



And Also With You

APRIL 2015

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Street Fairhope, Alabama 36532
251-929-1606 www.visitgrace.net Facebook.com/GraceAnglican

Beach Floats, Dr. Van Fleet Roses & Grace Church

APRIL

SUNDAYS

10:00 am
Worship
(nursery provided)
&
Children's Chapel

MONDAYS

6:30pm-Graham
Cooke Group-
Information 455-5940

WEDNESDAYS

10:30 am
Women's Bible
Study-
Information 990-2973

12:00 noon
Holy Communion

FRIDAYS

8:15 am
Men's Group-
Information 422-3169

CHALICE BEARERS

April 2
Maundy
Thursday
Jane & Bob
Grafe

April 5-Easter
Becky Johnson
Jan Bogue

April 12
Maggie Rockett
Susan Jones

April 19
Kitty Barksdale
Janic Terry

April 26
Maggie & Julian
Carnes



The Rev'd Scott Davis

I discerned at the end of January that we at Grace had slipped into a malaise of complacency and indifference. I had known something was wrong for some time but could not put my finger on it. It is difficult to pin point this sort of thing when the people at church are really great people who love the Lord and have for a long time. So what happened?

When my children were young, we stayed at a friend's cabin on the harbor lagoon in Destin. It was perfect for small children. It had a tiny sliver of a beach by a dock where the kids could play in the sand at the water's edge without getting mauled by ocean waves. The area between the neighboring docks was marshy and not the kind of place adults like to go when they go to the beach, but like I said, it was perfect for the Davis family at the time.

One afternoon, the Davises were down at the *baby beach* and the kids had a couple of floats. As the boys made sand castles I noticed that one of the floats was drifting and I made a mental note to retrieve it later. I was distracted with some immediate need so that by the time I turned my attention back to the float, it had drifted a ways away, but it was still within easy reach. Again, one of the kids distracted me, and I forgot about the float. When I looked again, the float was now at the neighbor's dock and had washed back into the marshy area. The problem with marshy areas is snakes, and I HATE snakes.

As the dad in the family, it was my job to retrieve the float. I kept kicking myself for not getting the float when it was closer. I knew that I could get it at any time so procrastinated until slowly but surely, the float had drifted well past my comfort zone.

I retrieved the float that day without getting bitten by a snake, but I was not happy about it. I

realized that important things can quietly and quickly drift away until they are beyond reach.

The same kind of drifting happened to us at Grace. Slowly but surely we began to drift into indifference and complacency. I think we all believed that we could easily return to zeal and fervor at any time, but just like my experience with the float, we looked up and realized that we were not only further from where we wanted to be but also in *snake* country.

The spiritual life involves poisons and antidotes. Poisonous plants and their antidotes grow together in the same area. This is one of God's perfect wonders. The same is true in the spiritual life. While Grace ingested the poisons of complacency and indifference, God provided the antidotes of fervor and zeal.

I shared my concern about the poisons at both of the Ash Wednesday services and charged us with returning to the Lord with the passion we have known in the past. I am blessed to say that, by His grace, the poisons are being neutralized and the antidotes are taking affect.

As confirmation, God gave one of our women



the following picture during a recent Wednesday Communion service. During prayer she saw a pale, pink rose. Being a rose enthusiast, she immediately knew that it was a Dr. Van Fleet rose which was her particular favorite kind of rose because of its incredible fragrance. The rose, however, was drooping as if in desperate need of water.

The rose had not withered but was quickly moving in that direction. Then she saw the rose revive as if it was time lapse photography in reverse. As it revived, the rose began to open, releasing the full fragrance of its petals.

The interpretation seems clear. We had been standing at the altar of God, and this particular lady is in leadership at Grace. It makes sense that the picture would be of Grace Church. The beginning of the picture is how the church has begun to droop. Lent, however, is like the time release photography in reverse where the drooped rose comes back to life.

Complacency always wilts whatever it

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Beach Floats, etc. from page 1

touches. Indifference is so **deadly** because it is so subtle. The average



Christian is on guard against *notorious sins*. Because our behaviors are in check we falsely believe that we are spiritually safe.

However, there are worse cancers to the soul than merely bad behaviors, complacency being one.

The healing work Grace has experienced has been the Lord's doing. However, I have noticed several subtle shifts on our parts that may have opened a door to both fervor and zeal.

- Intercessors have begun to meet on Monday mornings to intercede for Grace.
- A prayer box is in the lobby for all to submit prayer requests.
- Holy Water is again in the back of the church.
- Each Sunday morning a different member of the Monday Intercessors prays over the chairs, sanctuary, and for those who will worship at Grace each Sunday morning.
- Praise music is again playing 24/7 in the sanctuary.
- Gerold Harbin has joined the Sunday worship team.

The point of the above is not that any of these single additions causes change, but they comprise our response to the God/man relationship. These are additions to make our church's atmosphere more God centered. This is our desire to draw closer again to the things of God.

Beach floats can slowly drift away. A rose can slowly begin to droop. Complacency and indifference to our life in God can overtake zeal and fervor within our hearts. We, however, are making our way back towards God, moving towards the right path.

During worship several weeks ago three people each had a vision (picture)

from the Lord that they shared with me following the service. Last Sunday, God gave several pictures during the service as well as several pertinent words of knowledge. Yea God!

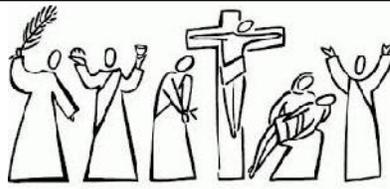
Once Easter comes, let us not lose the momentum that the Lord is building during Lent. Let us, in fact, press in even harder for more of God in our lives.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS



2 Kitty Barksdale
8 Cheri Kriner
25 Beverly Terry
27 Patricia Goldsby





Holy Week Schedule
April 2-Maundy Thursday-6:00pm
Holy Communion & Stripping of the Altar

April 3-Good Friday-12:noon
Liturgy of the Cross-No Communion

April 5-Resurrection Sunday-10:am

Follow Father Scott's new blog at www.visitgrace.net and click on BLOG.



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Grace Church on Facebook at: [Facebook.com/GraceAnglican](https://www.facebook.com/GraceAnglican)

Redemptive Gifts Workshop-
May 2, 2015
9:am-4:pm
Christ Anglican Church, Mobile
Led by Father Brandon Spain & Father Scott Davis



"Every circumstance of our lives is about following a particular plan that God has laid out for a definite purpose."
Graham Cooke