



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

January 26 & Feb. 2, 2020

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Get Back in the Game!

The score by the end of the first half of the game was disheartening. There was absolutely no way to save the day in the second half. The other team was better trained and managed, and we were the underdog. Of course, we all prayed for one of those miracles that only soccer produces occasionally. We still believed in our hearts that we would be the only team to accomplish what many others had tried, which was to win against a team that had not lost a game all season.

When our opponents scored two goals within the first three minutes of the second half, we knew our journey was over. Crest fallen, we began to fall backwards into a defensive position, and we lost all ground in the midfield. The game became a boring routine where our enemies controlled the ball 90% of the time, and we did all we could to protect the goal and save ourselves from further humiliation. To add insult to injury, the bottleneck of players in the defense zone made it awkward for our own players to mobilize freely. We were tripping on each other and the best players in our team crossed positions from left to right, without regard for teammates assigned to those posts. We fell apart and became comical to look at. The crowds were crazed with mocking rage and started flinging insults at us to "do something!" The fans of our competitors sang humiliating and emasculating chants. And our coaches showed their desperation and humiliation by cursing at the referees, which caused our head coach to be expelled from the field.

The game was as bad as any game could ever become. During a brief break, provided by an injured player on the field, our captain said, "We are being very selfish, guys! We are protecting ourselves from further insult, but we are forgetting about them." He pointed to the stands to the hundreds of people who had paid to come and see us play. "How we end is as important as how we started! Let's go back to our original positions, and let us leave everything on the field. They deserve nothing less!"

We took the field again, and little by little, we found our groove. We were passing the ball effectively, to the crowds "Olé" chants. We regained ground in the midfield and we approached the enemy's goal on several well-played passes. Our herculean efforts began to warm up the crowds in our favor and we soon heard the customary chants of support from our fans. This support gave us the fuel we needed to reach deep within ourselves and find an extra measure of energy and determination. We scored twice just before the end of the game and the crowds went wild. There was no way we could ever catch up, but that was no longer the goal. We were there to play the best game we could and to provide valuable entertainment to our fans. By the time the game ended we were exhausted, but the crowds treated us like victors. We had reached beyond ourselves and we had accomplished the work we had been given to do. Playing to the end with energy and enthusiasm, even in the face of insurmountable odds, made all the difference to our fans.

I am thinking about the importance of ending well. I was reminded this morning of Paul's beautiful and sad words in 2 Tim 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." My pensive mood this morning is the result of a conversation with a former executive who now feels he has nothing to offer the world. Yet, there is a palpable energy and passion bubbling up just below the surface. My advice to him was simple: "Find what brings you joy and do it! Get back in the game and bring to completion whatever work God has assigned you to do. The game is not over until God decides to call you home. Your position within the game may need to change, but the game goes on. Live fully or die trying."

This is not self-help, as popularly understood. This is biblical theology. This is Jesus asking a dispirited friend, "Peter, Son of John, do you love me?" Peter's answer must become our answer, "Yes, Lord, you know that I love you!" If this is our response, then we must be ready to accept the command that follows, "Feed my sheep!" Your life's circumstances may change because of aging, relocation, and the many little crises that happen to all of us. But the harvest doesn't change. The harvest is always ripe and there is more that can be done to exercise your heart's passion. You don't have to run marathons, but you can walk to a friend's home to offer a word of comfort. You may not realize it, but you are still playing the game and doing the work God has given you to do. There is great victory in small tasks done well!

Now, let me be very clear. This work I am talking about is not a "salvation-earning work!" I also don't mean to imply that you don't deserve your rest when you feel close to the end. And this is not a warning against vacations and Sabbath respite. I am talking about not giving up prematurely, allowing the world to "put you out to pasture." I am talking about refusing to go back into the field just because you can no longer do what you could do at the age of 40 or 50. I am talking about finding creativity and imagination. Tapping into a passion that makes your blood pump with energy when you wake up every morning. Rejoining the land of the living!

Learn to swim at the age of 70, learn French at the age of 80, plant a garden at the age of 90. Write a note of comfort to a friend in need, take a former suitor to lunch, read a book to a nursing home patient, or dance in your kitchen to your favorite tune as you cook a meal for the youth group. There are a thousand ways to get back into the game. It is not over until God calls you home. End well what you started well. May our Lord continue to bless you, Fr. Roldan+



On February 29th renowned theologian and Episcopal Priest, Mary C. Earle, will return to Grace to lead another riveting Lenten retreat. Throughout the day, Rev'd Earle will lead us through reflections and prayers from her book *The Desert Mothers: Spiritual Practices from the Women of the Wilderness*. At the dawn of Christianity, holy women went into the deserts of northern Egypt to devote themselves to lives of prayer. Almost forgotten in today's contemporary society, now *The Desert Mothers* provide you with the writings of these holy women and apply their spiritual practices to modern day life. Each chapter contains a summary of the spiritual practice and a closing prayer, making it a useful tool in your devotional practice.

Lunch will be provided during the retreat, tickets will be on sale soon on our website. If you have any questions, please call the office, 225-635-4065. We pray you can join us as we begin Lent in prayer and reflection.

Intercessory prayers
are asked for Grace
Church members who
are ill

Valerie Barnes, Libby Dart, Jason Kennedy, Charlotte Maxwell, Elizabeth Denton Mitchell, Tom Morris, Eric Nelson, Sara Nelson, Shane Pollet, Carolyn Porche, Cozette Stevens, Kay Tengler, Glenn Timmons, Wendell Wade, Marcia Willis, Pam Wilson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Debbie Martin-Jan. 26; Paxton McClendon-Jan. 27; Weese Winder, Mary Woodyear-Jan. 29; Taylor Sparks, Ricky Sparks, Jesse LaFayette Means IV-Jan. 30; Josh Norton, Ruby Havard, Julie Woods-Jan. 31; Chris Dwyer, Emma Bell, Willis Daniel-Feb. 1; Stacy Betz-Feb. 2; Overton Nicholas, Amanda Robinson-Feb. 3; Robbie Howle, Tommy Thompson-Feb. 4; Bill Willson-Feb. 6; Chris Metz, Morgan Moss-Feb. 7; Bob Toburen, Braylon Farthing, Dahn Savell, Justin Williams, Dana Hanchey, Gus Hill, Eleanor Tregle-Feb. 8 ;

Wedding
Anniversaries

Davis and Kathy Bankston-Feb. 1; Bill and Genie McClendon-Feb. 6

Grace Calendar and Events

Other persons

prayers are asked for:

Claiborne Arbuthnot, Charles Barham, Micaela Kell Bennett, Wayne Bergeron, Isabella Bertucci, Leslie Bickham, Luanne, Phillip Bowen, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Mason Brudewick, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Darby Buras, Jenny Clark, Daryn Conrad, Rob Cox, Frances Woods Curry, Sandy Davenport, William David, Kathleen Davis, Jessica DeLee, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Amy Dwyer, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Sara Fahey, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Jerry Green, Jane Hamilton, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jeanssonne, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cathy K., Pat Laurent, Jody Lemoine, Jessica Liddle, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Ralph McKenzie, Lainece Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Cheryl Meaux, Robin Michel, Bill Miller, Jimmy Mitchell, Randall Nachman, Walter Oliveaux, Barton Platte, Elizabeth Poole, Susanna Prescott, Tammy Riggs, Butch Ritchie, James and Sylvia Roach, Cole Rourke, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Rusty Snyder, Cade Stapleton, Kaitlyn Templet, Roland Toups, Millie and Howard Varner, Deborah Vines, Emily Walz, Jake Washington, Denisia Williams, Deacon Zekes, Lynn Zinn.

Those serving in the armed forces:

Parker Blanche, Amanda Browning, Jay Christopher, Ryan Coacher, Carlile Cointment, John Davis, Joseph Dooley, Polly Finley, Bryan Geltz, Edward Jenkins, Laura Latson, Shawn Lemons, Terry Palmer, James Powers, Jeff Ragusa, Christopher Willis, Aaron Zuccaro, 745th & 746th Exped Squads, 379th & 926th Exped. Support Squads, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), 1st 222 Aviation Regiment.

Sign-up lists for Altar flowers, Sanctuary Candle and Coffee Hour are in the Narthex. Please sign up if you can help with these ministries.

Offering envelopes are in the Narthex for those who signed up for them. There will be extra sets in case you don't see your name. Please take the next extra box and **sign your name** to the corresponding envelope number.

Our Annual Meeting is this Sunday, January 26th, following the 10:00 a.m. service. Please stay to elect our new vestry members, honor our outgoing members and see what is in store for 2020. The nominees are Maria Gerry, Trish Toburen and Hamilton Willis.

The next meeting of Seekers and Sages will be January 28th, 6 pm, at The Treppendahl's and we will be discussing Bruce Courtenay's *The Power of One*. Conundrum has copies of the book. There is also a movie out you can rent. Please email Coco at cocotrepp@bellsouth.net if you plan to attend.



Adventures in Grace is a new ministry open to all age levels with purpose of enhancing fellowship opportunities for our church members. Our first event will be a trip to the LSU Rural Life Museum on January 31st. We will meet at Grace Church 10:00, have lunch at **Francois Café and Grill**, tour the Museum from 1:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. and return to St. Francisville around 4:30 or 5:00 p.m. Please join us for this wonderful day trip. The sign up sheet is in the Narthex.

Are you prepared for an emergency? CERT Training being offered February 1 & 15, 2020. Sign up today and join our team of trained volunteers!! The training is FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Contact Rucker Leak at rleake@wfps.org or **Ed Leachman** at 225.721.2285 to sign up.

We're raiding the pantry before Lent begins! Join us for a delicious pancake breakfast benefiting the youth group on Sunday, February 23rd. The breakfast will take place between the 7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. services. Come devour some delicious pancakes and enjoy fellowship between the services. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Maria Gerry or Alyssa Louis.

Lent Adult Formation Series will continue the study of the *The Desert Mothers*. During our weekly meetings, we will continue to explore the writings of the women of the desert while reflecting on how we can continue to apply the spiritual practices in our lives today. We will begin the study on Wednesday March 4th and continue through April 1st. The class will be held at 10:30 a.m.

EDoLA Silent Retreat February 28-March 1, 2020. Join Todd van Alstyne and John Pitzer for a Silent Retreat for the Episcopal Diocese of Louisiana and their friends during the first weekend in Lent. The retreat will be held at the Solomon Episcopal Conference Center and will include an introduction to monastic spiritual practices, adoration, a labyrinth, prayer, teaching, stations of the cross, all in a quiet and peaceful setting. This contemplative weekend will include spiritual direction and sacramental support from Fr John as well as guided meditations and teaching from Br Todd. The weekend will be full enough for you to engage and loose enough to let you rest and go at your own pace. The cost for the weekend is \$315 per person for single occupancy or \$285 per person double occupancy. Discount of \$50 if you register prior to January 31st. We anticipate these spaces to fill up quickly so please reserve your spot soon.~

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

Address Service Requested

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U.S. Postage Paid
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St. Francisville LA 70775

Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

January 26, 2020

Acolytes: Baus Fin, Joey Peno, Evelyn Pollet, Lena Fin
Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Lucie Butler
10 a.m.: Joey Gammill, Maria Gerry
Ushers: Tiger Olsen, Shannon Pollet
Lectors: 7:30 a.m.: Marcia Willis
10 a.m.: Justin Peno, Meg Kendrick
Vestry Rep: Sue Steib
Altar Guild: Team 1
Children's Church: Alicia Dwyer, Lisa Foster
Altar Flowers:
Sanctuary Candle: Zed and Rachel Howell
Coffee Hour: David and Coco Treppendahl
Babysitters: Andrew Godke, Ashleigh Godke

February 2, 2020

Acolytes: Grant Rome, Crew Rome, Colt Rome, Eli Dwyer
Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Sharon Gauthier
10 a.m.: Richard Kendrick, Sara Klein
Ushers: Will Plettinger, Joe Savell
Lectors: 7:30 a.m.: Sharon Gauthier
10 a.m.: Dixie Blue, Will Plettinger
Vestry Rep: Drew Nordgren,
Children's Church: Carlin Kendrick, Alyssa Louis
Altar Guild: Team 2
Altar Flowers:
Sanctuary Candle: Ronnie and Pat Martin
Coffee Hour: Meg and Drew Nordgren
Babysitters:

January 26, 2020

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

February 2, 2020

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

Wednesday, January 29

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

Thursday, January 30

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

Friday, January 31

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

Sunday, February 2

8:45am - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, February 5

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

Thursday, February 6

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

Friday, February 7

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