



# Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

## Newsletter

April 30 & May 7, 2017

(225) 635-4065-Office  
(225) 635-4410-Fax

### Rector

Vy Rev. Dr. Roman Roldan  
rector@gracechurchwfp.org

### Associate Rector

Rev. Dr. Peter Kang  
associate@gracechurchwfp.org

### Director of Family

#### Ministries

Meg Kendrick  
Youth@gracechurchwfp.org

### Parish Administrator

Anne Klein  
secretary@gracechurchwfp.org

### Pre-School

(225) 635-4030  
Diana Weller  
Preschool@gracechurchwfp.org

Emily Barrow

Stacy Loyacono

Erica Blanchard

### Director of Music

#### Ministries

Melvin E. Hale  
Music@gracechurchwfp.org

### Vestry

Leslie Daniel

Christian DeJean

Dare Didier

Zed Howell

Heather Howle

Richard Kendrick

Mickey Melancon

Sue Steib

Dr. Adam Whatley

Glenn Thomas, Treasurer  
treasurer@gracechurchwfp.org

Stewart Hughes, Chancellor

### Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

## *The Kingdom is Here!*

We live in uncertain times. We have been reminded of this reality repetitively in the last few years as we confront global terrorism, civil strife, and protests around the world. Many Americans have a pessimistic outlook for the future and seem generally dissatisfied with or skeptical about our political system. Within the church, the anxiety is also high as Dioceses deal with stewardship shortfalls, tight budgets, membership reduction, and the closing of many small churches.

I often find myself grappling with political and ecclesiastical issues. I have come to realize that I have placed unrealistic expectations on human beings and institutions that are simply not able to save us. As the resurrection event shows us, only God, through his Son, can save his world and his Church. I now must repent of both the hopelessness and the arrogant self-righteousness I have shared with friends on both sides of the fence. Paul David Tripp describes repentance as heart change, "...a radical change of heart resulting in a radical change in the direction of one's life" (1).

Matthew 6:21 reminds us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. In other words, that which is of utmost importance for us tends to take central stage in our life and ends up controlling our hearts. Heart change requires that I identify this central "organizing principle" in my life and challenge its presuppositions and demands. My "organizing principle" is often perfectionism and a "Messiah Complex" that convinces me I must be everything to everybody, every time, and in every circumstance. The Easter event reminds us that there is only one Savior and I am not him! If this is where you are, let me challenge you to give up on that over-developed sense of responsibility about everything. Give yourself a break. This is God's world and God's church and He alone will save it in due time. You are not the Savior and neither am I. This is great news. All we must do is to remain faithful and Christ will do the rest.

The past and its effects on the present is the central organizing principle for many. Their lives are trapped by memories of hurts, by the trauma of loss or abuse, by the betrayals of friends or relatives, by the guilt of poor choices and sin, by the physical and emotional wounds sustained in childhood, and by the hopelessness and helplessness of their lives. If this is where you are let me give you the good news of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Tripp says, "The Gospel proclamation challenges me to stop understanding my life from the past; it does this as it is a word of forgiveness, that addresses me as one free from my past". When Jesus of Nazareth died on that cross to set us free, the freedom he envisioned was spiritual as well as emotional. The past can be a cruel jailer, keeping you bound to events you can no longer change. The good news of the gospel is that you have been forgiven, liberated, and released from whatever binds you. If your memories keep you bound to bitterness and resentment, today is the day

to claim the freedom Christ wants you to have and to pray God for healing from your past.

So, what about me? What rules my heart? Is it unbridled individualism? Is it thirst for control, power, money and other idols? Is it my past, a crisis orientation to life, or any other organizing principle? The sad reality is that there is not just one organizing principle or "idol" that distances me from my God and that places the creature in the place of the Creator. In fact, at any one point my need for power and control may take over. At other points my tendency to make the Church I love into an idol may win the day. Hopelessness and anxiety are real temptations, as are ideological and theological thinking that leads to self-righteousness. My own need to be right distances me from my God. There are in fact as many idols as there are stars.

Will we ever get a perfect world, where justice and peace rule the day, where all men and women will live in perfect harmony, where love of God and neighbor will be the only organizing principle, and where the creature will gladly relate to his Creator from a bended knee position? Will we ever have a perfect Church, obedient to God's call in all it does, the perfect bride adorned for her husband, faithful and loving? I truly believe we will, as Revelations 19:6-8 announces. We will inherit this home not because we deserve it, or because by worrying and toiling we have earned the right to be there, but because of the great mercy and love of our Savior, Jesus Christ. This is the Easter message we celebrate this season. Christ is alive and his kingdom is here. Alleluia!

Please join me in placing all our cares on God and to rest in the assurance of his love. Ultimately, this is his world and his Church and he will take care of them.

Blessings, Fr. Roldan+

Grace Episcopal Church is hosting a **Women's High Tea** as the first fundraiser for the new kitchen. This will be a great opportunity to fellowship with other women in the community while enjoying live music, tea, treats and conversation. The date is Saturday, April 29, at 3:00PM. See Chris Roldan to purchase tickets that are \$75 each.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast** is next Wednesday, May 3 at 7am. Lori Gore will not be able to cook breakfast, so does someone want to volunteer to cook or get bagels, cream cheese, fruit, yogurt, etc.? Please let Fr. Roldan know.

**Your prayers** are asked for the family of Glenn Thomas Jr, son of Eleanor and Glenn Thomas, who died in Oklahoma recently. May the souls of the faithful departed, rest in peace.

**Pentecost Sunday** is June 4. This is Grace Church's patronal feast day and we usually celebrate with a picnic after church. We love to have swimming for the children if there is a pool; or fishing is always enjoyed. If you are interested in volunteering, please let Fr. Roldan know.

**Forward Day by Day** is available in the Church Office in large print and regular print.

**To the Graduating Class of 2017:** A scholarship fund was established in memory of Lindsay Paige Weller in 2003. She was a graduate of West Feliciana High School Class of 2002. The fund will give a scholarship to a graduating senior that attends Grace Episcopal Church. Any senior interested in applying for the scholarship will need to write a short essay about your involvement at Grace Church and plans for a higher education. Please turn the information in at the church office by May 15th. The recipient of the scholarship will be announced through the church. Mary P. Morse

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

David Barnes, Jamey Daniel, Daisye Howell, Lucile Lawrason, Tom Morris, Sara Nelson, Margie Sheets, Kay Tengler, Sarah Roland, Eleanor Thomas, Wendell Wade, David Walker, Hayes Whatley, Mary Lyle Whatley, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

#### Birthdays

Robert Daniel-04/ 28; Houston Howell-04/29; Rob Barrow, Tom Morris 04/30; Don Norwood-05/ 1; Matthew Morris-05/ 2; Tommy Robinson-05/3; Chloe Adams, Jason Kennedy, Jesse Means, April LaCroix; Alexandra Kennon, Austin Loyacono-05/5; James Wray, Carolyn Porche-05/6; Katharine L. Anderson-05/7; Alyson Bell, Alan Dwyer-05/9; Rhona Wray, Kristin Beauchamp, Susie Tully-05/10; Lisa Kleinpeter-05/11; Nolan Pruitt, Paige P. Woodard, Sharon Wilson-05/12; Kristen Lyon, Sarah Feirn, Cappie Leake, Mickey Melancon-05/13.

#### Wedding

##### Anniversaries

Chris & Alicia Dwyer-04/30; Kelly and Kathryn Ward; Greg and Sarah Feirn; Andy and Elizabeth Wooten-05/2; Thomas & April LaCroix-05/5; Sam & Barbee Irwin-05/6; Sarah & Kyle Rhody-05/9; Kevin & Lori Griffin-May 10; James and Ashley Fox-Smith-May 13.

*Other persons prayers are asked for:*

Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Leo Brown, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Mac Bullock, John Caruthers, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Bob Crowley, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, 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, Cecil Kelly, Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Paul McGuff, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Kathy Drew Matter, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, David Merritt, Robin Michel, Dorothy Anne Millikin, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Cecelia Polito, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Toups, Denham Turner, Darold Whitmer, Zane Woodward.

*Those serving in the armed forces:* Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, James Boucher, 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, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped Support Squads.

Please check the prayer list to the left to see if our prayers were answered and someone can be removed. Just call the Church Office, 635-4065, and let Anne know.

The St. Francisville Symphony Association (SFSA) is once again holding a Wine Tasting and Wine Auction in conjunction with this Friday's concert at Grace Church at 7:00pm. The Wine Tasting and Silent Auction is from 6pm - 7:15pm in Jackson Hall before the Concert. There will be an auction of several wine collections for an "Instant Wine Cellar". Proceeds of the auction help fund the SFSA Scholarship Program and are also used to support the music programs for the local schools. Please let Susie Tully know if you would like to donate a bottle or two. Plan to attend the Wine Tasting & Auction and Concert. It promises to be a lovely event and a great way to celebrate Spring.

"The Tempest" will be presented at Hemingbough on Sunday at 3pm. The award-winning music of violist/composer Christian Fredrickson joins BRSO Chamber Players with Garland Goodson Wilson and her troupe of dancers, *Of Moving Colors*, bringing this exciting original music to life in this world premiere collaboration. Tickets are available at the door and Bank of St. Francisville.

**West Feliciana Quarterly Ladies Prayer breakfast:** Please come to the St. Francisville United Methodist Church, 4744 Fidelity Street, on Saturday, May 20, 8:30am until 10am, for fellowship, food and a program. All women of the church are invited.

**Welcome** to our newly baptized members on Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday: Collin Ryan Fusilier, son of Charles and Emily Dwyer Fusilier; and Addie Kay Babineaux, daughter of Chad Babineaux and Tiffany Babineaux.

**Many thanks** to everyone who made our Holy Week services so wonderful. The Altar Guild with the many setups for the different services; all the lay ministers- lectors, acolytes, chalice-bearers, ushers, our Vestry Reps; the choir, bell choir and organist for all their preparation and beautiful music; the volunteers who furnished palms and those who made palm crosses. Everyone appreciates your ministry to make Grace Church a holy place to worship.

**Grace Preschool Graduation** is Friday, May 12 at 10:30am. Everyone is invited to attend the program in Grace Church. Congratulations to our 26 graduates, their parents and to our staff for another outstanding year.



**Vacation Bible School** is coming July 10 - 14, 2017! *Maker Fun Factory* promises to be a fun and Grace-filled week! There will be games, projects, songs, and delicious snacks. Please be on the lookout for a registration link on our website [www.gracechurchwfp.org](http://www.gracechurchwfp.org). If you would like to volunteer, please call Meg Kendrick or Christie Reinhardt at 635-4065 or email [youth@gracechurchwfp.org](mailto:youth@gracechurchwfp.org). A needs board for donated items, supplies, snacks, and materials for the week will be posted soon in the narthex of the church. God Bless! And thank you in advance for your support!

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

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## Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

### Sunday, April 30, 2017

**Acolytes:** Mary Elizabeth Barrow, RE Barrow,  
Charles Fox-Smith Joseph DeJean,  
Nicole Mulkey, Karina Mulkey

**Chalice bearers:** 7:30am: Bryan McClendon

10am: Landon Anderson, Sara Klein

**Ushers:** Will Plettinger, Ethan Rhody

**Lectors:** Ellen Klein, Rucker Leake

**Vestry Rep:** Dare Didier

**Altar Guild Team 3**

**Altar flowers:** Landon and Connie Anderson

**Sanctuary Candle:** Zed and Rachel Howell

**Coffee Hour:** Mickey Melancon, Sharon Gauthier

**Babysitters:** Sarah Roldan, Shelby Griffin

### Sunday, May 7, 2017

**Acolytes:** Fiona Tully, James Kirschling,  
Logan Reinhardt, Wyatt Olsen, Lilly Higgins,  
Mathilde Fox-Smith

**Chalice bearers** 7:30am: Carol Stamey,

10am: Drew Nordgren, George Newton

**Ushers:** Shannon Pollet, Rob Reinhardt

**Lectors:** Bill McClendon, Drew Nordgren

**Vestry Rep:** Zed Howell

**Altar Guild Team 4**

**Altar flowers:** Bobby and Jane Daniel

**Sanctuary candle:** Mary Morse

**Coffee Hour:** Dr. Adam and Carly Whatley

**Babysitters:** Shayn Rayford, Austin Roldan

### April 30, 2017

7:30am - Eucharist

Bible Study

10:00am - Eucharist

Coffee Hour

### May 7, 2017

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, May 3

7:00am - Men's Breakfast (Cancelled)

5:15pm - Eucharist

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

### Thursday, May 4

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

### Friday, May 5

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

### Sunday, May 7

7:30am - Eucharist

9:15am - Bible Study

10:00am - Eucharist

### Wednesday, May 10

5:15pm - Eucharist

5-7pm - Youth Group

### Thursday, May 11

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

### Friday, May 12

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study