



# Grace Church of West Feliciana Parish

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

Newsletter for  
September 18 & 25,  
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

## *Some of the faces I have met look scarily familiar*

She could not believe her luck! She was 31 years old and an English teacher at a Catholic preparatory school in Bogota, Colombia. One sunny morning in February of 1976, her principal called her to the office and asked her a question that would change her life for ever. "Would you ever consider moving to the United States?" Sister Victoria proceeded to tell Maria of a private academy in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that wanted a Spanish teacher, preferably from Colombia, which was reputed to speak the best Spanish in the world. Maria, who comes from a lower middle class family, accepted immediately and within 6 months was teaching in Baton Rouge. Four years later, she left the academy and started teaching Spanish for the East Baton Rouge School District. In 1982 she met Jose, a Cuban widower 12 years her senior, who was a janitor at a local school. They married in 1985. After renting an apartment for 1 year, they decided to buy a modest but beautiful home in a new residential community near Episcopal High School, Baton Rouge. The couple had no children, and they never made much money, but they had a very happy marriage. They always had sufficient money to help relatives in Colombia and Cuba, did a little vacationing, enjoyed a few luxuries, and, went to a few favorite restaurants at least twice a month. They even had a little money saved up for retirement. One of the highlights in their life came in May of 2016, when they mailed out their last mortgage payment. Life was good. Jose had retired, having spent the last 15 years working for Walmart, and Maria was looking forward to retirement next year when she turns 70. After that, they expected a life of relative ease. Jose was 81 and wanted to slow down a bit.

August 13, 2016 changed Maria and Jose's life in dramatic ways. Just a few days before Maria was to return to an EBSD school to finish her last year of teaching, the floods destroyed their house. With over 4 feet of water, the elderly couple lost all their possessions. Refusing to leave until the last minute, they had to be rescued in a boat by the local Sheriff's department, in a fairly dangerous operation. After three days in a small corner of Stage 5 at the Celtic Center they were still almost catatonic. Huddled next to each other, with all their possessions in a Costco's shopping cart, they seemed lost in a sea of need. Worst of all, Maria no longer has any living relatives, and Jose has an older son somewhere in Miami, but they have been estranged for many years. Maria speaks some English, but Jose only speaks Spanish. Prior to the floods they had never visited a food pantry, social services agency, or housing program. Now, this proud couple was relaying on volunteers for even the most basic of necessities. They had no idea what to do, were visibly frightened, surrounded by hundreds of strangers, and unable to verbalize what their needs were.

I met Maria and Jose early on Tuesday, August 16. The silence of isolation ended the moment they met me and, in a pressured, hurried, almost incoherent Spanish,

they talked for almost an hour about their fears, their heartache, and, their lack of social networks. I am familiar with this pressured Spanish. These are the sounds of extreme anxiety and desperation. In Colombia we call these people, "Gente al punto de un ataque the nervioso" (People on the verge of a nervous breakdown). I have never met people so alone in the world as this elderly couple. After listening for a while, I simply said, "I would love to hear the rest of the story once I get you out of here. For now, there are some phone calls we have to make. You can do this!" Three hours later, my church was paying for an Air B&B comfortable room, with a private bath, and access to a modern kitchen. After a week at the Air B&B, Maria reconnected with a teacher who had been her friend a few years back before the teacher moved out of state. Recently retired, the teacher had moved back to Baton Rouge, was "High and dry" and invited the elderly couple to move in. I coordinated a work crew to gut their home through a local Episcopal priest in Baton Rouge. We helped the couple apply for FEMA, which gave the family \$12,000 to go towards what will most likely be \$40,000 to \$50,000 dollar restoration. The couple will never regain what they once had and they will most likely have to apply for a loan to finish the work. But, they are glad the Episcopal Church was there for them at the weakest moment of their lives. I check on them once or twice a week. Now that they are less scared, they have moved into the grief stage. Jose tells me Maria has been crying in the bathroom when she thinks he can't hear her. When I speak to her she tells me he is not sleeping well and is tired during the day. They know life will never be the same, but they are safe, they are hopeful, and they are together.

My dear Grace brothers and sisters, this is the type of ministry you are paying for through your donations, your prayers, and your indulgence in allowing your priests to do whatever we can to help the victims of this flood. Please keep praying and keep supporting us. In many ways the need is as great today as it was in mid August. May God continue to bless you, Fr. Roldan+



Fr. Peter's wedding and reception was a blessed time for him and Samantha, and for all of us as well. The happy couple will be on honey moon until September 28. Please keep them both in your prayers.

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

David Barnes, Wayne Blake, Barbara Mitchell, Tom Morris, Sara Nelson, Jim Roland, Margie Sheets, Wendell Wade, David Walker, Pam Willson, Jake Wray, Madeline Wright.

### **Birthdays**

Hayes Howell, Diana Weller, Belton Didier, Teeta Moss-Sept. 18; Nicole Barrow, Kim Martin Wood -Sept. 19; Madeline Horn-Sept. 21; Tim Metz, Wendell Wade, Travis Williams-Sept. 24; Clay Hardouin-Sept. 25; Rachel Howell, Eric Nelson, Melissa Higgins, Bill Pitre, Kelly Ward, Stacy Bell-Sept. 26; MacKenzie Adams, Margie Reid, Joe Savell-Sept. 27; Scott Thompson Sr, Neil Wright, Bill Perkins-Sept. 28; Walter Weller-Sept. 29; Colleen Hill, David Walker, Anne Strachan-Sept. 30.

### **Wedding**

#### **Anniversaries**

Mark and Sharmila Mulkey, Joe and Dahn Savell-Sept. 27.

*Other persons prayers are asked for:*

Charles Barham, Walker Bell, Micaela Kell Bennett, Jolie Berry, Tommy Bishop, 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 Deselles, Molly Douglas, Mark Ellison, Jennifer Erickson, Mark Feltner, Dennis Flynn, Matthew Gill, Roy Hardin, Parke Henderson, Elmo Hegwood, Wayne Hudnall, Joel James, Michelle Jeansonne, 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, Barton Platte, Susanna Prescott, Peter Purpera, Carol Ratcliff, Tammy Riggs, Cole Rourke, Stephen Seale, Gwin Shanks, Kaizlyn Shockley, Cade Stapleton, Glenn Thomas III, 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.

**Your prayers** are asked for the family of Cecil May Dwyer who died September 8. Services will be held on Sunday, September 18; visitation in the church at 1pm followed by a Requiem Eucharist at 2pm.

**Adult Formation Class:** "The Sacraments", led by Jason Kennedy, meets on Wednesday evenings at 6pm. No book is necessary- just sign the list in the Narthex.

**B.R.E.V.E (Baton Rouge Early Vocal Ensemble)** will perform a charity concert for Flood Relief on Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm in Grace Church. Admission is free. A love offering will be collected for flood relief in West Feliciana. Everyone is invited to attend

**Looking for Acolytes:** If you are interested in being an acolyte, 3rd grade or nine years old or older, including any retired people who might like to serve, please contact Hamilton Willis at johnhamiltonwillis@gmail.com. Hamilton will be home and at church Sept. 4 and can train after church anyone who might be elevating in responsibility.

**Craig and Michelle Roth** have moved to Brevard, NC. Their new address is 1951 Asheville Hwy, Brevard, NC 28712. They both have given so much to Grace Church and St. Francisville and we will miss them greatly. Best wishes and our prayers go with them.

**St. John's Church** will have a celebration of the Eucharist on September 18 at 7:30 am.

**Dixie Blue and Donna Wright** would like to thank all who helped with the wedding reception for Father Peter and Samantha Sat., Sept. 10. Thank you to Lucie Butler, Betsy Daniel, Jane Daniel, Dare Didier, Linda Flynn, Lisa and Tony Horn, Rachel Howell, Lyn Lokoy, Genie McClendon, Anne Newton, Jan Pourciau, Linda and Jeff Pruitt, Cheryl Singer, Martha Singer, Sue and Jon Steib, Debbie Thomas, Mary Thompson, Becky and Neil Wright, Missy Higgins, Coco Treppendahl, Ashley Fox-Smith, Sheryl Wynters, Lyn Leak. The dedication and work of this great team was just amazing and we are so very grateful for all you did. This reception was a great tribute to our beloved Father Peter and his beautiful bride, Samantha. Thank you again, Dixie and Donna

**Vestry and Finance Committee meet next Tuesday, at 4:30pm and 5:30pm respectively.**



**New Coordinator of Youth and Family Ministries Hired:** We are very happy to report that Megan Kendrick has been hired as Grace Church's coordinator for youth and family ministries, effective Monday, September 26, 2016. This position is 100% funded through several parishioner's contributions to our Youth Ministry Fund and creates no operational incumbrance for Grace Church. In this capacity, Meg will assist Fr. Peter with our youth groups and children's programs including recruiting volunteers, communicating with parents, planning lessons, arranging meals, planning Diocesan youth events, etc. Removing these administrative responsibilities from Fr. Peter will free up his time to do more pastoral care and to assist us with the long flood recovery ahead of us. Meg has a Bachelor's degree in Religious Studies and a Master's Degree in Human Resources.

Please join me in welcoming Meg to our staff and please continue to keep us in your prayers. Blessings, Fr. Roldan+



**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, September 18, 2016

**Acolytes:** Ethan Lyon, Paul Opperman, Joseph DeJean, Logan Reinhardt  
**Chalice bearers:** 7:30am: Bryan McClendon  
10:00am: Sheryl Wynters, Joey Gammill  
**Ushers:** Joe Savell, Dwight Singer  
**Lectors:** Rucker Leake, Bill McClendon  
**Vestry Rep:** Dare Didier  
**Altar Guild Team 1**  
**Altar flowers:** Mary Thompson  
**Sanctuary Candle:** Carolyn Douglas  
**Coffee Hour:** Adam and Carly Whatley  
**Babysitters:** Shelby Griffin, Lorna Klein

### Sunday, September 25, 2016

**Acolytes:** Hayden Howle, Julia DeJean, Clara Jane Hughes, Madison Pollet  
**Chalice bearers:** 7:30am: Carol Stamey  
10am: Richard Kendrick, Sara Klein  
**Ushers:** Robert Singer, Glenn Thomas  
**Lectors:** Nicole Means, Landon Anderson  
**Vestry Rep:** Heather Howle  
**Altar Guild Team 2**  
**Altar flowers:** Dahn and Joe Savell  
**Sanctuary Candle:** Suzanne Beckley  
**Coffee Hour:** Adam and Carly Whatley  
**Babysitters:** Madie Kane, Sara Roldan

### September 18, 2016

7:30am - Eucharist  
(Grace and St. John's)  
8:45-9:45 - Bible Study  
10:00am - Eucharist  
Coffee Hour  
4-6pm Youth Group

### September 25, 2016

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

### Wednesday, September 21

9:00am - Bible Study  
5:15pm - Holy Eucharist  
6:00pm - Bible Study

### Thursday, September 22

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

### Friday, September 23

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

### Sunday, September 25

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

### Wednesday, September 28

9:00am - Bible Study  
5:15pm - Holy Eucharist  
6:00pm - Bible Study

### Thursday, September 29

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