



The Anchor Line

Grace Episcopal Church, Panama City Beach, Florida

www.gracespirit.org

February, 2018

Dear parishioners and friends of Grace Church:

One of the things I have been reminded of this epiphany season is the image of light. The light of Christ in this world that comes to us through the incarnation Christmas. Being new to the community there are many ways in which one tries to get to know those who are part of the community as well the culture and nature of the community at large. Also in being new, one of the things I have, is friends and mentors check-in to see how things are going. Often they inquire about the most exciting and and life giving things in which I have participated. For myself it has me asking, where have I seen the light of Christ in the last two months?

The Light of Christ is very present in our communities at Grace and St. Thomas. In our listening sessions where people have expressed everything from their first encounters with faith in God to their call to the community engagement, to our Christmas services seeing the number of people we serve who are visitors at our church, to the gratitude of those we serve at Supper at Grace and how we make a difference in the community around us; through Happening, the youth program in the diocese I have been a part of the last four years and in which I get to see highschooler's from around the diocese explore their faith deeply in and share their faith with one another—these are just a few of the many places in which Christ's light shines in the world.

We often live in a world that may feel dark, that may feel like we have no control and that can be a challenge. One of the things that

I have the asked myself to look for in that, is where do I see the glimmers of life. Where do I see light that radiates in the darkness? Where do I see people who are making a difference in this world? Where do I see people responding to God's call that we love one another?

As we enter into the season of Lent starting February 14, also Valentine's Day, I wonder how we might approach this season in 2018. There are many traditions in which people give things up or take things on or sometimes do nothing at all. For me I have asked myself to reflect on the things in which I am grateful to reflect on the things in which I see light and love in this world and in that reflection perhaps that encourages me to make a positive difference. So perhaps as we enter into the season of Lent that is often shaped by our recognition of our sins, our recognition of our need for reconciliation in the world, our recognition of our need to turn back to God, perhaps in all of that we can also be reminded to look for light and love as we put things back together in the season of Lent. As we make peace with the world around us there are many things to be grateful for and many ways in which God's light shine's in the darkness.

Mary Alice +



Join Us For Breakfast

Join us in Wilhite Hall Sunday, February 4th for our Fellowship Breakfast. We will meet immediately AFTER the 9:00 am service. Everyone is invited.

All Are Called

A couple of weeks ago I talked about the calls of Jonah and Simon, Andrew, James and John and how the response was so radically different at first. I also talked about my personal call and how I was much more like Jonah than the 2 sets of brothers. However, I feel strongly that we all are called to follow God and with His Grace we are able to do so. I would like to give you a bible study homework assignment (no quizzes later I promise). Look up the other calls in the bible and see how those called initially responded. You can start with Abram, move to Moses, and then check out the OT prophets and then other folks who were called in the Gospels and the NT. Think about Saul/Paul. See what their reaction was to being called by God. Some were like the brothers cited above, but most were more like Jonah. The important thing was that they all eventually responded positively. Just like those folks in the Bible, we are all called to follow not just as folks who come to church on Sundays, but to be disciples and prophets, (to use a word that Episcopalians hate to use Evangelists.) But you don't have to stand on street corners screaming about following Jesus or go door to door proclaiming the good news. To quote a concept from Cursillo and Kairos, all that is necessary is to "Make a Friend, Be a Friend, and Lead a Friend to Christ!" Amen!

Deacon Ed +



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.



**MEN'S FELLOWSHIP LUNCHEON
Tuesday, February 13th, at 12noon at
Triple J's Steakhouse on Thomas Drive
All men are invited and bring a friend!!**



We need coffee hour hosts for March. Sign-up sheet is in Wilhite Hall. Thank you to everyone who participates in this ministry.



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 gracespirit.org and go to the Stewardship tab.

Our budget requirement weekly is \$2,649.50. If you have not turned in a pledge card, you may still do so. Go to our website and download it and email to Dawn in the church office at secretary@gracespirit.org.

**“FAT” TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER
FEBRUARY 13, 2018 5:30 – 7:00 PM**



**GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
9101 PANAMA CITY BEACH PARKWAY, FL
CALL 235-4136 FOR RESERVATIONS OR
SIGN-UP IN WILHITE HALL**



Generous Donations accepted at the door ☺

