



# And Also With You

JUNE 2015

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Street Fairhope, Alabama 36532  
251-929-1606 [www.visitgrace.net](http://www.visitgrace.net) [Facebook.com/GraceAnglican](https://www.facebook.com/GraceAnglican) [frscotttdavis@aol.com](mailto:frscotttdavis@aol.com)

## Obedience-Life; Disobedience-Death

### JUNE

#### SUNDAYS

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

#### MONDAYS

10:45am-Prayer  
Intercessors in  
church  
Information: 706-897-6381

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

#### WEDNESDAYS

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

#### FRIDAYS

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

### CHALICE BEARERS

#### June 7

Jane and Bob  
Grafe

#### June 14

Jan Bogue  
Becky Johnson

#### June 21

Maggie Rockett  
Susan Jones

#### June 28

Kitty Barksdale  
Janic Terry



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

Often God tests us to see how willing we are to obey. I have always known that I was supposed to obey but never really understood why. I knew the right *Sunday School* answer as to why, but I never actually understood the true benefit until now. I learned this spiritual principle the hard way.

In 1996 the Lord moved me to gather several spiritually mature people for an hour each week for the sole purpose of praying and worshipping in preparation for the upcoming Sunday's worship. I informed the Almighty that I was so busy serving Him that I did not have time to do this. He does not take *no* lightly and so the *hound of heaven* continued to hound me to do this. After several months I yielded and that one hour each week became the most significant hour of the week. I attribute that hour to why I survived a horrendous church war that occurred several years later that should have left me and others dead. I called the hour, *Soaking Prayer*. Grace Church began in 2000 and I continued my practice of weekly Soak-



ing Prayer. God continued to move powerfully week after week as a handful of believers gathered in His name. His presence came, and we experienced many unusual and powerful things while also learning many new things about God and the realm of His Spirit. After eleven or twelve years of Soaking Prayer, however, the Lord told me to shut it down. It was bearing wonderful fruit. It had an incredible track record of encountering the living God like no other time of the week. It made no sense, and so I decided that I must have heard wrong. Again, the Almighty has a way of making His still, small voice *loud*.

After *two years* of disobedience, I finally shut Soaking Prayer down and was glad when I did because even though we showed up, He did not.

When you tell God, "No", He does not *lightening bolt* you. He just begins to absent Himself. Little by little the Holy Spirit quit coming to

Soaking Prayer. When God departed, that hour of the week became a duty where it had been a joy. There was nothing we could do to get the old *gusto* back. I kept asking myself, "What has gone wrong?", when all along the answer was in front of me— obey whether you understand or not. When the cloud moves, you move. When the cloud stays, you stay.

Obedience-Life from page 1

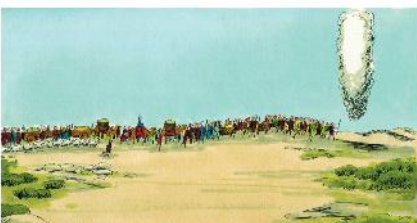
Four or five months ago, the Lord again told me to take a hiatus from offering the mid-week



Communion service. Again, this service has been an incredible time of Holy Spirit ministry, but then

when you keep it going after He begins to depart then what was once life becomes death. I am getting faster at obedience—it used to be two years, now it is down to six months!

God is life and when He is present there is life. When He is absent there is non-life. Death may not occur overnight, but it still occurs. I do not know why the Almighty has called us to shut down areas that have born the most fruit except maybe this is what pruning is all about. Executive pruning does not whack off half the vine. Instead, executive pruning carefully removes a large leaf here and another



there so that smaller leaves underneath can get more sunlight.

Will we ever have Soaking Prayer or mid-week Communion again? Probably, and when we do it will be at a more intense and greater level. What I do know is that when the cloud

moves we move. When the cloud stays we stay. When we are under the cloud then we are shielded from the scorching heat of desert life. When we abide under the pillar of fire we are both warmed on cold desert nights and our darkness is turned to light. I do not know why God says in 1996 to set aside an hour a week to enter into His presence and then commands the opposite in 2012. *It probably is so that we do not trust in the instrument of His presence but instead in His presence alone.* It is easy to make an idol out of programs that work, but idolatry eventually displaces God's presence.

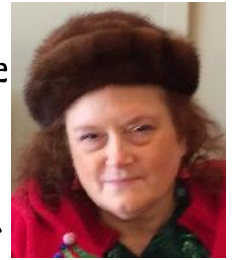
What I do know is that when I obey, God takes me to the next place which leads to the place where He waters us while on the journey. When I disobey, I may continue on a familiar path but I also watch the cloud move on without me.

What is God calling you to do that you have said no to? Disobedience always brings death. What He is calling you to do might seem fearful yet it is actually the next step. Obeying in one area opens the door to other areas. This is why God wants us to obey so that we will always have His presence and so that all doors might be open to His children.



**Jeremy and Tina Skinner talking to people after church about Mission Work in Indonesia. Over \$600 was given to this work on May 24.**

Our love and prayers go out to the family of Elizabeth Bonner who died May 31, 2015 in Fairhope. Elizabeth was a valued member of the Wednesday Bible Study, a part of the Worship Team and a bright part of our life in Christ here at Grace. She will be missed.



June Birthdays

- 2 Matt Castellano
- 7 Elisabeth Davis
- 8 Peggy Gunderson

Our love and prayers go out to Anita Sharpless on the death of her husband, Logan who died on May 21, 2015. Logan was 86.



Congratulations to Kitty Barksdale on the marriage of her daughter, Saffold, to

Brian Smith on May 23, 2015 in Fairhope.

