We unveiled a new cross in our sanctuary at our anniversary celebration 29 September. The cross is called a Christus Rex (Christ the King). Unlike a traditional crucifix which depicts Jesus in his suffering upon the cross, the Christus Rex shows our Lord, victorious, in his risen glory. As such there are a few features that I would like to draw your attention to as we familiarize ourselves with this beautiful new addition to our worship space.  

(continued on page 2)
As I'm sure many of you noticed, we unveiled a new cross in our sanctuary at our anniversary celebration. Before I go any further I would like to thank Trice Edwards, Bill Griffin, and Robert Bloomfield for their hard work in getting the cross mounted and the space painted in the archway. Next, I would like to thank Fr. John and Laurie Munson with their help of obtaining the cross. It was previously hanging inside of All Saints, a church of our diocese in Wichita Falls which held its final service just this past Pentecost. Fr. Munson was the vicar who oversaw the closing of that church and has assisted in the task of finding suitable homes for the furnishings. Finally, I would like to thank Janie Parrott who alerted me to the potential availability of the cross.

Now, about the cross itself. The cross is called a Christus Rex (Christ the King). Unlike a traditional crucifix which depicts Jesus in his suffering upon the cross, the Christus Rex shows our Lord, victorious, in his risen glory. As such there are a few features that I would like to draw your attention to as we familiarize ourselves with this beautiful new addition to our worship space.

First there is the crown. This goes very clearly with the depiction of Christ as King, from which the image gets its name. Jesus has ascended to the right hand of the Father where he now reigns as “King of kings and Lord of lords (1Tim 6:15).” The crown is the symbol of his power and authority to which, as Christians, we are now subject and when Jesus returns, all of creation will be subjected.

Next there are the vestments. We see Jesus clothed in priestly vestments as a symbol of his eternal priesthood. Hebrews 4:14-16; “Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. or we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” In the crucifix we see Christ as victim and in the Christus Rex we see Christ as priest. Jesus is simultaneously the sacrifice and the one who offers the sacrifice, as he offered himself up for our sins. This unique role is only possible because he is both God and man which brings us to the final feature I would like to highlight.

Although Jesus is depicted in glory on the cross, we still see the holes in his hands and his feet, the wounds he received in his passion. These marks recall us to his sacrifice but also to his continued humanity. Jesus took on our nature, not to give it up in his death, but to restore it by his resurrection. Jesus rose bodily from the grave and ascended to heaven, taking our human nature with him.

In this new cross we see Jesus as King and Priest with the lasting marks of his passion and humanity. I sincerely hope you all love and appreciate the new Christus Rex both aesthetically and symbolically as it draws your hearts and minds closer to our Savior, Jesus Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.

Fr. Alan Horton+

Sunday sermons are recorded, each Sunday. http://stgregorymansfield.org/sermons.
Daughters of the Holy Cross held their third Provincial Assembly on September 13-16, 2018, at the Church of the Holy Communion, Dallas, Texas. Daughters from the United States and Canada attended the four day Session. The Most Reverend Dr. Foley Beach, Archbishop and Primate of the Anglican Church in North America, spoke to the Assembly on Friday morning on Prayer. There were various speakers including the Provincial Chaplain, Right Reverend Donald Harvey, Right Reverend Dr. Ray Sutton, Presiding Bishop, Reverend Canon Steven Saul and Julie Cosgrove. On Saturday afternoon, there was a Business Meeting with the Delegates, current Council and nominees. Theresa Brantley was the Delegate from the St. Clare Chapter at St. Gregory’s. Banners were also displayed from the various Chapters. Pictured are the Daughters that attended the Assembly and Father Horton with the St. Clare Chapter Banner.

Bernice

Jr. Warden’s Report

The month of September 2018 has had its challenges. We started with no rain and no mowing. We were then blessed with lots of rain (good) and lots of army worms (bad). The grass grew quickly. It seemed to get high overnight. Mowing was done between rains when the ground was dry enough.

The last week was very busy but fun. With help from Steve Hawkins, Bill Griffin, Robert Bloomfield and Father Horton we worked in the Sanctuary painting and making other changes. I’ll refer you to Father Horton’s article for the details. We are ready for the 40th anniversary.

Trice

Preschool Happenings

October is upon us, so that means Fall is in the air (regardless of what the temperature outside may be!). October brings pumpkins and Fall Festival, immediately followed by our annual Thanksgiving Feast, which means it’s practically Christmas....... have you made your New Year’s resolution??? It may sound crazy, but these next few months really will fly by!

During the month of October, the preschool will learn about community helpers as a part of our lessons we will have a visit from a Kennedale fire fighter as well as several other special visitors.

The Blessing of the Animals is always a special time shared by the preschool and church families.

Once again, we will have Fall picture days in October made possible by the fabulous Bloomfield Photography. Robert and Cindy Bloomfield do a wonderful job with the kiddo’s portraits and provide superior service at an affordable price for our families.

The teachers and preschool staff are excited to be a part of the third annual Fall Festival! It is a wonderful time for family and friends in our community to come together.

At just over a month into our school year, things are going great! All six classrooms are mostly full with only a few spaces available here and there. The children are happy and adjusting well. We have our wonderful group of teachers all returning from the previous year. We are truly blessed and look forward to continued success through the coming months.

Elizabeth Rivera
The Chant is archived on St. Gregory’s website:  
http://www.stgregorysmansfield.org/this-week/the-chant-2
You can make the pictures and type as large as you desire.

Parish Life

October is finally here and our Fall Festival is in its final stage of preparation. Please be thinking of how you could help us on Saturday, October 13. If you are available to help anytime between 8:00 am and 2:00 pm, I will have a sign up sheet Sunday, Oct 7. There will be a variety of jobs to do.

Kathy Walker

October Birthdays
03 ~ Linda Wirt
05 ~ Addi Horton
06 ~ Martha Turner
12 ~ Angela Katanic
18 ~ Dan Lemser
21 ~ Bill Griffin
27 ~ Jeff Baldwin
28 ~ Phil Grubenhoff & Harriet Motter
29 ~ Fritz Barowsky & Terry Black
30 ~ Garrett Marshall

October Anniversaries
06 ~ Jim & Jackie Rider, 63rd

October Memorials
Jim & Jackie Rider, 63rd anniversary
Theresa Brantley
Carol MccKenna
Heinz & Nancy Liedke

Mark Your October Calendar
03 ~ Pizza Potluck followed by Bible Bee*
04 ~ Blessing of the Animals, 2 pm
05 ~ Genealogy Grp trip to Nat’l Archives, 11 am
06 ~ Men’s Group, 8 am.
07 ~ Special offering for our Malawi Centurion
10 ~ Holy Eucharist at Watercrest, 1 pm
13 ~ Fall Festival
16 ~ Vestry meeting, 6 pm
20 ~ DHC, Parish Hall, 10 am
24 ~ Holy Eucharist at Watercrest, 1 pm

Every Tuesday, Small group study at home of Cheri Davis, 10am
Every Wednesday following 6:30pm Mass – A Adult study on book of Hebrews

* Bible Bee will be games engaging adults and children based on the children’s memory verses learned in their Sunday morning bible classes. Everyone will be a winner; prizes will be given.

St. Gregory’s Genealogy Research Group

The genealogy group had a wonderful meeting on September 5. We had a presentation from Diane Dyess that was not only informative but engaging. I cannot thank her enough for being willing to speak to us about Symbolism in Victorian Cemeteries (1837-1901). We had a great turnout....thank you so much!! Hope we planted the genealogy “seed” in our visitors.

The Fort Worth Genealogical Society Meeting on September 25th was on Researching Your War of 1812 Ancestors. Dolley Madison (a.k.a. Linda Simmons) talked about the events leading up to the War of 1812.

We received a handout with all the online sites available to search for “our” War of 1812 relatives.

Our next workshop will be Friday, October 5 at the National Archives at Fort Worth entitled “Beyond the Census: What Else is Out There? NARA Records Online”. There may still be seats available. If you are interested, their email address is ftworth.education@nara.gov. This visit will be in place of our regular 1st Thursday Meeting of the 4th.

The Oakwood Cemetery’s Saints and Sinners Tour will be Friday, October 26. We have six members going. We need to be at the cemetery by 6:00 P.M.

Happy Hunting!

Gayle Bradburn

October Birthdays

October Anniversaries

October Memorials

Mark Your October Calendar

Parish Life

The Chart is archived on St. Gregory’s website:  
http://www.stgregorysmansfield.org/this-week/the-chant-2
You can make the pictures and type as large as you desire.

Gayle Bradburn

30 Sep 2018 ~ The Chant ~ 4
Order of St. Luke

Climb Aboard! The good ship ‘Order of Jacob’s Well’ is afloat and sailing well before the Spirit’s wind.

Miracle working must have been thought about, in those earliest Christian days, as being quite natural, and relatively easy to do. So what was it like then, in New Testament times? What was it like to see miracles flourishing in the everyday early church? What was the promise on the horizon? Compared with the modern church’s ministry to the sick and the injured, church life in those days must have been quite breathtaking! Breathtaking Mission

We can see this when Paul confirmed in writing to the Corinthians that, when he was with them, he did things that marked an apostle – signs, wonders and miracles, and these things were done among them with great perseverance. Such signs were obviously expected of an apostle, but perhaps not so much today. Why not?

We can move on through the pages of the New Testament and watch in our mind’s eye the whole assembly growing quiet as they listen enthralled to Barnabas and Paul telling them about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them while on mission among the Gentiles. We can read of Peter describing to his critics the healing of a disabled beggar as ‘an act of kindness’. We might ourselves consider describing the helping of an old person across the street or perhaps a small gift to charity as an everyday sort of act of kindness, but in those days the term was used to describe everyday miracle-working. They must have found it a lot easier!

We can follow Peter travelling about the country, visiting the saints in a place called Lydda. He comes across a man there called Aeneas, who has been bedridden for eight years. We can read of Peter saying to him, “Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you. Get up and tidy up your mat.” The man gets up immediately and all the people living locally who have seen it turn to the Lord. They have seen the living God working in their midst and the experience contributes hugely to their conversion. In those exciting early days the apostles performed many miraculous signs and wonders among the people, and we can read in the New Testament how more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number as a result. We can see people bringing the sick into the streets and laying them on beds and mats, in the hope that at least Peter’s shadow would fall across some of them as he walked past them, and all of them were healed. That is breathtaking! Peter? Not us, surely!

But before we begin to graciously excuse ourselves from this scene, before we put distance between ourselves and those events by supposing that only Jesus’ own appointed and anointed apostles can perform miracles like this, we find Deacon Stephen, a man full of God’s grace and power, doing great wonders and miraculous signs among the people. And then there is Deacon Philip, who goes down to a city in Samaria and proclaims the Christ there. When the crowds heard him speak, and watched the miraculous things he was doing, they all sat up and paid attention to what he was up to. The miracles God was working through him were themselves the perfect proof of what he was talking about. And it goes on!

The flow of God’s grace and power is not, as some may believe today, limited to those officially ordained or appointed or anointed in the church. Ordinary everyday people like us were greatly used in the working of miracles. These ordinary men and women, Jesus’ disciples, went out and preached everywhere, and the Lord worked with them and confirmed his word by the signs that accompanied it. Oh, if only that were true today! If only we could convince our congregations that they can have the power of the message of the cross on their lips! We have the power to evangelise the world, someone once said, but they are asleep in the pews!

Do we actually fear to put our money where our mouths are? We want our congregations to be out there, witnessing to the kingdom, but they might have to face all sorts of questions they might not know the answers to so, generally speaking today, they won’t go there. Answers in Advance?

Many church leaders like to maintain the church’s religious knowledge base inside themselves, so the church rarely provides occasions for its people to study kingdom issues. Could this be because they don’t know them either? How many kingdom secrets have been lost down the centuries?

So we find, looking back, a picture of an enthusiastic and powerful church family, with an effective family ministry. They worshipped Jesus Christ, who died on the cross to pay the price of their sins and was raised from the dead, who is now alive and reigns and is their Saviour, Healer and Lord.  

Revd Mike Endicott
Painted & presented to Fr. Horton by Trice Edwards, the Jr Warden, as a remembrance from the congregation of his first church.
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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