



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

December 2 & 9, 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
Allie Lowe
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 Howle
Richard Kendrick
Drew Nordgren
Dr. Pat Schneider
Dr. Sue Steib
Missy Higgins, Treasurer
treasurer@gracechurchwfp.org
Stewart Hughes, Chancellor

Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

On Ambivalence about Christmas

"Here you go again with your bah humbugs about Christmas!" Said my brother as I was describing my mood this morning. He believes my ambivalent feelings about the season are related to the fact that Santa often cheated us when we were kids. There were years he didn't come to our home for reasons I couldn't quite understand then. He believes my resentment dampens the joy others feel during this magical season. After diagnosing the illness, he recommends the following medicine: shop until I drop this Christmas and give my children everything I always wanted from Santa but never got. Shopping soothes the soul, he claims.

Unknowingly, my brother has placed his finger squarely on the problem. My ambivalence about Christmas is the fact that many of us attempt to shop ourselves out of deep-seeded conflict during this season. For some of us shopping gives us the perfect antidote to guilt about not spending enough time with people we love, doubts about our parenting style, anxiety about passing our neurosis down to our children and grandchildren, worry that loved ones may compare us to other "more generous" people, etc. Shopping shows people how much we love them. Many of us believe that when loved ones open their presents they will realize that we are trying our best and that we can be just as cool as others they respect and admire.

Please don't feel judged, I am talking mostly about myself here. I often wonder if I have made my kids into modern-day idols. Ironically, I don't believe our culture has become "too child-focused", as some experts claim. What I believe is that we have changed our focus. Activities that have to do with faith, church, living skills, arts, and community involvement do not share the same attention as entertainment and sports. "Fun" has become the new qualitative measure for our kids. We must be entertained always and everywhere. I hear this often about church, youth programs, and Bible studies. All of us, parents, teachers, and pastors are under pressure to make things "fun" for our kids or risk losing them.

If you ask any child what makes Christmas fun, most likely you will hear, "getting everything I asked for in my wish list". It is in fact a lot of fun to open presents. I don't blame our kids for wanting it all, but I do wonder how and when our idea of "fun" became so skewed? I have seen a great deal of escalation and excess in Christmas spending over the last 20 years. If two toys are good, three are better. If we had 10 presents last year then a better Christmas means having 11. If we spent \$300 per child last year on Christmas presents then \$400 would be better. It reminds me of what Psychologist Marc Lewis says in his *Memoirs of an Addicted Brain*, "brains that evolved for goal pursuit easily end-up addicted."

There is an old Spanish Christmas Carol that nostalgically states, "Just give me Jesus and I will be content!" Christmas is about the birth of Christ, God's greatest gift

to humanity past, present and future. Above all else, he is the true gift of Christmas. The consumerism, excess, and addiction surrounding Christmas distract us from paying attention to the true "reason for the season." All toys eventually become garbage. God's gift, however, will never lose his value, will never disappoint, will never leave us empty, and will never cause us to want for more.

I am not asking you to stop Christmas shopping, but I am asking you to consider giving your children the gift of Jesus this year. There are many ways to do this: read Scripture together, do an Advent devotional as a family, watch the Nativity Story together and talk about Jesus, make a resolution to embrace Jesus's poverty by spending less on yourself and giving more to the poor, etc. There are thousands of ideas. My goal is to spark your imagination.

Please remember that more than toys and presents your kids want your attention, your compassion, and your love. May God bless your families richly this year and may the Jesus child take residence in your homes and in your hearts. Amen!

Merry Christmas to all, Fr. Roldan.

Christmas Services

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals: November 26 and December 3, 10, 17 at 6:00pm.

Open to all Preschool ~ 5th graders. Practices are held in Grace Church.

First Sunday of Advent: December 2 at 7:30 and 10:00am

Second Sunday of Advent: December 9 at 7:30 and 10:00am

Third Sunday of Advent at St. John's: December 16 at 7:30am

Third Sunday of Advent at Grace: December 16 at 7:30 and 10:00am

Fourth Sunday of Advent: December 23 at 7:30 and 10:00am

Christmas Eve at St. John's: December 24 at 3:30pm

Seventh Annual Christmas Service at **St. John's at 3:30PM**. Join Bishop Jenkins for another great afternoon of music, Communion, and fellowship. This service features great instrumentalists, a sermon by Bishop Jenkins and plenty of carols. There has been plenty of seating in recent years, so please don't stay away for fear of crowding.

Christmas Eve Pageant at Grace: December 24 at 4:00pm

Family service that includes no Sermon, lots of carols, and Communion

Christmas Eve Principal Service: December 24 at 7:00pm.

The principal Christmas Eve service that includes incense, sermon, and Communion.

Christmas Day at Grace: December 25 at 10:00am.

The First Sunday after Christmas at Grace: December 30th at 7:30 and 10:00 am.

Bp. Jenkins will preach and celebrate both services as the Rector will be on vacation.

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

Brianna Blanchard,
Diane Christopher,
Jason Kennedy, Char-
lotte Maxwell, Tom
Morris, Eric Nelson,
Sara Nelson, Kay
Tengler, Anne Tim-
mons, Glenn Tim-
mons, Bob Toburen,
Wendell Wade, Pam
Willson, Jake Wray,
Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Emily Jo Adams,
Mary Jane Walker-
Dec. 2; Dare Didier,
Mary Weller Morse,
Evelyn Davis Tregle-
Dec. 4; Jessica
McVea-Dec. 5; Lan-
don B. Anderson,
Austin Roldan, Ed-
ward Daniel IV, Glo-
ria Fontenot, Alyssa
Louis-Dec. 6; Andrew
David, Joseph Wilson
-Dec. 7; Savanna
Clevenger-Dec. 8;
Caroline Sparks, Kell
Farmer-Dec. 9; Louise
Jenkins, Barbara
Mitchell, Zane and
Caleb Smith-Dec. 10;
Joey Penno-Dec.11;
Frank Farmer-Dec.
12; Lea Williams-Dec.
13; Chase P. Cun-
ningham-Dec. 14;
Lisa Foster-Dec 15.

Wedding

Anniversaries

Al and Patsy Hardou-
in-Dec. 14

Grace Events

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, Mason Brudewick, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Frances Woods Curry, Sandy Davenport, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Amy Dwyer, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Ellen Ewald, Sara Fahey, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Jane Hamilton, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jean-sonne, 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, Cole Rourke, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Touns, Deborah Vines, Emily Walz, Trey Watson, Dennisia Williams, Rufus Yerger, Grayson Zeringue, Lynn Zinn.

Those serving in the armed forces: Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, 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).

We are starting to gather names of parishioners who will join our vestry from 2019-2021. To serve on vestry, a parishioner must be: (1) a church member, (2) confirmed or received into the Episcopal Church, (3) pledgers or contributors of record to the ministries of Grace Church, (4) willing to allow us to run a background screen, required by new Safeguarding God's Children Diocesan Policy, (5) willing to serve the Church in a leadership capacity, which entails monthly meetings, attending special meetings as appropriate, coordinating one full month of coffee hours (you will find a team of volunteers to help), and serving in subcommittees as appropriate. If you would like to nominate someone, please speak to them first, obtain their approval, and then send Fr. Roldan an e-mail. The nomination process will end January 13, 2019. There will be no nominations from the floor.

The Children's Christmas Pageant started rehearsals. The pageant is open to all preschool through 5th grade students. There is a part for everyone! If you or your child is interested in participating—please join us! Our next practice will be Monday, December 3rd at 6 p.m. in Grace. If you have any questions, please contact Alyssa Louis at youth@gracechurchwfp.org

Bishop Thompson will visit Grace on Sunday, December 2, 2018. We will confirm 5 new members and receive 11 into Grace! A reception will follow the service in front of the church, if you would like to contribute a food item for the reception, please contact Meg Kendrick or sign-up in the Narthex. We are looking for finger foods such as finger sandwiches, veggie, fruit, or cheese and cracker trays, easy pick up desserts etc.

There will be a Holly Jolly Jazzy Christmas Concert on Friday, December 7th at 7 p.m. in Grace Church. The concert will feature Willis Delony and Friends and is presented by the St. Francisville Symphony Association and the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra. Tickets are \$25, \$10 for those 18 and under. Tickets are available at the door or online at www.brso.org.

Church Mice is Sunday, December 16th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the preschool. This program is open to all preschool through 5th graders. There will be a meal, lesson and fun!

Our second Parent Fellowship night will be on Sunday, December 16th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Open to all parents of children 18 years and younger; please join us for a festive Christmas Party at the Golsan House, bring your own refreshments, an appetizer, or dessert.

Stewardship Campaign Update

The sixth week of our ten week 2019 Stewardship Campaign is completed. We have received 64 pledge cards at this time. It's not too late to submit your pledge, you have until December 15th! Your pledge supports the daily operations and many ministries of Grace Church. You may mail your pledge card to Grace Church, P.O. Box 28, St. Francisville, LA 70775 or place it in the offering plate. Thank you for your support.

2019 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 2019. **(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 it to P.O. Box 28, St. Francisville, LA 70775 or by dropping it in the offering plate on 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

«AddressBlock»

Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday December 2, 2018

Acolytes: Grant Rome, Baus Fin, Joe DeJean, Lena Fin

Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Lucie Butler;
10 a.m.: Rucker Leake, Drew Nordgren

Ushers: Tom Morris, Shannon Pollet

Lectors: Glenn Thomas, Trish Toburen

Vestry Rep: Christian DeJean

Altar Guild: Team 4

Children's Church: Charlotte Peno

Altar Greenery: Mary Thompson

Sanctuary Candle: Dare & Belton Didier

Coffee Hour: Bishop's Reception

Babysitters: Lorna Klein, Sarah Roldan

Sunday December 9, 2018

Acolytes: Clara Jane Hughes, Lilly Higgins, Wyatt Olsen, Evelyn Pollet

Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: S. Gauthier/C. Stevens;
10 a.m.: Brandie Olsen, Sheryl Wynters

Ushers: Will Plettinger, Tiger Olsen

Lectors: Will Plettinger, Donna Wright

Vestry Rep: Tom Flynn

Children's Church: Carly Whatley

Altar Guild Team 1

Altar Greenery: Pat & Ronnie Martin

Sanctuary candle: Sheryl Wynters

Coffee Hour: Linda & Tom Flynn

Babysitters: Madison Pollet, Emma Olsen

December 2, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

No Bible Study—

Bishop's Visit

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

December 9, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 a.m. Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Coffee Hour

Wednesday, December 5

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

Thursday, December 6

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, December 7

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, December 9

7:30am - Eucharist

8:45am - Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

Wednesday, December 12

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

Thursday, December 13

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

Friday, December 14

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study