



# Grace Notes

The Newsletter of Grace Church • PO Box 1559 • Buena Vista, CO 81211  
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## Happy Valentine's Day

*Persons, places, vistas we have seen*



Re

### From Our Pastors



Rev. Seay writes on power from the past.



Rev. Shain-Hendricks talks about the importance of our walk with God.

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### Ministry Reports



Happy Valentine's Day

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## Groundhog Day

Groundhog Day marks the midway point between the winter solstice and the vernal equinox. It comes for the early Christian Holiday Candlemas Day. Groundhog day commemorates the famous groundhog Punxsutawney Phil. The belief is the he emerged from his burrow and looked for his shadow. The tradition follows that his day helps determine how many weeks of winter might be left. It was established in 1887 and is observed annually on February 2<sup>nd</sup>.

## From the Desk of Rev. Seay – The Power of the Past

*2 Kings 13: 20 “And Elisha died, and they buried him...When the man was let down, and touched the bones of Elisha, he was revived and stood up on his feet.”*

This miracle produced a great reverence for the Hebrews, who held the prophet Elisha in high esteem as they did his mentor Elijah. When Elisha died, of course his voice was silent. This miracle reveals God’s life-giving power to resurrect the dead. The people remembered how Elisha raised the dead by the power of God. They saw in this miracle that God’s power from the past was still with them, and they were convinced of that, even though at the time their situation seemed otherwise. What the Lord wanted His people to do,

was to remember. Remember is a repetitive theme throughout the Bible. God is always asking His people to remember something from the past. For example, Exodus 13:3 *“Remember, this day in which you came out of Egypt; Jesus said, Remember the words that I say unto you. John 15:20 and the infamous words of Jesus said at Communion. This do in remembrance of me. Luke 22:19.”*

Our nation calls for several days in a year to observe national days of remembrances like Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, and days of national recognition for individuals whose contributions

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*As an Episcopal and United Methodist fellowship, Grace Church brings physical and spiritual resources to people in the Buena Vista community and its surrounding counties through its various ministries.*

## Christy’s Column



Recently, while reading, I came across a note from the philosopher, Soren Kierkegaard in which he made reference to hearing the Gospel in what he called a “primitive way;” a way of reading that is stripped of all refinements that we so often bring to any difficult text, in order to avoid its meaning.<sup>1</sup> I consider Kierkegaard’s “refinements” to mean the lenses, assumptions, and expectations we bring to our reading of the Bible and to what it is saying to us. I especially consider this when I think about avoiding the meaning of what God is saying and how that calls us to live as Christians. It’s always challenging to be honest with ourselves about “how we read” anything and I believe this is particularly true of how we read the Bible.

On a recent Sunday morning, the Lord, in the voice of the prophet Micah spoke to us saying:

*He (the Lord) has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the LORD require of you*

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## Church Council Report

by Jennifer Wright, Chairman



We had a wonderful Council Retreat on Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>. Thanks to everyone who could make it; especially Cliff who traveled through some pretty bad weather! Christy led our morning

discussion on who we are as Grace Church and how we want to move forward in 2023. We came up with some great ideas that we will be sharing with the Congregation throughout the year. Some of them are:

- Graceful Gatherings (6 members) that will meet quarterly for dinner
- 130<sup>th</sup> Year Anniversary of the Grace Church Building in April
- Monthly Birthday Celebration on the First Sunday of the Month (with Cake!)
- Regular articles in Grace Notes from Committee Chairs, as well a "Classified Ads" section

More to follow as the year progresses...

We also had a regular Council business meeting, then Cliff ended our afternoon with a quick scripture reading/worship time.

**Please Note: Our Annual Church meeting will be held on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup> at 3pm in the Sanctuary. Chris Carr (our Methodist District Superintendent) will be leading us in the Methodist Charge Conference portion of our meeting. After our meeting, we will have our first Potluck of the year (meat provided by the Church) in the Parish Hall.**

## St. George's Report

From their December Newsletter

We have completed our kitchen remodeling project! Our spacious, welcoming, well-lit commercial kitchen has been the site of four community meals a week plus several fundraisers and community activities. It's a joy to cook in and an amazing place to make connections, welcome volunteers, and build community. If you haven't seen it in person yet, stop by! We would love to connect with you, and you can almost always find someone there. We are deeply grateful to all who have made this into a beautiful resource for the Leadville community.

Our food pantry has thrived in a year full of economic challenges. The increase in food prices has a double effect on St. George. It increases our own costs to keep fresh, healthy food in our food pantry, and it increases the number of people visiting us. Luz Escalera, our Food Coordinator, and our new administrative assistant, Liz Larkin, have managed this time of turmoil beautifully, holding the space for a loving, vibrant, human-centered food pantry that doubled in number of visitors in 2022. Participants in the Meals are also steadily on the rise. We are serving over 1100 meals a month, and each meal is an opportunity to build community, share our mutual struggles, and create mutual support. We see this happening every day, and every day, it feels like a fresh miracle.

We continue to be amazed at the way that the Spirit moves through our tiny building. And we couldn't do any of this without your loving support and help. Please consider giving a donation to St. George or becoming a regular supporter.

Sincerely, Lisa Morton, Bishop's Warden

*Welcoming, nourishing, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.*

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## Christy's Column continued from page 2

*but to do justice, and to love  
kindness,  
and to walk humbly with  
your God? (Micah 6:8)*

This is, as one Hebrew scholar noted, "the summation of the whole of Torah" and is the both the ethic and the practice of any who claim to follow the God of the Bible, of any who claim to be Christian. I found an interesting note by a Hebrew scholar on the last of verse eight, "To walk modestly with your God is usually translated as, 'To walk humbly with your God,'" but its original meaning is likely to be 'to walk wisely (or perhaps carefully/completely) with your God.'"<sup>1</sup>

What is good, oh human? Practicing justice, loving goodness or mercy or kindness, and walking completely with our God. One might even say, "What is good? To love the Lord your God with all your heart, your mind, your strength, and your soul. And to love your neighbor as yourself."

As we continue to journey in this season of Epiphany, reading, hearing, and praying with the words of Jesus as he begins his public ministry and incarnates the fundamental posture of the reign (kingdom) of God, it is wise to ask ourselves, "What is good?" And to be honest with ourselves about all the filters we put between ourselves and the biblical response...to practice justice, love

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

helped to inspire this nation. These historical and celebratory days known as holidays are reminders for citizens to remember. Grace Church is the example of Christian people some who were once Catholic, Lutheran, Baptist, who crossed over religious denominational barriers to work for the good of all in the community. As an Episcopal and United Methodist fellowship, Grace Church brings physical and spiritual resources to people in the Buena Vista community and its surrounding counties through its various ministries.

The uniqueness of this fellowship calls for a day to be set aside which I am calling a Church Anniversary. A time to remember the who, how, when, what, where, and why to the community that made Grace Church a true form of ecumenicalism. It is not to brag or boast of our doing or working with other churches but to remember with inspiration, because there is power in the past. Moreover, it shows what can be accomplished when people come together regardless of their inculcation to Christianity. We can and will inspire others to give their time, their talent, their gift and to be a participant in this service to help us help when we commemorate each year our church anniversary service.

Blessing Extended  
W. Clifford Seay, Pastor

## TRANSITIONS

Continue to pray for Joyce Logan. She is doing well, but still recovering from breast cancer.

Please remember Glen Hendricks who is recovering from shoulder surgery.

Please pray for Susan Shampine's brother, Al, who is in the hospital.

Please pray for Grace Garret who is in Texas caring for her mother who had a stroke.

Remember the family of Vivian York. Vivian died last month.

Please pray for Susan Shampine's nephew, Nash, who is going through a rough time emotionally.

Keep Grace Church in your prayers as we enter a new year. May 2023 be our best year yet.

Remember to pray for the victims of violence in our country and the world.



## St. George's Report continued from page 3

Sincerely, Lisa Morton, Bishop's Warden

*Welcoming, nourishing, and loving our neighbors as ourselves.*

Checks may be mailed to St George Episcopal Church/POB 243/Leadville, CO 80461. Phone 719-486-3087 Or visit their website at saintgeorgeleadville.com

Checks designated for St George may also be placed in the Grace offering plate (or mailed to Grace Church). Just put St. George on the memo line.

Grace Church POB 1559 Buena Vista, CO 81211.

## Lenten and Holy Week Schedule 2023 by Bonnie Young

### Wednesday Night Services and Meals

6:00 pm

Ash Wednesday

February 22, 2023, Grace Church

March 1, 2023 - CUCC

March 8, 2023 - Grace Church

March 15, 2023 - CUCC

March 22, 2023 - Grace Church

March 29, 2023 - CUCC

### Holy Week Services

April 2, 2023 - Palm Sunday 9:00 am

Rev. Clifford Seay

April 6, Maundy Thursday Service, Grace

6:00 pm

April 7, Good Friday - No Service

April 8, Holy Saturday - Grace Church Open

No Service

**April 9, Easter Sunday, 9:00 am**

**Rev. Christy Shain-Hendricks**

## Christy's Column continued from page 4

mercy and walk completely with our God...loving as we have been loved.

It is wise to ask, "What is good?" It is wiser still, to ask, "What prevents me from practicing what Jesus says is good or blessed?" And then to imagine doing what is good, walking completely with our God anyway.

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## Council News continued from page 3

*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

Proposed Council Members for 2023

Jennifer Wright, Chair

Susan Shampine, Vice-Chair

Ann Taylor, Episcopal Sr. Warden

Kim Prather, Episcopal Jr. Warden

TBD Methodist Lay Leader

Ed Butler

Nancy Fox

Paul Nervig

Judy Epperson, Secretary

Becky Arthur, Treasurer

Rev. Clifford Seay, Methodist, Lead Pastor

Rev. Christy Shain-Hendricks, Episcopal Co-Pastor

## Treasurer's Report by Becky Arthur

You may remember at last year's annual meeting our budget showed that we anticipated a difference between our income and our normal operating expenses of about \$30,000 (expected expenses exceeded expected income). I am delighted to report that with the generosity of our congregation and some work on the part of the council and members of Grace, we ended the year nearly even.

Expenses did exceed income by \$3,309, and we took that money from our reserves, but how different from what we had anticipated!!

Thanks are due to Jennifer, the council, and members for a successful garage sale that brought in over \$3,000 that we used to meet regular expenses. We plan to do that again in the coming year, so be on the lookout for good "junk" to bring so we can all trade who owns what! We also were very cost conscious and tried to save wherever we could.

We had many members who gave above what they had pledged, and we have some new members, too, all of which helped. So, a heartfelt THANK YOU to you all for making this report a lot more fun than we had feared!

## Technology Report by Ed Butler

We work hard to deliver the best zoom experience you can have. We apologize for not always achieving that goal. With hundreds of knobs for adjustments plus a computer program which sometimes gets a change for more security it is easy to slip up. We keep working at it.

We have been asked to improve the interaction between Sunday morning zoom listeners and attendees in person at the sanctuary. We have found that with a little diligence the person controlling the zoom equipment can change the view to gallery before the service starts and while passing the peace. That will allow the attendee to better see the zoomers. There will not be audio, so a wave of your hands will have to suffice for now.

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## CUCC Winter Clothes Project

CUCC is collecting winter clothing and gear to be donated to Chaffee Community Resource and Assistance Center in Salida next to Caring and Sharing. They will accept just about anything people can use to stay warm. I plan to pick the items up for delivery there on Tues., Feb 7. For further information, contact Peggy Finkowski.

## From the Stewardship Committee by Paul Nervig

### Let the New Year Begin - Hope, Love and Gratitude

Somehow a New Year seems to bring revitalization. We take a deep breath, forgetting all that went wrong in the old year, and start fresh.

For the Christian, this revitalization takes place daily as we remember our Baptisms, for God "has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead" (1 Peter 1:3). Empowered by this knowledge, let us use each day for his glory.

Prayer: Lord, in this New Year, grant me strength to put you first. Help me to seek you and your righteousness. Thank you for the gift of your Son Jesus, who came to live and die on the Cross so that I may live as a forgiven person who will spend life eternal with you. In your precious name I pray. Amen.

Blessings on your journey!

## God's Abundance

Last week the following was the insert in the bulletin, but the people on Zoom didn't receive it. The message was uplifting, and it was felt that the entire congregation should have it.

### God's Abundance

We have before us a whole new year. Think of the abundance of possibilities and opportunities God lays before us for service to his kingdom in the minutes and hours that make up the days of the New Year!

Abundance is a characteristic of God. He gave his only Son who declared to us, "I have come that [you] may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10). Through him and because of the abundance of his love for us, we "are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for [we] are receiving the goal of [our] faith, the salvation of [our] souls" (1 Peter 1:8-9). While he is slow to anger, the Lord is "abounding in love and forgiving sin and rebellion" (Numbers 14:18).

He gives the gifts of his creation to us in abundance as well, for who can count the stars in the sky, the birds in the air, or the fish in the sea? He also pours out on his people gifts in abundance. In Romans 12:6-8, we read,

*"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently;*

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*if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully."*

God has equipped and enabled us with his abundant gifts to seek out the lost, to lead and serve on committees and boards that do the work of ministry, to provide financial support for our church workers at home and in missions, and to teach and preach his Word for the salvation of souls and the edification of believers.

Perhaps you don't know where you fit into this picture. Perhaps you even think you're not part of the picture. Not so! The Apostle Peter wrote, *"Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms"* (1 Peter 4:10). By this we know that each of us has at least one gift and that God holds each of us responsible for using that gift.

Ask God to show you where he wants to use you. Go to your pastor and other church leaders and let them know you're available in this new year to discover and use the gifts God has given you for his service.

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## Classified Ads

This is a new section in Grace Notes dedicated to helping the members of Grace Church advertise any specific skills that they have such as plumbing, yard work, house painting, general handy man, or woman; things to sell like crafts, furniture, electronics, clothes, etc. It can also be a place where people can advertise special services like care giving. Also, if you need any of the above-mentioned things, you can also advertise for it in this section. It is the hope of the editor that this will help the congregation share their unique gifts and skills and also help those who need a service find what they need among the people of the congregation, so they won't have to depend on strangers. See the ad below:

Now Specializing in helping Seniors buy their dream home in the mountains or helping to make the hard decision to downsize and sell their home here to move closer to family. I have been in Real Estate for 18 years, working in Chaffee, Lake, and Park Counties.

Jennifer Wright - 719-221-1040  
Coldwell Banker Collegiate Peaks Realty



## Announcements

**February birthdays**, during Coffee Hour on Sunday, February 5, 2023. If you have a February birthday, please let me know so you can be recognized.

**The Grace Church Council will meet** on Sunday, February 12, 2023, following coffee hour at 10:30am in the parish hall.

**The Annual Meeting and Charge Conference will** be held on Saturday, February 18, 2023, at 3:00 pm in the sanctuary. It will be followed by a potluck dinner in parish hall. The church will provide the meat.

**Please take note of the** Lenten and Holy Week schedules published in Grace Notes this month. We will need three people to provide soup each night. A signup schedule will be in Parish Hall on Sunday, so you can sign up for soup. If you have questions, please contact Judy Epperson by email at [eppersonjudy51@gmail.com](mailto:eppersonjudy51@gmail.com), or call her at 806-681-7087.

**The Grace Ladies will meet for breakfast** on March 2, 2023, at 9:00am at Jan's Restaurant. All ladies in the church are invited to come.

**CUCC is collecting winter clothing** and gear to be donated to Chaffee Community Resource and Assistance Center in Salida next to Caring and Sharing. They will accept anything people can use to stay warm. I plan to pick the items up for delivery there on Tues., Feb 7. If you have anything to donate, you can bring it to church on Sunday. There will be a collection tub in Parish Hall. If you have questions, contact Peggy Finkowski.

## Birthdays and Anniversaries



### Birthdays

**2/28 - John Epperson**



*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](mailto:eppersonjudy51@gmail.com)*