thrived – through some challenging times. I am grateful for the time we have had together.

While I look forward to retirement, it will be very difficult to say goodbye to all of you. I deeply value the friendships and working

relationships we have shared. I am so thankful for all the consideration and care you have taken over the past years to attend to your relationship with me as a clergy leader. I feel very fortunate to have served at Grace. Thank you.

You may be aware that when a clergy person leaves a congregation, the Episcopal Diocese requires that clear boundaries are maintained and contact between members of the congregation and the departing clergy person are minimal. This will be as difficult for me as it may be for some of you, but it is best for the health of the

**Continued on page 4**



*I will always think of Grace Church with a sense of gratitude and joy.*

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## From the Desk of Rev. Seay



Some people will say, I am going to read the Bible more, so where should I start reading? Start with prayer, it is a spiritual book. 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 2: 13-15 reminds us of that fact, the contents in the Bible are hidden from the natural eye and can only be discern with a spiritual eye. The Bible is a spiritual book. Psalm 40: 7 is a brief reminder that the Lord comes to us “in the volume of the book it is written of me.” It is a collection of books which is why we call it the Bible. It is what the word means in Greek, a collection of books. It has been handed down through the ages with forty writers of God’s relationship with people and the universe.

In reading the Bible one begins with prayer, asking God to open their heart and mind spiritually to His word. Jesus said, “God is a Spirit and they that worship him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4:24) It is a spiritual book.

Depending on what the reader is feeling which all bring to the reading of the Bible, it is difficult to say where to start. Some would say start at the beginning (Genesis) if

**Continued on page 4**

## Church Council Report

by Becky Arthur, Chairman



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

Fall is here in all its  
glory! Maybe the  
most important thing  
we need to think  
about as a  
congregation (after all

the other important stuff) is adapting our COVID protocols to fit fall and winter. We have new guidance from the Episcopal Diocese, which I'll attach for your reading enjoyment.

One of the biggest considerations is adapting to having church without having the doors open for ventilation when it gets truly cold. We don't have a heating system that can be effectively fitted with HEPA filters (or I don't think we do – you who know please advise!). The council will consider the purchase of portable HEPA filters to sit in the aisles to actively filter air while we are all there.

We may need to limit congregational singing during the winter as well, since we won't have the fresh mountain breeze/typhoon to clear out the air so effectively! With luck and grace, we may not need to return to Zoom meetings, but at least we now have decent technology to support that if we need to.

We are so sorry to have received Catherine's resignation effective the end of November. We will have to figure out how to have Advent services and all our celebrations of Christ's birth. It will be a time of great thought and possibly some change, even if that is temporary, while we call a new priest.

## The Alliance

By Kathy Prather

The Alliance is a strongly committed, knowledgeable and experienced non-profit organization focused on servicing crime victims of domestic and sexual assault.

The Alliance is the only agency dedicated to serving victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in Chaffee County. The mission of The Alliance is to eliminate domestic violence and sexual assault in Chaffee County and to empower victims through education, services and social change. The Alliance provides crisis intervention services for victims and their children, a 24-hour crisis line and emergency safe housing.

Victims receive financial assistance when needed, groceries, household supplies, utilities, rent, childcare, transportation and if needed relocation costs. If needed, long term housing, legal advocacy, weekly women's and children's support groups, peer counseling and continuing social and emotional support.

The Alliance seeks to support its efforts and services through a diverse group of funding resources. Grace Church Outreach is in the group of private funding sources, but the sources include federal, state, and local grants, and targeted fund raisers: The annual Valentine's Chocolate Lovers Fantasy with wine tasting, a silent auction and live music with a guest speaker who has received support from The Alliance. This event is in its 33<sup>rd</sup> year. In the summer there is a softball fund raiser between local law enforcement and the high school baseball teams. The third event is the Monarch Crest Crank, a non-competitive mountain biking event where riders solicit sponsors for The Alliance. These three events annually raise over \$29,000 for the Alliance. . For more information contact Rachel Holder, 719-539-7347, or visit the website, [www.alliancechaffee.org](http://www.alliancechaffee.org).

Continued on page 5

## Rev. Seay's Column continued from page 2

you have not read it. Start with a time or decide to interrupt yourself from your usual routine is also advisable. Find that quiet meditative place to read God's word.

Some people like to read the Psalms. In the book of Psalm people have found strength in times of adversity, especially when feeling overwhelmed in life with all their concerns. In those 150 Psalms, we learn what God Likes and what God does not like, composed of melody of songs and poetry, we learn the history of the Lord's relationship with us and the proper worship acceptable to Him.

If you liked the 1956 movie, *The Ten Commandments*, read the original script in the book of the Exodus. You know the book is always better than the movie. Love is the central theme in the Bible. But so is evil as lust, adultery, murder, mayhem, lying, stealing and various forms of drama especially in the first thirty-nine books of the Bible called Old Testament.

In closing, and I will have more to say in the next newsletter to encourage your personal reading of the Bible. But for now, consider the prophets in the Old Testament like Isaiah, who foresaw the birth of Jesus 700 years before it occurred, and Isaiah also spoke of the end times

## Catherine's Column continued from page 2

congregation and the success of your new priest.

I will always think of Grace Church with a sense of gratitude and joy. You remain in my prayers and in my heart.

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## TRANSITIONS

Prayers of thanksgiving for the total recovery of Catherine's grandson, Archer.

Prayers are requested for Bonnie Young, that the doctors can find the source of her health issues.

Pray for Ray Stwalley, who is suffering from back problems.

Please pray for Kim Prather, who will have shoulder surgery in about two weeks.

Please pray for Tom Bauman who has health issues.

Pray for Catherine, as she transitions to the challenges of life after retirement.

Please pray for Rev. Seay, that he has safe travels to Buena Vista on his Sundays with us.

Pray for Grace Church as we begin the search for a new Episcopal priest.

Please pray for peace and harmony in our country.

### Rev. Seay's Column continued from page 4

How could Isaiah be so accurate (Isaiah 40: 20) to say he speaks of "Him who sits over the circle of the earth." Isaiah who told you that the world was round!

It could not have been Amerigo Vespucci, Christopher Columbus, or Ferdinand Magellan. One of several points to help people spiritually reason and believe that the Bible is not just book, but a revelation from God. Enjoy your reading.

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### More pictures of Ampe's Lunch



### Council News continued from page 3

So, the Council will need to fasten our seatbelts and prepare for a little more work while we adapt to all the changes we face. I know we are up to it, with God's help and grace.

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



## COVID Update

by Bishop Kym

Dear Siblings in Christ,

The current pandemic is far from over. Recently, there has been an alarming increase in the infections and hospitalizations due to the Delta Variant of the coronavirus, especially among the unvaccinated. While we strongly encourage that everyone eligible to receive a vaccine get vaccinated, we cannot presume to know the vaccination status of everyone who enters our doors. We do know, however, that children under the age of twelve cannot receive any of the available vaccine, and there are others who for various reason cannot receive the vaccine.

While this is not the news any of us wanted, it is in these moments that we are called to live out our faith and the great commandment to love God, yourself, and love our neighbor. I would like to update our May 24<sup>th</sup> recommendations considering recent events.

- Gathering: Outdoors strongly preferred. Indoor gatherings should be distanced and masked.
- Social distancing: Maintain reasonable distance before, during and after worship, especially indoors; Six feet distancing is preferred. No physical contact.
- Masks: Everyone is asked to be masked indoors, regardless of vaccination status. Preachers and readers may unmask during worship. Congregations with

[Continued in column 2](#)

## COVID Update

[continued from Column 1](#)

- intergenerational gatherings are strongly urged to gather outdoors, if possible.
- Eucharist: Communion in one kind is encouraged; other manners of doing Eucharist in both kinds have been successful, but we will continue to forego the common cup of any kind; distribution with gloves or tongs.
- Hand sanitizer: This should be applied multiple times throughout the service.
- Singing: Choir, with members vaccinated, at 10' distance can sing without masks. Congregational singing should be limited to a minimum and always masked.
- Fellowship: Minimal food, coffee, with appropriate COVID handling of food. Individually wrapped or gloves for those distributing food is preferred.
- Hospital and Pastoral Visits: Everyone is asked to be masked indoors, and limit visits to less than thirty minutes, when possible.

My goal is to care for those who are vulnerable and for us to do our part to end hospitalizations and deaths. As we learn more about research, vaccination, and variants, I will work with Canon Carl Andrews to monitor our state. Any recommendations will maintain a measured approach until this pandemic is behind us. At a minimum, we will continue to follow any CDC directives/guidance to combat this pandemic.

[Continued on page 7](#)

## COVID Update continued from page 6

Please encourage all those eligible in your community to get vaccinated. In the meantime, I am grateful for the efforts of many who continue to safely adapt to our ever-changing environment. I appreciate how each congregation is finding new and creative ways to be inclusive while tending to the various needs of our people, whether gathered in-person and online.

Faithfully,

Bishop Kym Lucas

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## Ladies Sewing Bazaar

The Ladies Sewing Group will hold their annual Bazaar on Saturday, November 6, 2021, in the Parish Hall. They have been working hard on crafts, toys, bird houses, bags, and any number of craft items to sell. If you are interested in contributing to this event, the ladies meet at 10am on Fridays in the Annex. All are welcome to come. Talent isn't necessary. There are many projects that don't require any talent, only the ability to follow directions. They also train. So, join them on Friday's at 10am and help with this worthwhile project.

They are also having a bake sale in conjunction with the bazaar, so if you would like to bake something, make candy, or other novelty food items to sell, they will be accepting them on Friday and Saturday morning. Grace in full of great cooks, so flaunt your talent and donate to the bake sale. For more information contact Martha Bauman.

## Lunch With Ampe

On October 8, Ampe Swart treated the Ladies Sewing Group and other ladies from Grace to a beautiful and delicious lunch to thank them for their hard work for the church. Thanks, Ampe for this wonderful show of appreciation.



Photos by Sherry Thomas

## Announcements

The church office will be closed on Wednesday, October 13, 2021. Judy will be visiting her cousin in Massachusetts. If you have an emergency, contact Dorothy Miller.

The Ladies Sewing Group is holding a workday on Friday, October 15, 2021, from 9 am until Noon in the Paris Hall. They will be working on crafts for the bazaar. No talent is necessary. They will train. Lunch will be provided. Please enjoy good food, fellowship, and fun.

The Church Council will meet on Sunday, October 10, 2021, immediately following coffee hour in the Parish Hall. All members of the congregation are welcome to attend.

The annual Church Conference will be held on November 7, 2021, immediately after church in the sanctuary and on zoom. All members of the congregation are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Stewardship Campaign started last Sunday. Pledge cards were mailed out. If you didn't receive a pledge card and would like one, contact Judy [admin@gracechurchbvco.org](mailto:admin@gracechurchbvco.org) and she will end you one.



## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### Birthdays and Anniversaries

#### Birthdays

10/3 Mary Lou Bauman

#### Anniversaries

Kurt and Dorothy Miller



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

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