



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Lent

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



FEBRUARY 2022

From Our Pastors



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Lent

While Advent is a time of giving, Lent is a time of reflection, penance, and reconciliation, all revealed through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Holy Week is a solemn sequence of days leading to the grace of Easter. It is a different form of joy than Christmas; Easter joy is cathartic and transformational. Lent, then, is a time of complex and contrasting emotions. Highs and lows. A time to be shaken and surprised.

Nick Ripatrazone

From the Desk of Rev. Seay.....

Count your blessings one by one and you will see what the Lord has done. I am certainly thanking God for what I see at Grace Church. Our January newsletter reminded us of having church services under a worldwide mask wearing pandemic. The pictures reveal where we have been as a church and the loving memory, we hold for those Grace members who have gone before us. As it is written; "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth said the Spirit that they rest from their labours; And their works do follow them." (Revelations 14: 13) Their contributions to Grace church have been a blessing, a

contribution that's sincerely appreciated.

I see other significant blessings to Grace Church. The setting up of Zoom services by Ed and Ray; And training Christina to coordinate the Zoom Worship service and setting up her media personnel staff. I also thank God for the Worship Committee diligent in planning future services and training the youth as acolytes. I have witnessed the cordial transitions of SPRC chair, church treasurer, administrative council president and moreover an overall willingness of the membership to work together for the good. Grace Church is blessed to have Sharon



I thank God for these blessings that He has bestowed upon Grace Church membership.

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Some Symbols of Lent

Ashes: Made from palm leaves of the previous year, ashes can remind us both of the baptismal and penitential character of Lent. They not only represent our own mortality and utter dependence on God, but also symbolize our efforts of dying to sin (and rising to new life in Christ).

Violet (deep purple): Violet is the liturgical color of the season and symbolizes its repentant character, as well as Christ as the King of the world. (Deep purple was a color reserved for royalty in Jesus' time.)

Fish: As a Lenten symbol, fish stands for the obligation to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. We also abstain from meat on other Fridays of the season.

Barren stones: Stones call to mind the desert, and Jesus' testing by the devil there.

Pretzels: Made from simple dough which has no dairy or fat, pretzels remind us of fasting and, shaped like two arms crossed, of prayer.

Church Council Report

by Jennifer Wright, Chairman



First of all, I'd like to thank Peggy Finkowski, Janet Yinger, and Rick & Nancy Fox for stepping up to be on the Council this year, and Becky Arthur for agreeing to be our Treasurer. Also

thanks to Ray Stwalley, Martha Bauman, and Dorothy Miller (Treasurer) for their recent service on the Council. It certainly "takes a village," and I am so grateful for all of you!

Moving forward, we are doing a little restructuring to get our Committees up and running again. So far, our Personnel, Technology, and Worship committees have been doing some great work! You can read what they have been up elsewhere in Grace Notes...

Something else in the works is the formation of a Sunday Worship Night led by Leslie Quilico. I personally am very excited about reaching out to another facet of our community with younger people and families. We'll keep you posted on the start date.

We promised to keep the congregation informed on the progress of our "Faith Budget," so as soon as we have the numbers in and available, we will get that information out to you.

And, we will continue to have in-person and zoom service available on Sunday mornings, until further notice. So thankful for everyone that has made our Zoom services possible!

Backpack Program

By Carolyn Hayes

The program provides weekend food support for food insecure students enrolled in the school system. This program was started by Mary and Scott Colvin in 2010. It is sponsored by CUCC and the Buena Vista Optimist Club. It is funded solely by donations. There are sixty-one students currently enrolled.

Two breakfasts, two lunches, and two dinners are supplied each week at a cost of five dollars per pack. The food is in single serving units such as cereal, oatmeal, juices, tuna, etc. Each pack has twelve to fifteen items. Four adults and three to six CCHS student volunteers pack the food to be dispersed each Friday by the Boys and Girls Club, the Grove, and Chaffee County High School.

The program coordinator is responsible for managing the finances, purchasing the food, and monitoring the inventory. In 2021 this charity struggled to have enough money. Last year Grace Church donated \$500.

To donate send a check to CUCC designated to Backpack Program. Their address is 217 Crossman Avenue, Buena Vista, 81211. Checks may be placed in the Grace church offertory basket marked Backpack Program. For more information contact the program coordinator Ken Rehborn at 303-918-6955.

Outreach has been a regular donator to the Backpack Program, so the congregation can also give directly to Outreach if they prefer.



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Lenten Season

The Lenten Season is quickly coming, Grace and CUCC have agreed to have the Wednesday evening services followed with soup and bread, with every effort to keep people safe, both are committed to following the COVID protocols. Unless otherwise recommended, we are planning in-person services then fellowship with soup and bread.

On Wednesday, March 2, CUCC will host Ash Wednesday at 6 pm followed with soup and bread in their fellowship hall. Each Wednesday evening after that will be a joint gathering alternating between Grace and CUCC, a total of six Wednesday evenings. Masks will be required except when eating. Distancing will be observed in the sanctuaries and fellowship halls. Meal tables will be set for 4 only.

The soup, bread, and water will be taken to each person by a server. With all this planning, we hope that everyone will feel comfortable in attending this traditional gathering with the CUCC. It is a wonderful way to start the Easter season. A detailed schedule will be made available e in the bulletins. PS: Holy Week and Easter follows again quickly, so be prepared

Rev. Seay's Column

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Robertson retired clergy as teacher of Women's Bible Study and Dr. Bob Yinger as the Men's Bible Study teacher. In addition to minister Leslie Quilico approval by the Council to conduct evening prayer services at Grace for Cornerstone's "church homeless" families.

These and many others behind the scenes-maintained efforts have continued amid a worldwide pandemic. I thank God for these blessings that He has bestowed upon Grace Church membership. In Closing, as the number of COVID-19 cases declined we also thank God looking forward to more opportunities in ministry and growth of the church.

Blessing Extended

W. Clifford Seay, Pastor

New Acolytes for Grace Church

Worship Committee conducted an Acolyte training class on Saturday, February 5. Five participants attended. Bonnie Young welcomed them, gave some history and expectations. Dorothy Miller then led them through the entire process with hands-on participation. On February 6, Adeline Smith was asked to be the Acolyte with Rev. Seay as a guide for the new Acolyte. Thank You Adeline for doing a suburb job!

TRANSITIONS

Prayers of thanksgiving for Barbara O'Donnell who has found medication that helps her pain so she can sleep.

Please pray for Angel Hardy, Vi's daughter, who fell and is having surgery this week.

Remember Dan Rodeheffer in your prayers. He is suffering from a skin infection.

Please pray for Nash Love, who is going through a difficult time right now.

Pray for safe travels for Kim and Kathy Prather as they begin a two-week vacation.

Remember Jennifer's friend, Tom, who had a knee replacement and is recovering.

Pray for Keith Baker's father who is 92 and suffering from emphysema.

Please pray for Max Robertson who is beginning treatment for his leukemia.

Council News
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2022 Council Members:

- Jennifer Wright- Chair
- Susan Champine- Vice-Chair
- Peggy Finkowski- UM Lay Leader
- Janet Yinger - Episcopal Sr. Warden
- Judy Epperson - Secretary
- Becky Arthur - Treasurer
- Rev. Clifford Seay - Clergy Representative
- Nancy Fox or Rick Fox
- Kim Prather
- Ed Butler

Update on Annex Apartment

We have been working hard to get the Annex Apartment ready for Pastor Seay’s use as well as upcoming overnight visitors as we start having more visiting Episcopal Clergy this Spring. We are still needing blankets, basic toolkit, first aid kit, flashlight, cleaning caddy. If you have any of those items, please contact Jennifer at 719-221-1040. Thanks to everyone who has contributed so far – I am very pleased on how nice it is looking!



Les Spencer Dies at 92
by Mary Jane Dyer

James Leslie Spencer Jr, Les as he was known by his friends, passed away on January 29, 2022, in Frisco, TX. He was born in Houston, Texas on December 26, 1930, to Marguerite Louise Fischer and James Leslie Spencer. He attended Alamo Heights High School in San Antonio, TX and Rice University in Houston, TX where he graduated with a BA in Engineering in 1952 and a BS in Mechanical Engineering in 1953.

Les worked his entire 42-year career for Bell Helicopter Textron in Hurst, Texas. He married Mary Jane “Marita” Fellbaum, the love of his life, on January 22, 1955, and last year was able to celebrate their 66th wedding anniversary together before she passed away suddenly on January 26, 2021. While Les and Marita enjoyed living in Arlington, TX for over 40 years, they loved living in Buena Vista, Colorado for 13 years.

While in Arlington, he and Marita were long-time members of St. Alban’s Episcopal Church. At St. Alban’s, Les was deeply involved in the Vestry, among other things, for many years. In Buena Vista, they enjoyed being a part of Grace Church, where he was dedicated to taking on whatever needed to be accomplished.

He loved camping in the mountains with his family and traveling through the years to places such as Mexico, Israel, and Europe. He was preceded in death by his wife of 66 years, Mary Jane “Marita” Fellbaum, and his brother-in-law, Ernest Spindle Fellbaum.

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Les is survived by his daughters Susan and husband Andy Nichols, Mary Jane and husband Barry Dyer, and son James Leslie Spencer III, grandchildren Rachel Milner and partner Aaron Fritch, Dillon Nichols, Travis Dyer and wife Maggie, and Ashley Dyer, and great-grandchildren Amaliah and Emerson Winter, and sister-in-law Carlyn MacMillan Fellbaum and a niece and two nephews. The family thanks Parkview in Frisco for their loving care in his final years and Legacy At Home Hospice Care in his final days. His Memorial Service will be private. Interment will follow at Bishop Mason Mausoleum and Columbarium in Flower Mound, TX.



Les Spencer

Goodbye to a Dear Friend by Judy Epperson

It is with sorrow that we say good by to our good friend and loyal member of Grace, Bob Freed. Bob passed away quietly at home last month. We extend our condolences to Maryanne and her family on their loss.

Bob was an active member of Grace church for many years. He was in charge of the Grace Church Memory Garden and Columbarium and was instrumental in getting the Memory wall started. He also served on the Grace Church Council for several years.

Bob was a Jew, and was always willing to give us information on Jewish ceremonies and the interpretation of the Old Testament Scriptures. He started the Hanukkah meal at Christmas, and taught us the significance of that holiday. We all had a lot of fun learning to make Jewish food and learning to play with a dreidel.

On Maundy Thursday, we held a Seder meal with his help and learned about the traditions surrounded by that meal. We even did a Seder service. And there was more Jewish food.

These were wonderful get-togethers, and helped us as a congregation grow. Thanks, Bob, for helping us move outside our comfort zone. We miss you.



Renaming Ceremony

by Grace Garret

Some of you may know that I've made some big changes in the last few months. I'm now a full-time Buena Vista resident, starting a new chapter of my life and recently changed BOTH my first and last name! Yes! For as long as I can recall, my name didn't seem mine. If you called me from down the street, I would recognize the sound of your voice before I would the name. I've struggled with changing the name to various versions, but it still didn't resonate. Never had.

I wanted to change it to something meaningful and it was clear the most meaningful person in my life to date has been my grandmother, Ida May Garret. She taught me to make beds, do laundry, iron, knit, crochet, sew and cook. She was a strong and loving mother, grandmother, sibling, and friend. She modeled love, patience, hard work. She sang, played piano, flirted with the red-headed grocery delivery boy, and laughed until she would just about pee herself. She modeled all I knew was important before I realized it was key to life.

When exploring my first name, I considered several. Many actually. But there was only one name that I had ever heard that was soft on my ears, gentle in my heart – and that I could live into the qualities of this name for the rest of my life. And that name was...Grace.

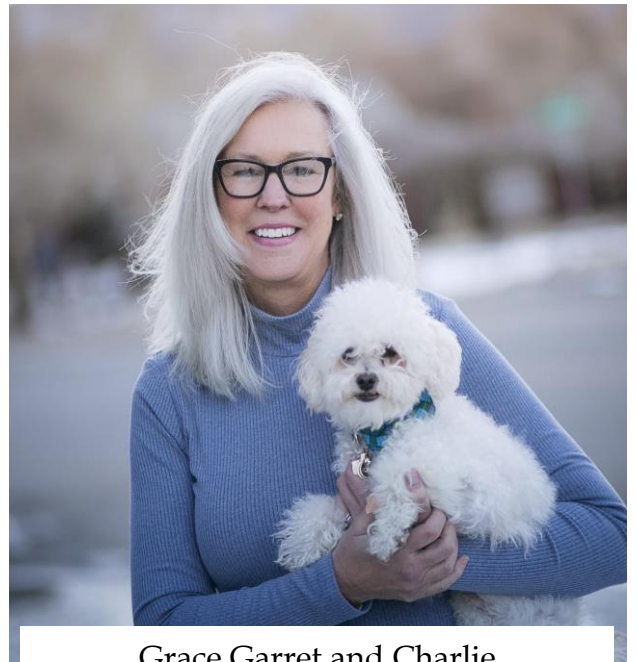
So, last Saturday, at my Naming Celebration, in front of about 40 people in person and about 40+ on Zoom from all around the world, I got to stand and celebrate my new name...Grace Garret. I figure that I have 1/3 of my life left to live – and I might as well live it on my terms – and with a name that resonates with me!

[Continued in next Column](#)

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The event was followed by a sweet reception and pictures. There are too many to thank for making this event the gift that it was. As Bonnie Young said, 'that's what we do here at Grace.' Yet another way I am blessed.

Grace Garret (formerly Christina Randle)



Grace Garret and Charlie

Announcements

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday, which is March 2, 2022, and with it starts our annual Wednesday Lenten services with the CUCC. All services begin with a short service at 6:00 pm followed by a Soup and Bread Meal. The schedule is below:

March 2 Ash Wednesday – CUCC

March 9 Grace Church

March 16 CUCC

March 23 Grace Church

March 30 CUCC

April 6 Grace Church

We still need 2 more pots of soup for the Soup and Bread Meals at Grace, one on March 9, 2022, and one on April 6, 2022. Soups need to be at Parish Hall by 5:30pm. If you can make a pot of soup, please contact Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org. Thanks.

Just a reminder. The Grace Church Council Meeting will be held on March 20, 2022, immediately following the service. All members are invited to attend.

Readers are needed for Palm Sunday, April 10, 2022, and Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022. If you are going to be here on those two dates, please see Junia Fitzgerald or Judy Epperson. Thanks.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays and Anniversaries

January Birthdays

1/25 Ken Holze

1/30 Sharon Robertson

February Birthdays

2/9 Eugene Preis

2/28 John Epperson

Anniversaries

January Anniversaries

1/1 Keith Baker and Evelyn Baker

1/20 Barry and Carolyn Hayes

February 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