

And Also With You

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

MAY
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."*

While En Route to Walmart



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

It was 5 p.m., and I was on my way to Walmart. I was not in the holiest of moods, and it was then that God chose to download a deeper understanding about *gifts*, of all things!

As I drove, I was thinking about a close friend who was soon to be married and about the wedding gift that I would like to give versus the wedding gift that we would probably give. As many of you know, I have an amateur landscaper who lives within my body. I love to putter in my yard. I do not know what I am doing half the time, but it is the canvas on which my artistic bent is expressed. So, I thought, wouldn't it be neat to give something from what means a lot to me. I remembered that I had a glass house terrarium that I was not using and that it would be easy to craft a miniature yard in the terrarium that would be both self-sustaining and something that would connect our two families. Of course, I could see my wife and the bridal couple rolling their eyes thinking, "Wouldn't a piece of china or a fork be better?" Answer: "It would be in addition to the plate or fork!"

At this point in my mental wanderings, the Lord stepped into the conversation. He explained that my thinking about the gift to the couple was how He originally intended

all gifts to be given. He reminded me that in colonial America, when a couple married, the gifts guest would bring would be from their best livestock or produce. If the friend raised the best honey in the county, then their gift might be a large container of honey. Another friend might bring something he had carved, while yet another guest might give wool from his flocks. The Lord explained that in those days the gift did reflect something of the giver and was the connecting point to the couple being married. He said that weddings in those days had a far deeper connection between the bridal couple and their guests than they do now.

At this point in my reverie, I felt affirmed concerning my idea for an additional wedding gift that reflected something of myself to the couple that I cared about.

Then the Lord said that the gifts that He gives via His Holy Spirit are as carefully thought out just as I was doing, and that each spiritual gift represents an aspect of who He is

and His nature.

I was impressed. I had never thought about the gifts of the Holy Spirit that way. By this time, I had reached Walmart, and the revelation ended. But the seed was planted.

I have pondered the idea that each gift the Father gives reflects Himself. Accordingly, each gift should be valued and treasured, as James 1:17 (NIV) says, "Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows."



God wants to connect as the Giver to us who are the recipients of His generosity. Each divine present is carefully considered and well thought out on His part so that the gift becomes a bridge connecting the Giver to the receiver.

I shared this with the Wednesday Bible Study the other week. That same day the Bible Study took Communion together, and afterward a lady said that she was given



a word during the service. The word was that I [Scott] was God's gift to Grace. I was *deeply* touched on several levels. I am sharing this, however, to say that as I processed her words, the Lord has since made it clear that each of you is God's gift to *your* congregation as well. Each of us has a congregation, and you are God's intentional gift carefully chosen and given to your particular friends and loved ones. You are not just a random china plate or fork ordered on the phone to fulfill a social requirement. You are carefully selected by God as His best, and you have been given to those He has put in your life, for you to touch them on His behalf. "All things come from Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own have we given Thee (I Chronicles 29:14)."



Nicholas Terry-
2018
Daphne High School Graduate
To be

honored at Grace Church on Sunday, May 6.



*May 19-Saturday
9am-11:30am
Bring lawn equipment—also tools for some inside work*



*Pentecost Sunday
May 20*



Potluck Brunch
May 6—Bring Brunch Foods

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Live Streaming Each Sunday at Facebook/GraceAnglican & at www.visitgrace.net

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May Birthdays

- 1 Toni Clair Hyde
- 5 Leo Smith
- 7 Montfort Jones
- 17 Tirra Clark
- 18 Kyle Roth
- 22 Olivia England
- 27 Hannah Pate
- 31 Gracie Roth