



The Anchor Line

Grace Episcopal Church, Panama City Beach, Florida

www.gracespirit.org

August, 2017

Dear parishioners and friends of Grace Church:

In June I reported on our parish status regarding finances, discussions with St. Thomas and Bishop Russell pertaining to shared ministry, and Fr. Joe's upcoming retirement. I'd like to take this opportunity to bring you up-to-date on what's occurred since then.

Normally summer is our leanest time for contributions. So far, this summer, you have all been extremely faithful and generous in your financial support, and I am very grateful for this. With income in June and July we are current on all expenses and have been able to make a good start on repayment of our Diocesan loan. I'd like to reiterate the Diocesan funds we borrowed are normally used to help new churches become established or help expand the ministries of existing churches. So it is important that we continue to work on paying down this loan.

Fr. Joe has informed the Diocese of his intention to retire at the end of August and has submitted the formal paperwork. Our vestry recently met with the Bishop to discuss options for finding a new rector, and several opportunities are available to us. We will be exploring these options in the coming weeks, but have no specific deadline for this decision. One immediate action will be to arrange for supply priests for a time sufficient for us to make a decision on which option to pursue and to secure the services of a priest. I would ask that between now and Fr. Joe's last day you find some time to personally thank him for his service and dedication to Grace church during his time as our priest, pastor, and friend.

For those who were unable to attend our joint dinner and communion with St. Thomas in June it was very successful, and everyone seemed to enjoy the time of shared worship and fellowship. We are looking at ways we can continue to build on this momentum and look for ways to

foster good relations with St. Thomas. In this regard one of our options to move forward may still include some form of shared ministry, but there have been no firm proposals yet. Please know we are committed to growing our ministry and service in the Panama City Beach community.

Let me reiterate that we are at the beginning of this transition and many opportunities need to be prayerfully explored. Many decisions need to be made, and a host of details need to be worked through on the way to moving forward as Grace church and in building a closer relationship between Grace and St. Thomas, so that we can better serve our beach community and share the good news of Jesus Christ.

I will continue to provide you with regular updates through announcements in worship and by email. Please feel free to contact me at any time and I will try to answer any questions or listen to any suggestions you may have. But above all I ask that you be in prayer for this important work.

Sam Richardson, Senior Warden

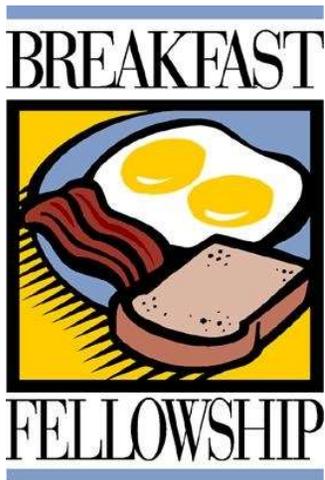
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Wednesday Night Fellowship

Join us for our Mid-Week service on Wednesday's beginning at 5:45 pm with the Holy Communion followed by a potluck supper. Bring a dish to share and your favorite beverage of choice.



Join us in Wilhite Hall Sunday, August 6th, between the 8:00 am and 10:30 am worship service for good food and fellowship!! Invite a friend.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
Tuesday, August 8th, at 12noon at
Triple J's Steakhouse on Thomas Drive
All men are invited and bring a friend!!



We need coffee hour hosts for the month of August at the 8:00 am hour. Sign-up sheet is in Wilhite Hall. Thank you to everyone who participates in this ministry.

Those serving the month of August

<u>8/6</u>	8:00 am	10:30 am
Chalice	Knafelc	Richardson
Acolyte	Knafelc	Richardson
Lector	Westmoreland	Russo
Intercessor	Westmoreland	Richardson
Counters		Richardson
Greeters		Swearingen

<u>8/13</u>		
Chalice	Gray	Walters
Acolyte	Gray	Walters
Lector	Hale	Shepard
Intercessor	Hale	Walters
Counters		Walters
Greeters		Swearingen

<u>8/20</u>		
Chalice	Knafelc	Steere
Acolyte	Knafelc	Steere
Lector	Gray	Steere
Intercessor	Gray	Steere
Counters		Swearingen
Greeters		Swearingen

<u>8/27</u>		
Chalice	Walters	Richardson
Acolyte	Walters	Richardson
Lector	Westmoreland	Shepard
Intercessor	Westmoreland	Richardson
Counters		Richardson
Greeters		Swearingen



August 6

Exodus 34:29-35
2 Peter 1:13-21
Luke 9:28-36
Psalm 99

August 13

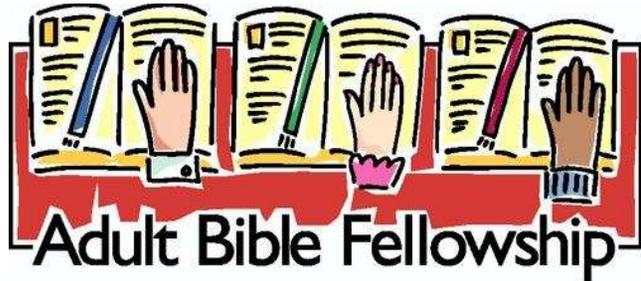
Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28
Romans 10:5-15
Matthew 14:22-33
Psalm 105:1-6, 16-22

August 20

Genesis 45:1-15
Romans 11:1-2, 29-32
Matthew 15:21-28
Psalm 133

August 27

Exodus 1:8-2:10
Romans 12:1-8
Matthew 16:13-20
Psalm 124



Join us on Sunday Mornings at 9:15 am in the library for Adult Bible Study. Our own parishioner, Debbie Edmondson is teaching.



Fall Fundraiser

We are considering a Pumpkin Patch fund raiser this fall. The only investment is space and labor! It's a great opportunity to increase our presence in the community and raise some money at the same time. We need enough volunteers to man (or woman) the "store" the last two weeks of October. We would be open for business from 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM Monday through Saturday. Sunday optional. We need to know who would be willing to help; which days and how many hours. There is a sign-up sheet in the parish hall. There are also folders with more information or you can visit www.pumpkinusa.com



Electronic Fund Giving

We thank you for your faithful support.

Anyone wishing to donate to Grace Church online may now do so. Just visit us at gracespiprit.org and go to the Stewardship tab.

Our budget requirement weekly is \$2,869.21