



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter

Feb. 9 & Feb. 16, 2020

(225) 635-4065-Office

(225) 635-4410-Fax

Rector

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

Parish Administrator

Meg Kendrick
administrator@gracechurchwfp.org

Secretary

Carol Stamey
secretary@gracechurchwfp.org

Preschool

Lisa Foster
preschool@gracechurchwfp.org

Alyssa Louis
Stacy Loyacono
Kate Richardson

Organist

Austin Clark
music@gracechurchwfp.org

Coordinator of Family Ministries

Alyssa A. Louis
youth@gracechurchwfp.org

Vestry

Leslie Daniel
Maria Gerry
Kathy Kane
Tommy Loyacono
Drew Nordgren
Dr. Pat Schneider
Trish Toburen
David Treppendahl
Hamilton Willis

Missy Higgins, Treasurer
treasurer@gracechurchwfp.org

Steward Hughes, Chancellor

Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

Finding God in Dark Places

The absence of light doesn't mean the absence of God, for God sees in secret and he often speaks to us in darkness. I need to be reminded of this from time to time. It is difficult to see and hear God when we are going through a liminal moment. According to Richard Rohr, "liminality is the state of being betwixt and between, of having left one room but not having entered the next room yet." These are moments of transition, when you know your life has radically changed and you can't stay as you were. Yet, the full picture of what awaits you is not fully clear at present. This can be a confusing and terrifying place, and it is normal to feel out of balance. Rohr states that typical liminal moments are "separation or divorce, job change, illness, loss, death, failure of any kind."

One of the most typical liminal experiences in our current world is the necessity to relocate often because of work. Jobs have become more global, and companies frequently match the right employee to the right assignment, regardless of where that employee resides. The expectation is that either you move with the job or the job moves without you. This constant process of uprooting and re-rooting can often make families feel isolated, unsteady, and perpetually in flux. This is a common experience for military families, but most large corporations expect this flexibility of all their employees now.

Many Christians find comfort in Holy Scriptures. Exodus (13:21-22) tells us that as the People of God marched on to the Promised Land, "by day the Lord went ahead of them in a pillar of cloud to guide them on their way and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light, so that they could travel by day or night. Neither the pillar of cloud by day nor the pillar of fire by night left its place in front of the people."

Sometimes we feel that leaving friends and family behind also means leaving God behind. As though God can only be found in a particular town, church, or family. The good news is that the same God who propels us forward, leads the way and guides us on our journey. It is the same with other liminal moments, including illness or divorce. The same God who wishes health and love for our life, will accompany us during those moments of loneliness and insecurity that are normal to every experience of loss. And he will guide us out of our dark moments in due time.

Liminal moments can also be wonderful opportunities for growth and transformation. Pushed out of our comfort zones, we often find resilience and creativity we never knew we had. We often also find people who are willing to help us carry our burdens, and whose love and friendship help us discover new passions and possibilities. Knowing that we can't go back to what we once had, we begin to find new horizons we never thought possible. This is also the work of God in our lives, and we must remain open to God's loving nudge to keep moving in the direction of his will.

Institutions also go through liminal moments. The market moves at such fast pace that change is inevitable. To stay competitive, companies need to innovate. When companies become too comfortable with their status quo, they often miss the writing on the proverbial wall and become irrelevant. They become the last Blockbuster store in a world dominated by Netflix and dozens of streaming sites.

Lastly, the Church is not immune to societal (market) changes. I visited a church a while back that has experienced a decline in average Sunday attendance from 200 to about 67 in the last five years. During the same term, the town has added over 1,000 new residential units around the church. They are in a liminal moment. They are not the big church they once were, but they don't know what the future will hold. During my time with them I asked a few questions, "What is impeding your growth? How can you reach out to your new neighbors? What would have to change for you to become a more hospitable and welcoming congregation?" I suspect they will need a process of prayer and discernment to find the answers to these questions.

I believe all churches have to ask these questions often, and I believe change is inevitable if churches want to grow. I know change is hard and scary. But, I also know that the same God whose will it is for us to welcome the stranger and care for the disenfranchised will guide us in this process, and will bless our efforts. I am praying for all of you today.

Blessings in Jesus name, Fr. Roldan+

Lenten Retreat



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 are \$20 and are available for purchase on Grace's website, www.gracechurchwfp.org. If you have any questions, please call the office, 225-635-4065.

The 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. The study will begin Wednesday March 4th through April 1st at 10:30 a.m.

Grace Calendar of Events

We would like to thank **Mrs. Dare Didier** for her wonderful contribution for the preservation and protection of the parlor and foyer furniture. All of our beautiful chairs were stain protected for the next year. This will help ensure the durability of our furniture for many years to come.

Grace Preschool participated in the St. Jude Trike-A-Thon on Friday, February 7th, our students raised \$3,156 for St. Jude. This class doubled the amount raised from last year! It was a joyous day with many parents and grandparents here to cheer them on! God bless our preschool students, families, and teachers!

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

Valerie Barnes, Libby Dart, Melissa Higgins, 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

Peter Truitt-Feb. 9;
Patsy Hardouin, Debbie Graves-Feb. 10;
Penny Reinhardt-Feb. 11; Elizabeth S. Feirn, Davis Bankston Sr, John Moss-Feb. 12; Elizabeth David, Kay Tengler-Feb. 13; David Opperman, Paula Elizabeth Finley-Feb. 14; Logan Reinhardt, Richard Kendrick-Feb. 15; James Kane, Melissa Dowd-Feb. 18; Bill McClendon, Tiffany Swett-Feb. 19; Tyler Ferris-Feb. 20; John McGehee-Feb. 21; Richmond Savoy-Feb. 22

Wedding Anniversaries

Charles and Betty Sessions-Feb. 10;
Dwight and Martha Singer; Dennis and Cathy Keith-Feb. 20

Other persons

prayers are asked for:

Claiborne Arbutnot, Charles Barham, Kevin Beauchamp, 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 Jeansonne, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cathy K., Pat Laurent, Jody Lemoine, Jessica Liddle, Max, Charlotte Mayeaux, Ralph McKenzie, Laine 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 Temple, Roland Toups, Millie and Howard Varner, Deborah Vines, Emily Walz, Jake Washington, Dennis 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.

Fr. Roldan will celebrate Holy Eucharist at St. John's Chapel on Sunday, February 16th at 7:30 a.m.

Time for Church Mice and Parent Fellowship! Join us Sunday, February 16th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Church Mice is open to all children in Preschool through 5th grade and will be held in the preschool classroom. Parent Fellowship is open to all parents of children 18 and under. It is held in the Golsan House on Royal Street.

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.

Don't forget to mail back your No-Bake Sale donation. You may also drop it in the offering plate on Sunday. All donations are due by Sunday, February 23rd. The ECW is collecting the donations to go towards the building of a youth center at Solomon Conference Center.



Mother Peggy Scott at St. Paul's Holy Trinity Church, has invited the Grace Church congregation to join St. Paul's at the New Roads Mardi Gras celebration on Tuesday, February 25th. The Community Center parade will be at 11:00 a.m. and the Lion's Club parade will roll at 2:00 p.m.. There will be a sign up sheet in the Narthex if you are interested in carpooling.

Grace Church has partnered with West Feliciana Schools to collect personal hygiene products for boys and girls as well as toiletry bags for students that are in need. If you would like to donate items to this ministry, please drop the items off at the church office at any time. Thank you for your prayerful consideration in donating to this much needed cause.

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.~

Be a CASA Volunteer. "Service looks different to everyone. For some, its volunteering at a local shelter or donating food so parents can have something to feed their children at night. For others, it may be giving a ride to a doctor appointment or raking leaves for someone who can't do it themselves. The list may go on for ways to serve the community in which we live and make a difference in someone's life. One opportunity that some may not be aware of is to walk alongside a child in foster care as they navigate the Court system by becoming a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). A CASA is a community volunteer who is trained to advocate for abused and neglected children in the court system. West and East Feliciana are in need of individuals to be the voice for children. If you are interested or would like more information about this opportunity to change a child's story, contact Stephanie Breeden at sbreeden@childadv.net or call 225-791-3136."



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

February 9, 2020

Acolytes: Hannah Adams, Ella Corrine Howle, Olivia Adams, Hayes Whatley
Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Bryan McClendon
10 a.m.: Drew Nordgren, Karen Snyder
Ushers: Dwight Singer, David Treppendahl
Lectors: 7:30 a.m.: Marcia Willis
10 a.m.: Donna Wright, Trish Toburen
Vestry Rep: Pat Schneider, Trish Toburen
Altar Guild: Team 3
Children's Church: Charlotte Peno, Meg Kendrick
Altar Flowers: Martha Singer
Sanctuary Candle: Betty and Charles Sessions
Coffee Hour: Drew and Meg Nordgren
Babysitters: Grant Rome, Sharon Gauthier

February 16, 2020

Acolytes: Emma Olsen, Wyatt Olsen, Ellie Tregle, Evy Tregle
Chalice bearers: 7:30 a.m.: Carol Stamey
10 a.m.: Brandie Olsen, Trish Toburen
Ushers: Ellen Williams, Dixie Blue
Lectors: 7:30 a.m.: David Opperman
10 a.m.: Heather Howle, Missy Higgins
Vestry Rep: David Treppendahl
Children's Church: Carly Whatley, Lisa Foster
Altar Guild: Team 4
Altar Flowers: Ronnie and Pat Martin
Sanctuary Candle: Richard and Meg Kendrick
Coffee Hour: Drew and Meg Nordgren
Babysitters: Andrew Godke, Ashleigh Giodke

February 9, 2020

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

Readings:

Isaiah 58: 1-12
Psalm 112: 1-10
1 Corinthians 2: 1-16
Matthew 5:13-20

February 16, 2020

7:30am - Holy Eucharist
7:30am - St. John's - Holy Eucharist
8:45 am - Bible Study
10:00am - Holy Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Readings:

Deuteronomy 30:15-20
Psalm 119: 1-8
1 Corinthians 3: 1-9
Matthew 5:21-37

Wednesday, February 12

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

Thursday, February 13

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

Friday, February 14

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

Sunday, February 16

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

Wednesday, February 19

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

Thursday, February 20

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

Friday, February 21

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