



# And Also With You

December 2014



Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Drive Fairhope, Alabama 36532  
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## December

### Sundays

10am Worship  
(nursery provided  
& Kids' Chapel)

6:30pm-The Union's  
Worship Service  
(nursery provided  
& Kids' Chapel)

### Mondays

6:30pm Graham Cooke  
Small Group-Sandy  
Sinclair 455-5940

### Wednesdays

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

12:noon- Communion

### Fridays

8:15am Men's Group  
Tom Sinclair 422-3169



Dec 24

5:15pm-Reception  
in Lobby

6:00pm-Christmas  
Eve Candle Light  
Service

## Chalice Bearers

Dec 7

Kitty Barksdale  
Janic Terry

Dec 14

Jan Bogue  
Becky Johnson

Dec 21

Jane and Bob Grafe

Dec 24

Maggie Rockett  
Susan Jones

Dec 28

Kitty Barksdale  
Janic Terry

## Old Templates



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

Recently, I have become aware of how often we use old templates to process life. A template is a computer document that has the basic format of something (such as a business letter, chart, graph, newsletter, etc.)

that can be used many different times.

A template is basically a pattern. "And Also With You" uses a template—the same pattern—from month to month. The information varies each month, yet the general format remains the same. The newsletter includes boxes for the calendar, birthdays, finances, upcoming events, as well as the teaching from the Word as its center piece.

We used a different template before 2007. It was an old template which was not as engaging as the present one. The newer template took some time to learn how to use but once learned, it provided a better product.

Everyone lives life using either an old template or a new one. The fall of man and the entrance of sin causes everyone to process life through the old template. Past wounds along with guilt from particular sins create boxes within a person's heart that hem them into an old way of processing life rather than a new one. Once Jesus enters the picture, however, He offers a new template in which to process life. The new template far surpasses the old. The improvements are obvious, enhancing the ultimate purpose of the project, offering vast new freedoms in all areas of life.

The Wise Men illustrate the use of both an old and new template through which to interpret the events of their day. They see a

king's star in the east and follow it. This is a new template decision. It is dangerous, risky, and actually a little crazy. When they lose sight of the star (inferred in Matthew 2:10) the Wise Men go to the logical places to find the newborn king. They steer towards the capital city and the king's palace, assuming that a very special prince must certainly be born in such a place.

If only the Wise Men had stayed with the new template of the Spirit. How many children's lives might have been spared if only they had operated out of the new and not the old? They followed their soul instead of the Spirit and it cost a number of lives. However, after finding the baby king in Bethlehem the Wise Men operate out of the new instead of the old by heeding the warning of God that came through a dream.

Years later when Jesus emerges as a charismatic, young rabbi who does incredible miracles, the Jews interpret God's gift of Messiah through the old template.

They incorrectly interpreted God's Word and believed that the Messiah is to come in majesty, with an army, restoring Israel's independence. They imagine Him re-establishing the Golden Age of Israel as it was under David and Solomon. The hopes of many Jews, including most of the disciples, are dashed when they see the former rabbi-carpenter executed by the Romans. They process the circumstances through an old template. Nothing fits. They keep looking for the crown, the army, and the king on a white horse. Instead, they witness the Lamb of God as a suffering servant, and it does not compute.

God's template, however, has Jesus coming as a suffering servant as prophesied in Isaiah. The Father offers the Son as the eter-



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nal sacrifice on a Friday at 3pm. God's template of a kingdom involves the heart rather than brick and mortar. The same is true today.



The trouble many Christians encounter is how to process life on a daily basis through God's new template rather than the old template where we see ourselves as orphans responsible for our own survival, management, and success.

The old template operates from the enemy's perspective with self at its center. The new template operates from God's perspective with His Kingdom at its center. This is why Jesus seldom preaches about the church and instead preaches all the time about the Kingdom—the new template.

The template example goes further. The Lord has been teaching us that the Kingdom of God is neither meat nor drink but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. People do not live by bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Receiving a word from God means that it must also be interpreted. Each word must be run through a filter. The filter can be the old template or the new one. God's word can hook into our woundings which come from unresolved issues. The woundings can cause a person to misinterpret God's word like the Jews of Jesus's day. The alternative, however, is that God's word can pass through the new filter of the Kingdom. This is why a key objective at Grace is to learn to hear from God accurately and correctly.

This Christmas Season observe how you process the holidays. Observe how you process God's word for your life. Ask yourself often, am I stuck in an old pattern or am I processing life through the new.

**“Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creation. Old is passed away, behold the new is come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17**

Congratulations to Garrett Williams on his baptism into Christ, November 23.



December Birthdays

- 2 Nicolas Terry
- 4 Laura Clark
- 6 Karen Skinner
- 6 Patrick Mutual (Thor)
- 8 Gordon Gunderson
- 12 Drennan Williams
- 15 Forrest Edhegard
- 17 Barbara Pate
- 19 Barbara England
- 20 Cynthia Tunnell
- 25 The Lord Jesus
- 27 Frances Twitty
- 27 Madeleine Huhn
- 27 Garrett Williams



“When everything feels like nothing then God is up to something.”

TJ Adkison



December 24, 2014

5:15pm Pot Luck Christmas Party in the Lobby —Bring finger foods and desserts to enjoy prior to the Christmas Eve Service

6:pm-Joint Christmas Candlelight Service with The Union—Father Scott and Ovie Moore will give a *Dialogue Homily* this evening.



Our love and prayers go out to Sherlyn Culwell and her family on the death of her father, Lt. Col. James O. Estes on November 15, 2014.



September-November 2014 Financials

Income	\$44,022.85
Expenses	\$48,381.73
Net	\$-4,358.88

We greatly appreciate all gifts that help move this ministry forward in the Lord's service.

