



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

"A loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ"

Newsletter

January 28 & February 4,
2018

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Rector

Vy Rev. Dr. Roman Roldan
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Leslie Daniel
Christian DeJean
Dare Didier
Zed Howell
Heather Howle
Richard Kendrick
Mickey Melancon
Sue Steib
Dr. Adam Whatley
Glenn Thomas, Treasurer
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Stewart Hughes, Chancellor

Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

Why We Need Vestries

I love the democratic nature of our church polity or governance. This is a system of checks and balances that places most of the power at the congregational level, while vesting our bishops with great authority to oversee the affairs of the diocese and with great autonomy as it relates to the national church. But it all starts at the congregational level. Churches send delegates to diocesan convention who elect standing committees, executive boards, various diocesan committees, and bishops. Our diocesan budgets are approved in a democratic process by those same delegates sent by the parishes. The clergy are a part of that delegation, but are free to vote their conscience. Delegates at convention have the right to amend the constitution and canons of the diocese, can argue issues of importance, and can represent the congregational needs and celebrate their accomplishments before the entire body.

It is the same way at the parish level. The entire body of the church, gathered together at their annual meeting, elects the vestry of the church and approves its budget. This vestry is then responsible for creating committees, developing and overseeing a budget, hiring and supervising a rector, entering into agreements on behalf of the parish, overseeing stewardship campaigns, making decisions on investment strategies, deciding on what ministries to fund and at what level, accepting a diocesan pledge, approving financial audits and parochial reports, and representing the needs of the entire congregation.

The bishop's authority is delegated authority that comes directly from diocesan convention, represented by the standing committee of the diocese. The rector's authority is delegated authority that comes directly from the parish annual meeting, represented by the vestry of the church. Both the bishop and the rector have the authority to hire and supervise their own staff, to make liturgical decisions regarding the celebration of the sacraments, to represent the diocese or parish at various Church-wide councils and decision-making bodies, to oversee the operations of the diocese or parish, and to ensure that congregations receive the teaching, preaching, counseling, and pastoral care they need to grow in their faith and to do "the work God has given them to do."

The standing committee of the diocese and the vestry of the church act as legal agents for each body. What this means is that they are ultimately responsible for all legal and fiduciary matters. Selecting the right vestry, therefore, is fundamentally important. This is why we pray for the right candidates every year and why we vet them with such care. The future health of the church is at stake and the decisions vestries make today will have a direct effect on the vitality and viability of the church of tomorrow.

We have four excellent candidates for vestry this year, from which we will elect three new vestry members on January 28. The candidates are Shannon Pollet, Drew Nordgren, Dr. Patricia Schneider, and Dr. Tom Flynn. I could not think of a more qualified slate of candidates. Shannon has been an executive with Enterprise for many years, Drew is an attorney in private practice in Baton Rouge, Dr. Pat has been a pediatrician for most of her life and a small business owner, and Dr. Tom recently retired from a distinguished career as a neurosurgeon and business owner. All four candidates are faithful church members who love Grace and who have a stake in our future. Please make plans to attend our Annual Meeting this year and make your voice heard through your votes.

The three new vestry members (2018-2021) will replace Dr. Adam Whatley, Dare Didier, and Mickey Melancon who have faithfully served for the last three years. In many ways this vestry has had a challenging three-year term. They started their tenure having to make decisions about a \$300,000 restoration of our church sanctuary, an upcoming sabbatical for the rector, and a great deal of uncertainty about whether or not the roof of the church needed to be replaced. Through it all, they remained hopeful, committed to our church and all its ministries, and supportive of the clergy and staff. We are a much better church today because of their loving care and leadership. Please join me in thanking these three faithful servants this coming Sunday.

As I celebrate my 9th year anniversary of ministry with and among you, I find myself thinking and praying for all the wonderful people we have lost over the last nine years. I also find myself giving thanks for all the new families we have gained, a new focus on youth and children ministries, and a considerable increase in our trust funds. I believe our best years are ahead of us. We face a great future and much of this is the result of the wise leadership of our vestries over the years. I am deeply thankful for their ministry and support. May God continue to bless them and all of you, Fr. Roldan.

Positions Closed: We would like to thank all who applied for the Preschool Director and Parish Administrator positions. We have received resumes from highly qualified applicants and are now closing the application process. We are close to reaching a deal with an excellent Preschool Director, and we will begin interviews for the Parish Administrator the second week of February. Please continue to keep our search process for these two important positions in your prayers.

Mrs. Anne Klein's Retirement Party: Please save the date of April 7, 2018 at 6:00pm for a grand party in Jackson Hall to celebrate Mrs. Klein's 38.5 years of service at Grace Church. A committee of Reception Chairs is being formed and you will soon receive a private invitation from our Rector with instructions about how you can help us mark this special occasion. As for now, just reserve the date in your calendars and call Fr. Roldan if you have any questions.



Our youth group served with the Lot Project, an organization that serves the homeless population of Baton Rouge, on Sunday, January 14th. The youth not only served and prayed with individuals, they spent the day preparing the meal and filling blessing bags that were also given out on Sunday. We've been discussing modeling true charity and compassion during youth group, and our youth not only took those lessons to heart but applied them on Sunday. We are so proud of this group!

Intercessory prayers are asked for Grace Church members who are ill:

Thomas Kendrick, Stewart Maunsell, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Olivia Pass, Kay Tengler, Wendell Wade, David Walker, Pam Willson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Weese Winder, Mary Woodyear-Jan. 29; Taylor Sparks, Ricky Sparks, LaFayette Means IV-Jan. 30; Josh Norton, Ruby Havard-Jan. 31; Chris Dwyer, Emma Bell, Willis Daniel-Feb. 1; Stacy Betz-Feb. 2; Overton Nicholas-Feb. 3; Robbie Howle, Tommy Thompson-Feb. 4; Bill Willson-Feb. 6; Chris Metz, Morgan Moss-Feb. 7; Bob Toburen, Braylon Farthing, Dahn Savell, Dana Hanchey, Gus Hill, Eleanor Tregle-Feb. 8; Peter Truitt-Feb. 9; Patsy Hardouin-Feb. 10.

Wedding

Anniversaries

Davis and Kathy Bankston-Feb. 1; Bill and Genie McClendon-Feb. 6; Chris and Donna Metz-Feb. 7; Charles and Betty Sessions-Feb. 10.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Sister Abigail, Claiborne Arbutnot, Charles Barham, Micaela Kell Bennett, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Bob Crowley, Sandy Davenport, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Deselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Amy Dwyer, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jean-sonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Kathy Drew Matter, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Bennie McNeely, Frances Merritt, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Jeanette Rackley, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Touns, Denham Turner, Rufus Yerger.

Those serving in the

armed forces: Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, Ben Colia, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragusa, Christopher Willis, Matthew Young, Aaron Zuccsro, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped. Support Squads.

Our Pilcher Organ: The recent cold spells have brought respite from the heat and humidity we enjoy here in West Feliciana. Among the unexpected consequences is one concerning our beautiful Pilcher organ. This organ is constructed mainly of wood and is of such precision that changes in temperature or humidity affect its performance. The Church has heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) systems that do a good job of keeping temperature constant, as well as dehumidifier circuits that maintain humidity levels below 60%. The cold spells, however have brought very low humidity which, combined with heating systems, result in the 20% range inside the church. Our HVAC systems do not have humidifier circuits and therein lies the problem. With warmer weather our organ will once again come alive with glorious sounds. In the mean time, please sit back and enjoy Director of Music Ministries Melvin Hales' masterful renditions on the piano.

Yours in Christ, Zed Howell, Junior Warden

The **Annual Meeting** will be this Sunday, January 28 right after the 10 am service. Everyone is welcome to attend to hear about the 2017 year at Grace Church.

Men's Prayer Breakfast is Wednesday, February 7th at 7:00am. Who would like to cook? Let Fr. Roldan know as soon as possible.

The Women's "Centering Prayer" study will meet February 7 at 9:00am in the Parlor in Jackson Hall.

Altar Flowers are needed for February 4, Altar Greenery is needed for Feb. 18 and 25, March 4, 11, 18, May 13, 20, 27, July 1, 8, 29, September 16, 30, November 18, 25, and Altar greenery for December 23. **Sanctuary candle** sponsors are needed for March 4, & 25, May 27, June 3, July 15, September 16, 30 November 18, December 9, 16, 23. Please call the church office if you want to sign up for one of these dates.

Coffee Hour: If you would like to help with Coffee Hour on a Sunday, there will be a sign up list in the Narthex this Sunday and it will be passed around during the Annual Meeting later Sunday. This will help our Monthly Chairs fill their Sundays and share the responsibilities. All that is needed on a Sunday are cookies, coffee, orange juice or other light refreshments.

Church Mice will return on February 14 at 6:15pm: We are very excited about the return of Church Mice on Ash Wednesday. Remember that Church Mice is for children Pre-K through 5th grade. Contact Meg at 635-4065 if you would like to help supervise or teach a lesson.

The Church Office will be closed for Mardi Gras, February 13th.

Ash Wednesday Services: We will have services at 7:00am, 10:00am (Preschool service), and 5:15pm. The first and third services will include Holy Communion. The children's service will be no longer than 15 minutes and it will be more informal. Please make plans to join us.

Lenten Bible Study: "A God on the Side of Sinners: Reflections on the Parables of Luke Chapter 15" will be taught by the Rector every Wednesday of Lent at 6:00pm. Please come and join us for a light soup and salad meal and the study. Sign up in the Narthex. Invite friends.

Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday January 28, 2018

Acolytes: Fiona Tully, Charles Fox-Smith,
Mathilda Fox-Smith, Wyatt Olsen
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Lucie Butler
10am: Drew Nordgren, Brandie Olsen
Ushers: Tom Morris, Tiger Olsen
Lectors: Donna Wright, Dixie Blue
Vestry Rep: Zed Howell
Altar Guild Team 3
Altar Flowers: Anne Klein
Sanctuary Candle: Zed and Rachel Howell
Coffee Hour: Zed and Rachel Howell
Babysitters: Lorna Klein, Emma Olsen

Sunday, February 4, 2018

Acolytes: TBA
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Sharon Gauthier
10:00pm: Sheryl Wynters
Ushers: Will Plettinger, Shannon Pollet
Lectors: Missy Higgins, Heather Howle
Vestry Rep: Heather Howle
Altar Guild Team 4
Altar Flowers: Available
Sanctuary candle: Sharon Gauthier
Coffee Hour: Zed and Rachel Howell
Babysitters: Madison Pollet, Shayn Rayford

January 28, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Annual Meeting

February 04, 2018

7:30am - Eucharist
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, January 31

5:15pm - Eucharist
5 - 7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, February 1

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, February 2

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, February 4

7:30am - Eucharist
9:15am - Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, February 7

7:00am - Men's Prayer Breakfast
9:00am - Centering Prayer

5:15pm - Eucharist

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, February 8

9:15am - Morning Prayer
10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, February 9

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study