



And Also With You

MID-SEPTEMBER 2016

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Street Fairhope, Alabama 36532
251-929-1606 www.visitgrace.net Facebook/GraceAnglican

SEPTEMBER

SUNDAYS

10:00 am

Worship
(nursery provided)

6:30 pm

The Union's
Worship Service

MONDAYS

10:45AM

INTERCESSORS

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:

751-5266

CHALICE BEARERS

September 4
Bob and Jane
Grafe

September 11
Becky Johnson
Jan Bogue

September 18
Susan Jones
Maggie Rockett

September 25
Janic Terry
Kitty Barksdale

Defense or Offense



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

I was talking to a parishioner about a situation and found myself telling her that for decades we have been on the defense, trying to save the church from the ever rising tide of theological liberalism.

The first twenty years of ordained ministry plus the three seminary years and

my years prior to ordination I, and others, have been at war. The war was theological in nature and began as far back as the Great Depression in Germany. There is a proverb that goes, "The Germans invented theology; the British corrected theology; and the Americans corrupted theology." I am not sure if that is true, but there has been quite a lot of corruption during my lifetime as a pastor.

Between the two great wars, the land of Luther was a disheartened and broken people. Despair was reflected theologically by some church leaders with the advent of Biblical Criticism. This disease spread to England, the US, and the western world.

The devaluation of God's Word became the tares sown into the field of the organized church which produced a harvest of disunity, struggle, and spiritual death.

Within main stream denominations, the Bible was debunked by many and cultural relevance replaced God's Word. Whatever the culture stated as true became the new truth until a newer truth came along.

I recall experiencing this early on in my Senior High Sunday School class. As a high schooler, I was new to this particular church and found it incongruous that the book we were studying in Sunday School was written by an atheist. I still have trouble wrapping my mind around this as if there was no interesting Christian to study in the Church's 2000 year history! The reason we studied the book by an atheist was that the teacher, a local psychiatrist, was trying to be relevant to our Viet Nam genera-

tion. I missed going to Viet Nam, blessedly, but knew that if I had been in its jungles with a gun and scared out of my mind, that I would rather have had Scripture running through my head than a quote from a person who did not believe in God or the afterlife!

For the first two decades of ministry, I and others, fought to save the church. We held up God's Word as the standard, we strived for holiness, and were usually called narrow and fundamentalists by our adversaries since we held to the fundamentals of the ancient faith that the Church had held sacred for its 2000 years.

In this fight, many of us were on the defense all the time. I certainly was. In my preaching class in seminary we were assigned to preach on a holy day from the church's calendar, and I was tasked with the Transfiguration. After presenting the homily, the professor (a priest) eye balled us and said to me, "Mr. Davis, you sound as if you actually believe the Transfiguration happened. I am here to tell you all that IT DID NOT!" With his statement came the veiled threat that if we challenged him there would be a letter to our bishop re the matter. My seminary was the largest and second oldest seminary in the denomination. Probably 50% of the faculty at that time, mostly clergy, did not believe that Jesus was the only way to salvation, and that was some 40 years ago.

So I was telling this parishioner that we had used our energy, resources, networking and prayers to try to save the church. I found myself telling her that we were once fighting to save the church but now we are fighting to save the world. The former battle ended for me sixteen years ago when many clergy transferred to an older and more global form of Anglicanism. In fact, there was a year or two where we, conservative clergy, did not know what to talk to each other about once we became Anglican Church because all we had done for years was gripe at how bad everything was! Shame on us!

The game has changed. I believe it is foolish to spend time trying to save a church when God is now calling us to save the world. The world could care less about our petty church wars or

continued on page 2

Defense-Offense from page 1

about the church itself. Denominations are useless in this new task God has given us to do. God is replacing denomination with kingdom. When saving the world, it doesn't matter what brand of Christian a person is. It is about being a part of "Thy kingdom come...Thy will be done...on earth (in us) as it is in Heaven."

God is calling us to go on the offensive for His kingdom. We had to be defensive when trying to save the church but just as in football, the ball changes hands and the coach (Jesus) is now sending in the offense. This does not mean that we are to be offensive. It means that



the market place becomes the setting for ministry and schools become the forum for an encounter for God, and Walmart and other unlikely places become holy ground.

The game has changed and God has given us the ball. It is now our job to run with it until we are called out of the game to join the cloud of witnesses in the stands.

Blessings, Scott +



Each Sunday at 10am at visitgrace.net

October Birthdays

- 5 Sue Anne Davis
- 8 Wick Skinner
- 10 Bob Grafe
- 11 Barrett Sinclair
- 12 Alan Edhegard
- 15 Mackensie Terry
- 15 Scott Davis
- 17 Becky Johnson
- 29 Glen Isaacs



Grace Church has been awarded the maximum grant given by the Ely Lilly foundation for Clergy Sabbaticals. Of course there is great rejoicing in the Davis household, and our thanks to the Sabbatical Committee and its chair, Maggie Carnes, and the church for helping obtain the grant.

The Sabbatical will be for four months in England & Scotland beginning in late March 2017. More will be said later about it, & we are very grateful to the Lord for providing such a stellar interim, the Rev. Victor Oliver of Atlanta. Victor and his wife, Dixie, will move to the Eastern Shore for those four months next year while Scott is out of the country.



Victor was born in Wales, saved at a Billy Graham crusade in London as a teenager, went to Bible College in Canada and answered the call to serve as a missionary to Viet Nam until the war forced Dixie and him back to the US. Victor has graduate degrees in the history of Asian religions, and a PhD in social sciences. He was chief editor at Tyndale House, Fleming Revell, and had his own Oliver-Nelson imprint with Thomas Nelson. He has preached and/or taught in more than thirty countries and has two married sons with ten grandchildren. He has been in ministry for 55 years and we look forward to his ministry next year here at Grace.



Scott and Sue Anne return from visiting the Rileys on Oct 7. The

Rileys have moved from the German side of northern France to the far northwestern peninsula of Brittany where they will focus on four small towns. Their first goal is to begin home groups in these



towns. Brittany is just under Wales/England and Brittany was the only province in France that has experienced revival in its past. The Welsh Revival of 1905 had some impact on the area Matt and Katie are now ministering in.

While Scott is away, Ovie Moore, pastor of The Union, and Alan Reid of Prattville, AL will preach and officiate. Ovie Moore has also agreed to be on pastoral call, as have the Stewards, while Scott is away. September 18-Ovie Moore will preach from Romans 5:1-5. September 25-Ovie Moore will preach from Mark 5:21-43 October 2-Alan Reid will preach from Luke 17: 11-19.



Ovie Moore



Alan Reid