



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter for
June 26 & July 3, 2016

(225) 635-4065-Office
(225) 635-4410-Fax

Rector

Very Rev. Dr. Roman D.
Roldan
rector@gracechurchwfp.org

Associate Rector

Rev. Dr. Peter Kang
associate@gracechurchwfp.org

Parish Administrator

Anne Klein
secretary@gracechurchwfp.org

Pre-School

(225) 635-4030
Diana Weller
Preschool@gracechurchwfp.org

Stacy Loyacono
Emily Barrow
Crystal Rogers

Melvin E. Hale

Director of Music Ministries
Music@gracechurchwfp.org

Vestry

Dr. Landon Anderson
Christian DeJean
Dare Didier
Heather Howle
Richard Kendrick
Mickey Melancon
Thomas Olsen
Robert Singer
Dr. Adam Whatley

Glenn Thomas, Treasurer
treasurer@gracechurchwfp.org

Stewart Hughes, Chancellor

Website

www.gracechurchwfp.org

On the Gift of Grandparents, and Crying Babies

I have recently returned from Trinity College in Toronto, Canada, where I attended the annual conference of the "Society of Scholar Priests." The stated mission of the Society is "to welcome theology home," to bridge the gap between academia and parish life and "do everything in our power to reintegrate theology back into the life of the parish, to rekindle theological vocation and imagination." It was an invigorating and encouraging three days. The whole conference was enveloped and shot through with prayer - morning and evening, Eucharist every day. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet and fellowship with other "scholar priests" from around the Episcopal Church in the US and the Anglican Church in Canada. Members gave presentations on a variety of pressing topics like: what it means to grow in faith, the charism and office of teaching in the church, reflective preaching, etc. Towards the end of the conference, one member spoke about something that really struck me - the ministry of grandparents; the distinctive gift, calling and role of grandparents in our congregations for future generations of the church.

Today, throughout the Episcopal Church in the United States, as well as the Anglican Church of Canada, one may hear church members and clergy lamenting the lack of "young people" in the pews, the dearth of children and youth running through our halls, the inability of small parishes to attract and keep young families in the congregation. One looks out from the pulpit upon a sparsely planted field of grey hair. Yet, as the priest from the conference argued, church leaders have been too focused on what they believe is missing in our churches, instead of seeing the blessing that is sitting right in front of them - grandparents!

For better or worse, grandparents can and do play an important role in the development of faith in their grandchildren. They can plant seeds, by giving an accounting of their faith, the fruit of which may not be seen for years, but nevertheless remain - slowly germinating and growing under the surface. So, this priest argued, if you are concerned that there don't seem to be many young people in church, it is incumbent upon you to be witnesses to future generations. (Remember: ministry is not just purview of clergy, it is something to which all baptized Christians are called. See the Book of Common Prayer, p. 855).

According to this priest from the conference, we should be encouraging grandparents to see their role in church as ministers, meaning-makers, and memory-bearers for future generations. Grandparents are called to show why their faith and their life in church is important to them, how it makes a meaningful difference in their lives, and to preserve the "institution memory" of the church - the teachings, traditions and practices that have been passed on from generation to generation. So, to you grandparents: you may be retired, but you still have a vocation - a calling - to carry and plant the

seeds of faith for the sake of our children's children. Indeed, you play a vital role in the future growth and development of the church!

At this point, I should say that Grace Church is a bit of an outlier - my experience here has not been reflective of the growing trends throughout many mainline churches in the US and Canada. I look out from the pulpit and see a diverse sea of smiling faces, young and old, families with toddlers, youth serving as acolytes, and not a few grandparents too. One of the goals of our mission here at Grace is "to build a youth culture where children and youth can come to a saving faith Jesus Christ within a loving environment that encourages church involvement and the development of peer groups." After serving here for a little over a year, I still feel honored to be taking part in this mission (as challenging as it may be sometimes to work with teenagers!)

When I look out from the pulpit at the congregation and see young child squirming in the pew or hear a baby crying while I'm preaching, I am not bothered in the slightest - rather, I feel encouraged and uplifted. When I see that child moving around or hear that baby crying, I know that I am seeing and hearing signs of the church's future - strong affirmations that our church does, in fact, have a future, sitting right in front of me. To that end, I want to share with you the text from a pew insert that a friend of mine found in his church in North Dakota:

TO THE PARENTS OF OUR YOUNG CHILDREN, MAY WE SUGGEST...

Relax! God put the wiggle in children; don't feel you have to suppress it in God's house. All are welcome!

Sit toward the front where it is easier for your little ones to see and hear what's going on at the altar. They tire of seeing the backs of others' heads.

Quietly explain the parts of the Eucharist and actions of the priest, altar servers, choir, etc.

Sing the hymns, pray and voice the responses. Children learn liturgical behavior by copying you.

If you have to leave the service with your child, feel free to do so, but please come back. As Jesus said, "Let the children come to me."

Remember that the way we welcome children in church directly affects the way they respond to the Church, to God, and to one another. Let them know that they are at home in this house of worship.

Please let your child use the reverse side of this card to draw and doodle.

TO THE MEMBERS OF OUR PARISH

The presence of children is a gift to the Church and they are a reminder that our parish is growing.

Please welcome our children and give a smile of encouragement to their parents.

Children, please feel free to do your arts work or words on the back of this page!

These are words of wisdom that, I believe, apply just as well at our parish here in Louisiana. May we continually heed them and may God bless the mission and ministry of our church. - Fr. Peter

*More information about the Society of Scholar Priests can be found on their website: www.scholarpriests.org

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 Stevens, Jim Tengler, Wendell Wade, Pam Willson, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Madeline Wright-June 26; Bettie Norton-June 27; Patti Percy, Barbara Norwood-June 28; Laura McClendon, Claudia Tully-June 29; Briana Boucher, Kathy Anderson-June 30; Cheryl Singer, Dan Klein-July 1; Kathy Kane, Emma Benton-July 2; Andrew Klein, Olivia Stewart-July 3; Patrick Tandy-July 4; Briana Blanchard, Brandon Blanchard, Dalton Clevenger-July 5; Laura Croft-July 6; McKinsey Lambert-July 8.

Wedding

Anniversaries

Charles and Louise Jenkins, Belton and Dare Didier-June 28; Don and Barbara Norwood, Alan and Collette Dwyer-July 4; Steve and Noel Parnell-July 5.

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, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Juanita Ferguson, 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, Glenn Thomas III, Terri Thompson, Denham Turner, Darold Whitmer, Zane Woodward.

Those serving in the armed forces: Parker Blanche, Amanda Brown, 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 read our list of persons needing prayers to the left and let the office know if a name can be removed.

VBS From July 11-15, 2016: Please remember that our amazing VBS will be in July and we are recruiting volunteers for a number of jobs. If you are interested in assisting this year, please contact Christie Reinhardt (225 938-8504) or Fr. Peter as soon as possible. Every year we get between 55 to 65 children from Grace Church and the community and we need many different hands. Online registration is available for participants as well as volunteers and forms are also in the narthex.

You are invited to a Welcome Reception on Sunday, July 3 at 12:15. Join the St. Francisville United Methodist Church's congregation in welcoming their new pastor, The Rev. Daniel Hixon and his wife Christene. Please RSVP at 635-3763 or email stfrumc@bellsouth.net.

Quarterly Women's Ecumenical Prayer Breakfast: The Baptist, Methodist, Episcopal and Catholic ladies take turns hosting a breakfast on a rotational basis. The next quarterly Women's Ecumenical Prayer breakfast will be held on Saturday, July 9th at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Catholic Church beginning at 8:30am. All women are invited to attend.

Hankies2Hope Ministry, founded in 2006, is comprised of mothers who have suffered the death of a child. They offer a one day conference, a safe place to share with other mothers and find peace. The goal is to provide encouragement through mothers' stories, informative speakers and meaningful workshops. Join them as they trade beauty for ashes and joy for mourning. (Isaiah 61:3) *Journey of the Heart*, a one day conference, featuring guest speaker Mary Aguiard, will be June 25, 8:00am to 5:00pm at the Embassy Suites, 4914 Constitution Ave. in Baton Rouge. You can register at www.hankies2hope.com or email them at seelowe1@bellsouth.net. The cost is \$60 which includes lunch and all workshops. See the brochure in Jackson Hall for more details about the three workshops.

Welcome to Richmond Savoy who has transferred his membership to Grace Church.

An Evening of Vocal Music: On July 22, Anna's Place NOLA Children's Choir and the Treme' Community Choir, will present an evening of music representing a variety of styles ranging from folk to classical to Broadway. Join us in Grace Church at 6pm to hear these amazing groups perform. This is a free event and open to the public. Invite your friends.

The new Acolyte schedule, done by Hamilton Willis, was sent out this week. Next week I will do the lector and lay minister schedules. Please let me know if you have changes that I should be aware of. Thanks to all of you for your ministry at Grace Church. Anne Klein

Congratulations to Elaine McKenzie and Jonas Motes who were married in Grace Church on June 11.

ECW Meeting: Newly elected President Sheryl Wynters invites all women of the church to attend an ECW meeting after the 10:00am service on June 26th. Plans will be made to the 2016-17 year and ideas are needed for programs that you would like to have and to support. Coming up on October 8, Grace ECW will host the Ecumenical Breakfast at 8am in Jackson Hall for the Catholic, Baptist and Methodist churches which all women are invited to attend. Plans need to be made and advertising done in St. Francisville. Please attend this meeting on June 26th following the 10am service to make this a great year for your ECW.

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

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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday, June 26, 2016

Acolytes: Karina Mulkey, Emma Olsen,
Charles Fox-Smith, Matthew Skaggs
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Bryan McClendon
10:00am: Landon Anderson, Sheryl Wynters
Ushers: Richard Kendrick, Tom Morris
Lectors: Meg Kendrick, Richard Kendrick
Vestry Rep: Heather Howle
Altar Guild Team 1
Altar flowers: Mary Morse
Sanctuary Candle: Will Plettinger
Coffee Hour: Clay and Nicole Pinson
Babysitters: Claudia Tully, Shayn Rayford

Sunday, July 3, 2016

Acolytes: Ethan Lyon, Mathilde Fox-Smith,
Logan Reinhardt, Wyatt Olsen
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Michelle Roth
10am: Joey Gammill, Rucker Leake
Ushers: Tiger Olsen, Will Plettinger
Lectors: Ellen Klein, Rucker Leake
Vestry Rep: Tiger Olsen
Altar Guild Team 2
Altar flowers: Troy and Lynn Ballard
Sanctuary Candle: Don and Penny Reinhardt
Coffee Hour: Carl and Gloria Fontenot
Babysitters: Lorna Klein, Shelby Griffin

June 26, 2016

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

July 03, 2016

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

Wednesday, June 29

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, June 30

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

Friday, July 1

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

Sunday, July 3

7:30am - Eucharist
8:45-9:45 - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, July 6

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, July 7

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

Friday, July 8

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