

The Chant

St. Gregory's Anglican Church

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World by Knowing, Loving and Serving God.

Preschool Happenings

The Volunteers



The Thanksgiving Feast was a great success! A huge thank you to Kathy Walker for all her planning and preparation and to all the parishioners for volunteering their time! Kathy and I have moved right into the holiday season with plans for the Angel Tree. The Angel Tree is such a worthwhile cause to give to, helping provide Christmas to those less fortunate in our community thru the Common Ground Network. The church and the preschool have partnered together to provide Christmas for 10 children from our community. Please see Kathy Walker or Elizabeth Rivera for more details or any questions regarding Angel Tree donations.



The preschool will be hosting its annual book fair December 10th-14th. We will have a book fair kick-off Monday December 10th 6:30pm-8:00pm "Shopping with Santa". We will have free popcorn, Santa will visit and of course the book fair will be open for business! Proceeds from the fair will benefit the preschool with credit towards free books. Please stop by during preschool hours (8:30-3:30) to shop the fair or if you are interested in volunteer opportunities please see Elizabeth.

Our annual Christmas Program will be Thursday December 13th @ 6:30pm, all are invited! Christmas break will be December 21st - January 7th, the preschool office will be closed.

Elizabeth Rivera





Advent is upon us and Christmas will soon be here. As such, I would encourage everyone to take on some additional devotional time during this season. One very tangible way to assist in this is to have an Advent wreath in your home and light the candles for each week, either during a meal time or prayer time. The Advent wreath is a beautiful reminder of the anticipation of the coming of Christ, connecting past, present, and future.

As we light more candles each week as we draw closer to Christmas, the Feast of the Incarnation of our Lord, we are reminded that light has come into the world. Jesus Christ is the fullness of God's revelation who scattered the darkness of sin in a world that was desperate for a savior. Through God taking on our humanity, we are able to be reconciled to God. On that day, the renewal of creation was begun and the Kingdom of God broke into this world in order to transform it.

As the light of the Advent wreath grows, we also recognize the growth of Christ within us. As disciples of Jesus we are to be continually becoming more and more like him. As we grow in faith and holiness, the light of Christ shines more brightly from each of us. We continue to dispel the darkness that clings so desperately to this world.

Finally, just as we have prepared our hearts to celebrate the remembrance of the Christ Child coming into the world, we also prepare for the final coming of Jesus, when nothing will remain in darkness and all will be exposed to the unfathomable brightness of God.

Past present and future. Jesus entering into his creation at a moment in history, Jesus now within us, and Jesus who will return in glory.. Each day, light the candles of your Advent wreath and remember the light that came into the world, the light growing within you, and the light that will at the last conquer all darkness. Take some time in the busyness of the season to reflect on the nature of light and the power it has. Let the light guide your life and have a blessed Advent season.

Fr. Alan Horton+



Sunday sermons are recorded, each Sunday. <http://stgregorysmansfield.org/sermons>.

Parish Life

On Thursday, November 15, 2018, the church family of St. Gregory's fed over 48 students and then nearly 100 workers, family members of preschoolers. The donations of Cane's fried chicken, dressing, mashed potatoes, green beans, rolls and numerous pies was enjoyed by all in attendance. The extra donations were given to Mansfield Mission to add to their Thanksgiving feast. It is so pleasing to see the number of volunteers that made all the work fun and enjoyable. The meal was such a nice time for our preschool family to meet our wonderful church family. It made a very positive impression on those in attendance.

The church is sponsoring 10 children from five families from the Angel Tree Project by the Mansfield Common Grounds community. This outreach program is such a true expression of the Christmas spirit. These families are in need and want help for their children. Most of the Angels have been taken from the tree which is wonderful. Common Grounds hopes that each child will receive a new set of clothes, shoes plus at least one wish item. The distribution to the families will be on December 20, 2018 from 4:00 PM until 6:00 PM. If you would like to come up and help distribute the presents you are more than welcome to come to the church.

December Birthdays

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

December Anniversaries

- 13 ~ Clyde & Betty Reed, 60th
- 22 ~ Uchechukwu & Nathalie Odunze

December Memorials

- Clyde & Betty Reed ~ Anniversary thanksgiving
- Ruth Sabourin ~ Birthday thanksgiving

Mark Your December Calendar

- 01 ~ Greening the church
~ Men's Breakfast & Study
- 02 ~ Advent I
- 05 ~ Weds. monthly potluck & Bible Bee
- 06 ~ Genealogy Grp, 9 am, Civil War Museum
- 07 ~ St. Clara's Christmas party - Barb. Hanson's
- 09 ~ Advent II
~ DHC Christmas party, 11:30 - A. Wilson's
- 12 ~ Holy Eucharist at Watercrest, 1 pm
- 13 ~ Preschool Christmas Program, 6:30 pm
- 15 ~ Men's Breakfast & Study
- 16 ~ Advent III, Lessons & Carols,
~ Angle Tree Gifts due
- 18 ~ Vestry meeting, 6 pm
- 20 ~ Last Day of Preschool
- 23 ~ Advent IV & Decorate the church
- 24 & 25 ~ Office closed
- 30 ~ Vestry Nominations due
- 31 ~ Office closed

Jr. Warden

We're into the 2018 holiday season and we hope to all have a safe and wonderful time closing out the year.

We have a couple of projects we are trying to complete before the year ends. We are hoping to have the air conditioning/heating systems completed this fall and winter. Work has not started at this time but preparations are under way.

We are working on replacing the parking lot lights that are out in both lots and the lights on the front of both the Sanctuary and the Parrish Hall so we have good lighting around the Church property.

We will be working on installing a handrail at the step going into the Parrish Hall kitchen door.

Kathy Walker

St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group



The genealogy group had its regular monthly meeting on November 1st at the Bradburn Farm. Bill Griffin demonstrated to the group how to enhance Family Tree Maker reports with photos and documents to create family treasures. We all were inspired to try it with our own family trees.

On November 2nd, a group of us met at the Hickory Stick in Everman for lunch and then attended another workshop at the National Archives at Fort Worth on **Baking, Soil Erosion, and Rats...Oh My! Records of the Extension Service**. These are records kept by the Extension Services of the individual states. Locating the files you need may be a challenge. Most are kept by the Land Grant College in your state. Trice is trying to get the presentation files so that he can present it to the group at the January meeting.

Plans are being finalized for our trip to the Civil War Museum in Fort Worth on Thursday, December 6. Our visit will be enhanced by a wonderful docent, Jack Dyess. The admission fee is \$6.00. It is not too late to decide to join us. We will meet at the church at 9:00 a.m. and carpool. I think that some of us want to go to lunch together after we return to the church. This is optional. Because of the field trip, there will not be a regular December meeting.

Happy Hunting!! *Gayle Bradburn*



Daughters of the Holy Cross

Daughters of the Holy Cross once again participated in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child. We filled 26 boxes with items that will be delivered to children through-out the world for Christmas. I want to thank all of the ladies that participated in this worthwhile project.

The Daughters of the Holy Cross will have their annual Christmas party at the home of Abby Wilson on Sunday, December 9th, 2018, at 11:30am. All women of the Church are invited, especially women that are interested in becoming a Daughter. Please bring a Teddy bear or stuffed animal to be donated to Cook's Children Hospital. DHC is also collecting 2019 calendars to be delivered to the residents of area Nursing Homes. Please leave your calendars on the credenza in the back of the Church.

The DHC Women's Silent Retreat will be on February 8 and 9, 2019, at beautiful Camp Crucis, outside of Granbury, Texas. All women of the Church as well as Family and Friends are invited to join us.

Bernice



Order of St. Luke

We are out shopping. We have a few minutes to spare at lunchtime so we pop into a big department store to visit the cafe therein. We order toasted sandwiches and mugs of sizzling hot drinking chocolate. Wonderful!

They're delivered to the table and plonked down. Question from any blind man like me; where's my drink? I reach forward to feel for it and sink the tips of my fingers into the scalding liquid. I yelp with shock and yank back my scalded fingers, consequently dragging the now upturned mug all over myself.

My jeans are drenched in burning brown fluid. I stink of hot chocolate. My legs are burned nearly all the way down to my ankles. I do the 'man' thing and smile through the pain. Pain? Not really but a man has to do something to attract proper levels of female sympathy.

Quick as a flash the staff appear. They mop up. They move us to another table. They go away and come back with fresh toasted sandwiches and yet more drinking chocolate. We settle down again.

The manager arrives. She asks what size jeans I wear and shoots off, returning with a brand new pair and a bag to put the wet ones in.

I protest. This accident is all my fault and not the store's. She smiles and insists, so we leave a little later in a fresh new pair of jeans and the store's plastic shopping bag carrying a dirty one.

Life is a glass half full? Everyone I tell this story to remarks on the customer service level of the store. Marvelous. How good of them to take such care! One friend even suggested he might go there one day in his best suit!

Life is a glass half empty? Behind this scene is probably a society looking for reasons to make a fuss and demand recompense in any passing set of circumstances that might offer such opportunities. Maybe there's a store management policy that instructs the staff to avoid such fuss at any cost?

Avoid any disturbance, any letters from legal people?

I can remember this steaming chocolate event through either glass. I can look at life as well through either glass. I can look at God through either glass, too. How come?

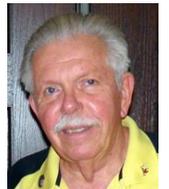
I could, if I really wanted to, keep away from God for much of my week (assuming he's just a Sunday person) but turn anxiously to him, now and again, to put this or that right for me. That's worshipping God with a glass half empty.

Or I can look at him through a glass half full and spend my days in thanksgiving for all his wonders, all his miracles of saving and healing, all his grace.

I'm sticking with the glass half full! It's more comfortable, it's more kingdom.

Till next time, if God wills it - Mike Revd. Mike Endicott, Prior of The Order of Jacob's Well (UK)

Heinz Liedke

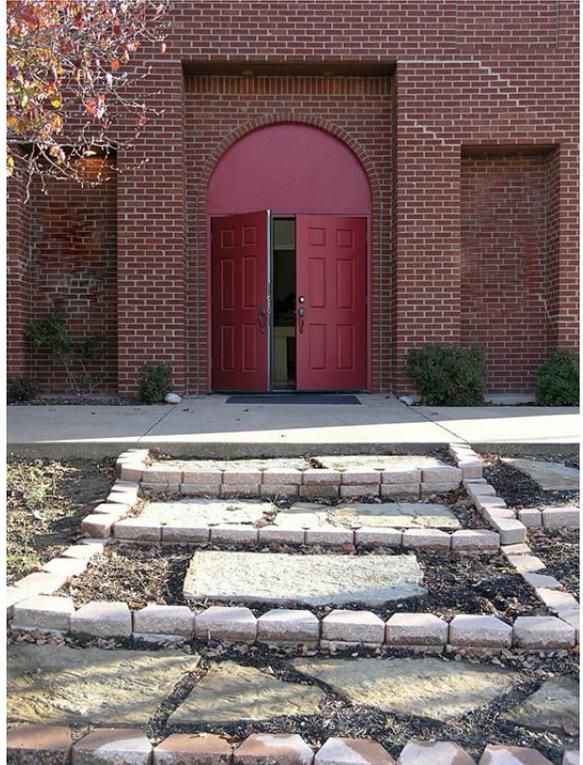


Our Clergy and Staff

"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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