



And Also With You

December 2015

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Street Fairhope, Alabama 36532
251-929-1606 www.visitgrace.net frscottdavis@aol.com



December

Sundays

10am Worship
(nursery provided)
6:30pm-The Union's
Worship Service
(nursery provided
& Kids' Chapel)

Mondays

10:45am Intercessors-
Maggie Carnes
706-897-6381
6:30pm Graham Cooke
Small Group-Sandy
Sinclair 455-5940

Wednesdays

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

Fridays

8:15am Men's Group
Bob Grafe 751-5266



Dec 24

5:15pm-Reception
in Lobby

6:00pm-Christmas
Eve Candle Light
Service

Chalice Bearers

Dec 6

Jane and Bob Grafe

Dec 14

Becky Johnson
Jan Bogue

Dec 20

Maggie Rockett
Susan Jones

Dec 24

Kitty Barksdale
Janic Terry

Dec 27

Julian and Maggie
Carnes

The Gate Beautiful



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

Acts 3 tells an exciting story from the early church. A good place to begin when looking at this story is to ask, "Who, What, When, and Where." The Who is Peter, John, and a man lame from birth. The

What is a crippled man begging for financial help while instead getting healed. The When is *one day at 3pm*, and the Where is the Gate Beautiful at the Temple.

There are a number of points worth mentioning in the story. No detail in Scripture is insignificant. Note the location where the lame man is placed—the *Gate Beautiful*. This particular gate had bronze inlays of scenes from noble times. The gate was huge and joined one section of the Temple to another. The Greek word for *beautiful* in the passage means *graceful movement*. I find that both ironic and sacramentally prophetic. The irony is that a man who is clumsy because of his handicap is placed by the gate which means *graceful movement*. The sacramentally prophetic meaning is that the man is placed daily at a gate whose name *declares* the end result of the miracle God intends for this man's life—*graceful movement*. Once healed the man goes jumping, and leaping, and praising God—*graceful movement* (or at least we hope!).

Next, we are told that the man is carried daily by others to the *Gate Beautiful*. There is a derogatory expression used for a person who does not pull his weight in a partnership: the person is being *carried*. The story begins with the man being *carried* by others, however, after the healing, we find Peter offering the lame man a hand in order to help him

stand on his own two feet. There is a huge difference between *carrying a person* financially or academically and one who is *offered a hand* to get up on their own with God's help. God plans for us to help others get on their feet without enabling them by carrying them for the rest of their lives.

When the lame man saw Peter and John entering the Temple, he asked them for money. Recently I heard a talk at the annual Anglican Mission Clergy Conference. The speaker taught on *God's economy* versus the *world's economy*. He asked, "What fixes the world's economy? Money." He then proceeded to ask, "What fixes everything in God's economy? Jesus."

It is interesting that the lame man sought the world's solution while sitting in God's house. How often do we love Jesus while at the same time seeking the world's solution to our problems?

It is also notable that the world's answer might make the lame man's life more

comfortable yet it does not fix the man's by most pressing need. Peter says to the man, "Silver and gold have I none, but such as I have, give I you. In the Name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, walk!" Peter says that he does not have the world's solution to give the lame man, but he does have the answer in God's economy. The interaction with God's economy is what changes lives permanently, making us want to run, and leap, and praise God.

I find it curious in Acts 3:4-5 that Peter *looks straight at* the lame man. This may sound insignificant but how often do we move through life without actually focusing on those around us? Peter focusses on the lame man and says to him, "Look at us!" In other words, *focus* on what God is doing. The



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man asks Peter for money, and Peter asks for the man's attention. This is about all the lame man has yet he gives it *first*. God orchestrates matters so that the man's giving of his attention to the Apostles becomes a seed that is sown in order to produce a harvest of healing. He gives his attention to God's agents and subsequently reaps a healing that is for the rest of his life.

Peter asks the man to focus—to give him his undivided attention. The man does so *expecting*. *Focus and expectation* are two key elements to healing. When various problems cripple us, it helps to step back and focus on the Savior. Healing flows from focusing on the Lord and His faithfulness in the past, and expecting Him to repeat the miracles again. The lame man focuses and expects, although his expectations are that he would receive money rather than healing. We can get it wrong and God still gets it right for us. Focus and expectation are invaluable to the healing process.

Key points that we learn from this story are:


- What is sacramentally prophetic in our lives that we often overlook?
- Are others carrying you or are you using their help to get back on your feet?
- Do you believe that the broken things needing to be fixed come from the world's economy or God's?
- What seed can you sow into God's field for the harvest that He has for you?
- Are you focused and expecting when approaching God about the broken items in your life?

Blessings, Father Scott +




God has blessed us with so much and gift giving at Christmas originates from God giving His greatest gift—Jesus. This year, we want to bless our missionaries with a Christmas gift offering. Our missionaries live sacrificially and will not be home with family this Christmas. The Riley's are in France and the Skinners are in Indonesia. If you want to bless them with a Christmas gift make your check to [Grace Church](#) and on the memo line put [Missionary Christmas!](#)






December Birthdays

- 2 Nicolas Terry
- 4 Laura Clark
- 6 Karen Skinner
- 6 Patrick Mutual
- 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

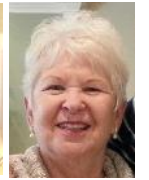






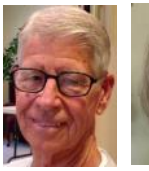

6pm Christmas Eve




Father Scott named the Sabbatical Committee who will work on the church's behalf in preparing it for his 2017 Sabbatical.

Matt Castellano, Susan Jones, & Alan Pate

Maggie Carnes, Jerry Schussler, Kitty Barksdale, & Janic Terry



Welcome to Crystal Hadley who began leading worship at Grace in November. Crystal is the Worship Leader for The Union and was a Worship leader at a church in Foley for a number of years. She currently works at Rotolo's restaurant during the week.