The youth are providing the beat for the Sanctus as the bread and wine is brought to the front on Sunday the 26th.

Jr. Warden's Report

We conducted our work day at the Horton House. We trimmed trees, weeded, cleaned junk trees from the fence and deck area. The major activity was working on edging the flowerbeds in front of the house after the stabilizing piers had been installed. Father Horton managed to keep us busy most of the day.

We would like to thank Tim, Walt, John and Steve for their time and efforts.

Trice

A huge thanks to Steve Hawkins, Tim Cannon, Walt Bradburn, John Zavala, and especially Trice Edwards who organized the event, for coming and tidying up the Horton landscaping, most notably in constructing our front flower bed wall. It looks beautiful and literally saved us thousands of dollars. Thank you so much. Also, thank you to everyone who donated to have a house cleaner come by before Thanksgiving to get our home cleaner than it has been since we moved in. Thank you especially to Gayle Bradburn for coordinating the effort. We are extremely grateful for our wonderful parish in everything you do.

Alan +
What does it mean to be proficient at something? If someone is considered proficient in a foreign language, it would be expected that they could carry on a conversation in that language. If someone were a proficient plumber or electrician, you could trust them to work on your home, to fix a leaky faucet or change out a light fixture. Proficiency in a discipline or craft is something to strive for, something that takes study and practice. But how often do we look at our Christian faith in such a way. What would it look like to be a proficient Christian? In a book I first mentioned (and have now finished) in the August edition of The Chant, Christian Proficiency, Martin Thornton discusses the Christian life in exactly this way. As I mentioned in that previous article, Thornton lays out in his threefold rule of Daily Office, Mass, and Private Prayer, how one can structure their life with a freeing discipline.

But this month I want to focus on the idea of proficiency. First, we should be clear as to what proficiency isn’t. Being proficient does not mean you have mastered something and there is nothing more for you to learn. Even the best in their craft or profession need to continue to learn and develop in order to remain proficient. It also does not mean perfection. Even the best sometimes make mistakes or encounter situations beyond their knowledge or expertise. But it also means that we are not merely amateurs, fumbling about. So, proficiency is not a finish line, nor perfection, and not amateurism.

Then, what is proficiency and how does one become so. We can continue with the analogy of another profession. How does someone go about becoming a plumber? Well, I know how I become a plumber. Whenever I have an issue, I look on the internet for YouTube videos on how to fix the problem and if it seems that I could do it without too much risk of major damage, then voila, I’m a plumber. Completely self-taught and wholly unreliable, not the person you would call in case of a plumbing emergency. No, the person you would want to call would be someone who has studied and taken the proper technical courses. You would also want someone who has served as an apprentice and learned under someone with extensive experience. The same is true for become a proficient Christian, you want to study and be under the direction of someone who is mature in their faith. The self-taught Christian, like the self-taught plumber is far more likely to make grave mistakes at the worst and at best still be relatively inefficient.

It is somewhat strange to think about our faith in such a way, but there is something to be said for taking the practice of our religion seriously. We can all take steps to increase our proficiency as we are all called to Christian maturity. So, as we enter the Advent season, think of some ways to study and practice your faith as well as identify persons who can help you and that you can help in the process.

Sunday sermons are recorded, each Sunday, and archived at [http://stgregorysmansfield.org/sermons](http://stgregorysmansfield.org/sermons) by 11:00 AM.

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**Mark Your December Calendar**

- 02 ~ Men’s Group 8 am
- 06 ~ Mass & Monthly Potluck 6:30 pm
- 10 ~ DHC Christmas Party @ Cheri Davis’
- 11 ~ Preschool Board Mtng. 6 pm
- 12 ~ Preschool Staff Mtng. 6 pm
- 13 ~ Holy Eucharist at Watercrest 1 pm
- 14 ~ Preschool Christmas Pageant 6:30 pm
- 16 ~ Men’s Group - 8 am
- 19 ~ Vestry Meeting 6 pm
- 21 ~ Last day of preschool for 2017
- 24 ~ Christmas Pageant 5 pm
- 25 ~ Christmas Day Mass 10 am
- 27 ~ Compline 6:30 pm
- 29 ~ Office Closed

No Tai Chi in December.

Small Groups meet every Tuesday at 10am, Tuesday at 7pm and Thursday at 7pm.

**December Birthdays**

- 02 Robert Lee
- 05 Dee Dee Dolloff
- 06 Meredith Hightower
- 09 Xavier Guerin
- 18 Uchechukwu Odunze
- 20 Barbara Edwards
- 22 Sam Grubenhoff
- 24 Ethan Barganier
- 26 Julie Clark
- 31 Ruth Sabourin

**December Anniversaries**

- 13 Clyde & Betty Reed ~ 59th
- 22 Ucheckukwa & Nathalie Odunze

**December Memorials**

Clyde & Betty Reed ~ Anniversary thanksgiving.

**Address Change**

Suzanne Dougherty (new address)
4921 Woodland Park Blvd.
Arlington, TX 76013

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Every ministry in the church must have a purpose. The church choir is no exception. Choir members must realize how important their ministry is to the church. Let’s not minimize the importance of our choir during our worship services.

**Their ministry is to:**

lead the congregation in the singing of hymns

direct the thoughts of people to the Lord through their choir special
Preschool Happenings

The holiday season is a busy time here at the preschool and we have are having so much fun celebrating with all our preschool families and friends. Our annual Thanksgiving feast was a huge success! The preschool was blessed to have the church take care of all the cooking for us. A big THANK YOU to Kathy Walker for planning the feast and to all parishioners who volunteered their time to help serve our families. Our teachers enjoyed a week off for Thanksgiving break and we are now gearing up for all the events and activities planned for the month of December.

December 11-15 we will have our Scholastic book fair. Carol McKenna and Kathy Walker will be setting up the fair Sunday December 3rd directly after church if anyone would like to stay and help. I also need volunteers to work the fair before and after school each day, as well as packing it all up on Friday December 15. There is a sign-up sheet in the back for volunteer opportunities.

Thursday December 14th the students will be presenting our annual Christmas program at 6:30pm, all are invited. The Preschool Board will be hosting a brief reception of cookies & juice following the program, contact Bernice Baldwin for more details if you would like to help out.

The preschool will be closed December 22 - January 8 for the Christmas holiday. Chick-fil-a calendars are still available for purchase.

Elizabeth Rivera

Daughters of the Holy Cross

DHC Christmas Party on December 10, 2017 after Sunday School at the home of Cheri Davis.

Bernice Baldwin

Chapel of St. John
The Evangelist
Built in honor of the Rev’d John W. Hildebrand

2017.11.3-4 ~ DHC Retreat Camp Crucis

James Eldon Dougherty


MEMORIAL SERVICE: 10 a.m. Saturday, Nov. 11, 2017, at St. Gregory's Anglican Church, 1091 Country Club Drive, Mansfield, Texas.

MEMORIALS: The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, memorial gifts can be made in Jimmy's memory to St. Gregory's Anglican Church or to the Alzheimer's Foundation.

Jimmy was born to Robert and Inez Dougherty on April 6, 1944, in Fort Worth, Texas. The family resided in Keller, Texas, until 1956 when the family moved to Beaumont, Texas. Jimmy graduated from French High School in 1962 and later earned an associate degree in Tarrant County Junior College. In 1964 he married Suzanne Bailey.

Jimmy loved golf, baseball, hunting, fishing and square dancing. He coached girls' softball for many years with the Arlington Softball Association. He retired from General Motors in 1992 after 30 years.

Jimmy will forever be remembered for his bigger-than-life sense of humor and his tender heart. He was preceded in death by his parents and his sister, Maudine Mash.

SURVIVORS: Jimmy is survived by his wife of 53 years, Suzanne; daughters, Julie Clark of Arlington, Texas, and her husband, Barry, Jill Cline of Santa Fe, N.M.; grandchildren, Madeleine and Ethan Barganier; his sister, Peggy Blackmon of Fort Worth; and many nieces and nephews.

View and sign guestbook at www.star-telegram.com/obituaries

Angel Tree

St. Gregory's Church and Preschool are participating in the Angel Tree ministry this year. We have adopted three families with 10 children between them. Each child needs a new set of clothes that would include shoes, socks, underwear, pants, shirts, and a coat. Each child has requested items they would also like to see under their tree. This is a large undertaking for one person, so items were separated out and placed on the tree at church. You may take as many cards as you wish and feel you can financially support. All items will have the sex, item, and size of the child. Please bring your unwrapped gift with the card attached back to church by Dec. 10. Distribution of presents will be on Friday, Dec. 15 between 3:30 -5:30. If you have a spare roll of wrapping paper or extra bows, you may donate those as well. Parents will be given opportunity to wrap their presents at Church that afternoon or take supplies home. If you would like to come that afternoon you are welcome to attend. God bless our wonderful church for your giving hearts. If you have questions feel free to call Kathy Walker at 325-214-0680. Thank you, Kathy.

Heinz Liedke, Barbara Ulvestad, Nancy Liedke & Betty McFadin

Celebrating Ralph Walker's 96th birthday at the Watercrest Living Center on Wednesday, November 22nd. Ralph, born in Mansfield, graduated from Mansfield High School with the class of 1939. He achieved a Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts & a PhD in foreign languages and linguistics from UT, studying at the Sorbonne in Paris for four years. He served with the Army during WW II for 3 1/2 years assigned to the 36th General Hospital. Hobbies - playing the piano, genealogy & reading.

Heinz Liedke, Barbara Ulvestad, Nancy Liedke & Betty McFadin
Order of St. Luke
The Gospel Train’s a’comin....

A Christian needed to catch a train to get to somewhere they needed to get to. They had heard that trains sometimes, from time to time, run through the local station so off they went. Eagerly they walked down the hill, through the station entrance and onto the platform. No train awaited them. They stared up the track to the right and down the track to the left but still no train arrived. In a little while they checked with the station clock, only to find they had been waiting for as much as three minutes and still no train came to catch them up.

Disillusioned, they left the station and turned for home. No sooner had they left the buildings behind than a train arrived. Finding no passengers, the saddened and disappointed train driver pulled the whistle and went on his way again. The Christian fell to thinking on the way home: “These enthusiastic train spotters don’t really know what they’re talking about. I don’t know why they keep telling people like me that trains are often, if not always, coming through this way and collecting up those in need of some transport. Ah well, at least I can say that I took their advice and went to the station but nothing happened. I shan’t bother with that again!”

But those of us who know something of the railway system know full well that persistence is vital. It’s simply no good glancing at an empty platform and going home. The next train might come in four minutes and it might be four months, but come it certainly will. In kingdom terms the same thing applies. We need healing but, as I have so often written and said before, God has no problem giving, no problem sending the trains. But we humans do have a particular problem – we will not persist. We have lost the art of receiving.

One significant difference between everyday Christians and Kingdom Walkers is that the latter have something called ‘Hope’. Church teaches us that we can all have a bit of that, we can all hope we get to heaven when we die. That’s a good solid theological piece of theory and is most probably correct. But it doesn’t necessarily get me a train when I need it today.

Kingdom Walkers are greatly blessed with a much more realistic hope. In fact it is so real that it has become ‘expectancy’. We are sure of it. It’s what the Church used to call ‘a sure and certain hope’. It will happen because it’s God’s will that it should happen.

When a kingdom Walker needs a Gospel healing train, or needs a train for a friend, we go to the platform and wait. Our needy friend may catch a train in the next minute but may not. So the Kingdom Walker, in our analogy, takes along with them some camping chairs and a picnic and stays there with the needy friend until the train arrives.

Friends, that could be minutes, hours, weeks, months, years but the Gospel Trains are a’comin.

Even if our friend goes home disillusioned we can always offer to walk him or her down to the station again the next day, the next week and keep trying.

Why can’t the train turn up exactly when we want it? Why can’t healing appear the moment we pray for it? Dunno! This is one of those mysteries of life. Without mystery our God simply becomes a machine. We would then ask and he would then perform for us.

We can have all sorts of debates as to why some get healed immediately and some don’t but we never really know a definitive answer. So let’s keep going!

Keep pressing into God and he will always keep pressing into you - Mike Endicott

Heinz Liedke

Directory Additions

Barowsky, Fritz and Rita, 8291 Armstrong Way, Waxahachie, Texas 75167
Phone: 972-393-5587, Fritz email: barowsky@yahoo.com, Rita cell: 214-799-4843, Rita email: rbarowsky@yahoo.com

Bressert, Tom, Anne, Elizabeth, 6008 Farmingdale Drive, Arlington, Texas 76001
Phone: 817-483-5562, Anne cell: 817-269-9124, Anne email: anebressert@gmail.com

Hightower, Thomas, Priscilla, Tate, Thomas, 1905 Hickory Hill drive, Mansfield, Texas 76063
Priscilla cell: 662-902-4789, Priscilla email: priscillahightower@hotmail.com

Melton, Jason, Meredith, Elise, 4412 Emerald Leaf Drive, Mansfield, Texas 76063
Meredith Cell: 940-745-1438, Meredith email: merski8@sbcglobal.net
# Our Clergy and Staff

"Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him"

John 13:16

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St. Gregory's Anglican Church
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