



And Also With You

FEBRUARY 2015

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Drive Fairhope, Alabama 36532
251-929-1606 www.visitgrace.net

FEBRUARY

SUNDAYS

10:00 am
Worship
(nursery provided)

Children's

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

February 1
Jane and Bob
Grafe

February 8
Becky Johnson
Jan Bogue

February 15
Maggie Rockett
Susan Jones

February 22
Kitty Barksdale
Janic Terry

What Jesus Marvels At



The Reverend Scott Davis

This past week I was sick. There was something bronchial going on, and even with a steroid shot and antibiotics, it took a good eight days to feel better. When I get sick, I get grumpy, and when I get grumpy, I get depressed. When I do not feel good, the whole world and my life feels like they are going to hell in a hand basket. This is always a clue that it is time to take to my bed. You do not want to meet this particular pastor when he is feeling bad. As I lay in bed, the phone rang. I did not want to talk to anyone, but I saw that it was Father Matt Riley calling from France. I reluctantly took the call only because Matt can call the US for free. If I call him, it costs him a lot of money.

Matt only had five minutes before the Riley clan would be arriving home. He quickly asked me how I was doing, which, of course, was the wrong question. However, something I said triggered a response from him that made the phone call one of the most important phone calls of the year.

Matt shared how Mark 6:6 had been an amazing verse for him. The NIV says, "He [Jesus] was amazed at their lack of faith." Jesus was in His home town, yet while He was there He could do very few miracles because of the people's lack of

faith. Matt pointed out that there were few things recorded in Scripture that Jesus marveled at, but here was one. Jesus marveled at their unbelief.

The light bulb came on. Why would unbelief seem incredulous to Jesus? It is more natural for most people not to believe than to believe, yet Jesus finds their unbelief to be ludicrous. The reason He marvels at their lack of faith is because He *knows* the Father. It would be preposterous to ever doubt Him. Jesus is amazed at the lack of faith from the people of Nazareth. It is as if He does not know what to do with the absurdity of their response.

When I was child and our family went out to eat, there were never any doubts that my father would take care of the bill. It would have been laughable to think that I or my younger brothers or sisters would have to pay for dinner. Of course my father would pay for dinner.

I live with a cat lover. It would be prosperous for someone to tell me that he saw my wife standing idly by while one of our cats bled to death. I would tell them that it is not April Fool's yet. The thought would be unthinkable because I *know* my wife, and I *know* exactly how she responds in any cat crisis.

What if the sweetest, kindest, elderly lady at church were a serious suspect in a homicide? I think everyone would be stunned with amazement. It would laughable. We would instead doubt the authorities; we would never doubt one of our



What Jesus Marvels At page 1

own who has a consistent track record of kindness and good works.

Jesus had the same assurance concerning the Father. He *knew* His father so well, understanding that the



Father would be there for Him at all times and in all places. Jesus found it unbelievable to think otherwise. I realize that most of us live like the people of Nazareth. Not believing comes easily; believing is hard. We wonder if the God we cannot see or hear will come through for us or will leave us floundering. Because we cannot see a way out of our problems, we doubt that God will be able to come up with solutions.

After talking to Matt and pondering Mark 6:6, I realized that I too want to marvel at not only my own unbelief but also the unbelief of others. If Jesus cannot fathom not believing in the most loving being in the universe, then so can I. Since Jesus lives within me, then I want to live with the same assurances that He did. Would not our daily walk in Christ look different if we began to see doubt in the Father as absurd?

I am glad I was home sick. I am glad that God moved Matt to minister to an American instead to a Frenchman that day. I am glad I took the call because it has turned out to be a game changer for me, and I hope for you as well.



Valentines Pot Luck

When: **Sunday, Feb 15** following worship

Taco Soup (provided by the church)

Sign up to bring one of the following:

Two 24 ounces-Sour Cream

Four 4 cup bags of grated cheese (Monterey Jack/Mexican blend, etc.)

1 each: Unsweetened Tea & Sweet Tea & 1 bag of ice

Broccoli Cornbread or Corn muffins

Salads

Desserts



Ash Wednesday Services



February 18

Communion with Ashes

12noon & 6pm

Grace During the Week

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

Wednesday-10:30am-Women's Bible Study-Susan Jones-990-2973 Father Scott is teaching Daniel

12:noon-Holy Communion

Friday-8:15am Men's Group (Lobby)-Tom Sinclair-422-3169 Father Scott is teaching Daniel



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

9 Steve Roth

10 Janic Terry

17 Susan Jones

21 Amanda Williams

23 Betty Schussler



"You cannot worry & trust at the same time— they cannot co-exist in the same space."

Graham Cooke