



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

September 9 & 16, 2018

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Hurry Up and Wait

I am praying for patience this morning and, of course, I know that God will give me what I need to do what needs to be done. I don't do waiting very well and this is exactly what I need to do now. After a mad rush to complete extensive paperwork to secure a preschool license, the weather caused a sudden stop in the process and there is nothing we can do about it. The issue is that we need to make several improvements to our preschool playground fence before we schedule the Health Inspector. These improvements include the building of a small barrier with historic bricks from the ground to the bottom of the fence to come within the approved gap requirements. Mr. John Thompson will be doing the brick-laying work for us, but rain has prevented the start of the project. We now hope the rains will stop by the end of this week, so he may build this small barrier by Saturday. So, after a mad rush to get ready, we now wait!

After Centering Prayer this morning a simple thought entered my mind unceremoniously, but with the clarity of our church bells. I have been trying to control this licensure process, driving myself and others to the point of exhaustion. And, yet, we have little control over how this process unfolds. All we can do is our very best, and the rest needs to be given to God. We cannot control the weather, we cannot control when inspections take place, and we cannot control how inspectors choose to interpret State regulations. All we can do is provide the best service we can to our children during this time and pray for a quick resolution to this licensing issue.

The words of Richard Rohr bring me comfort today. He says, "Enlightenment (John 8:12) cannot be manufactured, manipulated, or delivered on demand. It is always given from another. Wisdom is not a do-it-yourself project. The Spirit blows where it pleases, and for those of us on the journey, all we can do is listen for the lessons and remain open. Jesus called this faith." The lessons for me today come from Romans 8:28, "We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose." God is in charge of this process and he will see us through it in due time.

Now, let me say a few words about our upcoming restoration of Jackson Hall. The licensing issue at the preschool occurred just days before the Vestry was scheduled to discuss the construction bid from Cangelosi Ward, the chosen bidder. Unfortunately, we tabled the motion on the bid until all State inspections of the Preschool are completed. This makes perfect sense. If we have to do major work in the preschool space, we can include this work in the specs for the restoration of Jackson Hall and ask the builder to give us a new bid. We believe we have all the space required for licensure, but we want to wait until the Department of Education completes their work before we

authorize a bid to commence the restoration of the building. Once again, we must "hurry up and wait." The Vestry and I are perfectly okay waiting for this restoration. We have been planning this for two years. A couple of months delay are not a big deal. I do believe we must make a decision within the next few months, however, as there are pressing repairs that require immediate attention. We will give you more information soon.

I want to end this article by thanking all my staff for their quick attention to the licensing issue. Meg and Lisa have been working very hard to gather all required paperwork, create emergency disaster plans, revise policies and procedures, and ensure 100% compliance with background screening. This has required multiple trips to Baton Rouge, shopping trips to Walmart, extra cleaning and re-organizing of Preschool supply closets and printing hundreds of pages of paperwork. The rest of the staff have also been phenomenal in the attention they have given this matter. We have a great staff and I am very proud of them.

Special thanks to our Vestry Liaison to Preschool, Leslie Daniel, to our Chancellor, Stewart Hughes, and to our Senior Warden, Richard Kendrick. Your love for Grace church and your support has made a huge difference these last few weeks. Lastly, I want to thank our young families who have been forced to bring their children into the church service because of our lack of nursery and to those leaders who are planning a great children's activity for next week at a local park to make up for our loss of Church Mice. Your dedication to Grace church is admirable. Thank you!

Please continue to pray for us, our parents and our children. Everyone is pulling together and we hope to get this issue behind us very soon.

Blessings, Fr. Roldan+

Ministry Spotlight: Happening #81

What is Happening? Happening is a youth-led spiritual formation weekend designed for high school teens. It is an amazing experience that changes the way you think about yourself and your faith.

Who can attend Happening? Happening is open to ALL current 9th through 12th grade teenagers of any denomination who have not participated in Happening in the past. You need not be Episcopalian to attend, however you must be committed to engage in theological reflection from a Christian perspective. Want to know more? Ask Landry Higgins, Walker Hosford, Shiloh Felton, and Angelina Hardin who have all happened previously. You don't want to miss this transformative weekend!

Who is involved in the weekend? Happening is staffed by youth who have attended Happening in the past, as well as adult "moms" and "dads". There will be a nurse present to administer all medicines, and other Youth Ministers, and adults will also be there to help supervise this amazing weekend. The Youth Rector for #81 is Bella Jung from St. James Baton Rouge.

What should I bring to Happening? Your favorite pillow, throw blanket, toiletries, and enough clothes for the weekend including pajamas. Lodging is 2-3 youth grouped by age and gender in rooms in the "quad". Linens and towels provided. You may wish to bring a pillow. You must bring your own toiletries. Also, bring musical instruments if you play them, a great attitude and an open heart. This is an "unplugged" retreat. **Any cell phones, laptops, iPads or other electronic devices are returned at the end of the weekend.**

Register at <https://seccla.org/events2/edola-happening-81-e02636/> by Sept 12th. Scholarships available through Grace. Contact Alyssa at youth@gracechurchwfp.org or 225-245-1385.

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

Brianna Blanchard,
Jason Kennedy,
Ronnie Martin,
Charlotte Maxwell,
Tom Morris, Eric
Nelson, Sara Nel-
son, Kay Tengler,
Wendell Wade, Pam
Willson, Jake Wray,
Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Richmond Savoy,
Christine Pollet -
Sept 9; Tab Ballard,
Eleanor Penno-Sept.
12; Lindsay McGe-
hee Young, Hamil-
ton Willis-Sept. 13;
Blake LeBlanc, Re-
becca Kastl Millsap-
Sept. 14; Tristan
Farthing, Tom
Flynn-Sept. 15; Vic-
toria Eulaerts-Sept.
16; Tommy Klein,
Shannon Sparks
Shaffer, Wendy Heg-
wood-Sept. 17; Di-
ana Weller, Belton
Didier, Teeta Moss-
Sept. 18; Kenneth
Miller, Nicole Bar-
row, Kim Martin
Wood, Karen
Snyder-Sept. 19;
Madeline Horn-
Sept. 21.

Wedding Anniversaries

What's Happening at Grace?

Other persons prayers are asked for:

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, Ellen Ewald, Mark Feltnner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Jane Hamilton, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Matthew Ingram, Joel James, Michelle Jeansonne, 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, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Toups, Deborah Vines, Dennis Williams, Rufus Yerger, Lynn Zinn.

Those serving in the armed forces: Parker Blanche, Amanda Brown, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, 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).

There will be a Pastalya Dinner Benefit for Brianna Blanchard on Friday, September 7th from 4 - 7 p.m. at the WF Fire District Headquarters, 9892 West Feliciana Parkway. Proceeds will help with medical and rehabilitation expenses from her car accident. You may pick-up or dine-in. Tickets are \$8.00 and may be purchased in the Grace Church Office. Delivery is available for large orders.

The ECW will have a meeting on Sunday, September 9th after the 10 a.m. service to plan the Ecumenical Women's Breakfast hosted by Grace in October.

The Wednesday Evening Adult Formation Class will begin a 5-week series that will start on Wednesday, September 12, at 6:00 p.m. entitled, "Embracing Spiritual Awakening." You are also invited to join us for Holy Eucharist at 5:15pm. As it is our custom, Adult Formation begins with supper which is provided by various attendees on a rotating basis.

Stepping Stone Retreat Saturday, September 15th from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. This retreat is part of a series of young adult lay discernment retreats for anyone 18-39 years old who wants to deepen their relationship with Jesus and asks questions like "What is God calling me to do?" or "How do I recognize the Spirit moving in my life?" Each retreat is focused on a different topic with talks, small group discussion, and activities. While we encourage you to go to all five retreats, each one stands on its own and there is no requirement to have been to the others. Co-hosted by the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and Christ Episcopal Church, Slidell. For more information, contact the Rev. Watson Lamb at (504) 533-4916 or flamb@holyspiritnola.org or the Rev. Liz Emblar-Beazley at lembeaz@stpauls-lakeview.org. Cost: \$15 per person; register online at www.edola.org.

Bishop Jenkins will celebrate the Holy Eucharist at St. John's on Sunday, September 16th at 7:30 a.m.

Since 1993, Solomon Episcopal Conference Center has welcomed over a generation of our parishioners. As the premier retreat venue of the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana, for play, rest and soulful renewal, SECC is a "special place" that is uniquely our own. While owned by EDoLA, SECC is financially independent and does not receive any funding from our Diocese. The regular operational income is usually sufficient to meet the normal operational expenses, but leaves very little for what is needed to address its aging infrastructure. The third Sunday in September is designated as "SECC Sunday." At that time, it is hoped that you will prayerfully discern a contribution to help insure the legacy of SECC for our future generations to enjoy.

The dinner to kick off the Newcomer Classes will be on Thursday, September 20th at 6 p.m. The Rector will delight you with a delicious Colombian meal that features carne asada, black beans, yellow rice, cabbage salad, fried plantains, and, a special guava pastry for dessert.. The five classes will be on Thursdays Oct 4, Oct18, Nov 1, Nov 8, and Nov 29. All the classes will be at 6:00 p.m. in the Rector's office. Please call Meg Kendrick 225-635-4065 to register

Confirmation Classes will commence on Thursday, September 27th at 6 p.m. Classes are open to all youth in 8th grade or higher who have not been confirmed. Classes will inspire the youth to make an adult profession of their faith and to engage in ministry within the church and community. The remaining classes will be held on Oct. 11, Oct. 25, Nov. 15, and Dec. 6 all at 6:00 p.m. Please call Meg Kendrick, 225-635-4065, to register.

Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 28
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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday September 9, 2018

Acolytes: Emma Olsen, Wyatt Olsen, Jesse Means
Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Lucie Butler;
10 a.m.: Rucker Leake, Brandie Olsen
Ushers: Tom Morris, Tiger Olsen
Lectors: Heather Howle, Meg Kendrick
Vestry Rep: Pat Schneider
Altar Guild: Team 4
Altar Flowers: Mary Thompson
Sanctuary Candle: Zed & Rachel Howell
Coffee Hour: Ellen Williams & Karen Snyder

Sunday September 16, 2018

Acolytes: R.E. Barrow, Karina Mulkey, Joey Winn
Peno
Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: S. Gauthier/C. Stevens
10 a.m.: Sheryl Wynters, Drew Nordgren
Ushers: Will Plettinger, Shannon Pollet
Lectors: Ellen Klein, Rucker Leake
Vestry Rep: Sue Steib
Altar Guild Team 1
Altar Flowers: Tom & Susie Tully
Sanctuary candle: Suzanne Beckley
Coffee Hour: Robert & Cheryl Singer

September 9, 2018

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

September 16, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
at Grace & St. John's
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, September 12th

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

Thursday, September 13th

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

Friday, September 14th

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

Sunday, September 16th

7:30am - Eucharist at Grace & St. John's
8:45am - Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, September 19th

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

Thursday, September 20th

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

Friday, September 21st

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