

April 24, 2024

Greetings from New Orleans!

Ministry:

During the week following my last newsletter, I completed the Navy Intermediate Leadership Course. This class, offered by Naval Ethics and Leadership Command, is primarily geared for those

who are or will be department heads within their commands. I was encouraged by a positive focus upon the need for naval officers to live and lead ethically, upholding the Navy values of honor, courage, and commitment, but I wish that these values were more carefully defined and more consistently enforced. Within the pluralistic context of the Navy, each person will naturally understand and live out these values in their own way rather than allow God in the Scriptures to define what is good and right. (I know, I'm "preaching to the choir.") During the past month I also taught two ASIST classes, preached again at First Presbyterian Church in Picayune, and conducted a funeral for a Navy Sailor who died by suicide and left behind a wife and two young children. So sad! As I write this newsletter, I have just returned from being underway on CGC DAUNTLESS (picture below), a 210' medium endurance cutter, where I was providing training and chaplain support for the crew as they

returned to their home port of Pensacola, FL. In just two short months, Chaplain Rufus Mathews, who is relieving me at CG Sector New Orleans, will report for duty. I will not receive my orders until August, but I have received a "Letter of Intent" stating that I am expected to be assigned to LPD-29, a Navy ship that



Another ASIST class. On the far left is Ray Doss, my co-trainer and one of my Auxiliary chaplains, and I am on the far right.



will homeport in Norfolk, VA. I am working with my command and my supervisory chaplain to determine how I can be best employed from mid-June (after Rufus arrives) to mid-August (when I can report to LPD-29).

Family:

Trina and I are excited for Martin and Faith, who will have a small wedding ceremony on June 2, less than 6 weeks from now! We are also planning a road trip to Kansas in early May to begin the celebration at their wedding shower.

Prayer requests:

1. Give thanks and praise to God that he practices steadfast love, justice and righteousness always and everywhere.
2. Pray that God would grant wisdom to my supervisory chaplain and me as we evaluate where I will be most needed in support of the Coast Guard from mid-June to mid-August.
3. Pray for a smooth transition for those Service members and their families who will be moving to a new duty station this summer.
4. Pray for Martin and Faith as they make final plans for their wedding and prepare for their future together.

Resurrection Day at Redeemer PC Nola.



Thus says the LORD: “Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the LORD who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth. For in these things I delight, declares the LORD.” (Jeremiah 9:23-24)

Soli Deo Gloria,
Matt Schilling