Preschool Happenings

Summer Camp is in full swing here at the preschool, we are averaging about 25-30 campers each week. We would appreciate your prayers for safety as we continue with camp, we have lots of kiddos registered and it is an exciting time! We will finish out the month of July with camp themes about sharks, Hawaii and a week of big games!

If you have any children’s board games, card games or chess/checkers lying around the house, we would love to take them off your hands! Our older campers have really enjoyed learning to play some of the older games. Playing games (that are NOT electronic) has been such a great tool to teach strategy, critical thinking, team work and good sportsmanship.

Elizabeth Rivera

Dee & Dan Lemser
Miles Skelly
Karen Allmond

Bill Griffin
Steve Hawkins
Harry Bean
Tim Cannon
This month in my vacationally short article, I would like to thank Harriet Motter for her willingness to step in and play the organ. Her talent and service allow us to continue to worship each Sunday with the beautiful music so many of us have come to cherish. In fact, just one week into her playing, a couple who was visiting made the comment that we felt like a “real” Anglican church, in no small part due to the music which is very much at the heart of our tradition. Harriet recognized a need in our parish and acknowledged her own ability to fill that need. And this is precisely the example we all need to follow, both as individuals and as a parish.

As individuals, we need to be finding ways in which our talents can enrich our life together at St. Gregory’s. We need folks to help with hospitality, to sing in the choir, to teach our children. These are not always as obvious as the need for an organist, but nevertheless of vital importance to our growth and vitality. As we move into the fall, there will be various opportunities to serve here at St. Gregory’s and the vestry and leadership will do our best to convey our needs.

As a parish it is our job to identify the needs of our community and as a whole, find ways in which we can meet those needs. We have already contributed to several Common Ground initiatives as well as our monthly canned meat collections. But we can always do more and be more visible in our community. It is our job to reach out and bring others to Christ through charity. So, let us do all we can to be the hands and feet of Christ in our parish and in our community.

Frs. Alan Horton+

Sunday sermons are recorded, each Sunday, and archived at http://stgregorymansfield.org/sermons by 11:00 AM
Our trip to the Bureau of Engraving (The Mint) on June 27 was a fun time for all. The facility is one of two in the country. The other facility is in Washington D.C. The Fort Worth site is called the Western Currency Facility (WCF). Our group of 24 saw the process of creating our US currency from start to finish. We learned and watched and even touched the various stages from paper to a bill. Each production day, the WCF produces $34 million in currency per hour!!

The daily production rate at the WCF is approximately 19 million notes per day, with an average face value of $822 million. The fiscal year 2018 WFC currency order is approximately 4.5 billion notes with a face value of $193 billion.

Fun Facts...
- Denominations larger than the $100 bill were last issued in 1969.
- “In God We Trust” became a part of the design of U.S. Paper Currency by an act of Congress in 1955.
- You can fold a piece of paper currency forward then backwards about 4,000 times before it will tear.
- We ended our outing with an enjoyable lunch at The Fish City Grill.

We maybe can’t admit it but it’s far too easy to hide from God, to hide ourselves away from his presence. Aware of this, I sometimes find myself hiding from his presence, too.

Order of St. Luke
Have I fallen off God’s Radar?

Back in Eden, when Adam and Eve disobeyed God’s instructions, they heard the sound of the Lord walking in the garden. How did they react to the sound of his approach? They hid themselves away from his incoming presence.

There is something else here that God always wants me to learn from that old Eden story: it’s about sin-consciousness. Thinking of myself as being ‘not quite good enough’ to have him that close, to receive all he wants to give me, makes me stay away from him when he actually wants to keep very close to me. It easily and quickly leaves me believing I might have fallen off his radar. It makes me feel I want him at arm’s length when being close in his presence is the safest and most comforting place in the world.

Adam, like me sometimes, had become too sin-conscious. He told God, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself” (Genesis 3:10).

Now this was hardly reality. Their nakedness was not merely about something physical. They had always been naked in his presence. This just sounds like an excuse for something else. It was. They were counting themselves unworthy of being in the presence of God. They were only too aware of what they had done, aware of their sin. This was for the first time, they had never had this awareness before. Up until their act of disobedience, when God came into the garden, they were used to spending time with him without any sense of guilt or unworthiness. But now they had become conscious of their wrong-doing and ran away from God’s presence.

God wants to dwell with us and in all our struggles. But we can’t have such an intimate relationship with him when we might be feeling unworthy in his presence. The good news of Cross and kingdom is that the work on the Cross has rolled away all the boundaries between us and God and made us righteous. God is so pleased with his Son Jesus’ sacrifice that he will by no means remember your sins (see Hebrews 10:17).

I have written these notes from my own experiences of becoming boldly close with God, of coming out from behind my own hiding places into the presence of his grace. It’s in the presence of this grace that we are empowered, refreshed, healed and recharged. It’s in this presence that we receive from him.

Practicing the presence of his healing grace is a wonderful place to be, feeling the bruises of life being washed away. This may not be ‘church’ life but it is most certainly ‘kingdom’ life.

Try it. Enjoy it. Give way to it. Like it. Share it. Be blessed by it - Mike Endicott

Heinz Liedke

Maria Casamento

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Fun Facts...

- The Chant ~ 3

Maria Casamento

Heinz Liedke

1. Celebrating my 85th I flew the F-100 out of the Ft. Wayne International Airport on the 24th. I had flown the fighter in 1957-60, and it was great to light the burner again & roll around in the blue.

Phil Hawkins
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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