



The Anchor Line

Grace Episcopal Church, Panama City Beach, Florida

www.gracespirit.org

November, 2016

Dear parishioners and friends of Grace Church:

The Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast the Right Reverend Russell Kendrick will be making his official and annual visitation to Grace Church on Sunday morning, November 6th. Diocesan bishops of the Episcopal Church are required to visit the congregations under their care at least every three years, although most chose to do so more frequently: Bishop Duncan visited every eighteen months, and Bishop Kendrick is endeavoring to do so once a year. Although Bishop Kendrick's previous visitation was Wednesday, September 2nd 2015, and he has also chosen Grace Church to be the site of a couple of diocesan regional meetings where he has been present, this will be the first time he will be with us on a Sunday. Bishop Kendrick will preside and preach at both the 8 A.M. and 10:30 A.M. services that day; he will join us for our first Sunday fellowship breakfast; attend the Adult Bible Class at 9:15; greet and meet the 10:30 A.M. congregation at a reception following that service; and finally have an informal meeting with the vestry at approximately 12 Noon. If you've met Bishop Kendrick on his previous visits to Grace Church, or encountered him at diocesan meetings, I need hardly tell you that he is full of an energy and enthusiasm that is highly contagious—in the right sort of way—and so this would be a wonderful opportunity to invite your friends, neighbors, and family members to your church home and share with them what you value here. It should also need hardly be said that all members of Grace Church should be present at one of the services that day unless, as an old boss of mine would say, "for good cause prevented," *e.g.*: sickness, travel, or employment!

All Saints' Day is November 1st on the Church's calendar—hence, All Hallows' Even, or "Hallowe'en," the night before. Although many of the saints are known to us and have been "raised to the altar," *i.e.*: given their own days in the Church year, on All Saints' we celebrate that "great multitude which no one can number," (Revelation 7:9) those saints known

to us but also those known to God alone. This is the Church Triumphant. But we will be keeping the feast on Sunday, November 6th, when the Bishop is here with us. The day after All Saints' is All Souls', November 2nd, where we remember our faithful departed family members, friends, and loved ones, that they may, in the words of the Prayer Book requiem mass, "go from strength to strength in the life of perfect service." This is the Church Expectant. And we are the Church Militant. The names of your faithful departed will be remembered at the altar that night at our 5:45 P.M. service. You can write them on the slips of paper you will again find in your bulletins this Sunday, or telephone or email them to Dawn in our parish office on or before this Tuesday.

Supper at Grace is our weekly meal for the poor, the homeless, the unemployed and the underemployed of our community. It is offered every Thursday, and although we always make it very nice for our guests, I have said that our Thanksgiving Supper at Grace is the jewel in the crown. However, this year we will not be having our annual Thanksgiving Dinner at Grace Church. I'm afraid it's a perfect storm, in that too many members of "The A Team," will be out of town and unavailable to work. And since our snowbirds will not be here for another month or two, we won't have an "Eh Team," either. (Get it?) Anyway, the vestry briefly entertained the thought that we could still try to pull it off and at least do something, but a day or two later the reality asserted itself that it would probably be way too difficult to reinvent the wheel and all this time. But here's the thing: everybody will be back in place in the run-up to Christmas—when we usually cancel Supper at Grace the week before—and so instead we thought we'd have a nice Christmas dinner then, and so perhaps this will be an acceptable trade-off. I've even suggested that we make it something of a Christmas party for our guests that night. I mean, I wonder how often some of our guests ever get to go to a party? We might even collect some simple toys for the little ones present that night; perhaps we can persuade Santa Claus to drop by; and I think we'll do some carol singing as well. And maybe you have some ideas too. Stay tuned, and we'll have more information for you next month. But for now, if you know anybody who is not a Grace Church member but who has volunteered for us at Thanksgiving—and there have been quite a few—please let them know about this one time change of plans; and, if you know of any other churches or agencies doing a

Thanksgiving dinner, let us know so we can forward this information to our Thursday night guests in the weeks ahead.

I also want to thank Mary Kay Thompson and Kim Jacobson for filling in as our keyboardists and choir directors this past month and on through to Christmas: we certainly have had, as the French call it, an embarrassment of riches! John Dunaway has also just now stopped in to my office to let me know that he has successfully downloaded some of the synthesizer software that will enable us to have a few hymns played through our organ in the event that an organist cannot be with us.

Finally, our Stewardship Pledge Drive begins this Sunday, and our Treasurer Todd Harris will speak to us at both services; this will be followed by other Stewardship presentations on Sundays and videos in your emails in the weeks ahead. The theme of our Stewardship campaign is "Grace Church: A Little Church with a Big Heart." And to bring things full circle, with thanks to Bill "Pineapple Willy" Buskell, we will have a special surprise for you on Sunday, November 6th, when Bishop Kendrick is here with us!

Sincerely,



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, November 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, November 8th at 12noon
Triple J's Steakhouse on Thomas Drive
All men are invited and bring a friend!!**

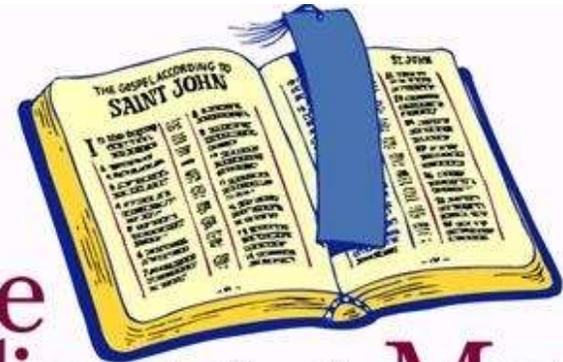
Those serving the month of November

<u>11/6</u>	8:00 am	10:30 am
Chalice	Walters	Harris
Acolyte	Walters	Harris
Lector	Westmoreland	Shepard
Intercessor	Westmoreland	Harris
Counters		Harris
Greeters		Swearingen

<u>11/13</u>		
Chalice	Knafelc	Steere
Acolyte	Knafelc	Steere
Lector	Hale	Barnes
Intercessor	Hale	Steere
Counters		Richardson
Greeters		Swearingen

<u>11/20</u>		
Chalice	Knafelc	Walters
Acolyte	Knafelc	Walters
Lector	Gray	Walters
Intercessor	Gray	Walters
Counters		Walters
Greeters		Swearingen

<u>11/27</u>		
Chalice	Knafelc	Richardson
Acolyte	Knafelc	Richardson
Lector	Westmoreland	Richardson
Intercessor	Westmoreland	Richardson
Counters		Swearingen
Greeters		Swearingen



Bible Readings *for the Month*

November 6	Haggai 1:15-2:9 2 Thessalonians 2: -5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38 Psalm 145:1-5, 18-22
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November 13	Isaiah 65:17-25 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19 Psalm 98
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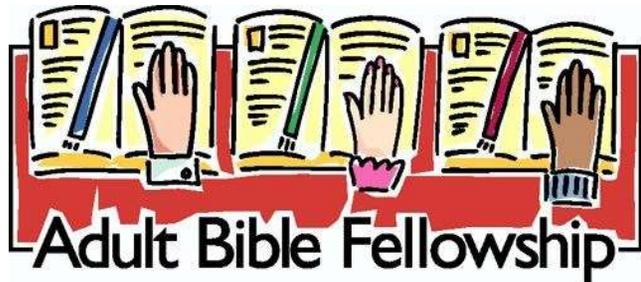
November 20	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43 Psalm 46
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Birthdays &



Anniversaries

11/1 Suze Hughes
11/10 Dave Steere
11/26 Sayre Steere
11/30 Marie Knafelc

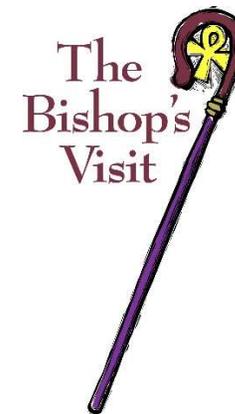


Adult Bible Fellowship

Join us on Sunday Mornings at 9:15 am for Adult Bible Study. Our own parishioner, Debbie Edmondson is teaching "Experiencing God".



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



The
Bishop's
Visit

Sunday, November 6th at both services!!