

# Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

## Newsletter

December 30, 2018

January 6, 2019

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## Rector

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## Coordinator of

### Family Ministries

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## 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

## *Unhappiness is a Mathematical Problem*

Unhappiness is a mathematical problem about percentages. We have a set of internal expectations of what happiness means, what success looks like, how love truly feels, a certain number after which we would consider ourselves wealthy, what our children must do to accomplish our dreams for them, etc. Unfortunately, the reality of our lives is often a much different picture than the one we imagine. We are not as happy as we would like, we are not as successful, our love life has cooled off or it's ready for last rites, we are not as rich as we expected to be by now, our children have minds of their own and seem to have forgotten our dreams for them, etc. I call the variance between our expectations and our reality, our "Unhappiness Index." The higher the percentage of unrealized expectations, the higher our unhappiness index. Some of us are more or less unhappy than others. Surprisingly, however, I often find people who are incredibly happy, without having to be wealthy, powerful, or perfect. They seem to have discovered a mechanism to alter the expectation game to their advantage and they seem at peace and content.

I am fortunate to be friends with several of these people and to be married to one of them. For what I gather, the secret lies in a lowering of expectations to realistic levels, an innate ability to accept human limitations without toxic feelings of guilt and shame, and an incredibly hopeful belief that happiness is a choice we make and not the realization of all our dreams. In other words, these people are masters at accepting their limitations, adapting to the new realities that come from lesser returns, and casting their nets into other possibilities that might bring more successful returns. And they do this quite naturally, with minimal or no resentments, without bitterness, and without assigning blame to others for how their lives have turned out. Comfortable in their skin, they seem to accept the reality of their lives without fatalism and without pessimism, but, rather, filled with the knowledge that failure is necessary, reversals are inevitable, pain is part of the journey and a great teacher, and the goal of life is balance and not absolute perfection. Life gives them lemons and they make lemonade, then they find a way to sell lemonade by creating new markets for it, and, if that fails, they experiment with prune juice!

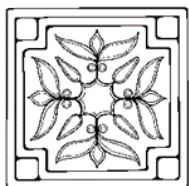
I have suffered from "High Expectations Lead to High Results" syndrome for most of my adult life. Yet, I often find that high expectations often lead to unnecessary stress, disappointment, and exhaustion. This last year I have experimented with a new mental attitude: expect little, accept everything as a gift and a blessing, and be grateful for the small victories God sends your way. This has made 2018 a more enjoyable year. This does not mean that the year has been trouble free or less stressful. Ministry is a high contact sport and we have had our share of struggles this year: getting ready for a major reconstruction, helping dear friends die with hope and dignity, visiting once active parishioners who are now shut-ins, preparing the largest class of newcomers we have had in recent history, adapting to increased pastoral care demands without a Dea-

con or an Associate priest, etc. What has made the year so much better, however, is the realization that God is in control, that we do not have to be perfect to be blessed, that our parishioners love this church enough to step up at moments of need, and that God equips those he sends into the mission field and he is always ready to give us what we need. The less I pretend I am in control, the more I give God the reins, the happier I am in my ministry. This is both ironic and hope-giving. God does not expect us to be successful, he only expects us to be faithful.

Many of us go through the mental exercise of making new-year resolutions. This may be a good practice if you keep those resolutions reasonable. Overly unrealistic expectations will lead to disappointment when you don't lose the 50 pounds in six weeks, don't save the \$30,000 in three months, and don't find Don Juan, the perfect Latin Lover, by Valentine's Day. Perhaps a better new year's resolution list would include: Being open to whatever God sends your way; celebrating small accomplishments; forgiving yourself for shortcomings; reducing your unrealistic expectations of self, loved ones, and other people; accepting God's nudge to change addictive patterns of behavior, etc.

Whether you do a list of resolutions or not, I pray that you will make 2019 the year of forgiveness and acceptance. Seek to forgive yourself, your parents, and those people who have not lived up to your expectations. Give yourself a break in 2019!

May God continue to bless you, Fr. Roldan+



**Stewardship Campaign Update**

As of December 17th, we have received 79 pledges for a total of \$322,692.00. It's not too late to submit your pledge, you have until December 31st! 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.

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

Brianna Blanchard,  
Diane Christopher,  
Jason Kennedy,  
Charlotte Maxwell,  
Tom Morris, Eric  
Nelson, Sara Nelson,  
John Powell, Kay  
Tengler, Wendell  
Wade, Pam Willson,  
Jake Wray, Madeline  
Wright.

**Birthdays**

Noel Parnell-Dec. 30;  
Bobby Daniel-Jan. 1;  
Julia Cotton, Valerie  
Barnes, Jane Opperman,  
Reuel Walker-Jan. 2;  
Emile Marchive, Jr, Amanda  
Perkins- Jan. 3; Murrell  
Butler, Landry Higgins-Jan.  
4; Tommy Graves, Taylor  
DeJean, Brandon Daigle-Jan.  
5; Rebeca Roldan, Charles  
Sessions, Elizabeth D. Mitchell,  
Bruce Stamey-Jan. 6; Robert  
Singer, Will Plettinger, Jack  
Havard-Jan. 8; Donna Metz-Jan.  
10; Zed Howell, Maria Gerry,  
John Steib-Jan 11.

**Wedding  
Anniversaries**

Irv and Betsy Daniel-Jan.  
8; Walter and Ann Weller,  
Laura and Neal Croft-Jan.  
10.

**Other persons prayers**

**are asked for:**

Claiborne Arbuthnot, Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Wayne Bergeron, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Nancy Bowman, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Mason Brudewick, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Sandy Currier, 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 Mar-train, 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 Troups, 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).

**Grace Events**

**Please continue to send vestry nominations of parishioners who are** (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. Nominations will end January 13, 2019. There will be no nominations from the floor.

**Children's Church and our nursery program** will be canceled for Sunday, December 30<sup>th</sup> as the flooring is replaced upstairs and in the preschool classroom. Nursery and Children's Church will resume on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

**The Rector will be on vacation from December 26th through January 4th.** The 5:15 p.m. Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, December 26th is canceled. Dr. Tom Flynn will preside at Morning Prayer on Friday, December 28th. Bishop Jenkins will preach and celebrate both Sunday, December 30th services. Mother Peggy Scott will preach and celebrate on Wednesday, January 2nd, 2018 and Kelly Ward will preside at Morning Prayer on Friday, January 4th, 2019.

**The Church Offices will be closed** December 31st and January 1st in celebration of the New Year. May your 2019 be filled with God's blessings and joy!

**2019 Liturgical Calendars are available for \$3** in the church office. Pick one up today.

**Christmas Angel Tree gifts** donated by the "elves" were delivered by Maria Gerry, and Kelly and Kathryn Ward. Thank you for your generosity to make these children's Christmas brighter.

**Sign up lists** for altar flowers, Sanctuary candle, and Coffee Hour are in the narthex. Also Offering envelopes for those who signed up and extra envelopes if you've decided you want them now.

**Thank you to all** who made our Christmas services so enjoyable: Altar Guild, Choir, Bp. Jenkins, Fr. Roldan, our acolytes, and the children who performed an excellent Christmas Pageant.

**The Grace Youth Group** presents the Annual Epiphany Bonfire on Sunday, January 6<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. The bonfire will be held at Dan and Ellen Klein's, 9978 Hwy. 965 west. Please bring your live Christmas tree for our Festival of Light, a potluck dish to share, a flashlight/lantern, and a lawn chair. Please make sure all ornaments and lights have been removed from your live tree. Contact Alyssa Louis at [youth@gracechurchwfp.org](mailto:youth@gracechurchwfp.org) for more information.

**St. John's Chapel** will have their third Sunday celebration of the Holy Eucharist at 7:30AM on Sunday, January 19th. Fr. Roldan will preach and celebrate.

**Church Mice is Sunday, January 19th** 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 craft.

**Parent Fellowship night** will be on Sunday, January 19th from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. Open to all parents of children 18 years and younger; please join us at the Golsan House, bring your own refreshments, an appetizer, or dessert.

**Please review the prayer list and let Meg know if anyone needs to be removed as the prayers have been answered at this time. Thank you!**

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

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## Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

### Sunday December 30, 2018

**Acolytes:** Paul Opperman, Karina Mulkey, John B. Klein, Hayes Whatley

**Chalice bearers:** 7:30 a.m.: Lucie Butler;  
10 a.m.: Maria Gerry, Sara Klein

**Ushers:** Zed Howell, Richard Kendrick

**Lectors:** Bill McClendon, Drew Nordgren

**Vestry Rep:** Drew Nordgren

**Altar Guild:** Team 2

**Children's Church:** No Children's Church

**Altar Flowers:** No Flowers Needed

**Sanctuary Candle:** Cheryl Singer

**Coffee Hour:** Linda & Tom Flynn

**Babysitters:** No Nursery

### Sunday January 6, 2018

**Acolytes:** Emma Olsen, Wyatt Olsen, Jesse Means, IV, Cecile Means.

**Chalice bearers:** 7:30 a.m.: S. Gauthier/C. Stevens;  
10 a.m.: Rucker Leake, Drew Nordgren

**Ushers:** Tom Morris, Tiger Olsen

**Lectors:** Justin Penno, Glenn Thomas

**Vestry Rep:** Sue Steib

**Children's Church:**

**Altar Guild:** Team 3

**Altar Flowers:** Open

**Sanctuary candle:** Open

**Coffee Hour:** Cheryl & Robert Singer

**Babysitters:** Grant Rome, Shelby Griffin

### December 30, 2018

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 a.m. Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist  
Coffee Hour

### January 6, 2019

7:30am - Holy Eucharist

8:45 a.m. Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist  
Coffee Hour

### Wednesday, January 2

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

### Thursday, January 3

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

### Friday, January 4

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

### Sunday, January 6

7:30am - Eucharist

8:45am - Bible Study

10:00am - Holy Eucharist

6 p.m. - Epiphany Bonfire

### Wednesday, January 9

Church Office Closed

5 - 7pm - Youth Group

5:15pm - Eucharist

### Thursday, January 10

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship: SF Country Manor

### Friday, January 11

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study