

Grace Memorial
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

November Newsletter



How can I make a difference?

When Mother Liz asked me to write something for our November newsletter, she said it could be about anything. I've struggled with what to write, being painfully aware that I have no great theological insights to share. But I have been concerned and saddened by the upswing of chaos, violence and hatred that seems to have spread through the Middle East, Ukraine, in other parts of our world and here in the United States. How can I make a difference? How can Grace community make a dent in all that chaos? This led me to think about examples in my life that might have an answer.

During the 1960's, if you ate eggs and lived in our rural northwest Louisiana parish, chances are those eggs came from Mr. Jimmy. He earned his nickname of "The Egg Man" because he and his wife Gladys owned several large chicken houses and ran the labor intensive enterprise. They were my grandparents.

Twice a week, Mr. Jimmy would go on an "egg run" which meant an all-day delivery service throughout the parish. He supplied eggs to the hospital (the only one), the grocery store (the only one) and to individual households. Sometimes he went by himself but sometimes he'd take a grandchild along. If you were a whinybutt, you couldn't go with him. Only non-whinybutts were allowed to ride shotgun. I quickly learned not to be a whinybutt so I could hang with him all day. By the evening prior to the next day's egg run, Mr. Jimmy would have contacted the hospital and grocery to get their order. The phone rang constantly with his regular customers calling in orders. On the morning of an egg run, we would rise early to eat Gladys' breakfast of fried eggs, bacon, biscuits with hand churned butter, thick cane syrup, and strong coffee with whipping cream. Mr. Jimmy had already loaded the back his white Chevrolet truck with cases and cases of eggs in cartons. The first stop in town was the hospital and then the grocery store. The non-whinybutt grandchild knew to sit in the passenger side and not get out in those delivery areas. He always came out knowing who was in the hospital, how surgeries went, if there was flu or a stomach virus going around and whatever gossip the local grocer had.

The remainder of the morning was spent going to individual homes in the small town. Doors were never locked and the non-whinybutt helper would deposit their eggs on the kitchen counter and pick up the customer's money if they weren't home. If they were home, we'd stop and visit a bit. From these encounters, we knew every tidbit of gossip, outright lies, impending divorces, health conditions, expected outcome of Friday's game and current or expected visitors within the city limits. Plus, which churches were conducting a revival that upcoming week and which were squabbling among themselves. For lunch, we'd stop for handmade tamales sold out of the back of a gold Chevy Impala from the oldest black man in the world or that's what the non-whinybutt believed. Always parked on the main street, he had the best tamales along with the most complete accounting of all births, deaths, gossip, various activities, needs and happenings in the black communities of Yellow Pine and Redland.

After lunch, we delivered eggs to individual homes in the rural areas of the parish. With considerable speed, Mr. Jimmy careened through the mostly dusty red dirt roads. Since there were no seat belts in that era, it was common for him to yell, "Hold on! I'm about to dip sand in our pockets!" This meant he was about to take a curve on two wheels. Sometimes it was a simple "Hold on!" This meant he was about to hit a hole at a high speed. My head would pop up and hit the roof. No matter what, he rarely used the brakes and all four wheels on rural roads. I thought it was great fun and learned my driving skills from him.

We did the same information gathering in the rural areas, stopping at each house, usually taking a bit more time with them. Mr. Jimmy knew the folks in the outlying areas were sometimes the most likely to be left to their own devices. There was a lot of need in the rural areas in so many ways.

My grandmother Gladys would pack several pound cakes in the delivery truck. Her pound cakes weren't of the dry Sara Lee variety. Those cakes contained a pound of butter and ten eggs. We usually delivered those to mostly elderly isolated people in need of some company. Sometimes we'd also leave vegetables grown in Mr. Jimmy's gardens. It's surprising how much joy, healing and therapy were found in those cakes and a good long visit. If Gladys knew a family needed food or help in any way, she tried her best to make sure others did not "go without". But Gladys' story is for another time.

For the rural and town folks, Mr. Jimmy was a conduit of information. He knew who was in need of hay and who had some to sell. He knew someone who needed a sitter and who was looking for work. He knew which of the elderly people needed a visit to a doctor or physical help. He knew the grief, the illnesses, the needs and joys of folks deep in the rural areas. He contacted various churches, individuals and agencies to put people together. He connected the lost and needy with outside help.

My grandfather was a mobile oral newspaper and social service for the entire parish, for black and white in a segregated time. When Mr. Jimmy died, the funeral home said it was the largest one they had ever had. He and Gladys made an impact on so many lives. By spending a little time and giving of themselves, by showing their deep faith through caring and love, they made a difference for their neighbors. Not only did they make a difference in their greater community, they also set an example for their children and grandchildren to continue giving of their time and gifts.

Old, young, wealthy, poor, heathy or in need of healing- we are all the same and all need each other to make it through. Each person, each piece of our community is interwoven with the others. When we live into our faith, can we as individuals and collectively as Grace show that faith and love in our community? What are we doing to show our children how to live our love? How can we look for ways to go out into our greater Hammond community to show what it means to walk in love? Can we spend a little of our time to get to know people that aren't in our regular circle? How can Grace step out of its comfort zone to show that all are welcome at the Lord's table?



Day/Date: *Wednesday, Nov. 7th*

Place: *Parish Hall*

Time: *6:00 p.m.*

Cost: *\$25*

All men are welcome!



Thank you to everyone who helped make 2023 Pumpkin Patch a success! From unloading the 18-wheeler full of pumpkins, to volunteering with the selling of the pumpkins.

Children's Chapel

We are excited to be starting on *Sunday, November 4th*! Ages Pre-K to 5th Grade are invited to come to the 10:00 church service with their parents. They will leave during the "Gloria" and have a children's sermon and activities in the church office. Their lessons will follow the same lessons as the church. They will return to the church for the Offertory to sit with their parents and take communion or a blessing. The children will have their own offertory in their lesson and one child will bring the gifts to the altar with the adults. Children may bring pennies, nickels, and any trinkets that they wish to offer. We also still need 2-3 helpers for Children's Chapel in order to keep it consistent and within diocese guidelines. Please see Jo or Heather for this as well. Heather Kemp 985-969-5177 or heather.kemp@yogarouge.com



Join the Women of Grace for the monthly Wine Down Wednesday gathering at China Lotus in Hammond, *Wednesday, November 1st* at 5:30 p.m.

The hostesses for this month are Carmela Wallace and Christine Thornton. All Grace ladies are invited so please come and bring a friend!

St. Margaret's Guild / ECW

Our women's group, St. Margaret's Guild, includes every woman in the Parish and any other interested parties who want to participate in outreach/inreach in our church community as well as in the local community. Please join us *Tuesday, November 8th* in the Parish Hall at 9:30 for a "meet and greet". The meeting starts at 10 and ends by noon.



Remember to set your clocks back 1-hour before bed on *Saturday, November 4th* and enjoy an extra hour of sleep! (Also, change your smoke alarm batteries)

Save the Date: Sunday Fun Days in Fall

- ❖ Sunday, November 12th - Potluck Tailgate & Fellowship.
- ❖ Sunday, December 3rd - Make an Advent Wreath and go caroling.
- ❖ Sunday, December 17th - Bishop Shannon visitation to Grace Memorial.

VESTRY MEETING

Sunday, November 19th following 10:00 service. The meeting will be held in the Parlor.

Youth Announcement

Reviving the Education Building: We have begun the process of reviving a portion of the Education Building for the youth of the church to have a dedicated space for fellowship and Sunday School. We are asking for donations both monetary and physical items to make the space nice. Below is a list of items we are either hoping will be donated or will be purchasing with any funds donated.

- A used sofa and/or loveseat, chair, etc in good condition.
- A portable air conditioner (a regular box window unit will not work with the type of windows in the building). Needs to be self-evaporating.
- A coffee station.
- A gaming table (ping pong, foosball, etc)
- If you would like to donate or have any questions at all please contact Harley Bourgeois at 985-974-7419.



The church office will be closed Wednesday, November 22nd and Thursday, November 23rd in observance of Thanksgiving

✝ Scripture Reading ✝

November 5, 2023

Joshua 3:7-17
Psalm 107:1-7, 33-37
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:1-12

November 12, 2023

Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25
Psalm 78:1-7
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 19, 2023

Judges 4:1-7
Psalm 123
1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
Matthew 25:14-30

November 26, 2023

Ezekiel 34:11-16, 20-24
Psalm 100
Ephesians 1:15-23
Matthew 25:31-46

Church Staff

The Rt. Rev. Shannon R. Duckworth, Bishop
EDOLA

The Rev. Liz Embler-Beazley, Priest in Charge
856-604-0178, lembeaz@gracemem.org

Pamela Kirk, Parish Administrator
985-345-2764, office@gracemem.org

Dr. Liliia Oliinyk, Music Director
music@gracemem.org

Ellis Neal, Sexton



Carol Smoak 11/4
Marjorie Adams 11/5
Benjamin Tucker 11/11
David Tucker 11/11

Polly Durham 11/19
John Baiamonte 11/20
Frances Nichols 11/25
Joseph Spangler 11/25