



# Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

## Newsletter

September 23 & 30, 2018

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

## Rector

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

## Parish Administrator

Meg Kendrick  
administrator@gracechurchwfp.org

## Preschool

(225) 635-4030  
Lisa Foster  
preschool@gracechurchwfp.org

Kari Ebner

Alyssa Louis  
Stacy Loyacono

## Director of

### Music Ministries

Melvin E. Hale  
music@gracechurchwfp.org

## Coordinator of

### Family Ministries

Alyssa A. Louis  
youth@gracechurchwfp.org

## Vestry

Leslie Daniel  
Christian DeJean  
Dr. Tom Flynn  
Zed Howell  
Heather Howell  
Richard Kendrick  
Drew Nordgren  
Dr. Pat Schneider  
Dr. Sue Steib  
Missy Higgins, Treasurer  
treasurer@gracechurchwfp.org  
Stewart Hughes, Chancellor

## Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

## Two Questions, Ten Years Later

I was an Associate Dean of Trinity Cathedral in Davenport, Iowa, when we received news in early August of 2008 that my wife's mother had been diagnosed with breast cancer. Although she was expected to survive and do well, we decided to start a search that would get us as close to Florida as possible, in case she needed our help. Our goal was to relocate to an area a day's drive or less from Ocala, where she lives. In Mid-September, exactly 10 years ago this week, we started a limited search of parishes in Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Alabama. We sent 10 information packets, received 7 interviews, were finalists in 3 parishes, and received 2 calls or job offers. In mid-December, we accepted the call from Grace Church and, on January 18, 2009, we began our ministry among you. God blessed the call process in the same way He has blessed our ministry among you for nearly a decade.

This week I found the answers to 10 questions from a Church in Florida during that time of searching. These questionnaires are standard fare for churches in the search process. This questionnaire asked about my faith journey, my view of Evangelism, my theology and practice of stewardship, spiritual disciplines I practice regularly, scriptural study practices, etc. The last two questions were my favorite: question 9 asked, "What excites you about the Episcopal Church?" which was followed by #10, "What disturbs you most about the Episcopal Church today?" Reading those answers has given me a small window into the Church issues that were important to me 10 years ago. I have asked myself this week, "Do I still feel the same way 10 years later?"

This is what I said about question #9, "There is much that I love in the Episcopal Church. I believe our passion for the disenfranchised, the lonely, the poor, and the isolated gives ground, weight, and substance to our preaching. I appreciate the stance our church has taken on behalf of those internally and externally displaced around the world. We are a generous church and our dollars help support vital ministries and emergency resources in all 5 continents. I have witnessed this generosity first hand in several provinces in our country. Many of our churches do in fact feed the poor, clothe the naked, visit the infirm and incarcerated, welcome the stranger, and actively work for the release of those falsely imprisoned. Additionally, there is an indescribable beauty in our liturgy that captures my imagination and inspires my senses all at once. There is nothing of greater value to me than a well-done liturgical service in the Episcopal Church."

I still believe many of the things I said in 2008. We are a generous Church whose presence is felt in every area of the world where disasters strike. This week is a perfect example. In the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, Episcopal Relief and Development is already busy on the ground floor, working with Dioceses and Parishes affected to provide emergency relief to victims. We saw this in 2016 when our communities were the victims of catastrophic floods. This gives me great hope for the future of our church. Of

course, there was no way for me to know in 2008 how polarized and divided our nation would become in just 10 years. I believe one of our greatest strengths as a Church today is our “Via Media” or Middle Way approach to our theology, liturgy, and life in community. We are a church uncomfortable with extremism. As such, we can have a great impact helping our nation return to civility in our political and religious discourse. In order to do this, Bishops and Clergy must work together with churches to create space for folks on all sides of the political and theological spectrum. We must avoid tribalism and divisive rhetoric and allow dissenting churches and people to have a voice and to be heard. I pray for moderate leaders for whom the most effective way to love Jesus is to love the people Jesus loves.

This is how I answered question #10. “It often saddens me to see growing trends like reduction in average Sunday attendance, a decline in giving in many Dioceses, the closing of many congregations around the country, the decline in attendance among the youth, the sale of Episcopal properties where vibrant congregations once worshiped, etc. Sadly, the Episcopal Church is not immune to any of the trends affecting all mainline denominations in the United States. I do believe, however, that we must take these trends seriously. There is no indication that secularism will stop advancing in our country. Just the opposite, the number of people who identify as “Atheist” or “Non-Religious” has nearly doubled since the year 2,000. In addition to this number, people who report attending church once to twice a month also dropped by over 25% in the last 10 years. In 1951 the Episcopal Church had 4.2 million members in America. By the end of this year, it is estimated that we will have 2.1 million members. This is a drop of 50% in 60 years. We need to take these trends seriously if we are to remain a vibrant church in America.”

Ten years later, the numbers are even more grim. The Episcopal Church is now approximately 1.8 million strong and many Dioceses continue to report marked reductions in Average Sunday Attendance and giving. According to Diana Butler Bass whose “Embracing Spiritual Awakening” we are studying on Wednesday evenings, approximately 40% of Americans identify themselves as Non-Religious, Atheists, or Post-Deists. An additional 35% of Americans fall under the multi-ethnic religious category that includes Muslims, Jews, Hindus, and many other minority groups. What this means is that only about 25 to 26% of Americans identify themselves as Christians today. Experts believe there is deep discontent among young people 18-29 years of age with organized religion, which is made worse every year by scandal, in-house fights, and an emphasis on rules and judgement rather than grace and forgiveness.

The good news is that many of those 40% who identify themselves as non-religious, also state that they are “Spiritual but Not Religious.” There is still a spiritual hunger in our country that many Christian Churches are not satisfying. This brings me hope. I believe Episcopal Churches who emphasize Grace over rules, relationships over dogma, and radical hospitality over unwelcoming and closed-in behaviors will grow and thrive in the near future. The hunger is there and openness of heart and spirit will be a powerful tool to bring hungry people to the fountain of all life and happiness, Jesus of Nazareth. May he continue to bless you, Fr. Roldan+

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

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

**Birthdays**

Tim Metz, Wendell Wade, Travis Williams-Sept. 24; Clay Hardouin-Sept. 25; Rachel Howell, Eric Nelson, Melissa Higgins, Kelly Ward, Stacy Bell-Sept. 26; MacKenzie Adams, Joe Savell-Sept. 27; Neil Wright, Bill Perkins-Sept. 28; Walter Weller-Sept. 29; Colleen Hill, Anne Strachan-Sept. 30; Kyle Betz, Ashton Hanchey-Oct. 2; Sara Klein, Alma Ruth Skaggs, Drake Weller-Oct. 3; Angus Armstrong, Jake Wray-Oct. 4; Kaleb Rhody-Oct. 5; Olivia Pass-Oct. 6.

**Wedding**

**Anniversaries**

Mark and Sharmila Mulkey, Joe and Dahn Savell-Sept. 27; Charles & Emily Dwyer Fusilier-Oct. 4.

***Donate to Episcopal Relief and Development for Hurricane Florence Recovery***

Episcopal Relief and Development's Domestic Disaster Program, began laying the groundwork for recovery before Hurricane Florence made landfall, and are now busy on the ground working with the Dioceses and Parishes affected by the storm. They need your help to continue. Please consider donating at [episcopalrelief.org](http://episcopalrelief.org) or send a check to Episcopal Relief and Development, attention: Domestic Disaster Program, 815 Second Avenue, New York, NY 10017. Donations to ERD are used to provide both emergency monies and funds for long-term recovery programs to the most vulnerable, under-served residents impacted by disasters.

## *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, Dennisia 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).

**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.

**The dinner to kick off the Newcomer Classes will be on Thursday, September 20<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Over-50 Club is going to Marksville.** Please join us on Monday, October 1, 2018 for a fun trip to the Market Place Buffet in Marksville. We will leave Grace Church by 9:30am. Scholarships and transportation are available for anyone who needs it. Please sign up in the narthex.

**There will be a vestry meeting** on Tuesday, October 2nd at 5 p.m. in Jackson Hall.

**The Blessing of the Animals for the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi** will take place on Saturday, October 6th at 10 a.m. in front of the church. All pets are welcome to receive a blessing from Fr. Roldan. Please keep all dogs on leashes and other small pets in cages or bowls. This is open to all in the community, please invite friends!

**The Grace Youth Group** is creating a Trunk for Trunk or Treat at the West Feliciana Sports Park on Thursday, October 25th. If you would like to donate candy for them to give out, please drop off bite-sized wrapped Halloween candy to Jackson Hall.

**The Grace Church Family Yard Sale** will be from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 27th. Come out to find new treasures and help fundraise towards the Jackson Hall renovation. Our Children and Youth ministries will have food and refreshments for sale as well

**Welcome to our new Altar Guild members.** Please join us in welcoming Carol Stamey and Ellen Williams to our Altar Guild. Both have been trained and assigned to team two. We are still looking for additional volunteers for the Altar Guild. If you are interested, please contact Maria Gerry at 225-245-4732.

**Save the Date:** Altar Guild Day of Reflection, November 17th from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center. Please register by November 10th, 2018 by calling the Solomon Center, 985-748-6634. There is no cost to attend this program. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Cook, Diocese of Louisiana Altar Guild Chair at 504-439-3885 or by email, cacook31@att.net.

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

*Address Service Requested*

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid  
Permit No. 14  
St. Francisville LA 70775

## Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

### Sunday September 23, 2018

**Acolytes:** Grant Rome, Charles Fox-Smith, Jesse Means

**Chalice bearers:** 7:30 a.m.: Bryan McClendon;  
10 a.m.: Sheryl Wynters, Landon Anderson

**Ushers:** Richard Kendrick, Joe Savell

**Lectors:** Bill McClendon, Drew Nordgren

**Vestry Rep:** Richard Kendrick

**Altar Guild:** Team 2

**Altar Flowers:** Anne Klein

**Sanctuary Candle:** Anne Klein

**Coffee Hour:** Landon & Connie Anderson

### Sunday September 30, 2018

**Acolytes:** Mary Barrow, Julia DeJean, Joe DeJean

**Chalice bearers:** 7:30 a.m.: Carol Stamey  
10 a.m.: Maria Gerry, Sara Klein

**Ushers:** Dwight Singer, Robert Singer

**Lectors:** David Opperman, Justin Peno

**Vestry Rep:** Christian DeJean

**Altar Guild** Team 3

**Altar Flowers:** Miles & Missy Higgins

**Sanctuary candle:** Carol Woodward

**Coffee Hour:** Belton & Dare Didier

### September 23, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist  
Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist  
Coffee Hour

### September 30, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist  
Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist  
Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, September 26th

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

### Thursday, September 27th

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

### Friday, September 28th

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

### Sunday, September 30th

7:30am - Eucharist  
8:45am - Bible Study  
10:00am - Holy Eucharist

### Wednesday, October 3rd

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

### Thursday, October 4th

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

### Friday, October 5th

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