



And Also With You

NOVEMBER 2015

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

NOVEMBER

SUNDAYS

10:00 am
Worship
(nursery provided)

Children's Chapel

6:30pm
The Union's
Worship Service
(nursery provided)

MONDAYS

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

WEDNESDAYS

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

FRIDAYS

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

CHALICE BEARERS

Nov 1

Julian and Maggie
Carnes

Nov 8

Jan Bogue
Becky Johnson

Nov 15

Susan Jones
Maggie Rockett

Nov 22

Janic Terry
Kitty Barksdale

Nov 29-Advent I

Bob and Jane
Grafe



Mix A Little Fear and See What You Get?

In college you take English 101. When mastered, you move to English 201 and upwards. The Lord has been doing the same thing with believers this past half year. He is taking the basic foundations that were learned from the past to the next level so that what had become easy is now difficult again.

One of the upper level learning arenas where God is taking His children has to do with fear. Almost ten years ago the Lord spent a year teaching us about fear and its destructive side affects. It was a turning point year for me and for Grace. My walk with Christ has not been the same since taking His *Fear 101* class. Ten years later He again is teaching, but the course is now *Fear 201 and 301*.

Fear 301 should have been a required course in seminary. It began with me dealing with a pastoral situation that did not involve me personally, yet as the priest, I was being called on to mediate between two situations. Clergy are like county sheriffs: Everyone wants you to arrest someone else's child for disturbing the peace yet get very angry when you arrest their own for the same disturbance.

I was dreading the situation when the still, small voice of God whispered into my heart a life changing truth: *"If I bring fear into the equation then the pastoral encounter will most likely end up a lose-lose situation. If, however, I work at keeping fear*

out of the equation then there was a good chance that the situation will resolve itself and heal nicely."

This may seem like a no brainer to you, but it was manna from heaven to me. First, I was angry that they never taught this kind of wisdom in seminary. No wonder so many pastoral situations have ended up poorly, not just my own ministry but in the ministries of other clergy friends as well.

Secondly, I was sad at how many victories the enemy had won because we did not realize how damaging fear could be to relationships.

What do clergy have to be afraid of?



Well, Satan often whispers that if a family gets upset then they will leave, that the leaving will impact the morale of the congregation, that the budget will suffer, that we are failures as clergy and so on. These are the fear thoughts that play in the background of life, creating lose-lose situations left and right.

I decided to try out the new bit of wisdom on the pastoral conversation that I was about to have. I also decided to run towards the fear instead of away from it. It was hard yet 201 and 301 level courses have large amounts of grace included in them that help us pass in spite of ourselves. The conversation went off without a hitch and in fact strengthened the relationship rather than destroying it.

Before I could rest on my laurels for having lifted a five pound weight the Lord quickly sent a ten pound weight. It was another pastoral situation that was far

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Mix a little fear... continued from page 1

more complex, and the fear level was trying to be gigantic. The Lord again repeated His mandate from the previously encounter, "If there is fear involved then it will most likely end up lose-lose, but if you will keep fear out of your heart and words

F-E-A-R: has two meanings:
1. Forget Everything And Run
or
2. Face Everything And Rise



then it will most likely end up win-win." I went into the second meeting prayed up yet my presentation was clumsy and unpolished. Everything I said came out badly, yet my goal was to have no fear be a part of the conversation. In spite of my weaknesses, God again created a win-win situation, creating a stronger bond with the parties involved.

Next, the Lord took the fear concept to the another level when during worship one Sunday morning, I became furious about something. From all outward appearances I looked normal and priestly. Inside, however, I had *murder* in my heart! The Lord quickly reminded me, however, that anger was the secondary emotion to fear. He then used the situation to teach me that if fear gets into worship, a pastoral situation, a business deal, a partnership then it will most likely bear lose-lose fruit. I quickly made an



emotional U-turn at the offertory and began to calm myself in the Lord. When fear is involved in any situation, conversation or experience then it has the potential of going badly. This is why Paul tells Timothy that God does not give a spirit of fear but power, love, and a sound mind. Power, love, and a sound mind create win-win situations. Fear creates lose-lose situations. Welcome to God's upper level courses. I believe

that our biggest challenge is to keep fear out of each and all situations and conversations. Fear is really always about us rather than others. How will be affected. This kind of thinking only infects rather than heals.. People pick up on it subconsciously and it only makes every matter worse. With this understanding we can now be more than conquerors. We can live in the abundance of love because perfect love casts out fear.

November Birthdays



- 8 Drake Larison
- 12 Tom Sinclair
- 13 Jan Turberville
- 16 Bill Tunnell
- 20 Sandy Sinclair
- 20 Gloria Buchanan
- 22 Maggie Rockett
- 30 Ovie Moore

Light of the Village Candle Sales December 6

Light of the Village (LOV) is a Christian ministry in Pritchard, AL which is one of the ten deadliest neighborhoods in the US. In the midst of the darkness, however, LOV's light shines. One of the ways LOV raises money is by making their own scented candles. Elisabeth Davis will be selling them in the Grace Church Lobby on 12/6 for \$10 each.



Order Online! We ship!

Sunday, Nov 22 Bring a side dish or dessert. The main dish—you guessed it—Turkey!




Our love and prayers go out to Kathy Patton on the death of her nephew, Scott Myrick on October 16, 2015.




Get into the Christmas spirit with the U. of Mobile's Christmas Spectacular. The dates are Nov 19-22 at Dauphin Way Baptist Church-Mobile. Tickets start at \$10. For more information contact the U. of Mobile at (251) 675-5990 .




Pick up your free Advent Calendar at the Pot Luck on 11/22. We have one per household. If you will be away Father Scott will get you one sooner. Advent begins Nov 29.




Stewards and Officers for 2015-16



Beverly Terry & Bob Grafe
2015-2017





Becky Johnson & Tom Sinclair
2015-2016



Treasurers: (l to rt.) Karen and Wick Skinner and Sandy Sinclair





