



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

Oct. 29 & Nov. 5, 2017

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A Thanksgiving Orientation to Life

I just had a conversation with a friend about the power of positive thinking and positive messaging. By these words he means to describe an attitude of positivism and optimism that improves the outcomes of all social interactions, processes, and behaviors. He says, "When you start a meeting by celebrating your team's most recent wins, and tell them you have a high degree of confidence in their ability to continue such great performance, the meeting goes better, there is palpable energy and enthusiasm in the room, and whatever issues you have to solve become opportunities for additional wins." He claims this attitude can transform all human relationships at home, work, and, especially, at church. He is concerned that churches often become "gossip sewing shops" rather than places of worship, where we come to celebrate a generous God with people we are called to love. He remembers his mother having a small tailoring business at home when he was growing up. As she and the two ladies who worked for her peddled their Singer machines, sewed on buttons, or cut their fabric in all sorts of patterns, they would review, analyze, and pass judgement on the lives of everyone they knew. As a result, they had a mostly negative view of the world, their friends, their church, and, especially, their husbands. He believes some churches have become factories where judgement and moralism are produced in great quantities and where love of neighbor is paid lip service to, but never actually practiced. In a very complementary way he describes "my church" as a "refreshing exception." He visited me here a few weeks back and remembers how he was welcomed, talked to, invited to coffee hour, and generally well received, "without pretense." Based only on that visit he believes Grace is a place where he would feel "at home" if he ever left the frozen tundra of the Mid-West. He believes we exude positivism and enthusiasm. "People seem to truly like each other."

I explained that what he and other marketing professionals call "positive messaging" we call a "thanksgiving orientation to life." Another way to say this is that as a church we have learned to live "by grace." Each one of us seating on those pews is fully aware that we are redeemed sinners. When left to our own devices we have a great potential for self-serving behaviors, and this is one of the reasons why we come to church. Week after week we place our human frailties and insecurities at the foot of the cross and acknowledge that we are not yet the people God created us to be. We come to church because we are still under construction. We need God in our lives because only he can bring about in us the type of humanity he wants us to have. We come as beggars looking for bread and we find it week after week. It is this realization that we come to church because we are in need of grace and forgiveness that prevents us from moralism, "higher-than-thou-ism", and judgement. We like each other not because we know each other to be perfect, but because we know that we are all dealing with similar issues and needs. There is not one person on those pews that has life to-

tally figured out, has fully arrived, or has achieved such high ground that they feel entitled to pass judgement on those imperfect humans on the valley below.

I further explained that many of us at Grace have a "Thanksgiving orientation to life." We are so grateful to be alive, feel so blessed daily, and have so much to be thankful for that we choose to love, to be positive, to highlight the goodness of the world, and to truly enjoy each other's company. I told him we have parish visitors, go to nursing homes, have befriended many "lifers" at Angola, visit our sick at home and hospitals, contribute generously to alleviate the needs of the poor in our communities, send 90 Honduran kids from a small village to school, and learn/pray/celebrate together as often as we get a chance. And we do all these things in many cases quietly, discreetly, anonymously, without seeking the spotlight, without looking for recognition, and without seeing ourselves as superior in any way to other Christians or any other Episcopalians. We are by no means a perfect church, but we love the Lord and we truly love and care for each other. We value life in community and we know life is too short to be isolated from God and from our neighbors.

My friend was impressed, but he encouraged me to continue to celebrate our "wins." To "feel free to tell the world all the good you do". He believes this will lead seekers to us. "There are people out there who are craving a church like this one. Why not let them know you exist and they are welcome here?" I know he is right, we must celebrate what we do well, even as we tackle various opportunities for growth together. I do believe, however, that telling our story is always better if it comes from the people on the pews. If you feel blessed by Grace Church, if you are a part of some of the life-giving ministries I just mentioned, and if you have found a home among us, please tell a friend, spread the news, invite someone you know who is not going to church right now. We have grown and we would love to continue to grow. The Gospel of Jesus of Nazareth is alive and well here. Share it with other beggars who need bread as much as you and I. May our Lord continue to bless you. Fr. Roldan+

Dear Ladies of Grace Episcopal Church, it is time for us to collect our annual donations/dues. All women who attend Grace Church are members of ECW. We would greatly appreciate everyone contributing so that we can continue to participate in the following areas of this Diocese: the Foxley Fund (for leadership training) Spring and Fall Missions offerings; Annual Pledge - Corporate Office, and our Seminarian Fund. Please send your donation in any amount made out to ECW, noted at bottom annual donation and send to Sharon Gauthier, P.O. Box 668, St. Francisville, LA 70775. Your participation is greatly appreciated. Sheryl Wynters, President

Prayer Request: Please keep in your prayers Dr. Will Benton and Claudia Escobar, Charles Durr, III and Lauren Pourciau, and, Zach Butterworth and Ariel Roland whose weddings will take place in the next two weeks.

St. John the Divine Orthodox Church: We are excited to announce that the Vestry of Grace has accepted a request from St. John the Divine Orthodox church to allow their congregation to worship at St. John's chapel every Sunday at 9:30am. The congregation is in the process of vacating the property they have rented on Highway 61 for several years and they approached us with the request. The congregation will do their equivalent to Morning Prayer two to three Sundays a month and will have a priest celebrate the Holy Sacrament at least once a month. The agreement will become effective the first Sunday of November 2017. Please help us welcome the Orthodox church to our campus and let me know if you have any questions, Blessings, Fr. Roldan.

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

Matt Armstrong, Daisye Howell, Lucile Lawrason, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Kay Tengler, Wendell Wade, David Walker, Bill Willson, Pam Willson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

David Treppendahl-Oct. 29;
Adair Cunningham, Michelle Weller-Oct. 31;
Ann Leggett,
Clara Beaumont-Nov. 1;
Susan Davis,
Paul Opperman-Nov. 2; Caroline Stewart
Colvin-Nov. 3;
Trey Marchive-Nov. 4; Jackson Reid-Nov. 6;
Barbee Irwin,
Jerry Babers-Nov. 7; Ethan Lyon-Nov. 8;
Caroline Row Finch-Nov. 11;

**Wedding
Anniversaries**

Jeff and JoAnne Ford-Nov. 2

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Claiborne Arbutnot, Charles Barham, Micaela Kell Bennett, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Bob Crowley, Sandy Davenport, 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, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Mar-train, Kathy Drew Mat-ter, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, David Merritt, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Dor-othy Anne Millikin, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Toups, Denham Turner, Rufus Yerger.

Those serving in the armed forces: Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, Jay Christo-pher, Ryan Coacher, Ben Colia, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragu-sa, Christopher Willis, Matthew Young, Aaron Zuccsro, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped. Support Squads.

Please check the prayer list to the left to see if someone you put on can be removed.

Confirmation and New Comers Classes: All youth in grades 8 and above are welcome to confirmation classes on Sundays at 11:30am. There will be 5 one-hour classes. New Comer Classes are 5 weeks on Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm . Please sign up in the Narthex.

UTO Fall Ingathering will this Sunday, October 29 at both services. Please put your filled boxes in the basket in the narthex. Envelopes can be put in the collection plate. Envelopes will be in the liturgy sheet to put cash or a check made out to Grace Church with UTO in the memo line.

2018 Episcopal calendars are available in the church office for \$3.00. They show the sea-sonal color, readings for each Sunday and Holy Days.

Men's Prayer Breakfast will be November 1st at 7am. Who would like to cook?



Daylight Saving time ends November 5: Turn your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night.

The Marine Corps Birthday: On Friday, November 10, the Marines will be here for a wreath-laying ceremony to honor General Robert H. Barrow, who was the 27th Comman-dant of the Marine Corps. Join us at 9:30am on November 10 for the ceremony and a cake reception



A Word of Thanks: We would like to ex-press our gratitude to Sheryl Wynters and Maria Gerry for driving and supervising the Over-50 Club to Poverty Point for an over-night trip on October 12 and 13. The ladies had a marvelous time.

2018 Pledge Card

In Thanksgiving for God's goodness, and support of the ministry of our Church, I / we will give \$ _____ per week / month / year in 2018. (circle one)

Signed _____ Print name: _____

I / we would like offering envelopes ____ Yes ____ No

Address _____

This is an expression of faith and intent, and not a legal obligation. Contact the Church Treasurer to make any adjustment. Please return your pledge card as soon as possible by mailing to Box 28, St. Francisville, by dropping it off at the church office or put it in the offering plate on any Sunday.

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 October 29, 2017

Acolytes: Fiona Tully, Hayden Howle, Ella Corinne Howle, Lilly Higgins
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Carol Stamey
10am: Sheryl Wynters, Sara Klein
Ushers: Zed Howell, Richard Kendrick
Lectors: Ellen Klein, Rucker Leake
Vestry Rep: Richard Kendrick
Altar Guild Team 1
Altar flowers: Bobby and Jane Daniel
Sanctuary Candle: Rob and Heather Howle
Coffee Hour: Meg and Richard Kendrick
Babysitters: Shayn Rayford, Sarah Roldan

Sunday, November 5, 2017

Acolytes: Mary Elizabeth Barrow, RE Barrow, Wyatt Olsen, Ella Corinne Howle
Chalice bearers 7:30am: Lucie Butler
10am: Rucker Leake, Brandie Olsen
Ushers: Tom Morris, Tiger Olsen
Lectors: Bill McClendon, Drew Nordgren
Vestry Rep: Sue Steib
Altar Guild Team 2
Altar flowers: Belton and Dare Didier
Sanctuary candle: Colleen Hill
Coffee Hour: Tony and Lisa Horn
Babysitters: Julia DeJean, Shelby Griffin

October 29, 2017

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
11:30am - Confirmation
Class
Coffee Hour

November 5, 2017

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
11:30am - Confirmation
Class
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, November 1

5:15pm - Eucharist
5 - 7pm - Youth Group
6:00pm - English Reformation Class
6:00pm - Newcomers Class

Thursday, November 2

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

Friday, November 3

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

Sunday, November 5

7:30am - Eucharist
9:15am - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist
11:30am - Confirmation Class
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, November 8

5:15pm - Eucharist
5-7pm - Youth Group
6:00pm - English Reformation Class
6:00pm - Newcomers Class

Thursday, November 9

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