



# Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

## Newsletter

July 9 & 16, 2017

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Zed Howell  
Heather Howle  
Richard Kendrick  
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## Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

## *Families and Faith*

If there is anyone in the congregation I still haven't met, hello! I'm Samantha, Fr. Peter's wife. I just moved to St. Francisville at the end of June and have been busy unpacking and adjusting to married life. I'm hard at work trying to make sure Peter's dinners contain green vegetables and his sermons stay under ten minutes. I hope you will forgive the lack of a profound theological message like you normally read here, and allow me to substitute something like a love letter to Grace. I knew this place was special even before I went off to school in California, but the work I've be doing there has only strengthened that conviction.

Let me begin by telling you about a Sociologist named Vern Bengtson. While his father had been a minister, Vern left the church when he went off to college and spent his adult life as a professed atheist academic. However, one Sunday morning after he had retired, he happened to be walking past the little Episcopal church I attended in Santa Barbara. Something compelled him to step inside, right in the middle of the service, and he immediately began weeping and experienced a profound change of heart.

Vern has since come partially out of retirement to investigate whether his story is typical. Do prodigal sons normally return? Many of his results were published in his recent book, *Families and Faith: How Religion Is Passed Down Across Generations*, which has many words of comfort and caution for those of us in the church. First, prodigal sons often do return, but they tend to do so only when their departure is met with continued acceptance and compassion. Rebuking or disowning someone who questions their faith tends to drive them away for good. Second, children are profoundly sensitive to hypocrisy. If a parent says church is important yet never attends, their child will also avoid church when they are grown. Finally, Vern was surprised to discover that, for reasons still unknown, fathers seem to have a disproportionate effect on the religion—or lack of religion—in the adult lives of their children. Dads, remember that your children are watching and they want to be just like you!

More recently, Vern has turned his attention to questions that specifically have to do with aging. Does spirituality increase with age? What roles do older adults take on in their congregations? Are our churches prepared for the massive influx of retiring Baby Boomers? Another member of my church put us in contact with one another, and I have joined him on this project as a research assistant. Over the past year, our team has interviewed and surveyed congregants and clergy members from 25 different denominations trying to learn more about the ways in which our churches and synagogues care for their aging members.

As I continue to pour over all this data, I am constantly reminded of what an extraordinary place Grace is. Oftentimes, seniors report that they feel 'invisible,' that the leadership in their churches only cares about recruiting and retaining young families. Or, conversely, they report utter exhaustion as they scramble to keep churches

with empty pews and red ledger books from shutting their doors. Yet, from all I have observed over the past few years, Grace seems to be truly intergenerational and vibrant. As I write this, Christie and Meg are gearing up for Vacation Bible School, where the youth will help share God's love with the smallest among us. And just last week, I was fortunate enough to tag along on a trip to Natchez with the Super Seniors—many of whom spend their Sunday afternoons bringing communion and companionship to those who are shut-in or unable to make it to church.

Everyone at Grace seems valued and cared for. The other team members almost don't believe me when I tell them stories about the things I observe here. Many of the churches we are studying are 'Sundays only' sort of places, and our subjects often express regret that there are no classes offered throughout the week. Or, if they do have classes offered, more often than not there is nothing to address the need for community and fellowship in a more informal setting. Yet, every time I walk past Grace, no matter what time of the day, or day of the week, there is a youth group dinner, or adult education class, or seniors yoga, or a baby shower, or even a cocktail party out on the lawn. Grace is a gathering place, and there is room for everyone. I personally have experienced over and over again how extraordinarily kind and generous its members are. Peter and I are truly blessed to be a part of such a family.

I will leave you with Romans 12: 4-5, verses that I think capture what this wonderful church does so well: "For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others." Sincerely, Samantha Kang.

**The Women's Quarterly Ecumenical Breakfast** will be hosted by the ladies of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church on Saturday, July 8 at 8:30am at the **new West Feliciana Parish Hospital**. The group will take a tour of the facility. Mark your calendars!



**Super Seniors outing:** Going to Natchez recently these Super Seniors enjoyed lunch at Roux 61 and then went to the Grand Village of the Natchez Indians for a walk about the grounds. If you have suggestions for outings, let Maria Gerry or Olivia Pass know. L-R : Maria Gerry, Carol Woodward, Suzanne Beckley, Olivia Pass, Fr. Kang, Samantha Kang, Barbara Mitchell.

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

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

#### Birthdays

Connie Anderson, Willia Perkins-July 10; Bella Klein-July 11; Clara Jane Hughes, Ken Thornton, William McClendon V-July 14; Sharmila Mulkey, Mike Dufilho, Tommy Loyacono - July 15; Stewart Hamilton-July 16; Pat Dowd-July 19; Russ Wray, Glenn Timmons-July 20; Larry Schneider, Renee Sparks, Carey Leggett, Elizabeth Finley-July 21; Elaine Motes, Andy Wilson, Debbie Willis-July 22.

#### Wedding Anniversaries

Mike and Carol Ridenour Difilho-July 13; Tommy and Stacy Loyacono, -July 18; Ben and Sara Klein-July 19; Peter and Lynda Truitt-July 20.

*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, 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, 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 ECW (Episcopal Church Women) 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* and online at [www.babylist.com](http://www.babylist.com) under Margaret and Richard Kendrick. Join us after the 10am Eucharist on Sunday, July 16 for this happy occasion.



Vacation Bible School is next week, July 10 - 14! *Maker Fun Factory* promises to be a fun and Grace-filled week! The registration link is on our website: [www.gracechurchwfp.org](http://www.gracechurchwfp.org) or fill out the form below. 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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Your prayers are asked for the family of Jeffery Hazel, brother of Louise Jenkins, who died recently in New Orleans. Funeral services were held in New Orleans on July 1st.

St. John’s will have a celebration of the Eucharist by Bp. Jenkins on Sunday, July 16th at 7:30am while Grace Church’s 7:30am and 10am Eucharists are led by Fr. Kang.

Youth Retreat: The Baton Rouge Deanery is hosting a youth retreat Saturday, July 29th to Sunday, July 30th at St. James Episcopal. All 6th through 12th graders are invited to attend. This will be a fun night for youth across our deanery to come together, have fun, and share their faith. Must register by July 19th to participate. To register visit, [stjamesbr.org/dye729](http://stjamesbr.org/dye729). If you have any questions, please reach out to Meg at 225.635.4065 or [youth@gracechurchwfp.org](mailto:youth@gracechurchwfp.org).

Vestry: There will NOT be a Vestry meeting in July. The August meeting is rescheduled for August 22, when the Rector will be back.

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

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## Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

### Sunday July 9, 2017

**Acolytes:** TBA  
**Chalice bearers:** 7:30am: Sharon Gauthier  
10am: Mark Mulkey, Drew Nordgren  
**Ushers:** Dwight Singer, Robert Singer  
**Lectors:** Bill McClendon, Drew Nordgren  
**Vestry Rep:** Heather Howle  
**Altar Guild Team 1**  
**Altar flowers:** David and Coco Treppendahl  
**Sanctuary Candle:** Tom and Linda Flynn  
**Coffee Hour:** Cheryl and Robert Singer  
**Babysitters:** Julie DeJean, Lorna Klein

### Sunday, July 16, 2017

**Acolytes:** TBA  
**Chalice bearers** 7:30am: Bryan McClendon  
10am: Brandie Olsen, Sheryl Wynters  
**Ushers:** Kelly Ward, Carl Fontenot  
**Lectors:** David Opperman, Justin Peno  
**Vestry Rep:** Richard Kendrick  
**Altar Guild Team 2**  
**Altar flowers:** Tommy and Stacy Loyacono  
**Sanctuary candle:** Dr. John and Sue Steib  
**Coffee Hour:** ECW—Kendrick baby shower  
**Babysitters:** Emma Olsen, Shelby Griffin

### July 9, 2017

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

### July 16, 2017

7:30am - Holy Eucharist  
(Grace and St. John's)  
Bible Study  
10:00am - Holy Eucharist  
Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, July 12

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

### Thursday, July 13

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

### Friday, July 14

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

### Sunday, July 16

7:30am - Eucharist (Grace & St. John's)  
9:15am - Bible Study

### Wednesday, July 19

10:00am - Eucharist  
5:15pm - Eucharist  
5-7pm - Youth Group

### Thursday, July 20

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

### Friday, July 21

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