



Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter
March 26 & April 2, 2017

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Website

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Sabbatical

The word Sabbatical has Hebrew (shabbat), Greek (sabbatikos), and Latin (sabbaticus) equivalents. The simplest way of explaining the word is by using its Hebrew meaning, "Ceasing". A sabbatical is a period of rest from two months to a year which allows the person to "cease" working and to pursue activities that lead to refreshment, renewal, and rest. The Biblical principle of Sabbath comes from Genesis 2:2-3 when God "ceased" or rested from his labor. We also see a similar mandate in Exodus 20:8-11 when God orders obedience to the Sabbath day, "Six days you shall labor... but the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God". This mandate is repeated by Moses on the plains of Moab, as the people are about to enter the Promised Land (Deuteronomy 5:12ff). Not only were the people of God required to rest every Sabbath day, but the Law required landowners to let the land rest from farming every seventh year.

It is estimated that about 20% of companies around the world offer Sabbatical leave to their employees. The concept is very common in universities and colleges, and is widely used in the Roman Catholic and Anglican churches. At Grace Church there has always been a provision for the Rector to take a three-month (12 weeks) Sabbatical after 5 years of employment. I was unable to take this time of rest in 2014 because we were extremely busy and I did not have an associate to cover for me. Now, after 8 years of ministry among you, I feel the time is right to take a break from ministry and recharge my batteries.

Now, the word Sabbatical makes many people anxious and some of the reasons are very legitimate. Many priests leave their Sabbatical for a time when they are ready to move to another church. In this case, they take 3 months of paid rest before they go to their new ministry or into retirement. The announcement of a Sabbatical, therefore, is often received by churches as an unofficial resignation. This IS NOT the case here. My family and I are very committed to Grace Church and hope to be with you for many years to come. Our kids love their schools and friends; Chris goes to her office about once or twice a week, which allows her to work from home the rest of the time; and I feel God is calling me to stay among you for a few more years. So, fear not. I am taking a break so I may serve you better in the near future.

Other reasons for concern when a Rector takes a Sabbatical are timing, coverage, and expense. In terms of timing, my family and I will be officially on break on Monday May22, which is just a week before the end of the program year on May 28. What this means is that we will be gone during the summer months, which are normally a quiet time for Grace Church. There are no weddings, major events planned for these months and, with the exception of the occasional funeral, the schedule will slow down considerably.

In terms of coverage, we are truly blessed for several reasons: First, we have an incredible team of lay leaders who will continue to oversee most of our ministries. Sec-

ond, Fr. Peter and Bishop Jenkins will cover all liturgical services during this time and Fr. Peter and the Parish Visitors team will cover all the pastoral care. The Senior Warden will be in charge of Vestry meetings and Mrs. Anne will continue to handle all the administrative functions of the church. Finally, Meg Kendrick, will update our website and help Mrs. Anne with various communications issues. A plan is being developed to ensure that all ministries and services are properly staffed for the duration of the Sabbatical.

Sabbaticals can be expensive for churches, which is another reason why parishioners worry when these are announced. The expenses come in the form of payment for clergy coverage and, in some cases, a Sabbatical allowance given to the Rector in addition of his normal salary. In our case, our Sabbatical will be self-funded, which means that Grace will not incur any expenses other than normal salary and benefits. We are also blessed that Bishop Jenkins will be providing his services pro-bono and Fr. Peter's salary will remain unchanged during this time.

Sabbaticals are purposeful times of refreshment and not extended vacations. In our case, we will be doing 3 primary things: (a) We will be living in the small town of Killorglin (pop. 2,045), County Kerry, Ireland, where I will cover Sunday services at St. Michael's Church. I will also do some teaching for their Sunday school program. (b) We will be doing some traveling around Ireland, Scotland, and England. (c) I will be doing some reading and writing, with the hope of teaching some new content here at Grace and at Trinity Seminary where I am an adjunct professor. The idea of Ireland first came to me through Bishop Jenkins who is a good friend of the Bishop of Kerry. The Diocese will be providing us housing for the duration of the Sabbatical in exchange for Sunday coverage and some limited pastoral care.

Please keep us in your prayers during this time of rest and refreshment in Ireland and please let me know if you have any questions regarding this Sabbatical. Blessings to you and yours, Fr. Roldan+

Grace Episcopal Church will be hosting a **Women's High Tea** as the first fundraiser for the new kitchen. This will be a great opportunity to fellowship with other women in the community while enjoying live music, tea, treats and conversation. Save the date for Saturday, April 29, 2017 at 3:00PM. Tickets will be \$75 and all proceeds from this event will benefit the renovation of the kitchen at Grace Episcopal Church. **We are currently recruiting hostesses for each table to show off their fine china! If you would like to be a hostess, please contact Chris Roldan at 225-819-7552 for additional information.** Each hostess will receive a free ticket to attend.



From March 12 to the 18 we hosted teams from Iowa and Texas who were here for flood relief work. Both groups brought several of the teens in their youth groups. Here you see youth from Grace, Iowa, and Texas having an afternoon of fun in our combined youth group. Thanks to all who helped us host these teams. Your hospitality is a blessing to this church.

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

David Barnes, Jamie Daniel, Lucile Lawra-son, Tom Morris, Sara Nelson, Margie Sheets, Kay Tengler, Eleanor Thomas, Wendell Wade, David Walker, Hayes Whatley, Mary Lyle Whatley, Hamilton Wil- lis, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

Birthdays

Adam Whatley- March 27; Chris Jones-March 29; Mary Thomp-son-April 1; Sue Steib, Ann Beaumont, Pen-ny Graham - April 4; Shelby Griffin, Pat But-ler, Anne But-ler, Jeremy Wil- lis, Missy Hig- gins, Roy Skaggs -April 5.

Wedding Anniversaries

Richard & Meg Kendrick-March 31; Bobby & Jane Daniel- April 3; Carl & Gloria Fontenot -April 5; Frank & Jamie Farmer- April 6; Tom & Linda Flynn- April 8.

Other persons prayers are asked for:

Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Leslie Bickham, Phillip Bowen, Leo Brown, Ben Brown, Steve Brown, Willie Bryant, Randy Bryant, Mac Bullock, John Caruthers, Jenny Clark, Kitty Claus, Bob Crowley, Kathleen Davis, Debbie Desmar, Helen Desselles, Cathy Doslovic, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Juanita Ferguson, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jeansonne, Jill Joffrion, Henry Jones, Mary Jo Kaly, Cecil Kelly, Jody Lemoine, Bob Lewis, Jessica Liddle, Max, Paul McGuff, Ralph McKenzie, Laine Martrain, Mary Anne McCrory, Ruby McKee, David Merritt, Robin Michel, Dorothy Anne Millikin, Jimmy Mitchell, Rusty Melton, Randall Nachman, Barton Platte, Cecelia Polito, Susan Pray, Susanna Prescott, Susan Pray, 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.

The St. Francisville Symphony Association (SFSA) is once again holding a Wine Tasting and Wine Auction. This event will be held in conjunction with the April 28th concert at Grace Church. We hope to auction several wine collections and ask that you consider donating a bottle (or two) of wine for the April "Instant Wine Cellar" auction. Proceeds of the auction help fund the SFSA Scholarship Program and are also used to support the music programs for the local schools. Wines not usually found locally help increase the bidding, but any wine donated is greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you would like to donate and I will make arrangements to collect your wine or donations can also be dropped off at the Historical Society Museum, with a note to my attention. Include your name (or company name) so that we can include it in the list of donors to be displayed at the auction. Finally, plan to attend the Wine Tasting & Auction and concert. It promises to be a lovely event and a great way to celebrate spring. Susie Tully

Vacation Bible School will be the week of July 10 -14 and the theme will be "Maker Fun Factory". Make plans to send your children and grandchildren or volunteer to help by calling Meg Kendrick (721-7342) or Christie Reinhardt (938-8504).

Grace Youth Fun: April will be a busy yet exciting month for the Grace Youth Group! On Monday, April 10th we will be kayaking and fishing in Pointe Coupee with Bayou Sara Kayaks. Got your own kayak? Come join us! All are invited to attend. We will need to know if you would like to attend by 5 p.m. on Wednesday April 5th so we know how many kayaks to rent. Please let Meg know if you plan to attend and are in need of a rental. We will meet at Grace Monday morning and head out. Lunch will be provided by Carol and Bruce Stamey. Permission slips are required for all youth attending if one has not previously been completed. Blank forms can be found on the table outside Ms. Anne's office. Want to volunteer? Let Meg know at youth@gracechurchwfp.org. On Thursday, April 13th after the 7 p.m. service the youth group will participate in their annual cleaning of the church and reflection. Once done, we'll head over to Father Peter's house for bonfires and refreshments. All 6th through 12th grade youth are invited to attend Youth Group every Wednesday from 5 - 7 p.m. Food, fellowship and fun are always provided!

Easter is April 16th and we are ready to order Easter Lilies for the altar decorations. You may put your donation in the offering plate on Sunday or mail it to the office by April 8th.

Palm Crosses: Join us at Jackson Hall on Saturday, April 8 at 10am to make palm crosses for Palm Sunday. If you've never made a palm cross, join us to learn how. Please bring a pair of scissors to cut the fronds

Holy Week and Easter

Maundy Thursday: April 13, Holy Eucharist and Washing of Feet at 7:00PM at Grace Vigil at the Altar of Repose begins at 8:15PM in Jackson Hall.

Cleaning of the Church by the Youth Group begins at 8:00PM, followed by TBA activity.

Good Friday: April 14, Passion of our Lord Service at 12:00 Noon.

Stations of the Cross in Grace Cemetery at 3:00PM.

Saturday of Holy Week: April 15, Great Vigil of Easter at 7:00PM

Easter Sunday: April 16, Holy Eucharist at 7:30 (Grace and St. John's) and 10:00AM. Easter Egg Hunt immediately following the 10:00AM Service.

We have Daily Morning Prayer on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 8:00AM, Thursdays at 9:15, and Fridays at 7:00AM

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

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 14
St. Francisville LA 70775

Sunday Ministry Assistants & Calendar

Sunday, March 26, 2017

Acolytes: Paul Opperman, James Kirschling,
Wyatt Olsen Ella Corinne Howle
Chalice bearers: 7:30am: Sharon Gauthier
10am: Maria Gerry, Sara Klein
Ushers: Tom Morris, Richard Kendrick
Lectors: Sarah Rhody, Rucker Leake
Vestry Rep: Christian DeJean
Altar Guild Team 1
Altar greenery: Robert and Cheryl Singer
Sanctuary Candle: Richard and Meg Kendrick
Coffee Hour: Jan Pourciau
Babysitters: Shayn Rayford, Sarah Roldan

Sunday, April 2, 2017

Acolytes: R. E. Barrow, Charles Fox-Smith,
Joseph DeJean, Logan Reinhardt.
Chalice bearers 7:30am: Bryan McClendon
10am: Brandie Olsen, George Newton
Ushers: Tiger Olsen, Will Plettinger
Lectors: Bill McClendon, Drew Nordgren
Vestry Rep: Dare Didier
Altar Greenery: Carolyn Porche
Altar Guild Team 2
Sanctuary candle: Tom and Jeanne Morris
Coffee Hour: Mickey Melancon
Babysitters: Emma Olsen, Shayn Rayford

March 26, 2017

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

April 2, 2017

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

Wednesday, March 29

9:00am - Lenten Bible Study
5:15pm - Eucharist
5 - 7pm - Youth Group
6:00pm - Lenten Bible Study

Thursday, March 30

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

Friday, March 31

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study
3:00pm - Stations of the Cross

Sunday, April 2

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

Wednesday, April 5

5:15pm - Eucharist
5-7pm - Youth Group

Thursday, April 6

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

Friday, April 7

7:00am - Eucharist
8:30am - Lectionary Bible Study
3:00pm - Stations of the Cross