



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter for
February 12 & 19, 2017

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Website

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The Honduran Doctor

The mission trip to El Carmen from January 9 to the 16 was an incredible experience in a number of ways. Our team of 8 Grace parishioners were busy painting Iglesia Cristo Rey (Christ the King Church) which we had planted in this small mountain village in 2010. Christie, Olivia, Maria, Luke and I had an incredibly successful Vacation Bible School with the village children, while Landon, Kelly, and David worked with the men of the village to finish the church. Everyone in the village was involved in one way or another. Some of them men shadowed us all week providing security, while the rest helped paint. Some of the women cleaned the community center hall each day for our daily VBS, while others cooked a nutritious lunch for the kids each day. It was beautiful to see an entire village working so well together alongside their Gringo brothers and sisters.

The trip was also a lesson in humility for me personally. Even though I have been at this village numerous times during my 5 trips to Honduras, during the second day of this trip I had a fainting spell. While visiting a parishioner at her home for prayer, I began to sweat profusely, everything began to spin around me, and I lost my balance. I sat on a bench, managed to pray for the lady, and was taken back to the church by Maria and Olivia. Once I arrived at the church, Landon, who is a physician, had me lay down, ordered some cold compresses, and took my pulse. At some point he decided to return me to the village to see the doctor our hotel uses for these types of situations.

The first thing we noticed as we arrived at the doctor's office, across the street from the hotel, was that the reception room was full. The second thing we noticed was that, contrary to American doctors, the Honduran physician took a really long time to see each patient. After several hours of waiting, it was my turn to see the doctor, and the answer to the question, "Why does he take so long?" became clear. A deeply Christian man in his late 30's, the doctor was a talker. After conducting the most comprehensive physical examination I have had in recent history, the doctor gave me several pills for the dizziness, a 3-day supply of blood pressure pills meant to normalize my blood pressure (which is usually normal, but was running a bit high that week), and ordered a full day of rest at the hotel for the next day. He also requested that I return to see him the next day at 1:00pm. After this, he talked about various things and counseled me to slow down, not work so hard, relax a bit more, enjoy life, etc. When it fit the subject he was talking about, the good doctor would read a passage from an old Bible he kept on his desk.

I obeyed the doctor's orders and stayed at the hotel the next day. At 1:00pm sharp I walked into the doctor's office and he was waiting for me. He greeted me pleasantly and remarked that I looked much better. He diagnosed the problem as altitude sickness and over-exertion. He believed I was most likely not drinking enough water and

my body over-heated. He said this was a common problem for Americans in Honduras. Then he looked at me and, with a wide smile on his face, he said, "There is one more thing I didn't want to tell you yesterday because you were not feeling well, but I can tell you now: You are fat!" His absolute frankness was disarming. I didn't know whether to laugh or to be angry. He quickly added, "You are not the only one. Most Americans who come to see me are fat. You know why I think all of you get fat?" He waited for a response, but I gave him none. He added, "Its the Bourbon! You all drink too much Bourbon! I call that stuff 'bad sugar'".

What the good doctor will never know is that he was absolutely right! I would have added to his diagnoses, "And too many beer chasers!" It was not his accurate diagnosis, but his demeanor that I will always remember. Even though his bed-side manner was unorthodox, I accepted and was grateful for the diagnosis because he had taken enough of time to talk to me, to make me feel important, and to do a full assessment to make sure there wasn't anything more nefarious behind the symptoms. In short, I felt cared for and appreciated. Accepting the truth from this man did not cause humiliation, guilt, anger, or resentment. In fact, I was grateful for his sense of humor, his wise advice, and his generosity of time.

Perhaps the problem many of us have hearing the truth from others has little to do with the message itself and more to do with the packaging. Perhaps it is all about the delivery! Many of us feel judged, made to feel guilty or ashamed, and humiliated when others confront us with the truth. I try hard to avoid doing this and, if I have ever done it to anyone, I ask your forgiveness. This man exemplified the Biblical principle of telling the truth in love. It is easier to accept correction from a brother who is trying as hard as he was to be a good Christian, an example of what it means to love our neighbor as our selves, and a guide for those who need a small dose of truth-telling.

I learned a great deal during this trip. First, I am not invincible and there is a limit to my energy level. Second, I am fat. Third, Christian discipline, done with love, sensitivity, and compassion, can come from some of the most unlikely of sources. And I must be able to listen with open ears and an open heart!

May God continue to bless you, Fr. Roldan+

Kitchen Redesign Coffee Hour on February 26: Please join us to view the plans to remodel our kitchen. Our kitchen is much more than the place we use for making coffee or setting up for parties. It is one of our biggest sources of outreach to the community. Join us, invite a few friends and bring all your questions.

Food pantry items needed: tuna fish and peanut butter.

The Tenth Annual Writers and Readers Symposium, sponsored by A Celebration of Literature and Art, will take place at Hemingbough from 8:30 to 3:00 on Saturday, February 18. The authors who will discuss and read from their writings are award-winning nonfiction author Rheta Grimsley Johnson, whose column appears in the *Sunday Advocate*; present Poet Laureate of Louisiana Peter Cooley; award-winning novelist Deborah Johnson; and award-winning memoirist Melissa Delbridge. Tickets, which include lunch, are \$55-\$65 at the door.

For those who write fiction or nonfiction, Rheta Grimsley Johnson is leading a Writers Retreat at Hemingbough on February 18 and 19. Beginning writers are welcome, and Johnson promises all writers a good time. This is limited to only 20 registrants. Registration is \$275 for the two days and includes a wine-and-cheese reception, a full breakfast, delicious lunch, AND Rheta Grimsley Johnson as a writing instructor!

To register for either or both events, please go to www.brownpapertickets.com or OLLI at LSU. Hard copy tickets are available locally from Olivia Pass: oliviapass@bellsouth.net.

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

David Barnes, Gloria Fontenot, Tom Morris, Sara Nelson, Margie Sheets, Kay Tengler, Wendell Wade, David Walker, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Elizabeth S. Feirn, Davis Bankston Sr, John Moss-Feb. 12; Elizabeth David, Kay Tengler-Feb. 13; David Opperman, Paula Finley-Feb. 14; Logan Reinhardt, Richard Kendrick-Feb. 15; Chris Betz, Lucile Lawrason-Feb. 17; James Kane, Melissa Dowd-Feb. 18; Bill McClendon, Stewart Maunsell-Feb. 19; Tyler Ferris-Feb. 20; Libby Dart, John McGehee-Feb. 21; Lauri B. Dooley-Feb. 23; Rosalie Reymond, Stephanie Ferguson, Merrick Lambert-Feb. 24; James Boucher, Emma Olsen, Stacy Loyacono-Feb. 25.

Wedding Anniversaries

Lin and Carlin Kendrick-Feb. 23; David and Kathy Beauchamp-March 2; Emmette and Emily Barrow-March 4; Trey and Caroline Marchive, David and Iris Stewart-March 5; Glenn and Anne Timmons-March 16; Troy and Lynn Ballard, Ken and Dixie Blue-March 17; Christian and Chip Tregle-March 24.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Jolie Berry, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Leo Brown, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Mac Bullock, John Caruthers, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Deselles, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Juanita Ferguson, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jeansonne, 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, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Susanna Prescott, Peter Purpera, Carol Ratchiff, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Touns, 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.

Please check the list to the left to see if someone you added still needs our prayers. If not please call the church office so they can be taken off our list

“Love is in the Air”: The Solomon Episcopal Conference Center is hosting a romantic Valentine's Dinner for two with free Champagne for \$75. A Social hour in the Lodge starting at 6pm, then a four course meal at 7pm in the dining hall. More socializing back at the Lodge by the fireplace. Space is limited. Call for reservations, 985 748-6634.

West Feliciana Quarterly Ladies Prayer Breakfast will be Saturday, February 25, 8:30 until 10am at First Baptist Church. This is a free event; no pre-registration needed. The guest speaker will be Laura Peel, Director of Cardiology at Lane Regional Medical Center in Zachary. Her testimony includes a remarkable story of God's healing and how he used that to help her refocus on the most important things in life. All women of the church are invited to come and to bring a friend.

The Baton Rouge Early Vocal Ensemble (BREVE) will give a free concert at St. Mary's Church, Hwy 66, on Sunday, March 5. There will be a reception at 5pm followed by the concert from 6-7pm. Reservations are required by February 10. (Email utgirl85@att.net or leave a message at 635-4194.) Please honor your reservation or cancel in a timely manner. In case of rain, the reception and concert will take place at Grace Church. Please bring a flashlight and light wrap or blanket. Donations will be accepted to benefit St. Mary's.

Audubon Pilgrimage weekend is quickly approaching. (March 17, 18, 19). Many visitors enjoy visiting beautiful Grace Church. If you are interested in volunteering at Grace during the Pilgrimage, please sign on the “Audubon Pilgrimage Volunteers” sheet found in the Narthex or call Lyn Lokey at 635-2240. Thanks!

The 2017 Annual Meeting, heard reports from several committees, and the Finance Committee presented a projected balanced budget. Four candidates for Vestry were vetted and nominated: Becky Wright, Zed Howell, Leslie Daniel and Sue Steib. Elected were Zed Howell, Leslie Daniel and Sue Steib to replace Landon Anderson, Tiger Olsen and Robert Singer. Richard Kendrick and Heather Howle volunteered to be delegates for the 2017 Diocesan Convention. The meeting adjourned at 12:20pm Congratulations to the new Vestry members. Inadvertently left out of the meeting booklet as new members in 2016 were Karen Snyder and Ellen Williams who transferred their membership in June, 2016.

Your prayers are asked for the family of Bill Wray, father of Russ Wray, who died February 2 in Baton Rouge. Services were held on February 4 at First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge.

Red Shift, a professional choir based in Baton Rouge, invites you to their upcoming concert, *Origins*. The program features varied works including Aaron Copland's interpretation of the first two chapters of Genesis in his work, “In The Beginning”. February 18-19 at Episcopal High School Chapel. www.redshiftchoir.org for more information.

Our Lenten Study: “Intimacy with God: An Introduction to Centering Prayer” by Fr. Thomas Keating. The class will begin Wednesday, March 1 and continue until March 29. “We rarely think of the air we breathe, yet it is in us and around us all the time. In similar fashion, the presence of God penetrates us, is all around us, is always embracing us.”— Fr. Thomas Keating. Meet in Bp. Jackson Hall for the morning class 9:00 -10:15am or the evening class 6:00-7:15 pm. Register in the Narthex, so we know how many books to order.

Please sign up to provide a supper for our youth on Wednesday nights at 5pm. We also need adult volunteers to assist at the meetings. Talk to Meg Kendrick if you are interested.

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

Sunday, February 12, 2017

Acolytes: Mary Elizabeth Barrow, Paul Opperman,
Charles Fox-Smith, Joseph DeJean, Nicole
Mulkey, Karina Mulkey

Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Carol Stamey

10am: Brandie Olsen, Richard Kendrick

Ushers: Tiger Olsen, Will Plettinger

Lectors: Sarah Rhody, Glenn Thomas

Vestry Rep: Richard Kendrick

Altar Guild Team 3

Altar flowers: Ronnie and Pat Martin

Sanctuary Candle: Tapper and Betty Sessions

Coffee Hour: Ashley Fox-Smith & Dorcas Brown

Babysitters: Sara Roldan, Shayn Rayford

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Acolytes: Fiona Tully, James Kirschling, Logan
Reinhardt Wyatt Olsen, Madison Pollet,
Julia DeJean

Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Lucie Butler

10am: Rucker Leake, Drew Nordgren

Ushers: Rob Reinhardt, Ethan Rhody

Lectors: Will Plettinger, Donna Wright

Vestry Rep: Adam Whatley

Altar flowers: Volunteer needed

Altar Guild Team 4

Sanctuary candle: Don and Penny Reinhardt

Coffee Hour: Ashley Fox-Smith & Dorcas Brown

Babysitters: Shelby Griffin, Austin Roldan

February 12, 2017

7:30am - Eucharist

10:00am - Eucharist

Coffee Hour

February 19, 2017

7:30am - Eucharist

(Grace and St. John's)

10:00am - Eucharist

Coffee Hour

Wednesday, February 15, 2017

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

5-7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, February 16

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship at SF Country Manor

Friday, February 17

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, February 19

7:30am - Eucharist (Grace & St. John's)

10:00am - Eucharist

Coffee Hour

Wednesday, February 22

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

5-7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, February 23

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship at SF Country Manor

Friday, February 24

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, February 26

7:30am - Eucharist

10:00am - Eucharist

11:15am - Kitchen Redesign showing during

Coffee Hour