



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

April 8 & April 15, 2018

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The Importance of Youth Ministry

At our Diocesan Convention last November, I heard Wendy Clarie Barrie speak about the importance of children and youth ministry. She has been teaching and directing programs for children, youth, and families since 1989, and is also a former Vice President and Board member of Forma, a network for Christian formation professionals. During her talk, Wendy said something that struck a chord with me – “children and youth are not the future of our congregations; they are part of our congregations now – they are present members.” This simple statement gnawed at me through the rest of convention and much of the next following week. As our children and youth ministry director, I reflected that I had been preparing lessons, focusing on curriculums, and interacting with our youth as the future leaders of our congregation. I found that I had forgotten about where they are now and who they are now. How could I miss that, I thought – they serve as acolytes, they participate in ministries, and they form a crucial part of why I love Grace Church. I decided that I needed to redirect how I was thinking and perceiving our children and youth – I needed to treat them as the members of our congregation that they are. With that new directive, I made an active effort to develop programs that reflected the purpose of meeting our youth where they are now.

Our children and youth curriculums reflect the Episcopal Church’s doctrine and teachings. Our children who attend Children’s Church hear the same Gospel we do – though in language they can understand. They interact with the Gospel through the activities and lessons as taught by the various Children’s Church volunteers. After each lesson, they are sent home with a small sheet that explains what they heard and what’s coming up next week. This is to help parents and families tackle any questions that the children may have leaving church. I want them to ask questions and explore their faith. I also think it’s important that they hear the same Gospel lessons we do, and it speaks to Wendy Claire Barrie’s statement – they are members now. By hearing the same Gospel, it connects us tighter in God’s word, but it also provides a platform for families to discuss the Gospel and how it might connect to our world today.

For our older youth participating in youth group, they are tackling the tough questions and explorations of faith through the Rite 13 and Journey to Adulthood curriculums. These curriculums provide a foundation of faith and an understanding of how they may fit into today’s world while still holding fast to their faith and feeling comfortable inviting people to the table. However, I also modify when needed. For example, during Lent, our youth did their own Bible study of the Gospel of Luke. While it may not have been on the same level as the class Fr. Roldan was teaching to the adult formation class, it still tackled the same themes, and explored the same verses. Our youth explored what it meant to truly be grateful and say thank you, they

delved into how we need to hold fast to God's light in each of us as we deal with everyday worries. Throughout this Bible study, I saw our youth unpack the Gospel of Luke and apply it their everyday life. Our youth are facing a lot of stressors - more than I remember at that age. The constant of peer pressure, school, social media, family and much more, all while they are discovering who they are.

This past Maundy Thursday, our youth group cleaned the church and then joined with St. James youth group in Baton Rouge for a lock-in. After spending an hour at St. James' Altar of Repose in prayer and reflection, we came back together to debrief and here is where I truly saw Wendy Claire Barrie's statement of the importance of meeting our youth where they are now come to fruition. Our youth led each other, supported each other, and discussed their vulnerabilities and questions with very little prompting from the adults. At the close though, they did remind me that they are youth and it was very late, and they were ready to move on from such heavy topics.

I don't want to rush Thomas' life—but I can tell you that I look forward to the day that he runs with pure joy through the cemetery hunting eggs, serves as an acolyte, and participates in all our children and youth ministry programs. Through my role, I've discovered just how important these ministries are to our church—not just to the future of Grace and any other church that our children may attend in their adulthood, but to who we are as a church now. Our children and youth are making active choices each day that reflect who they are as members of Grace. These choices reflect the lessons we are teaching them in all our programs, and more importantly, the Word of God they hear in home and church. I see them serve with compassion and empathy, and yes I see them mess up at times, I mean, we all do! But they are learning that God's grace is for all, even them.

I have loved my role as the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director. I have grown in my own faith as much as I have seen our children and youth grow through the last two years. While, I'm excited to start a new role as the Parish Administrator and grow through the joys and challenges this new position will bring, I still fully plan to remain involved in children and youth ministry as a volunteer. I want to thank Fr. Roldan and Chris for their unending support of our youth ministry programs, all those who take the time to cook our youth and children meals, those who serve as our Children's Church leaders—Alicia Dwyer, Leslie Daniel, Carlin Kendrick, Charlotte Peno, Christian Tregle and Carly Whatley. Lisa Foster who helps write lessons and leads Church Mice, the incredible Vacation Bible School Committee, Ms. Dare Dider, Jane Opperman, Lisa Foster, and Carly Whatley. And thank you to Richard, our tireless youth group volunteer and supporter. Thank you also to our congregation for supporting me as the Children, Youth, and Family Ministry Director. And finally, I want to say a big, heartfelt thank you to all our parents who entrust their children and youth to my care. I love them as my own and am grateful that you share your children with me. In peace, Meg Kendrick.

Upcoming Children & Youth Events

The Youth Group will be volunteering at the Food Pantry on Wednesday, April 4th from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. We will get lunch afterwards. That evening we will have a fun movie night. Youth Group is open to all 6th through 12th graders. On Sunday, April 8th, the youth group will be once again serving with the Lot Project. They will prepare a meal after the 10 a.m. service and then serve it in Baton Rouge to the homeless. We are collecting \$5 gift cards to Sonic or McDonald's for this service trip!

Intercessory prayers are asked for Grace Church members who are ill

Emily Barrow, Jason Kennedy, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Olivia Pass, Don Reinhardt, Kay Tengler, Wendell Wade, Adam Whatley, Pam Wilson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Rebecca Wilson-April 9; Mathes Hughes, Rob Trep-pendahl-April 10; Trish Toburen, Sam Nicholas-April 11; Lori Griffin, Louis LeBlanc-April 12; Chip Tregle-April 13; Ann Weller-April 15; Mike Williams-April 16; Mathilde Fox-Smith-April 17; Donnie Davis, Derek Thornton-April 18; Emma Jane Oliver, Dr. Pat Schneider, Meg Kendrick-April 19; Sheryl Wynters, Peggy Gammill, Christian DeJean, Neal Elliott, Jr-April 20; Pam Wilson, April 21.

Wedding Anniversaries

Tom & Linda Flynn-April 8; Wade & Diana Weller-April 10; Tim & Kathy Kane-April 14; Kevin & Rebecca Wilson-April 16; Karen Snyder & Ellen Williams, Adam & Carly Whatley-April 18

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Sister Abigail, Claiborne Arbuthnot, Charles Barham, Micaela Kell Bennett, Wayne Bergeron, 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, Jane Hamilton, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jean-sonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cathy K., Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Kathy Drew Matter, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Jeanette Rackley, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Toups, Denham Turner, Deborah Vines, Dennisia Williams, Rufus Yerger, Lynn Zinn.

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 Zuccaro, 745th & 746th Exped Squads,

Church Mice returns! Wednesday, April 11th. Join us for the 5:15 p.m. Service then have your child, preschool age through 5th grade stay for dinner and a lesson from 6–7 p.m. This week we will discuss the Easter season, and resurrect the alleluias we buried on Ash Wednesday. Hope to see you there! If you would like to volunteer or serve dinner, reach out to Meg at 635-4065 or youth@gracechurchwfp.org

Out of this World! Jr/Sr. High Rally will be held on April 21st–22nd at Solomon Episcopal Conference Center in Robert, LA. This is open to all 6th–12th graders. Rally is designed to be a fun relaxing, retreat weekend that combines workshops, small group discussion, and worship with games, activities, music, and fellowship. Cost is \$150.00 per student, cost covers room, meals, snacks, and all activities. Scholarships are available through Grace and the Diocese. Register at www.solomoncenter.org. Reach out to Meg with any questions, 635-4065 or youth@gracechurchwfp.org

Vacation Bible School is right around the corner! This year's VBS will be held July 9th through 13th, 2018 and will be held from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. each day. Our theme is "Babylon: Daniel's Courage in Captivity." Children will be transported to Daniel's time as they learn more about Daniel and God's love. If you would like to volunteer with VBS please reach out to Meg at youth@gracechurchwfp.org or 635-4065. We are in need of adult volunteers!

ECW will be meeting after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, April 22nd to discuss the future of our ECW at Grace and elect officers as necessary. All women are invited to attend, please join us.

The United Thank Offering will be collected through April, place your loose change in boxes. The United Thank offering will be collected on Sunday, April 29th, envelopes will be placed in the Sunday bulletins for donations.

Have you seen the hymn box? The hymn box that stores the numbers for the hymn board has disappeared. If you know where it may be, please reach out to Maria Gerry so that we may store the numbers in the box once again.

If you are in need of proof of donation for any donations made to the church, please ensure that you are making a check out to the church, with the ministry on the memo line. This ensures that we will be able to provide a donation form for your records. Any funds that are donated to the Rector's Discretionary Fund are not provided with a donation form.

Altar Flowers/Greenery are needed: Altar flowers are needed for May 27, July 8, 29, November 18, 25. The Sanctuary Candle sign up list has been filled. Please call the church office if you want to sign up for one of these dates.

Looking ahead: We will have a farewell party for Diana Weller on Thursday, May 10 at 6:00pm here at Grace Church. Mark your calendars as we say farewell to our Preschool Director.

Pentecost Sunday is May 20. This year we are going to have a pot-luck lunch here in Jackson Hall following the 10am service. Grace Church will furnish the meat; please bring a dish to share. There will be lots of games and activities for the children to do. More info will be given as we get closer to the date.

Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 28
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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday April 8, 2018

Acolytes: Paul Opperman, Fiona Tully, Evelyn Pollet, Jesse L. Means, IV

Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Bryan McClendon
10am: Sheryl Wynters, Landon Anderson

Ushers: Robert Singer, Kelly Ward

Lectors: Sarah Rhody, Meg Kendrick

Vestry Rep: Dr. Tom Flynn

Altar Guild Team 2

Altar Flowers: Easter Flowers

Sanctuary Candle: Anne Klein

Coffee Hour: Bishop Charles & Louise Jenkins

Babysitters: Shelby Griffin, Julia DeJean

Sunday, April 15, 2018

Acolytes: James Kirschling, Mary E. Barrow, Lilly Higgins, R.E. Barrow

Chalice bearers 7:30am: Carol Stamey

10:00am: Sara Klein, Rucker Leake

Ushers: Tony Horn, Carl Fontenot

Lectors: David Opperman, Glenn Thomas

Vestry Rep: Zed Howell

Altar Guild Team 3

Altar Flowers: Marquette Wedding

Sanctuary candle: Marquette Wedding

Coffee Hour: Dwight & Marth Singer

Babysitters: Marleigh Jaehnel, Landry Higgins

April 8th, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

April 15th 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

(Grace & St. John's)

Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

Wednesday, April 11

5-7 pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

6-7 pm - Church Mice

Thursday, April 12

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, April 13

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, April 15

7:30am - Eucharist (Grace & St. John's)

9:15am - Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, April 18

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

Thursday, April 19

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, April 20

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study