



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter for
May 29 & June 5 2016

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Website

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What rules your life?

Ordinary time is often called the planting season of the Church. I believe this has to do with specific themes of discipleship and preparation for ministry. The parables of Jesus and the various teachings on love of God and love of other will prepare us for a life of discipleship and service. The goal is for us to produce fruit. Heart change, however, is often required before we produce the fruit God expects from us. Matthew 6:21 reminds us that where our treasure is, there our hearts will be also. That which is of utmost importance to us tends to take central stage in our life and ends up controlling us. Changing our hearts can lead us to happier, more open, and more fruitful lives.

Heart change requires that I identify the central "organizing principle" in my life and assess whether that organizing principle is contributing to a fruitful, fulfilling, and joyful life. For many of us the mighty "I" is the organizing principle. "I come first, I am number 1, I am OK, I can help myself, I don't need anyone, everything must benefit me, I must always be right..." Almost anything can become a person's organizing principle: Money, power, sex, drugs, fame, and even an inflexible ideological position. The danger here, of course, is that anything that thwarts or threatens this organizing principle creates in us a defensive stance that will seek to protect the interest of the principle.

Let me give you an example. I have a friend for whom work and the attainment of career advancement is the single most important value in his life. Two divorces later, he blames his grown kids for not understanding how important his career is, he calls his ex-wives "selfish" and "self-centered" for not being more supportive of his job. He blames everyone around him for his loneliness and sense of isolation, and he is generally a very unhappy person. In reality, he has cut-off from his life anything or anyone that interferes with work. He works 15 hour-days seven days a week and has no time for anyone or anything. Work and career advancement have become his treasure and that is where his heart is. Unfortunately, he is unable and unwilling to see how this is affecting him and everyone else in his life.

I know someone for whom the past and its effects on the present is the central organizing principle of her life. She is trapped by memories of hurts, by childhood trauma, by the betrayals of friends or relatives, by the guilt of poor choices, and by the hopelessness and helplessness of her life. Unable to forgive, she is often angry, "judgy", suspicious of others, hard to please, unable to let go of even the most minor of offenses, and set in her ways. Unfortunately, this too is a recipe for a lonely and dysfunctional life. An incredibly talented person, she has become a recluse because almost everyone in her life has done something to offend her and she has given up on them.

How about you? What rules your heart? Is it unbridled individualism? Is it thirst for control, power, or money? Is it your past, a crisis orientation to life, or any other organizing principle? The sad reality is that there is not just one organizing principle that distances us from God and from each other. At any one point a need for power and control may take over. Hopelessness and anxiety are real temptations, as are ideological and political thinking that leads to self-righteousness. Our own need to be right all the time sometimes creates distance between us and others. Our own anger, grief and melancholy often take over. There are in fact too many idols to count. Luther was right when he said that the human heart is an idol-making factory!

During this planting season in the life of the church let us till the ground of our hearts and do a serious assessment of the types of things that rule our lives. A quick way of finding out what's important is by looking at our expense reports or credit card bills. That on which we spend the most money and time is at the top of our list. As we till the ground for God's Word to grow in us and produce fruit, I pray that you will enlist the help of friends, pastors, and therapists to identify whatever is blocking you and to help you achieve some balance. God created you to experience joy and happiness. "Love of God, love of others, and love of self" is the Christian organizing principle many have used to achieve balance. I pray God will lead you into the type of heart change that may help you achieve the joy God wants for your life. May the one who died for you continue to bless you! Remember, we are here for you! Fr. Roldan+

Retirement Coffee Hour: Join us on Sunday at coffee hour as we celebrate two of our choir members, Carol Woodward and Suzanne Beckley, better known as two of the three Klein sisters, who are retiring from our choir. Suzanne has faithfully been singing at Grace for nearly 50 years, and Carol for nearly 30 years. Of course, they will continue to sing with the congregation.

Men's Prayer Breakfast will be Wednesday, June 1 at 7am. We need a volunteer to cook. Please call the church office if you are willing to cook.

Welcome to Sydney and Lee Walker who have transferred their membership to Grace Church.

Congratulations to Charles Fox-Smith who received the Award for Science Excellence at Bains Elementary from Grace Church at Fifth grade graduation on May 17th.

VBS From July 11-15, 2016: Please remember that our amazing VBS will be in July and we are already recruiting volunteers for a number of jobs. If you are interested in assisting this year, please contact Christie Reinhardt or Fr. Peter as soon as possible. Every year we get between 55 to 65 children from Grace Church and the community and we always do a pretty good job. To maintain the level of quality we are accustomed to we need many different hands. Online registration is available for VBS participants as well as volunteers or call Christie at 225 938-8504.

Eucharistic Visitors have begun: Please let the church know if you or a loved one needs a visit from our parish visitors, after the 10:00AM service. Fr. Peter and Fr. Roldan will accompany them for the first few visits to do introductions and additional onsite training. Mrs. Anne will be calling some of you to schedule a visit. Please keep our visitors and clergy in your prayers and call us if you have any questions.

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

David Barnes,
George Black, Wayne
Blake, Cecil May
Dwyer, Tom Morris,
Sara Nelson, Margie
Sheets, Cozette Ste-
vens, Jim Tengler,
Wendell Wade,
Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Jeff Pruitt, Will Ben-
ton, Fiona Tully-May
29; Lorna Klein-May
31; Kathryn Ward-
June 1; Ann Newton,
Robert Fisher, Luke
Farmer-June 6; Lynda
Truitt, John Emory
Walker-June
8; Hugh Reid,
Shondell Havard-
June 9; Alyson Cur-
ry, Emile Pourciau-
June 10; Megbe
Hughes, Edward
Daniel-June 12;

Wedding

Anniversaries

Bobby & Sharon
Wilson-June 1; Paul
& Cary Fitzmorris,
Russ & Rhona Wray,
Rob & Christie Rein-
hardt, Kirk & Lisa
Kleinpeter-June 2;
Roy & Alma Ruth
Skaggs-June 3;
Charles & Louise
Reichman-June 4;
Chase & Steve Cun-
ningham, Chris &
Tara Grace Jones-
June 6; Pat & Lucie
Butler-June 7; Hugh
& Ginger Reid-June
9; Allen & Pam Sen-
ior, Glenn & Eleanor
Thomas-June 10.

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, John Caruthers, Jenny Clark, Bodo & Kitty Claus, Troy Cothorn, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, 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, John McConnell, 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, 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.

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.

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.

Chancellor Reception: On June 12, after the 10:00 services, there will be a reception in Jackson Hall honoring our new Chancellor Stewart Hughes and recognizing the 12 plus years that Donna Wright has served as Chancellor for the Vestry. WE want to thank Stewart for taking on this very important role and to thank Donna for ALL the countless hours she has given and done over the years. Mickey Melancon will be cooking the main dish; we will have salad, rolls, dessert and tea. Please try to come and thank them both.

Where did I leave that dish? Have you left a dish in Jackson Hall after one of the many events we have hosted recently? Please come retrieve it.

Summer Camp Season is upon us. Every year we help between 8 and 12 kids with partial and/or full scholarships. The Lucille Ruiz Scholarship Fund funds one full time or two part-time scholarships, but the rest is fundraised through donations from the church. Please help us send a deserving youth to a Summer Camp. Write a check to Rector's Discretionary Fund, Memo: Summer Camp Scholarships. Blessings, Fr. Roldan

Dear Grace Family,

My family and I would like to thank all of you who participated and contributed to the reception in honor of my husband on the occasion of his doctoral graduation. So many of you attended and brought food and wine that we had plenty of leftovers for people to take some delicious food home. I was very honored that almost 60 people attended the party and several came early to set-up and stayed late to help clean.

A most special thanks to Dixie Blue, Dare Didier, and Donna Wright who planned the entire thing. Genie McClendon created a most beautiful flower arrangement. Mickey Melancon cooked one of the best roasts I have ever had. Jeanne Morris and Ann Weller took beautiful photographs, and a small army of volunteers helped in many ways. Thank you all very much. Roman and the family will never forget your generosity.

With gratitude, Chris Roldan.

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

Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday, May 29, 2016

Acolytes: Fiona Tully, James Kirschling,
Emma Olsen, Joseph DeJean
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Carol Stamey
10:00am: Maria Gerry, Drew Nordgren
Ushers: Robert Singer, Glenn Thomas
Lectors: Donna Wright, Landon Anderson
Vestry Rep: Adam Whatley
Altar Guild Team 1
Altar flowers: Joe and Maria Gerry
Sanctuary Candle: Tom and Susie Tully
Coffee Hour: Grace Choir
Babysitters: Lorna Klein, Claudia Tully

Sunday, June 5, 2016

Acolytes: Ethan Lyon, Paul Opperman,
Ella Corinne Howle, Logan Reinhardt
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Lucie Butler
10am: Rucker Leake, Brandie Olsen
Ushers: Kelly Ward, Carl Fontenot
Lectors: David Barnes, Dixie Blue
Vestry Rep: Christian DeJean
Altar Guild Team 2
Altar flowers: Robert and Christie Reinhardt
Sanctuary Candle: Colleen and Jean Marie Hill
Coffee Hour: Nicole Pinson
Babysitters: Maggie Higgins, Landry Higgins

May 29, 2016

7:30am - Eucharist
8:45-9:45 - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist
Coffee Hour
No Youth Group

June 5, 2016

7:30am - Eucharist
8:45-9:45 - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist
Coffee Hour
4to 6 pm -Jazz Concert
Youth Group attend Jazz
Concert

Wednesday, June 1

7:00am - Men's Prayer Breakfast
5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, June 2

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

Friday, June 3

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

Sunday, June 5

7:30am - Eucharist
8:45-9:45 - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist
4-6:00pm - Jazz concert in Jackson Hall

Wednesday, June 8

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, June 9

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

Friday, June 10

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