



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter for
January 15 & 22, 2017

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Catching the Spirit on the Fly

Recently, I have become fascinated with fly fishing. I've had an old fly rod for years, but never put it to much use. It always seemed too complicated and required too much effort. So I left it mounted on a wall - a kind of antique decoration next to a hand crafted, likewise never used, axe. But for my "bachelor party" this past August, my groomsmen and I took a trip out to Montana and I picked up a new fly rod outfit. We spent three beautiful days fishing the Bitterroot Valley. It was an amazing experience - but one upon which I had little time to reflect. I returned to find Louisiana inundated with flood waters, thousands of people, homes and possessions displaced, damaged and destroyed. So my new fly rod went into the shed and I, along with countless other volunteers, got to work.

Since things have calmed down a little, I've started taking out the fly rod to some fishable waters in the area - Bayou Sara, Old River, a handful of BREC ponds stocked with "rainbeaux" trout in December. Often during these outings, someone will see me and ask: "catch anything?" And I'm always tempted to say, "Oh yeah, lots of things! - A bunch of branches, couple bushes, a big stump, a clump of grass - and myself, caught myself right in the back of the head!" Its funny, but that's also how things have tended to work out for me, especially in the beginning. I am by no means a skilled fly fisherman. And yet, the art allures me.

I grew up fishing. My family's home in Virginia is set right next to a small reservoir. I spent my childhood exploring its banks, splashing through shallows and contemplating its depths. Fishing for me then meant something different - hooking a bit of chicken liver or a small bluegill to some 30 pound test, casting it out with a big sinker, sticking the pole into the sand and walking away. I'd then spend the afternoon chasing frogs, skipping rocks or climbing trees. When I later returned to the pole in the evening, I'd sometimes find it bending back and forth towards the water - with a catfish on the end that I'd joyfully reel in and bring back to the house for mom to clean and cook. A fun way to while away my summer days.

Fly fishing is a very different sort of activity, requiring continuous focus and attention. There is no walking away from the rod or looking past the fly. Hands and arms must remain ever ready, rod tip low, line mended without slack - all poised and prepared to react in an instant and properly set the hook. But before getting to that point - there's a whole host of decisions, skills, and actions that must align. For beginners like me, casting presenting the biggest conundrum. Move too fast or too slow, pause too long or too short, bend your wrist or turn your elbow out of sync and the line won't shoot out or unfurl on the water as it should; it'll fall in a pile at your feet, twist round itself in knots, snag the ground or trees behind you or maybe just smack you in the back of the head for your mistake. But once you get your line into the water, there's still the issue of deciding what to throw - from among these bits of feathers and string, fur and beads - tied in various patterns to imitate species of flies, nymphs, bait-

fish and pupa - over a range of colors and sizes. Then knowing how and what to cast, one must still discern when and where to throw it - near the bank, under shade, next to structure, in an eddy, riffle, hole or pool – which will change according to the time, temperature, wind, or cloud cover of the day. This all may not seem worth the effort to learn - until you’ve tried it and gotten hooked.

Other people may get something different, but for me the appeal of angling lies in the feeling of connection, the awareness of how things tie together – the various bits of God’s creation – the climate, my body, its movements, this instrument in my hand, my line, the water and the creatures that dwell above and below it. One must observe and learn - where are the fish, what are they eating, how are they behaving - are they aggressive, skittish, feeding, or breeding? What must I do to bring together the fish, my hand, this rod, line and the bits of string, fur and metal tied to the end?

To succeed, one must first slow down. An impatient approach to the water will lead to further frustration - throwing patterns that don’t match the local forage, spooking skittish fish from feeding or prospecting barren areas. A hasty reaction to a tangle or snag inevitably compounds the mess - one must slow down, assess and move with deliberate focus and attention - and sometimes ask for help or cut your losses when the problem appears beyond your grasp.

Jesus’s first disciples were fishermen - Simon and Andrew, called by the Sea of Galilee by our Lord to follow him and become fishers of men (Matthew 4:18-19). The sign of a fish, the “Ichthys,” (aka the “Jesus Fish”) came to represent Christianity in the early church. Fishing and following Christ have been intimately connected from the start. After the tumultuous, confusing, terrifying, and exhilarating events at the end of the gospels - the betrayal of Jesus, his crucifixion, death, resurrection and subsequent appearances to the women and other disciples - Simon Peter declares to his friends, “I am going fishing” and they go with him. Perhaps Peter realized, like Jesus throughout the gospel narratives, that we must get away - we must retreat - to rest - to clear our minds and hearts, so that we might be more receptive to God. And, as it turns out, he shows up. Jesus appears and calls out to his disciples during their fishing trip on the Sea of Tiberias. (John 21:1-14)

Izaak Walton, the 17th century English author and friend of the Anglican Divines, suggests that activities like fishing can help prepare and make us more attuned to the voice of the Lord. “When God intended to reveal any future events or high notions to his prophets, he then carried them either to the deserts or the sea-shore, that having so separated them from amidst the press of people and business, and the cares of the world, he might settle their mind in a quiet repose, and there make them fit for revelation.”

As we transition into this season of Epiphany (or, “Ordinary Time”), back to the regular schedules of our day in day out workaday world, I encourage you to remember that God has created Sabbath rest for our benefit (Mark 2:27). With all the chaos, confusion, busyness and strife in our lives - it is important to take time for rest and retreat, prayer and contemplation. Find some activity or recreation that removes you from the press of people and business, that helps make you aware of the goodness of God’s creation, your place and connectedness within it, like gardening, hiking, birding, paddling, or maybe even fly fishing - that Jesus, our Lord, from and to whom the whole of creation is set in motion, might make himself known to you as he did to the disciples by the Seas of Tiberias and Galilee. Blessings, Fr. Peter+

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 are in the Narthex. Please sign up if you can help with these ministries.

Your prayers are asked for the family of Sonny Anderson, father of Beverly Walker, who died December 30. Burial was in Grace Cemetery on January 5.

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, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

David Stewart,
Meg Bankston Cavelier, Lillian Weller, Ariel, Laura, Jacob, Macon Roland-Jan. 15; Diana Claire Davis, Emily Roland, Carl Metz, Julius Metz, Bethany Luneau-Jan. 17; Katie Thompson, Joe Dardard, Anne Timmons-Jan. 18; Beth Smith-Jan. 19; Caroline Marchive, Charles Reichman, David Bunch-Jan. 20; Genie McClen-don, Lori Gore-Jan. 21; Melanie Ferris-Jan. 22; Travis Thornton-Jan. 23; Joseph DeJean-Jan. 24; Billy Williams-Jan.25; Debbie Martin-Jan. 26; Paxton McClen-don-Jan. 27; Jessica Daniel Belchir-Jan. 28.

Wedding

Anniversaries

Joseph & Catherine David-Jan 15;

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, 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.

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



21 college volunteers from Pennsylvania are here this week to help with flood relief and are staying in the Jackson Hall. They are sheet rocking, painting, etc. three homes in Baton Rouge. Unfortunately, one fractured a bone in her foot and is now sporting a purple cast and using crutches. Many thanks to those of you who cooked delicious suppers for them.

Please remember to keep our Honduras Mission team in your prayers. Joining with another team are Fr. Roldan, Kelly Ward, Olivia Pass, Maria Gerry, Landon Anderson and his son Luke Anderson, Christie Reinhardt, and David Treppendahl.

Rescheduled Epiphany celebration: if you still have that live Christmas tree (or what used to be a live tree) join us on Friday, January 28 when we will have an the Epiphany celebration at the home of Tiger and Brandie Olsen 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 next Sunday's liturgy sheet.

Youth Group Suppers: We have a sign up sheet in the narthex for volunteers to fix supper for our Youth Group meetings on **Wednesday nights**. Please call Meg Kendrick (721-7342) if you want more info or just sign the list.

Many thanks to Robert and Cheryl Singer for getting our Cemetery Book rebound It has a beautiful leather cover in red and tan. Thank you for this wonderful gift.

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. **Reports for the Annual Meeting booklet** need to be emailed to Anne Klein (secretary@gracechurchwfp.org) by January 23.

Grace Church
of West Feliciana Parish
P.O. Box 28
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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday, January 15, 2017

Acolytes: Karina Mulkey, Emma Olsen, Charles Fox-Smith, James Kirschling, Joseph DeJean, Ethan Lyon

Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Carol Stamey

10am: Rucker Leake, Sara Klein

Ushers: Glenn Thomas, Kelly Ward

Lectors: Rachel Howell, Meg Kendrick

Vestry Rep: Adam Whatley

Altar Guild Team 3

Altar flowers: Volunteer Needed

Sanctuary Candle: Anne Klein

Coffee Hour: Tiger and Brandie Olsen

Babysitters: Emma Olsen, Austin Roldan

Sunday, January 22, 2017

Acolytes: Ethan Lyon, Mathilde Fox-Smith, Logan Reinhardt, Wyatt Olsen, Hayden Howle, Ella Corinne Howle

Chalice bearers 7:30am: Lucie Butler

10am: Mark Mulkey, Drew Nordgren

Ushers: Carl Fontenot, Tony Horn

Lectors: Ellen Klein, Rucker Leake

Vestry Rep: Christian DeJean

Altar flowers: Edward and Leslie Daniel

Altar Guild Team 4

Sanctuary candle: Volunteer needed

Coffee Hour: Tiger and Brandie Olsen

Babysitters: Shayn Rayford, Sara Roldan

January 15, 2017

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

10:00am - Eucharist
Coffee Hour

January 22, 2017

7:30am - Eucharist
10:00am - Eucharist
Coffee Hour

Wednesday, January 18, 2017

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

5-7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, January 19

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship at SF Country Manor

Friday, January 20

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

5:00pm - Epiphany supper & bonfire

Sunday, January 22

7:30am - Eucharist

10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, January 25

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

5-7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, January 26

9:15am - Morning Prayer

10:00am - Worship at SF Country Manor

Friday, January 27

7:00am - Eucharist

8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study

Sunday, January 29, 2017

7:30am - Eucharist

10:00am - Eucharist

Annual Meeting