



And Also With You

Mid-January 2017

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

JANUARY SUNDAYS

10:00 am

Worship
(nursery provided)

6:30 pm

The Union's
Worship Service

MONDAYS

10:45 AM

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

Jan 1
Bob and Jane
Grafe

Jan 8
Becky Johnson
Jan Bogue

Jan 15
Susan Jones
Maggie Rockett

Jan 22
Janic Terry
Kitty Barksdale

Jan 29
Maggie & Julian
Carnes

No Sound Was Heard



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

I Kings 6:7 (KJV) says, "In building the temple, only blocks dressed at the quarry were used, and no hammer, chisel or any other iron tool was heard at the temple site while it was being built." The Temple in this passage

refers to Solomon's Temple. It is rumored that this building is the most expensive per square foot building ever built. Whether this is true or not does not negate the fact that Jerusalem is God's epicenter, and the Temple is at the heart of the center!

I find the construction of the Temple curious. I Kings 6:7 tells us that the Temple is constructed elsewhere and assembled in Jerusalem. This means that there are various work sights throughout the surrounding regions and even across the borders into foreign lands. Construction occurs away from Jerusalem so that no hammering is heard and the large blocks of stone are not dressed on

site. Only after the pieces of stone are cut, sanded, and polished, are they then transported to Jerusalem for workmen to assemble like pieces of a gigantic jig saw puzzle. This enormous building project is built without sound of chisel or hammer, saw or nails. Would not it be fascinating to pass the construction sight on the Temple Mount and not hear the usual cacophony of sounds that accompany great building projects. Instead, there is no sound except the careful assembling of great stones imported to Jerusalem from other places.

What does this passage mean for us? The Lord is revealing a pattern, detailing what He is doing in the lives of others right now. I Corinthians 6:19a (NIV) says, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit...?" God is working on each believer, crafting us into His dwelling, the Temple of His Spirit.



Shows the spiritual importance of the building. God wanted it clear that we must be shaped into the image of His son now!

The difficult work of sanctification is done off site. Sanctification is usually not done in the middle of church or on a retreat or at a spiritual conference center when we are on a spiritual high. Instead, the hard work of sanctification occurs during the experiences that stress us to our very core. These experiences are commonly *off site*, and it is there that the sound of hammer and chisel are loudly heard. It is away from church and our quiet times that the sawing and scraping occurs, yet it is also at these locations that great stones (you and I) are dressed, smoothed, equipped, and hammered into the shapes that will eventually and perfectly fit together with other *stones*, making us into the Temple where God Himself dwells.

God has two work sites for each of us: The work sight that is away from the finished product and the work sight where we are carefully assembled with others who are on their journey as well.

At one, God hammers, sands and chisels us into His new creation that, when finished, houses His glory.

Right now, many believers are undergoing this process as God works on each one off site. Personality weaknesses are sanded fears are chiseled, excesses sawed to the correct lengths, and connections hewn. It is a construction zone, and construction zones are messy, loud, and dangerous.

Most of you know how maddening it can be when a new home goes up in your neighborhood. Workmen begin hammering at 6am, while litter and trash blow through your yard. It is an ongoing battle from *nothing* to *something*, and battles are messy, loud, and inconvenient. The same is true for many who are in God's construction zone. When the work is complete, however, the great stones are then moved to their final *resting place*. They are assembled without sound of hammer or chisel. That work has already been accomplished. Instead, it is in quietness and confidence that becomes our strength. We do not stay in the place of our construction. Once complete, God moves us to the place of His presence, the very center of His world which is our destiny. He has not forgotten you. Actually, the next season might be one the

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season when He transports you from noise, mess, and chaos to one where He fits you together seamlessly with others, into the place where His Spirit dwells. I Peter 2:5a (NIV) says, "... you are living stones that God is building into his spiritual Temple."

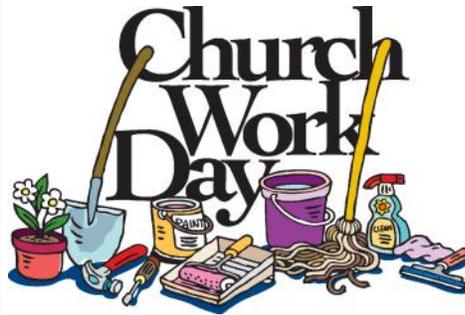
Solomon orders construction to begin on the Temple and for all intents and purposes, it looks as if nothing happens...for a while at least. Silence. There is little to no movement on the Temple Mount. We wonder, "Why God is not doing more in my life?" The reality is, that there is much work being done, but it is away from the finished site.

Our work sites vary. One work site might involve broken relationships. Another one may involve finances and how God wants to teach trust in Him and rather than trust in bank accounts. Another work site may involve self image, while another might involve becoming more disciplined or more committed in following Jesus as a serious disciple. There will be a lot of noise around any of these construction sites, but once the master builder completes His work, that finished product is transported to the epicenter of His will where it is quietly assembled into the fullness of your being.

If you think God is not doing much in your life right now then you might be looking at the wrong work site. Check out some of the work sites and see what is going on in them. You are the most valuable per square foot building that has ever been built. You are a living stone, not made with hands. You have been bought with a price. Blessings, Scott +



Financials	
December 2016	
Income	\$21,135
Expenses	\$17,748
Net	\$ 3,388
Jan-Dec 2016	
Income	\$220,880
Expenses	\$210,736
Net	\$ 10,144



January 21-9am to Noon
Bring rakes, gloves, blowers, extension cords, chain saws on poles, etc. We will be working on the grounds around the church.



February Journaling Retreat
Saturday, Feb 18
Sue Anne and Scott will lead a retreat on how to maximize your use of a spiritual journal.



One of the Sabbatical activities for both the Davises and the congregation will be to journal what the Lord is teaching while we are away from one another this spring.



Father Scott is teaching on the Five Love Languages and the Five Apology Languages at both Friday Men's Group and Wednesday Bible Study.

The **5 Love Languages**

Sabbatical Information & Time Line



A key goal of the Eli Lilly Foundation that awards grants for sabbaticals is that both

priest and congregation get a Sabbatical. The grant provides money for Grace to have the Rev. Dr. Victor Oliver for the four months that I am away. The grant also provides for Sue Anne and me to step away from our Fairhope responsibilities and return to the headwaters of Anglicanism, while also resting and allowing our land lie fallow.



My last Sunday will be March 19 (Arts and Crafts Sunday), and my first Sunday back will be July 9.

We will spend a week in each of the following: London, Cornwall, Wales, Cotswolds, Oxford, Cambridge, York, Edinburgh, Inverness, the Lake District, Canterbury and Salisbury. We will extend our stay to three weeks in Banff, Scotland (North Sea Coast) so that we might have time with the Rev. Joe Ewen, to learn more about the prophetic. Also, our daughter, Elisabeth, will join us in Edinburgh for two weeks.



Those of you who heard Victor on Jan 7-8 realize that you are in very good hands while I am away. In fact Grace Church will have its own Sabbatical under Victor's tutelage, and it will be interesting to compare notes as to what the Lord will be teaching all of us during these upcoming Sabbatical months. Scott +

