



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter for
January 1 & 8, 2017

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A Light to Enlighten the Nations

Christmas comes during the darkest time of the year; during a time when the nights are long and the days are short. This seems fitting. For it is during the Christmas season that we remember Christ's coming into the world as "a Light to enlighten the nations." It is during this season that we recall the longing of the people of Israel for deliverance; the desire of nations for a savior. It is during this season that we celebrate the fulfillment of God's promises. As we heard in the Christmas reading from the prophet, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness – on them light has shined" (Isaiah 9:2). Christ, our savior, has been born to us! Emmanuel, God with us, has come! And, as we read in John, "what has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" (John 1:4-5).

During this season we also anticipate and herald the coming of a new year. This gives us an opportunity to look back and evaluate what has transpired the previous year and to articulate our hopes for the coming one. For many, 2016 has been a difficult year - for our nation, for our communities, for our families. It has been a year of heightened violence, racial tensions, a year in which many in our communities have lost all their worldly possessions in the historic floodwaters that swept through their homes. It has been a year of hateful rhetoric and hurtful speech. It has been a year in which many of us have mourned the passing of family members, friends and loved ones.

2016 has also been a year of joy and celebration. A year in which new members of the church have been baptized and made members of the body of Christ. A year in which parishioners young and old have been confirmed and received in our church. A year in which couples have entered into the life long covenantal relationship of marriage. A year to celebrate new lives, new births, new callings and vocations. A year in which caring members of our churches and local communities have reached out in love to help those most in need - to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, provide shelter to the homeless; to gut houses, kill mold, and help rebuild homes.

Christ comes to us during our darkest times to bring light and hope to our lives and to the world. He comes and proclaims: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). He comes to bring us new life - that we might enjoy the fullness of life. Our creator, enters into creation, that he might make us anew - a new creation. As Paul says, "For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ" (2 Corinthians 4:6). And, "if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new" (2 Corinthians 5:17).

Christ comes into the world as a vulnerable child, wrapped in swaddling clothes and placed in a manger. He comes to make us children – that we might be reborn as children of light. We read in Ephesians, “once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light – for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true” (Ephesians 5:8-9). We are called to a new life in Christ that we too might be a light unto the world. And we are called to let our light shine before others, so that they may see our good works and give glory to our Father in heaven (Matthew 5:16).

One of the joys of working with our preschoolers is teaching them to sing songs about Jesus and God’s love for us. A song that they all love is “This little light of mine” - This little light of mine, I’m gonna let it shine, let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

As we anticipate the coming of a new year during this dark season, I pray the light of Christ shine upon you and in your hearts and that you continue to allow that light to shine in and through you to enlighten the world around you. Blessings, Fr. Peter+

Men’s Prayer Breakfast will be Wednesday, January 4 at 7am. Breakfast will be provided by Lori Gore and Audubon Café. Please invite a friend to join you.

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 box and **sign your name** to the corresponding envelope number.

Sign-up lists for Altar flowers, Sanctuary Candle, Lector, Usher, Coffee Hour, and Altar Guild will be in the Narthex on January 1st. Please sign up if you can help with these ministries.

Our Angel Tree: I would like to thank everyone for their generosity and love at this special time of year. You have allowed the spirit of Christmas to move you in such a way that brought happiness to many children. I hope you will consider doing this again next Christmas. And thanks to all my helpers who delivered the presents, Maria Gerry

Save that live Christmas tree (or or what used to be a live tree) On Friday, January 6 we will have an Epiphany celebration at the home of Tiger and Brandie Olsen’s on Island road. After we enjoy fellowship, hot dogs, chips and lemonade, we will go down to the pasture and burn the trees to celebrate Epiphany. Be sure your tree has been cleaned of all ornaments. Since the flood in August, the bridge near their house has been out, so you need to go to Lake Rosemound to get to their home at 9847 Island Rd. Specific directions will be in this Sunday’s liturgy sheet.

The 2017 Annual Meeting will be held on January 29th. If you would like to nominate someone to serve on the Vestry, (a confirmed/received Episcopalian, giver of record, who has regular attendance at church) get their permission, and email their name to Fr. Roldan by January 16th.

Welcome home Madeline! Madeline Wright is home to finish recuperation from her hospital stay. She would love for you to come by to see her. Give her daughter Rosalie a call (635-0067) to be sure Madeline will be ready for a visit.

Many thanks to everyone who made our Christmas services so beautiful: the Altar Guild, who set up and cleaned up after every service and decorated the church; the choir and Mel, who had many practices to prepare the beautiful music, to the parents (who got them to church) and youth who served as acolytes, to our lectors, ushers, chalice bearers and Vestry Reps, your ministry is greatly appreciated.

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

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

Birthdays

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-Jan. 5; Rebeca Roldan, Charles Sessions, Elizabeth D. Mitchell, Bruce Stamey-Jan. 6; Robert Singer, Will Plettinger, Jack Havard-Jan. 8; Donna Metz, George Newton- Jan. 10; Maria Gerry, John Steib- Jan 11; Maddie Watts-Jan. 12; Zed Howell, Rob Reinhardt,-Jan. 13; Paula Finley, Anna Davis-Jan. 14.

Wedding

Anniversaries

Bill and Genie McClendon-Jan. 6; Irv and Betsy Daniel-Jan. 8; Walter and Ann Weller, Laura and Neal Croft-Jan. 10.

*Other persons prayers
are asked for:*

Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Jolie Berry, Phillip Bowen, Leo Brown, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Mac Bullock, John Caruthers, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Scott Dardenne, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Juanita Ferguson, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jean-sonne, 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 Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Joseph Savell Sr, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Roland Toups, 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.



Many thanks to the participants in the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve directed by Christie Reinhardt: Narrator - Luke Farmer; Mary - Evy Tregle; Joseph - Colt Rome; Head Angel - Audrey Reinhardt; Angels - Brianna Reinhardt, Mary Lyle Whatley, Cecile Means, Evelyn Pollet; Shepherds - Andrew Klein, Logan Reinhardt; Sheep - IV Kendrick, Ellie Tregle; Wisemen - Hayes Whatley, John Barrow Klein, Hayes Ledet; Star Holder - Joey Win Peno; Innkeeper - Fette Means. Helpers - Chris Roldan, Sara Klein, Carlin Kendrick, Meg Kendrick.

Locally grown for 80 years: "Lettuce celebrate Will Plettinger's 80th birthday, Saturday, January 7, 2017 at 3:00pm in Bishop Jackson Hall. Please bring an item for the Food Pantry in lieu of a gift.

22 college-age volunteers to help with flood relief will be here January 7-13 and will be staying in the Jackson Hall. Please call Meg Kendrick if you can help with a breakfast, or supper while they stay with us.

Hello from Grace Youth Group! We have been busy over the Christmas Break meeting for movie nights, breakfasts, and a hiking trip to Clark Creek. Starting January 4th, youth group will move to Wednesday nights from 5 - 7 p.m. We will have dinner, a lesson, and compline. Also on Wednesdays I will have office hours for youth from 3 - 5 pm. They can come do homework, hang out or play in the game room. Senior High Rally is February 10-12th. It's open to all high school students. Please let me know if your high schooler is interested in this exciting weekend. We need dinner volunteers for 2017, the sign up sheet is in the narthex. Thank you to all who have supported our youth program! Blessings, Meg

Any donation to the church for 2016 needs to be postmarked December 31, 2016 or before to be credited for the 2016 giving record. Any donations received after December 31, 2016 will be credited to 2017.

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

Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday, January 1, 2017

Acolytes: Nicole Mulkey, RE Barrow, James Kirschling, Mathilde Fox-Smith, Lilly Higgins, volunteer needed

Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Sharon Gauthier
10am: Brandie Olsen, George Newton

Ushers: Tiger Olsen, volunteer needed

Lectors: David Barnes, Missy Higgins

Vestry Rep: Tiger Olsen

Altar Guild Team 1

Altar flowers: none needed

Sanctuary Candle: TBA

Coffee Hour: Tiger and Brandie Olsen

Babysitters: Shelby Griffin, Landry Higgins

Sunday, January 8, 2017

Acolytes: Hayden Howle, Julia DeJean, Joseph DeJean, Emma Olsen, Wyatt Olsen, Clara Jane Hughes

Chalice bearers 7:30am: Bryan McClendon
10am: Landon Anderson, Richard Kendrick

Ushers: Austin Roldan, Joe Savell

Lectors: Missy Higgins, Heather Howle

Vestry Rep: Robert Singer

Altar flowers: TBA

Altar Guild Team 2

Sanctuary candle: TBA

Coffee Hour: Tiger and Brandie Olsen

Babysitters: Madie Kane, Lorna Klein

January 01, 2017

7:30am - Eucharist

10:00am - Eucharist

Coffee Hour

January 08, 2017

7:30am - Eucharist

10:00am - Eucharist

Coffee Hour

Wednesday, January 4, 2017

7:00am - Men's Prayer Breakfast

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

5-7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, January 5

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship at SF Country Manor

Friday, January 6

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

5:00pm - Epiphany supper & bonfire

Sunday, January 8

7:30am - Eucharist

10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, January 11

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

5-7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, January 12

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship at SF Country Manor

Friday, January 13

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, January 15 2017

7:30am - Eucharist

10:00am - Eucharist

Coffee Hour