



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter for
June 12 & 19 2016

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A Country Parson in West Feliciana Parish

The Diocese's communications director asked me to answer in 1,000 words or less the following question, "What does it mean to reach out in your community with the Gospel of Jesus?" The article will be published in Church Work, but, since most of our readers don't get Church Work, I decided to print it here as well. When answering the question, my first thought was to list the activities our church does that have an evangelistic or an obviously religious purpose or intent: We offer daily Morning Prayer, Holy Eucharist four times a week, Bible studies every Sunday morning throughout the year and on Wednesdays (morning and evening sessions) during the program year, Christian Preschool, Vacation Bible School every Summer, healthy youth groups and programs, a Holy Eucharist at St. John's Chapel in Laurel Hill on the third Sunday of every month, services at St. Mary's Episcopal Church in Weyanoke at least twice a year, etc, etc.

This list would tell the world what we do, but it would not tell the whole story of who Grace is and what the clergy have been doing here since 1827. The clergy of Grace Church have always been "Country Parsons" as described in the famous book by George Herbert. Our congregation is much larger than the 360 persons who call Grace home. As Herbert describes the work of the Parson on Sundays, we spend a great deal of time, "Either in reconciling neighbors that are at variance, or in visiting the sick, or in exhortations to some of his flock by themselves, whom his Sermons cannot, or does not reach." This work of reconciling often includes the task of pastoral counseling. As a Clinical Social Worker in a town with counseling services, I often find myself meeting with people from other denominations referred to us by parishioners or friends. I do this pro-bono because I know my congregation extends beyond our walls. Our Associate and I also do invocations at the start of local parades, bless new businesses, present several awards at school graduations, judge local food competitions, participate in the community fundraisers, go to community leadership meetings, attend Rotary regularly, give tours of our cemetery and answer questions tourists may have, help people in need regardless of denomination by connecting them to available resources within our church and our community, etc.

Herbert describes the work of the Parson on Sunday evenings the following way, "At night he thinks it a very fit time, both suitable to the joy of the day, and without hindrance to public duties, either to entertain some of his neighbors, or to be entertained of them, where he takes occasion to discourse of such things as are both profitable, and pleasant, and to raise up their minds to apprehend God's good blessing to our Church, and State." It would not be an exaggeration to highlight the value of hospitality in a small community like ours. The Episcopal clergy are invited to everything and are expected to attend everything. These community engagements add a lev-

el of complexity to an already busy life, but I am always glad I attend these functions. Invariably, I hear about people in need of a pastoral visit, I learn about the latest political issue in town, I spend time with influential community leaders and advocate informally for those in need, I lend an ear and help people vent their frustrations or discern difficult decisions, and I share my own faith in a non-threatening way when able to do so. Perhaps, the greatest benefit of these events is the opportunity to meet people in a social environment that allows for casual conversation and the beginning of relationships. I always feel honored when I see some of these people sitting in our church pews and when they choose to worship among us as new members. These are moments of great joy for me.

Grace Church reaches out in love to most community agencies in town. We have had a healthy prison ministry at Louisiana State Penitentiary (Angola) for 25 years and allocate 20% of our Associate's time to work at the prison. We have had a ministry team at the local nursing home for 23 years and provide manpower to our food bank as needed. We participate in various fairs and community events sponsored by the Women's Service League, 4-H, Boy Scouts, Arts for All, Families in need of Assistance (FINA) and many other agencies. Additionally, our Mission and Outreach Committee is blessed to be able to fund various agencies and programs locally and in Honduras, Haiti, Mauritius (Indian Ocean), New Orleans, St. Alban's (LSU) and many other. We proudly proclaim that we have been sharing Christ's love in our community and beyond since 1827. I am always amazed at the impact that a small church like ours can have in our Diocese and the world.

When you visit Grace for the first time, it feels as though you have stepped back in time a bit. We have a church that is beautiful in its simplicity, nestled by live oaks that date to the mid 1800's, and surrounded by one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the South. It would be easy to think of Grace as a memorial site that celebrates Louisiana's Antebellum history and architectural sensibilities. This is only part of our story, however. The rest of the story is as important. We are a loving congregation seeking unity with God and each other in Christ. We are unapologetically traditional, believe in salvation by Grace alone, preach from the Holy Scriptures, and seek to bring all within the reach of Christ's saving embrace. We are also a vibrant congregation that takes seriously the mandate to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, visit the infirm, and befriend the imprisoned. And we do these things both for Episcopalians and non-Episcopalians alike. In this little town all are welcome, but, please know in advance that, if you stay longer than a day, we will treat you like family and we will expect to see you in church and in one of our parties. Blessings to all, Fr. Roldan+

The Youth Group will be volunteering at the Animal Shelter, 4-6pm this Sunday. The group will meet at Jackson Hall and leave from here to go to the Animal Shelter. A volunteer is needed to prepare dinner for the group. Please contact Fr. Kang if you can provide supper.

Congratulations to the recently installed officers of the ECW: Sheryl Wynters-President; Maria Gerry-Vice President; Kathy Kane-Secretary; Sharon Gauthier-Treasurer. **Also accepting the position of Altar Guild Directress** is Maria Gerry. Many thanks to Eleanor Thomas who has served in this capacity for many years.

West Feliciana Food Pantry: This month we are collecting canned or dried fruit and granola bars. Please put your donation in the green wagon in the narthex or the orange barrel outside the secretary's office. Thank you for your help with this ministry.

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.

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, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Megbe Hughes, Edward Daniel-June 12; Cary Fitzmorris, Kell Martin-June 13; Abby Dowd-June 14; Eli Dwyer-June 16; Alicia Dwyer, Erin Fuslier, Jack Anderson-June 17; Teri Tandy, Kenneth Blue-June 18; Taylor Ferris, Linda Flynn-June 19; Elaina Klein, Leslie Daniel, Ruth Reed, Tim Kane, Laura Thompson, Mary Lyle Whatley-June 20; Neal Croft, Ryan Sparks-June 21; Anne Klein-June 22; Mills McClendon, Mary Camille Bell-June 23; Shewen McClendon, Charlotte Peno-June 25.

Wedding

Anniversaries

Ricky & Renee Sparks, Carter & Brittany Leak-6/12; Bryan & Laura McClendon-6/13; Blake & Susan LeBlanc-6/14; Houston & Jessica McVea, Jesse & Nicole Means-6/16; Roman & Chris Roldan-6/17; Rucker & Susan Leake, Carey & Ann Leggett-6/18; John & Sue Steib-6/19; Donny & Susan Davis-6/21; Bryan & Laura McClendon, Bob & Elizabeth Finley-6/23; John and Lisa McGehee-6/25.

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, 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 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 read our list of persons needing prayers to the left and let the office know if a name can be removed.

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.

Take a Trip to Mobile to see Beth Moore: A group of ladies from St Francisville will be taking a trip to Mobile, AL to see Beth Moore Live on August 26-27. The event begins at 7pm Friday and ends at noon Saturday. We would love for as many ladies to make the trip as possible! If you are interested, call Kathy Kane or Dixie Blue or go to http://www.lifeway.com/event/Womens-Event-Living-Proof-Live-Mobile-AL#registration_detail

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

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.

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.

Have you picked up your Church Directory yet? If so, please check your information to see that it is correct. If not, please send me corrections in an email or drop off a note at the Church Office or put in the offering plates on Sunday. A list of updates will be sent out the first part of September. Thank you, Anne Klein

Preschool registration: We have a few places left for the year 2016-17 due to some families moving away. If you know a child that is potty-trained, 3 years old by September 30, please tell the parents to come register. Call Diana Weller if you have questions, 721-7504.

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.

Grace Church
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Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday, June 12, 2016

Acolytes: Hayden Howle, Emma Olsen,
Ella Corinne Howle, Lilli Higgins
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Lucie Butler
10:00am: George Newton, Mark Mulkey
Ushers: Joseph Horn, Tony Horn
Lectors: David Bunch, Missy Higgins
Vestry Rep: Dare Didier
Altar Guild Team 3
Altar flowers: McKenzie Wedding
Sanctuary Candle: Roy and Alma Ruth Skaggs
Coffee Hour: Chancellors' Reception
Babysitters: Lorna Klein, Emma Olsen

Sunday, June 19, 2016

Acolytes: Mary Elizabeth Barrow, RE Barrow,
Charles Fox-Smith, Wyatt Olsen
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Sharon Gauthier
10am: Brandie Olsen, Richard Kendrick
Ushers: Zed Howell, Rob Howle
Lectors: Nicole Means, Rachel Howell
Vestry Rep: Richard Kendrick
Altar Guild Team 4
Altar flowers: Will Plettinger
Sanctuary Candle: Andrew Klein
Coffee Hour: Nicole Pinson
Babysitters: Madie Kane, Mary Willis

June 12, 2016

7:30am - Eucharist
8:45-9:45 - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist
Chancellors' Reception
4-6pm Youth Group is
volunteering at Animal
Shelter followed by sup-
per. **Volunteer cook is
needed for supper.**

June 19, 2016

7:30am - Eucharist
(Grace & St. John's)
8:45-9:45 - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist
Coffee Hour
**No Youth Group
Meeting**

Wednesday, June 15

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, June 16

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

Friday, June 17

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

Sunday, June 19

7:30am - Eucharist (Grace & St. John's)
8:45-9:45 - Bible Study
10:00am - Eucharist

Wednesday, June 22

5:15pm - Holy Eucharist

Thursday, June 23

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

Friday, June 24

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