



# Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

## Newsletter

June 25 & July 2, 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

## *Our Faith and Fears*

*—You did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received a spirit of adoption (Romans 8:14).*

It seems like there is a lot of fear going around these days. When I visit people in their homes or speak to folks in the community, many express a sense of fear and anxiety about the state of the world, political turmoil, terrible and tragic events reported in the news. Some express a fear of traveling internationally, leaving town, or even stepping out of the safety of their homes. It seems like this is becoming ever more pervasive - to be afraid, to live in a constant state of anxiety. I sometimes wonder, how much of this fear is based in reality and how much of it is simply the result of pundits and talking heads trying to captivate our attention, to keep us "tuned in." And, as Christians, we must ask ourselves - what might Jesus have to say about all this? What has fear to do with faith?

Study the scriptures and you'll find that fear has its place. For example, in Proverbs we read, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Proverbs 9:10). Indeed, throughout the Old Testament, "the fear of God" and "the fear of the Lord" are more or less synonymous with religion, or having faith. The Israelites are told, "fear the Lord your God and serve him" (Deuteronomy 10:20). When Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, advises him to appoint subordinate judges to share the judicial burden, he recommends that Moses select "capable men from all the people - men who fear God" (Exodus 18:21). In the New Testament, proselytes are called "God-fearers," like the centurion, Cornelius, who, we are told, "was a devout man who feared God with all his household; he gave alms generously to the people and prayed constantly to God" (Acts 10:2).

The fear of the Lord is qualitatively different than being fearful about the state of the world. The fear of God is more akin to a sense of the sublime than to terror. It is the awareness of dwelling in the presence of something of such grandeur, magnitude, and beauty that evokes within us a simultaneous recognition of our own finitude, that inspires both awe and humility. Standing at the precipice of a canyon and staring into its depths, or gazing up at the expanse of starry skies at night, or searching for the horizon in a seemingly boundless ocean - can bring with it a sense of awe and wonderment, and fear. How much more is the effect in the presence of God who exceeds all of these and more?

To be fearful about the state of the world is something different, something the faithful are cautioned against. Jesus warns his disciples, "you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed; for this must take place, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and there

will be famines and earthquakes in various places: all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs” (Matthew 24:6-8). Nothing that is happening in the world today should come as a surprise. Moreover, nothing in the world can take from us that which is most important - the love of God we have received in Christ. As St. Paul writes, “who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword... No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 8:35-39).

To be sure, living by faith and not by fear will not always be easy. We naturally fear things that threaten our lives and well being. We are rightfully mindful of potential danger. But we must not be overcome and held captive by our fears and anxiety. We must not let those who profit by our fears dominate our focus and attention (and here I mean the 24-hour news media as much as any “terrorist” organization). We must bear witness in our lives that our ultimate concern is greater than our fears, and greater than the world’s concerns. We must put our trust in the Lord. And, as St. Peter says, “cast all your anxieties on God, because he cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). Indeed, the Lord cares for you. He has come to be with you in the person of Jesus Christ. And he promises to never leave or forsake us. So, as we read in Hebrews, “we can say with confidence, ‘the Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?’” (Hebrews 13:6).

The world can be a scary place, it is true, but the Lord is greater than anything else we may encounter in our lives, mightier than any danger or foe. It is the Lord who shows us that love is more powerful than anything in the Universe - because God, himself, is love – St. John assures us of this –and that “there is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:16-19). So, even in the midst of our fears, we must remember who is ultimately in charge and who he calls us to be and what he bids us to do - and let us continue to reach forth our hands in love to the hurting, the hateful, and the hardened - as Christ first reached out to us. Cast away your anxieties, put your trust in the Lord, and focus more on proclaiming the Good News than consuming the cable news. Blessings, Fr. Peter +

**Chicken Spaghetti Dinners:** all proceeds from the sale of these dinners by the Knights of Columbus will go to *Relay for Life*. Come to Mt. Carmel Church Hall this Sunday, June 25, 11:30–1pm to purchase a \$7 plate. You can dine in or take out and tickets can be purchased from any Knights of Columbus or at Bank of St. Francisville.

**Food Pantry items needed:** suggested groceries: peanut butter (large jars), jelly, pancake mix, rice, canned vegetables (not dented or outdated), tuna fish, boxes of healthy cereal (Bran Flakes, Special K, etc) dried beans. Please put your donations in the green wagon in the church narthex or the orange barrel in Jackson Hall.

**The Men’s Prayer Breakfast** will be Wednesday, July 5 at 7am. Who can fix a light breakfast for the group? Let Fr. Peter know.

**Grace Preschool** will be opening in August with 30 students. The August tuition is due July 1st, so if you have a student coming here this year (2017-2018) and haven’t pay August tuition, please mail it or bring it by the church office by Monday. It can be put through the mail slot in the office door. Be sure to include the student’s name with the payment.

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

Matt Armstrong, David Barnes, Jamey Daniel, Daisye Howell, Lucile Lawrason, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Kay Tengler, Sarah Roland, Eleanor Thomas, Dahn Savell, Wendell Wade, David Walker, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

**Birthdays**

Shewen McClendon, Charlotte Peno-June 25; Madeline Wright-June 26; Patti Percy, Barbara Norwood-June 28; Laura McClendon, Claudia Tully-June 29; Briana Boucher, Kathy Anderson-June 30; Cheryl Singer, Dan Klein-July 1; Kathy Kane, Emma Benton Achorn-July 2; Andrew Klein, Olivia Stewart-July 3; Patrick Tandy-July 4; Briana Blanchard, Brandon Blanchard, Dalton Clevenger-July 5; Laura Croft-July 6; McKinsey Lambert-July 8.

**Wedding**

**Anniversaries**

John and Lisa McGehee-June 25; Charles and Louise Jenkins, Belton and Dare Dieder-June 28; Don and Barbara Norwood-June 30; Alan and Collette Dwyer-July 4; Steve and Noel Parnell-July 5.

*Other persons prayers are asked for:*

Charles Barham, 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, Jeffery Hazel, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jeansonne, 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, Bill Miller, 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.

*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, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped. Support Squads.

**The Super Seniors and Over 50's Club** will travel to Natchez on Tuesday, June 27 to go to lunch (dutch-treat) at Roux 61 restaurant on Highway 61 and then go the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians for a walk about the grounds. They will leave Grace Church parking lot for 10am and return by 5:00pm. Please sign the list in the narthex of the Church if you want to go with the group.

**The ECW of Grace Church** will host a baby shower in honor of Meg and Richard Kendrick and "baby" Kendrick, who is due in late August. They are registered at Babies R Us. Join us after the 10am Eucharist on Sunday, July 16 for this happy occasion.

**Transfers out of Grace Church:** Wayne Blake moved his letter to St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Port Salerno, Florida; Emma Benton Achorn moved her letter to St. James Church in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. We wish them the best in their new church home.

**George and Ann Newton** have moved to Jackson, Mississippi and want to share their new address with friends. It is 3920 Roxbury Road, Jackson, MS 39211. Drop them a line or a card. (The computer hasn't been set up yet, so don't expect replies from emails).

**Congratulations** to Kathleen Hamilton and Felix M. Schneider who were married in Hope, Alaska on June 10.



**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. The registration link is on our website now: [www.gracechurchwfp.org](http://www.gracechurchwfp.org), on our website. If you would like to be a volunteer, please call Christie Reinhardt or Meg Kendrick 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 is posted in the narthex of the church. And thank you in advance for your support.

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**Register for "Maker Fun Factory"** using the form below or visit our website at [www.gracechurchwfp.org](http://www.gracechurchwfp.org) and look under the "Home" tab and register online there.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Gender \_\_\_\_\_

Date of birth \_\_\_\_\_ Grade entering \_\_\_\_\_

Shirt size \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies \_\_\_\_\_

Any Medical concerns? \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing address: \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency contact's name \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to participant: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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## Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

### Sunday June 25, 2017

**Acolytes:** RE Barrow, Charles Fox-Smith, Mary Elizabeth Barrow, Logan Reinhardt  
**Chalice bearers:** 7:30am: Carol Stamey  
10am: Landon Anderson, Maria Gerry  
**Ushers:** Shannon Pollet, Rob Reinhardt  
**Lectors:** Rachel Howell, Meg Kendrick  
**Vestry Rep:** Dare Didier  
**Altar Guild Team 3**  
**Altar flowers:** David and Beverly Walker  
**Sanctuary Candle:** Kenneth and Dixie Blue  
**Coffee Hour:** Rosalie Reymond  
**Babysitters:** Lorna Klein, Shayn Rayford

### Sunday, July 02, 2017

**Acolytes:** Hayden Howle, Paul Opperman, Wyatt Olsen, Clara Jane Hughes  
**Chalice bearers** 7:30am: Lucie Butler  
10am: Sara Klein, Rucker Leake  
**Ushers:** Joe Savell,  
**Lectors:** Ellen Klein, Rucker Leake  
**Vestry Rep:** Zed Howell  
**Altar Guild Team 4**  
**Altar flowers:** Tim and Kathy Kane  
**Sanctuary candle:** Don and Penny Reinhardt  
**Coffee Hour:** Belton and Dare Didier  
**Babysitters:** Marleigh Jaehnel, Shayn Rayford

### June 25, 2017

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

### July 2, 2017

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

### Wednesday, June 28

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

### Thursday, June 29

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

### Friday, June 30

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

### Sunday, July 2

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

### Tuesday, July 4

Church Office closed

### Wednesday, July 5

7:00am - Men's Prayer Breakfast  
5:15pm - Eucharist  
5-7pm - Youth Group

### Thursday, July 6

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

### Friday, July 7

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