



Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211
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Happy Birthday, USA!

Persons, places, vistas we have seen



JULY 2022

From Our Pastors



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Happy Birthday, USA!

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Teddy Bear Picnic Day

July 10 is national Teddy Bear Picnic Day!! There's even a song about it. So..... on Sunday, after church, gather your Teddy bears and take them to the park for a picnic. Don't be worried about the strange looks, or snide remarks, the Teddy Bears can hear them, and you won't care because it is also National Pina Colada Day, and after you have a few of them, you won't care what people think. Let's hear it for the Teddy Bears!

From the Desk of Rev. Seay

The Old Testament established the supremacy of God by miracles. God did everything and anything by His own power, accomplished it by His own voice, His own Word. This display of power in the Old Testament reveals the miraculous works performed in the name of the Lord, by the Lord and sometimes even against the will of the people who were engaged in idol worship. In the New Testament miraculous works are performed in the name of Jesus who said, "of myself I can do nothing, but I do the will of him who sent me." John 5:30-37

We never find Jesus working one single miracle for His own behalf. He will turn water into

wine at a wedding feast for the benefit of others. Jesus would not convert stones into bread to satisfy his own hunger. Yet, He would feed thousands with five loaves of bread and two fish, and He would not come down from the cross to save Himself from death.

The ancient ones might say today that television is a miracle. That one can sit in Colorado and see a live events with picture and sound from around the world might seem miraculous to them. The fact that high density light can take a picture inside of a human body to save a life, they might have said, "now that's a

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*More miraculous
than the miracles
themselves.*

Heal Our Land by Orrin Hatch

Heal our land
Please grant us peace today
And strengthen all who lack the faith
To call on Thee each day
Heal our land
And keep us safe and free
Watch over all who understand
The need for Liberty

Heal our land

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Church Council Report

by Jennifer Wright, Chairman



Council Chat -

Our next Council Meeting will be July 17th.

Just a quick review of the past 6 months shows that we are actually doing quite well at Grace Church!

-we have installed electronic/keyless locks the side door of the Sanctuary and the front door of the Parish Hall. If you would like a code, please reach out to Gary or Kim.

-YTD we are IN THE BLACK for our 2022 budget. Thanks to EVERYONE for their help in contributions and curtailing expenses! Hopefully, our Yard Sale on July 23rd will give us a little more of a cushion for our budgeted expenses.

-the Personnel Committee has been doing a GREAT job in our search for a new Episcopal Priest; hopefully, we will have some News from them by the end of July!!!

-Meanwhile, we will be Celebrating a year that Rev Seay has been with us, and 6 months as our Lead Pastor! It has been a joy to get to know him and his lovely wife a little better.

-We are still looking for another Council Member to take Janet Yinger's place; helpful (but not necessary) that this person would be of the Episcopal persuasion.

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Jane's Place

By Kathryn Prather

Jane's Place is a legacy project honoring the vision of the late Jane Whitmer. This project will bring 17 housing units to the Salida community, designed to serve immediate local housing needs. Seasonal employees, new recruits to the workforce, families, and individuals in crisis, and Americorps volunteers will be directly served through Jane's Place.

In addition, the project will include a social enterprise coffee shop and a nonprofit incubator meeting place. Jane's Place is moving forward to be an innovative adaptive housing project near the heart of downtown Salida, on the corner of 3rd Street and Highway 291. Housing units will serve the needs of our diverse and growing seasonal workforce, households in transition or in emergency need and families who are striving to exit homelessness.

This development will not only serve diverse and acute community needs, it also incorporates the vision and passions of the late Jane Whitmer, whose legacy was centered in providing stability and care for children and families so they may prosper.

Funding is \$2,645,000.00 through grants and City of Salida and Chaffee County contributions. \$375,000 needs to come from individuals, households, and local businesses. Donations can be made at chaffeecounty.org/housing or through Chaffee County Office of Housing 719-239-1398.



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Heal Our Land continued from page 2

Please help us find our way
For in thy word we find our
strength
If we look up each day

Heal our land
And fill us with thy Love
Keep us upon the path of truth
That comes from heaven above

Protect us by the power of thy rod
And keep us as one nation under
God

Heal our land
Heal our land
And guide us with thy hand
Keep us ever on the path of
Liberty

Heal our land
Heal our land
And help us understand that we
must put our trust in Thee
If we would be free



Rev. Seay's Column continued from page 2

miracle." The truth is miracles are occurring every day. The earth tilts backwards 23 degrees just enough as it rotates around the sun to bring seasonal changes. The moon although two hundred fifty thousand miles away, controls water levels on the earth by way of its gravitational pull on the earth, although the moon has extremely limited gravity on it. People say tides are miracles. The fact that some birds know when to fly South or North without a calendar or a compass during earth's seasonal changes, is the miracle birds understand.

These things may not seem like miracles to people but when they need a cure for a sickness or a resolution to a problem, hopefully they will see or remember this, God through Jesus Christ, by way of the Holy Spirit, is One in the miracle business for our benefit. The truth is miracles happen every day. You should expect them. You should look for them. Miracles, the wonders of God, will strengthen your faith to see the miracles in and around your life. Miracles will touch your heart and enlighten your spiritual mind; And that is more miraculous than the miracle itself.

Blessing Extended

Pastor W. Clifford Seay

TRANSITIONS

Please pray for Joyce Logan who has been diagnosed with breast cancer and will have surgery on July 28.

Prayers are requested for Carol Covert who had surgery on her neck.

Max and Sharon request prayer for the unity of churches.

Prayers of thanksgiving for Scarlett Smith who is recovering from heart disease.

Please pray for Cheryl Vanderkooi as she has surgery for a detached retina.

Martha requests prayers for her son-in-law's father who had open heart surgery and is now back in the hospital for surgery on a brain tumor.

Please pray for unity of our nation and for understanding among its citizens.

Remember the people of Ukraine, who are still involved in a terrible war.

Quilts of Valor by Bonnie Young

On July 4 during the Patriotic Concert performed by the Grace Church Choir plus members from the CUCC, the 2022 Quilts of Valor were dedicated. Bill Fitzgerald gave the dedication speech about the purpose of Quilts of Valor and Rev. Clifford Seay prayed with the audience over the quilts to send them on their way.

Fifteen quilts were completed this past year by the "Loose Threads," the sewing group of Grace Church. In addition, Carol Covert made four tops and Sue Menz made 5 tops for us this year. There were 18 sponsors, all from Grace Church members which assures the costs of the quilts' shipping will be covered. We now will contact QOV Foundation to request destinations for them. We are fortunate to be able to award two quilts personally this year from Grace Church.

Donations for the Patriotic Concert and Dedication of Quilts of Valor will be used to purchase music. Thank you everyone—to the sponsors, the choir members and soloists, the ushers, and those who attended. We offer a special thank you to Betty Dethmers, our choir director. Her musical talents and directorial skills are greatly appreciated by all.



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-The Wild Goose Worship Service has been meeting in our Sanctuary on Sunday nights for 4 months. This month they will be worshipping on July 17th and July 24th from 5:30-7pm. Anyone from Grace is welcome to come; if you haven't had the opportunity to attend one of these Praise Services, I highly urge you to do so!

-Finally, a big Shout out and Thanks to all of our Committee Leaders and Members! "Leading with Communication and Delegation" is working very well for our Council and Committees!

Continued Thanks to EVERYONE in our congregation for ALL you do! Please remember to Stop, Look, Listen, and Respond with LOVE to each other! We can continue to do Great Things if/when we work together!

Blessings – Jennifer



Fourth of July Concert and Quilts of Valor



Pictures courtesy of
Peggy Finkowski
Kathryn Prather
Mike Williams

4th of July Craft Fair



Pictures courtesy of
Mike Williams

Announcements

Can't walk in your garage? Don't dare open the storage shed for fear of causing an avalanche? Closet door won't close? You have an over stuffing problem and Grace Church has the solution. Gather up all the excess stuff and bring it to the Grace Church Yard Sale on July 23, 2022. Donations will be accepted in the Parish Hall on July 22, 2022, from 9am to 12 pm and from 3pm to 5 pm. The yard sale hours are from 8am to 1 pm, so bring your friends to buy all your stuff. (Then you can visit it.) All proceeds go to benefit Grace Church. For more information, contact Jennifer Wright.

Grace Church will honor Rev. Seay with a potluck dinner on July 17, in the Parish Hall following the service. Brisket will be provided by the church, so bring a dish that goes with the brisket. We are ordering a big cake, so no desserts please. For more information, contact Judy Epperson.

The Grace Church Council will meet on July 17, 2022, following the potluck dinner. All members of the congregation are invited to attend.

If you are interested in serving on the church council, here's your chance. The council is looking for someone to replace Janet Yinger who is moving to Washington.

A copy of the new church directory will be available for viewing in the Parish Hall after church on Sunday. Please check and see if your information is correct.

If your birthday and anniversary aren't in the *Grace Notes*, please send the information to Judy Epperson at admin@gracechurchbvco.org.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Birthdays

7/15 Rick Fox
7/16 Peggy Finkowski

Anniversaries

7/4 Kim and Kathryn Prather



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