

And Also With You



**APRIL
2018**

SUNDAYS

10:00 am
Worship
(nursery provided)
6:pm
The Union's
Worship Service

MONDAYS

10:45AM
INTERCESSORS
251-929-1606
6:30pm-Monday
Night Group-
Information: 455-
5940

WEDNESDAYS

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

THURSDAYS

8:15 am
Men's Group-
Information:
751-5266

**GRACE
CHURCH
MISSION
STATEMENT**

*"To Hear
from the
Holy
Spirit and
equip
each
person for
ministry."*

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

A Generous Heart



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

Before you quit reading because you think I am going to make a plea for money, rest assured that I am not. I want to share something that is both deep and fulfilling. It has to do with having a generous heart. Being around a person with a generous heart is life giving. They seem to walk in joy and confidence in the reality that God Himself is always generous. Generous people seem less frightened by life than those with fearful or orphan hearts. There are some who have learned the wonderful truth that when you give, blessings follow.

The widow of Zarephath had a generous heart. She was collecting fire wood for a last meal for her son and her. They were out of food and life was about to end. You feel her pathos in I Kings 17. Elijah was the other player. He was God's mouthpiece who called forth heaven to be shut until God said otherwise. It had been three years without rain. Now there was no food to be had and even Elijah's water source had dried up.



Elijah asked God what he was to do next. The Spirit directed him to move to Queen Jezebel's father's pagan kingdom of Sidon, to a village named Zarephath. This was the equivalent of a Jew during WWII moving closer to Berlin rather than farther away. This was a very dangerous Word from God, which of course made no sense to the soul.

Unbeknownst to Elijah, there was a widow in that town who loved God. Unbeknownst to Eli-

jah, the widow was preparing her last meal. The prophet obeyed the Word and arrived at the communal well just as the widow was also arriving also. Elijah asked her to bring him a cake with some of the water from the well. She explained that she only had enough flour and oil for her son and herself and so could not do this. It was as if Elijah did not hear her as he repeated the request. She was now torn between eating her last meal or giving it to the prophet.

God seems to bring us to these choices when He wants us to grow. This is usually when we become double minded, torn between two opinions: survival or trust. I have been there many times, and it is both joyous and fearful in the same time. One step in either direction brings joy with uncertainty or sadness with certainty.

You probably know how the story ends. The widow has a generous heart. She feeds the prophet, denying herself. In so doing she activates the spiritual principle of sowing and reaping: sow a seed, reap a harvest; give and it will be given to you. Her seed is a small cake of flour that becomes a harvest of flour and oil that does not run out until the famine is over.

If you are depressed, then take inventory of what you have and see how much joy it is bringing you. You might realize that you have quite a few items that no longer bring you pleasure. Give them away! Think of life like you are planning for Christmas. Carefully listen to conversations with the intention of how you can bless the person with that which no longer blesses you? A beautiful painting in your home that you no longer see because

you have had it for so long would thrill a young couple starting married life with nothing. They will never forget who gave it to them! Our generosity becomes our greatest memorial that last long after we are gone. The chair, statue or decorative piece that only takes



up space and always seems in need of dusting might excite another person who could never be able to

afford something so nice.

God's kingdom is a kingdom of blessing. Our key thought each day might be, "Lord, who do you want me to bless today?" I had a nice watch that no longer brought me the pleasure it once did, and the Lord told me to give it away. I received more pleasure from giving it away than I did the day it arrived when I was taking it out of the box. I am still receiving pleasure from that watch that I have not had now for some time. I believe that having a generous heart also has positive physical benefits as well as a spiritual ones. We, Americans, we have so much. Why not enjoy releasing it and see if you do not get a greater rush in parting with it than you did when you first received it!

Recently, at Intercessory Prayer, the Lord said that we (Grace Church) were to be a *pass through church*. We were to receive His blessings and then keep them moving from us to others. The Lord said that for us, it was not about buildings and things but about people. We were to continue to keep the blessings moving rather than collecting within our walls.

Next time the Holy Spirit nudges you to buy that little happy for someone, do it. Next time He nudges you and says, give that away, then do it. It will make your heart bigger. Generous hearts are big hearts!

Russell Grigsby of Austin, Texas, will be our guest teacher on April 15. Russell is a C12Leader in Austin. C12 is an amazing Christian business model and movement in major cities across America (see www.c12group.com for more information).



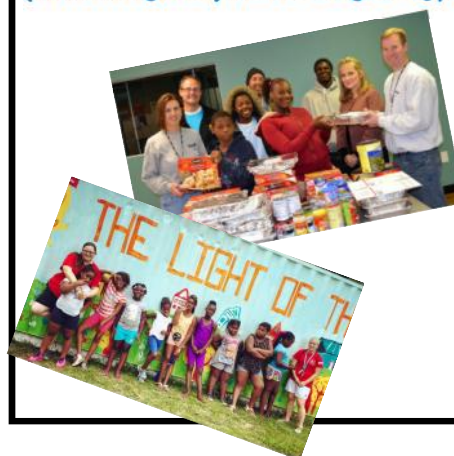
Russell and Scott met in San Antonio 30+ years ago & have been friends ever since. Russell grew up in Dallas, graduated from

Baylor and received his graduate degree in Business from SMU. He was a founding member of Hope In The City Church, Austin and serves on John Eldridge's Intercessory Team. He and his wife, Judy, have four adult children.



Scott will be leading a Redemptive Wirings Workshop for the

Staff of Light Of The Village in Prichard, AL on Sunday afternoon and evening, April 8. (www.lightofthevillage.org)



Our love and prayers go out to the family of Michelle Kurtz on the death of her father, The Reverend Rudy Klaas who died in Christ on March 10 & was buried from Grace Church on March 17.

March Financials

March Income	\$16,273
March Expense	\$17,748
Net	\$ -1,475

Missionary Support \$ 1,335



You can now give using your credit card by going to

www.visitgrace.net and pressing the donate button (bottom right on Home page). It is very simple and you can also set up a monthly donation as well.



April Birthdays

2 Kitty Barksdale

8 Cheri Kriner
8 Alison Long

16 Eddie Bals

25 Beverly Terry

27 Patricia Goldsby