



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

**Newsletter for
May 1 & 8 2016**

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Thinking of Death in the Midst of Resurrection

I have buried forty nine people since I became a priest in 2007. Forty six of these funerals have taken place at Grace Church, Saint Francisville. Thirty two of these were people for whom I provided pastoral care for a considerable amount of time, which means they had become friends by the time they died. My brother asked me just the other day how I cope with so much death. This is a good question. On the one hand, I try very hard to honor the friends I bury by allowing myself to feel the pain of loss. On the other hand, a certain amount of grief must be postponed in order to deal with the practical obligations of funerals. I deal with this residual grief by praying often for all the people I have buried and I take some time to read the funeral sermons I have composed for their services. For me the funeral sermon is a way to honor those who have died, while providing some comfort to the family. It is also an invitation to all in attendance to think, even if it is for a minute or two, about the quality of their relationships with God and with the people God has placed in their lives. A funeral sermon is a Biblical, holy invitation to reflection, introspection, assessment, and remembrance which leads to grief and to comfort at the same time.

The remembrance that leads to grief is the result of loss. We will no longer see our departed brothers and sisters and all we are left with is the memory of their love. These images, buried in our hearts and minds, recall moments of great joy and moments of anguish and pain. Life is always filled with both: The joy of weddings, home closings, child birth, graduations, promotions, and thousands of small and large victories. The pain of divorce or losing a partner to death, financial reversals, illnesses, the worries that accompany raising children, employment problems, relationship conflicts, and thousands of small and large setbacks. Life on this side of Paradise is filled with memories and a funeral brings all of these images to our minds in vivid details.

The remembrance that leads to comfort is the result of our Christian hope. We will see our departed brothers and sisters again when we die. Christ has gone before us to prepare a place for us, so that one day we may be where he is. One day death will be swallowed up by life and we will dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of our lives. Scripture reminds us that all pain will cease, all heartache will be eliminated, all tears will be wiped from our faces, and death, the final enemy, will be defeated for ever. This is our Christian hope: Christ has died, Christ has risen, Christ will come again! With Christ we will die, we will rise again, and we will become citizens of a kingdom where our human frailty and brokenness no longer will have the power to cause us harm. For the unbeliever this is a pie-in-the-sky wish. For us it is the very center of our hope, the content of our faith, the truth that became evident on a hill outside Jerusalem two thousand years ago. The Son of God died that we may live, rose victorious that we may inherit eternity, and conquered evil and death for us that we may not live in fear, but have the assurance of eternal life with God.

My life has been enriched by the friendships I have developed with the many people I have buried. Many of them blessed me with their confidences, shared their fears and dreams with me, and honored me with their love. I still remember vividly the smells in Larry's kitchen and the beautiful smiles of Modine, Miriam, and Puddin. I will never forget Elizabeth Anne's elegance and poise, Leona and Joe's stories, Dickie's brash humor, Jenny's love for her friends at the nursing home, Lucille and Louise dressed in choir robes singing to the Lord every Sunday, Joyce and Sue's faith, Pat's love for the Altar Guild and her invaluable help to me as a new priest at Grace, Dan's friendship, and Margie's beautiful windows displayed in 37 churches and buildings throughout Louisiana. I will always be thankful for the wise counsel of Lloyd, Bill, Walter, and Michael. My heart is filled with many memories, great testimonies of faith, and overwhelming experiences of love and generosity.

We are still grieving for Michael, whose farewell we celebrated on April 13, and now we prepare for the farewell celebration of Rob Fisher and John Woodward who died within days of each other this week. We have no concrete dates for viewings and burials yet, but we will make these known soon. Please keep their families and friends in your prayers and continue to care for those who mourn. Please know that Fr. Peter and I are here to pray with you and to listen. Thank you for allowing us to be a part of your lives. It is truly an honor for us to minister to and be ministered by you. Blessings to all, Fr. Roldan+

Men's Prayer Breakfast: Richard Kendrick will be cooking for the Men's Prayer Breakfast on May 4th. Meet at 7am in Jackson Hall for the program and breakfast. Invite a friend to join you.

Food Pantry items: Kelly Ward says to bring peanut butter and oatmeal for our food collection. They also need volunteers on two Wednesdays a month for about two hours starting about 9am. If you would like to help, call Kelly at 721-2253.

Relay for Life: Our youth group participated in the West Feliciana Relay for Life this last April 22 at the Sports Park. They sold Crawfish and Luminaries and fundraised a total of \$1,054 dollars for the American Cancer Society. Special thanks to Fr. Peter and our wonderful volunteers Meg and Richard Kendrick. Our kids did a great job and we are proud of them. Remember that youth groups meet on Sundays from 4:00-6:00PM. All youth in the 6th-12th grades are welcome.

Parish visitors program to start soon: With the departure of Deacon Johnston we have been discussing a way of visiting all our shut-ins weekly. For this reason we have created a Parish Visitor's program which will start on May 15th. We have trained and licensed a group of parishioners who will be deployed in teams of two on the First and Third Sunday after Church to visit all our shut-ins. Fr. Peter or Fr. Roldan will accompany them for the first few visits for additional training and to make introductions. If you have any questions about this, please call our office.

Mother's Day and Graduation Brunch: On May 8th we will celebrate both our High School graduates and our mothers at a combined brunch following the 10:00AM service. We have a large class of graduates, so this promises to be a great event. Please join us and call Mrs. Anne Klein if you wish to contribute a dish or a drink.

Pentecost Picnic on May 15: Mark your calendars and join us for our annual Pentecost picnic. We are finalizing details for a host home, but please make plans to attend. The church will provide delicious chicken from Feliciana Seafood and you are asked to bring a dish or drink to share. Bring bathing suits for swimming. More information coming up soon!

Congratulations to Hamilton and Debbie Willis on the birth of their 6th grandchild who was born on April 14 in Marietta, Georgia, Jack Owen Pella. Proud parents are Mark and Katherine Row Pella.

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

David Barnes, George Black, Wayne Blake, Russell Daniel, Cecil May Dwyer, Kent Mitchell, Tom Morris, Sara Nelson, Penny Reinhardt, Margie Sheets, Wendell Wade, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Michelle Roth, Don Norwood-5/1; Matthew Morris-5/2; Tommy Robinson-5/3; Chloe Adams, Jason Kennedy, Jesse Means, April LaCroix, Cecil May Dwyer-5/4; Alexandra Kennon, Samantha McClen-don, Austin Loyacono -5/5; James Wray, Carolyn Porche-5/6; Katharine Leak Anderson-5/7; Kent Mitchell-5/8; Alyson Ballard Bell, Alan Dwyer, Susie Persons-5/9; Rhona Wray, Kristin Beauchamp, Susie Tully-5/10; Lisa Kleinpeter-5/11; Nolan Pruitt, Paige P. Woodard, Sharon Wilson-5/12; Kristen Lyon, Sarah Feirn, Cappie Leake, Mickey Melancon-5/13; William Croft, Lynn M. Gaudet, Carol Woodward, Coco Treppendahl-5/14.

Wedding Anniversaries

Kelly & Kathryn Ward; Greg & Sarah Feirn; Andy & Elizabeth Wooten-5/2; Thomas & April La-Croix-5/5; Sam & Barbee Irwin-5/6; Rob & Lisa Fisher-5/8; Sarah & Kyle Rhody-5/9.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Charles Barham, Mercer Barney, Walker Bell, Jolie Berry, MiMi Bornman, Leo Brown, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Debbie Bunch, John Caruthers, Jenny Clark, Bodo & Kitty Claus, Troy Cothorn, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Gretchen Eppling, Jennifer Erickson, Louise Ewin, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Elmo Hegwood, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Lindsey Johnson, Jill Joffrion, Mary Jo Kaly, Cecil Kelly, Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Paul McGuff, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, Robin Michel, Dorothy Anne Millikin, Jim Mire, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Alice Mier, Mike Morris, Randall Nachman, Emily Neumann, Barton Platte, Susanna Prescott, Peter Purpera, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Gary Thomas, Glenn Thomas III, Terri Thompson, Denham Turner, Darold Whitmer, Zane Woodward.

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

Choir Corner: Good Christian friends of the congregation, your help is needed. The Grace Choir is losing 3 members this Spring. Two are retiring after decades of service and one has recently moved to Arizona. We are in dire need of singers—especially low voices, altos and basses. The only requirement is a joyful spirit! Please join us if you can. We rehearse on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. Mel Hale

New Church Directory: The Directory is finished! Come to Jackson Hall this Sunday to sign for and pick up your copy, 1 per family that is in the Directory. Donations for the cost of printing the directory are always welcome.

The St. Francisville Symphony Association presents *The Piano Trio and Wine Tasting Reception* on Friday, May 6. Join us in Jackson Hall for a Wine Tasting Reception, sponsored from 6:00–7:15 pm, with a \$10 admission. Tickets for this last performance this season are available at Bank of St. Francisville and at the door.

Congratulations to Rebecca Klein and Kevin Wilson who were married in Grace Church on April 16th.

Lindsay Paige Weller Scholarship: The fund will give a \$500.00 scholarship to a graduating senior that attends Grace Episcopal Church. Write a small essay about yourself, plans for a higher education and your involvement at Grace Church. The Standard Scholarship Form, available at the church office, must be completed along with your essay. The form and essay need to be turned in to the church office by May 2. The scholarship recipient will be recognized at Grace Church on Sunday, May 8.

Welcome to our newest members: Baptized on April 10 was Alexander Barrow Thomason, son of Boyd and Margaret Norwood Thomason; grandson of Don and Barbara Norwood; baptized April 24 were Amelia Claire Truitt and her twin brother, Jordan Cutter Truitt, Jr, children of Jordan and Elizabeth Truitt, grandchildren of Peter and Lynda Truitt and Irv and Betsy Daniel.

Magnolia Full Gospel Church cordially invites all our parishioners to take part in their upcoming Community Health Fair on Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 9:00-12:00 Noon. Free blood pressure, blood glucose check, door prizes, and refreshments. Spread the word!

Save the Date: Jazzin' at Jackson Hall on Sunday, June 5 From 4:00-6:00PM. Come and listen to the renown Redwine Jazz Band at this free-to-the-public concert underwritten by two Grace parishioners. Bring the family and a beverage of your choice.

4-H day at the Capital: On June 1, 2016 youth from around the state will meet with Louisiana House and Senate representatives and tour the State Capitol. Over 500 4-H youth are expected to attend. West Feliciana has been tasked with the responsibility to provide a meal to include hot dogs, french fries, and a drink. Contributions to defray the cost of this meal are being collected even as we speak. You can write your check to the West Feliciana 4-H Foundation. For more information, please speak to Mr. Dan Klein.

Tremme' Concert at Grace Church: Our Mission and Outreach Committee and several parishioners have been funding the Saint Anna's Arts for Kids Youth Orchestra for several years. On July 22 we will host the Saint Anna's Orchestra accompanied by the Tremmé choir for a free concert in Jackson Hall, starting at 6:00PM. Refreshments will be served. Come and witness first hand the types of programs your contributions fund. You will be impressed and blessed.

Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 28
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Address Service Requested

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U.S. Postage Paid
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St. Francisville LA 70775

Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday, May 1, 2016

Acolytes: Mary E. Barrow, Hayden Howle,
Wyatt Olsen, Paul Opperman, Matthew
Skaggs, James Kirschling

Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Lucie Butler,
Michelle Roth

10:00am: Maria Gerry, Meg Kendrick

Ushers: Tom Morris, Tiger Olsen

Lectors: Nicole Means, George Newton

Vestry Rep: Heather Howle

Altar Guild Team 1

Altar flowers: David and Jane Opperman

Sanctuary Candle: Zed and Rachel Howell

Coffee Hour: Jan Pourciau

Babysitters: Lorna Klein, Claudia Tully

Sunday, May 8, 2016

Acolytes: Elizabeth Hughes, RE Barrow, Clara
Jane Hughes, Ella Corinne Howle, Joseph
DeJean, Logan Reinhardt

Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Sharon Gauthier,
Dalton Clevenger

10am: George Newton, Richard Kendrick

Ushers: Will Plettinger, Rob Reinhardt

Lectors: Drew Nordgren, David Opperman

Vestry Rep: Richard Kendrick

Altar Guild Team 2

Altar flowers: Russ and Rhona Wray

Sanctuary Candle: Dwight and Martha Singer

Coffee Hour: Jan Pourciau

Babysitters: Maggie Higgins, Landry Higgins

May 1, 2016

7:30am - Eucharist

8:45-9:45 - Bible Study

10:00am - Eucharist

Coffee Hour

4-6 pm - Youth Group

May 8, 2016

7:30am - Eucharist

8:45-9:45 - Bible Study

10:00am - Eucharist

Coffee Hour

4-6 pm - Youth Group

Wednesday, May 4

9:00-10:30 am - Bible Study on "The Holy Spirit"

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

6-7:30 pm - Bible Study on "The Holy Spirit"

Thursday, May 5

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship at SF Country Manor

Friday, May 6

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, May 8

7:30am - Eucharist

8:45-9:45 - Bible Study

10:00am - Eucharist

4-6:00pm - EYC meetings and supper

Wednesday, May 11

9:10-10:30 am - Bible Study on "The Holy Spirit"

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

6-7:30 pm - Bible Study on "The Holy Spirit"

Thursday, May 12

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship at SF Country Manor

Friday, May 13

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study