



# Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

## Newsletter

April 22 & April 29, 2018

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Dr. Tom Flynn

Zed Howell

Heather Howle

Richard Kendrick

Drew Nordgren

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Missy Higgins, Treasurer

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Stewart Hughes, Chancellor

## Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

## *A Brief Timeline of Christianity in the First Century*

The daily lectionary readings since Easter, as well as the First Lessons for the Second and Third Sundays of Easter, have all come from the first few chapters of Acts of the Apostles. These are dramatic readings about the expansion of the Church after the resurrection of Jesus. The timeline of the earliest years of our Church is as follows:

AD 30, Jesus dies and rises from the dead at age 33 (there was a calculation error in the 6th century when Dionysius Exiguus created the Common Era calendar and set the birth of Jesus approximately three years after the fact).

From AD 30 to AD 32-34, after the coming of the Holy Spirit, the Church establishes a communal form of living in Jerusalem, as it is described in Acts 2:42-47. They still attend the Temple on Saturdays and gather together on Sundays to celebrate the Agape meal and The Lord's Supper (Holy Eucharist). Some of the earliest liturgical traditions of the church begin at this stage. Peter and John are the spiritual leaders of the Church, but James of Jerusalem, the brother of our Lord, is chief administrator and pastor of the infant Church. Seven Deacons are ordained for the service of the widows of the church.

AD 32 (some historians believe it was AD 34) St. Stephen was martyred in Jerusalem (Acts 7) and this causes many of the disciples to leave Jerusalem. There is evidence that the persecution forces the communal form of living to change. Believers begin to live in their own homes, within close proximity of each other.

AD 34, Phillip the Evangelist, one of the seven Deacons ordained for the care of the Hellenistic widows, escapes to Samaria and quickly begins to preach the Gospel. His ministry is highly successful and hundreds are added to the Church. He travels throughout Israel preaching the Gospel and eventually settles in Caesarea Maritima where he has four daughters who are believed to have the power of divination. Paul visits him towards the end of his ministry as Acts 21:8-9 tells us. Phillip's ministry is an important event for the Church, as many converts were added through his work.

AD 34, Saul of Tarsus converts to Christianity on the Damascus Road (Acts 9). After the ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus, this is the most important event in the history of Christianity. It is often believed that Paul began to preach immediately after his conversion. In reality, Paul spends several years in Egypt after his conversion and then settles back in his home town of Tarsus for nearly 12 years. In the mean time, the Church in Jerusalem continues to grow, Peter converts Cornelius's household (Acts 10) in Joppa, and new believers are added in Samaria and many other parts of Israel. This is a time of great growth.

AD 46, Barnabas comes to Tarsus and convinces Paul to join him in Antioch, a growing church in need of leaders. Paul and Barnabas spend almost a year in Antioch.

AD 47-48, Paul and Barnabas engage in their first missionary journey. After this highly successful journey, which expanded the Gospel throughout Cyprus and southern Asia Minor, Paul and Barnabas separate, each choosing different destinations for their missionary work.

AD 49, The Emperor Claudius expels all the Jews out of the city of Rome, which includes many Christians (thought to be a sect of the Jews). This aids the expansion of Christianity in fundamental ways, as we see in Acts 18:2-3. In AD 49-52 we also have another major event: Paul's second missionary journey and the planting of churches in Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens. Timothy joins Paul during this journey.

AD 51-52, Paul writes the 1 Thessalonians and Galatians letters, the first books of the New Testament. These fundamentally important letters are copied by the churches and sent to other churches, which offer great comfort and doctrinal assistance to the new churches among the Gentiles.

AD 52-53, Paul engages in his third missionary journey and plants churches in Ephesus and Corinth. The powerful preacher, Apollos, joins the team and spends time teaching and leading the churches of Ephesus and Corinth.

AD 54-66, Paul continues to travel and preach and writes his most important letters, Romans, and First Corinthians. He also writes Second Corinthians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, Second Thessalonians, First and Second Timothy, Titus and Philemon. These letters precede the Gospels by many years and provide much of the basis of Christian doctrine in the First century of Christianity. Paul spends at least 4 years in prison during this time and writes some of his "pastoral" letters from prison. Paul was martyred in Rome in the year 66.

Although Acts of the Apostles does not give us any information about the ministry of the rest of the apostles, we know because of other New Testament writings that James of Jerusalem ministered faithfully in Jerusalem until he was martyred in the city in the year 62. Peter traveled throughout the region preaching and is believed to have died in Rome in the same year as Paul.

AD 70, The Gospel of Mark is written in Rome.

AD 80, The Gospels of Matthew and Luke are written in Gentile territories

AD 90, The Gospel of John is written, presumably by the Apostle John, who was in prison in the Greek Isle of Patmos.

It is believed that the rest of the Apostles and disciples traveled far in Europe, Asia, and Africa and, by the time the first century came to a close, there were over 1 million Christians in the Roman Empire out of 181 million (World Christian Encyclopedia, 1982).

The conclusion of this brief timeline is that the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost and the Conversion of Paul turned a group of cowardly men and a persecutor of the Church into the most powerful evangelistic force in the history of the world. This was possible because these people believed deeply in their hearts that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, was good news for the world. I pray that this good news helps us rekindle our faith and burn with passion for the Gospel. May God's Holy Spirit make us powerful instruments for the expansion of his Kingdom in our own day. Amen!

**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, Pam Willson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

**Birthdays**

Matthew Skaggs, Kevin Wilson, John Moss-April 22; Chris Roldan, Bryan McClendon-April 23; Zachary Skaggs, Martha Singer-April 24; Troy Ballard-April 25; Robert C. Daniel, James Cunningham-April 28; Houston Lee Howell-April 29; Rob Barrow, Tom Morris-April 30; Michelle Roth, Donald Norwood-May 1; Matthew Morris-May 2; Tommy Robinson-May 3; Chloe Adams, Jason Kennedy, Jesse Means, April LaCroix-May 4; Alexandra Kennon, Samantha McClendon, Austin Loyacono-May 5

**Wedding  
Anniversaries**

Jason & Allyson Bell-April 24; Tiger & Brandie Olsen-April 25; Robert & Caroline Colvin-April 28; Chris & Alica Dwyer-April 30; Kelly & Kathryn Ward, Greg & Sarah Feirn, Andy & Elizabeth Wooten-May 2; Thomas & April LaCroix-May 5

## **Children & Youth Corner**

*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, Sandy Davenport, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslavic, 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 Jeansonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cathy K., Jody Lemoine, 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, 379th & 926th Exped.

**Church Mice will be held the second Wednesday of every month.** The next Church Mice will be held on Wednesday, May 9th at 6 p.m. We are looking for a few people to help with dinners and serve as volunteers. We only need this once a month! Sign up for a dinner in the narthex. If you would like to help volunteer, contact Lisa Foster at lisastrauch3@gmail.com

**Interested in helping with Vacation Bible School?** Please reach out to Meg at administrator@gracechurchwfp.org or 635-4065 or come to our next meeting after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, May 6th. We are in need of adult volunteers! Also be on the look out for the Borrow & Donate Board which will be posted in the narthex soon. If you have an item to loan or donate, you can drop in the pink VBS tub in the Jackson Hall foyer. If you would rather donate funds, you may make a check payable to Grace Church with memo line VBS, and drop in the offering plate or to Meg in Jackson Hall. We can't wait to for a fantastic week July 9th to the 13th!

### **What's Happening at Grace?**

**Congratulations to Alexandra Marquette and Hunter Whitfield** who were married on Saturday, April 14th.

**Please keep Whitney Miller and Preston Floyd** in your prayers as they will be married on Saturday, April 21st.

**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.

**Mission and Outreach Committee** will meet on Tuesday, April 24th @ 5:00 p.m.

**We will be presenting our Senior Acolytes with a scholarship** from the Order of St Vincent, if you would like to make a donation towards this scholarship, please make a check payable to Grace Church, memo line Acolyte Scholarship. Drop in the offering plate or to Meg in Jackson Hall.

**2018 Graduating Senior Recognition** will be held on May 6th at coffee hour following the 10 a.m. service. We look forward to congratulating our seniors, please join us!

**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

### **Have You Lost Something and Now it's Found?**

Please stop by Meg's office if one of these items belongs to you!

- |                                 |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| -Fatih, Hope, Love Silver Ring  | -Red and black glasses             |
| -Green earring                  | -Tortoiseshell glass               |
| -Rhinestone bracelet            | -Sunglasses in a brown cloth case. |
| -Silver and clear glasses       | -Black floral sunglasses           |
| -Blue glasses                   | -Brown and pink sunglasses         |
| -Pink and black reading glasses | -Black sunglasses                  |
| -Tortoiseshell reading glasses  |                                    |

**Grace Church**  
of West Feliciana Parish  
P.O. Box 28  
St. Francisville LA 70775

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## Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

### Sunday April 22, 2018

**Acolytes:** Hayden Howle, Karina Mulkey, Nicole Mulkey, Ella Corrine Howle

**Chalice bearers:** 7:30am: Lucie Butler

10am: Maria Gerry, Mark Mulkey

**Ushers:** Richard Kendrick, Zed Howell

**Lectors:** Trish Toburen, Will Plettinger

**Vestry Rep:** Dr. Tom Flynn

**Altar Guild Team 4**

**Altar flowers:** Miller Wedding

**Sanctuary Candle:** Carolyn Douglas

**Coffee Hour:** Susan & Rucker Leake

**Babysitters:** Madie Kane, Lorna Klein

### Sunday, April 29, 2018

**Acolytes:** Elizabeth Hughes, Fiona Tully, Clara Jane Hughes, Wyatt Olsen

**Chalice bearers** 7:30am: S. Gauthier/C. Stevens

10:00am: Drew Nordgren, Brandie Olsen

**Ushers:** Tom Morris, Tiger Olsen

**Lectors:** Donna Wright, Landon Anderson

**Vestry Rep:** Zed Howell

**Altar Guild Team 1**

**Altar flowers:** Rachel & Zed Howell

**Sanctuary candle:** Betty Sessions

**Coffee Hour:** Bill & Genie McClendon

**Babysitters:** Emma Olsen, Madison Pollet

### April 22nd, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

### April 29th 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, April 25

5-7 pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

### Thursday, April 26

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

### Friday, April 27

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

### Sunday, April 29

7:30am - Eucharist

9:15am - Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday, May 2

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

### Thursday, May 3

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

### Friday, May 4

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study