



# Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

## Newsletter

May 19 & May 26, 2018

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## *A Word on the Ministry of the Holy Spirit*

On this feast of Pentecost, let me share just a few paragraphs of my doctoral dissertation on the role of the Holy Spirit in the life of Israel, in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, and in the life of the Church. If you have the time, I encourage you to look up the passages I mention in this brief article. If you have any questions, please let me know.

The Old Testament word *Ruah* means wind, a mysterious and powerful force of nature, "Of which God avails himself at all critical turning-points in the tempestuous history of salvation for carrying out his plans." This *Ruah* is seen in creation (Genesis 1:2; Psalm 33:6), at the end of the great flood (Genesis 8:1), at the time of the ten plagues sent against Egypt (Exodus 10:13), at the crossing of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:21ff), in the wilderness experience (Numbers 11:31ff), at the covenant institution at Sinai (Exodus 19:16), at the return from the exile in Babylon (Isaiah 11:15), etc. The word also means breath, most specifically the "breath of God" or "the Spirit of the Lord" (Numbers 16:22; 27:16). This Spirit of the Lord "impels" (Judges 13:25), "falls upon" his people (Ezekiel 11:5), "carries people away" (1 Kings 18:12), "comes mightily upon" people (Judges 14:6), produces great strength (Judges 13:25), enables people to do heroic acts (1 Samuel 11:6ff), gives people the power to perform great wonders (2 Kings 2:15ff), utter prophecy (Numbers 24:2), interpret dreams (Daniel 4:5; 5:12), etc. The Spirit is seen as involved in all aspects of the nation's life and acting through various individual on behalf of God's people. In no way is the work of the Spirit limited to just one action or one event.

In various passages, the Spirit of the Lord falls upon leaders like Joshua (1 Samuel 27:18), Saul (1 Samuel 16:13), Elijah (2 Kings 2:9), and Elisha (2 Kings 2:15) giving them the power and courage to perform their duties on behalf of the people of God. Likewise, all prophets are called "men in the Spirit" (Hosea 9:7). In the Spirit, the prophets are filled with power to prophesy against the transgressions and the covenant unfaithfulness of the people of God (Michah 3:8). "From the exile onward the spirit of the Lord is clearly considered as the soul of the prophetic inspiration (Ezekiel 2:2; 3:24; 11:5)." In the Messianic, post-exilic age, the Spirit of the Lord will rest fully on a future leader, presented by Isaiah as one who is filled with the Spirit of the Lord, and who will be a shoot from the stump of Jesse. "The Spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord" (Isaiah 11:1ff). This leader will be a humble servant who, filled with the Spirit, will proclaim good tidings of justice to his people (Isaiah 61:1-3).

The Old Testament *Ruah* is translated by the New Testament as *Pneuma*. Of the 377 times where the word appears in the New Testament the most common occurrence is as the Spirit of God or *Pneuma Hagion*. The Spirit of God is the main charac-

ter in the story of Jesus' conception (Luke 1:35), and is present at every major milestone in Jesus' life. The Spirit is present at the visitation to Elizabeth, where God revealed Jesus as the Messiah of the world (Luke 2:40ff). At his Baptism, where Jesus is anointed with the Holy Spirit and with power (Acts 10:38). And, at the beginning of his ministry when the Spirit of God drove Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted (Luke 4:1ff). The Spirit of God was with Jesus during his ministry when he proclaimed good tidings to his people (Matthew 12:18-21). When he performed miracles of great healing and brought people back to life (Luke 5:17; 6:19; Matthew 12:18). As he prayed to his Father (Luke 3:4; 5:16). As he became engulfed by radiant light at the mount of transfiguration (Mark 9:2-13). And, as he was raised from the dead (Romans 8:11; Peter 3:18).

The Holy Spirit inaugurates the great mission of the risen Lord in the Church as it is poured out on thousands at the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:4ff). This baptismal fire starts the great advance of the Christian gospel throughout the world. Through the Holy Spirit the new believers were equipped for preaching the Word of God and leading the Church. The Spirit speaks through the mouths of apostles and disciples (Acts 5:39; 9:8; 10:15). The Holy Spirit equips the Church with power to withstand opposition and persecution, and bestows gifts to various members of the Church to speak in tongues (Acts 2:4, 11, 15), perform miracles (Acts 9:39-42), utter prophetic pronouncements (Acts 9:17; 20:23; Revelations 2:1), engage in various ministries as bishops (Acts 20:28; 1 Timothy 4:12), apostles (Acts 8:14-17), evangelists (Acts 2:18; Ephesians 4:11), missionaries (Acts 13:1ff), etc. Finally, the Holy Spirit, remains with the Church guiding her into all truth, reminding her of Jesus of Nazareth, and giving her the strength to remain faithful in her journey of sanctification. The clearest expression of the Spirit's presence in the Church is through the sacrament of Baptism, but Baptism in no way limits or exhausts the power of the Spirit to continue guiding and leading the life of the Church.

May God's Holy Spirit fill you and yours with courage and hope during this Pentecost season. He who has already come will one day return. Until then, we have his Holy Spirit to guide us into all truth and to give us the strength and will to do the work God has given us to do. Blessings in God's Holy Spirit, Fr. Roldan+

Quotes 1 and 2 from Robert Kock, "Spirit," in Sabbath to Wrath, vol. 3 of Sacramentum Verbi: An Encyclopedia of Biblical Theology, ed. Johannes B. Bauer; 3 vols.; New York, N. Y.: Herder and Herder, 1970.

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

**The Women's Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast** will be Saturday, May 19<sup>th</sup> at 8:30 a.m. It is hosted by St. Francisville United Methodist Church and will be held in the SFUMC Fellowship Hall

**Pentecost Sunday is May 20<sup>th</sup>** at Grace following the 10am service. Grace Church will provide the delicious fried chicken, water, cold drinks, and paper products. Please sign up on the poster in Jackson Hall to bring a dish and bring your lawn chair. There will be games, bounce houses and more! Please join us!

**Vacation Bible School registration is open!** Visit our website, [www.gracechurchwfp.org](http://www.gracechurchwfp.org) to register your 3 year old (potty-trained) through rising 5th grader today! We will explore ancient Babylon and learn about Daniel's story. Come explore with us July 9<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Lisa Foster, [lstrauch3@gmail.com](mailto:lstrauch3@gmail.com) or Meg Kendrick, [administrator@gracechurchwfp.org](mailto:administrator@gracechurchwfp.org).

**Grace Preschool Graduation** will be Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m. We are so proud of this year's class and all their accomplishments. Please keep them in your prayers as they move onto "big school" next year.

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

Brianna Blanchard, Jason Kennedy, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Olivia Pass, Don Reinhardt, Kay Tengler, Wendell Wade, Pam Willson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

#### *Birthdays*

Cecile Means, Sara Nelson, Dwight Singer-May 20; Cindy Seeman-May 21; Karen Dwyer-May 22; Jonathan Weller, Suzette Daniel-May 23; Susan Roland-May 24; Joe Gerry, Suzanne Beckley, Rusty Kleinpeter, Collin Loyacono-May 27; Houston McVea, Cindy Robinson-May 28; Jeff Pruitt, Will Benton, Fiona Tully-May 29; Lorna Klein-May 31; Kathryn Ward-June 1;

#### *Wedding Anniversaries*

Jordan and Liz Truitt-May 21; Hamp and Debbie Willis-May 22; Mark and Eve Clevenger, Miles and Missy Higgins-May 23; Steve and Lynn Gaudet-May 24; Keith and Maddie Watts - May 26; Ricky and Chaille Lambert-May 28; Bill and Madeline Wright-May 30; Bobby and Sharon Wilson-June 1; Paul and Cary Fitzmorris, Russ and Rhona Wray, Rob and Christie Reinhardt, Kirk and Lisa Kleinpeter-June 2; Roy and Alma Ruth Skaggs-June 3.

*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 Jean-sonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cathy K., Jody Lemoine, Jessica Liddle, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Touns, Denham Turner, Deborah Vines, Dennisia Williams, Rufus Yerger, Lynn Zinn.

*Those serving in the armed forces:* Parker Blanche, Amanda Brown, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, Ben Colia, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Polly Finley, 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. Support Squads, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault).

**Thank you to everyone** helped with and attended Diana Weller's farewell party on the 10th. It was a beautiful way to honor Diana who has been a dedicated and excellent teacher for our preschool. If you see Diana please thank her for her service and pray for her as she moves on to finish her Master's degree.

**Men's Prayer Breakfast** will be Wednesday, June 6th at 7 a.m. at the St. Francisville Inn. Please join Fr. Roldan and the men of Grace for a delicious breakfast followed by bible study and fellowship.

**The repair of the ceiling above** our historic organ began the first week of May. At this time, the organ is encased and the plaster ceiling has been removed as well as the foam insulation. The next steps will be to replace the plaster. The team has been working hard to ensure that we will be back in the sanctuary by July 1st.

**Please continue to keep Brianna Blanchard** in your prayers. She will remain in the hospital for a few more weeks while she continues to recover. Please also keep the family in your prayers.

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### Ministry Spotlight: Food Bank

The West Feliciana Parish Food Pantry is a volunteer driven organization that provides much needed food to qualifying residents of our community. Distribution of food on the first and third Thursdays of each month takes place to meet the needs of four client groups totaling approximately 365 people. Many hours of volunteer work and help from community volunteers and the West Feliciana Sheriff's Department are required to ensure that the operation goes smoothly and everyone is served.

The food pantry receives food and/or monetary support from the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, local churches and businesses, The Clothes Closet and from individual donations, such as those brought by Grace Church members and left in the donation bin. All of the food is carefully sorted, checked to ensure that it meets quality standards, pre-packed, and then given to qualifying parish residents.

Grace Church has traditionally been a great contributor to the food pantry in addition to the individual food donations. We regularly provide funds through our Mission and Outreach committee and have stepped in during times of need to help provide a refrigerated truck and funds to purchase a walk-in cooler.

The two main needs for the WF Food Pantry are for non-perishable food that has not expired, and volunteers. When donating food, please keep in mind that our main goal is to provide nutritious food that will last as long as possible. For example, common canned food (green beans, peas, vegetables, fruit, tuna, etc.), dry beans, peanut butter, healthy soups and cereals are always needed. In addition, we do serve clients with babies, and can always use baby food/formula - THAT HAS NOT EXPIRED - and diapers. Lastly, we have many clients that need adult briefs or use bed pads. These are more expensive items that are greatly appreciated.

In regards to volunteering, the food pantry is in great need for consistent volunteers on the first and third Mondays of the month to package the food for distribution. We start at 8:30am and typically finish around 11:30am, depending on the number of volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering, or if you would like more information about volunteering or donating, please contact Bettye Martin at 225-245-4510, [maczilla1@bellsouth.net](mailto:maczilla1@bellsouth.net) or Karen Snyder at 210-275-0722, [karen.snyder@me.com](mailto:karen.snyder@me.com).

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**Grace Church**  
of West Feliciana Parish  
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## Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

### Sunday May 20, 2018

**Acolytes:** James Kirschling, Karina Mulkey, Lilly Higgins, Nicole Mulkey

**Chalice bearers:** 7:30 am: Lucie Butler;  
10 am: Sara Klein, Mark Mulkey

**Ushers:** Dwight Singer, Robert Singer

**Lectors:** Rachel Howell, Ellen Klein

**Vestry Rep:** Leslie Daniel

**Altar Guild:** Team 4

**Altar flowers:** Ronnie & Pat Martin

**Sanctuary Candle:** Maria Gerry

**Coffee Hour:** Pentecost Picnic

**Babysitters:** Landry Higgins, Marleigh Jaehnel

### Sunday, May 27, 2018

**Acolytes:** Julia DeJean, Joe DeJean, Evelyn Pollet, Jesse Means, IV.

**Chalice bearers** 7:30am: S. Gauthier/C. Stevens  
10:00am: Drew Nordgren, Brandie Olsen

**Ushers:** Kelly Ward, Carl Fontenot

**Lectors:** Rucker Leake, Bill McClendon

**Vestry Rep:** Christian DeJean

**Altar Guild** Team 1

**Altar flowers:** Open

**Sanctuary candle:** Cheryl Singer

**Coffee Hour:** Richard & Meg Kendrick

**Babysitters:** Madie Kane, Lorna Klein

### May 20th, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist—  
Grace & St. John's  
Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist  
Pentecost Picnic

### May 27th, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist  
Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist  
Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, May 23rd

5-7 pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

### Thursday, May 24th

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

### Friday, May 25th

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

### Sunday, May 27th

7:30am - Eucharist

9:15am - Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday, May 30th

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

### Thursday, May 31st

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

### Friday, June 1st

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study