Christmas Eve Pageant
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A common topic of discussion among my clergy friends is that of church size. What is the “right” size for a church in order for ministry to be the most effective. Is the ideal the small, pastoral sized church, with one priest and a small, probably part-time, support staff that relies on a relatively small community to support it? Is it the program sized church which can afford several full time staff members and can offer more specific ministries for a larger community? What about the Mega-Church with a massive full time staff, a huge physical plant and countless ministries, programs, outreaches, small groups, etc. Honestly, I don’t have a good answer to that question and actually, I don’t think it can be answered. All of the different sizes of parishes have their strengths and weaknesses. But, recently, something happened to make me appreciate what we have here at St. Gregory’s.

By many standards, we are a small parish, though among the ranks of many Anglican parishes in the U.S. we are quite healthy. In my opinion, one of the biggest advantages of our size is that it gives us a nimbleness that allows us to be more responsive to the needs of the community. Many of you know that one-time member, Steve Cook passed away unexpectedly this past month. The family contacted me and within a matter of a few days, we were able to manage to put together a funeral. But we didn’t just have a funeral. We had a full sung mass followed by a reception with so much food that we had enough for lunch the next day after church and more leftovers after that. In that circumstance I could not have been more proud of this parish family. People who had never met Steve or his wife Nancy showed up with sandwiches, chips, and cookies to provide a little comfort and space to grieve for a family in mourning.

We are all beyond blessed by the gift that God has given us in St. Gregory’s. And while this church may grow, one thing I never want to compromise is our ability to do just what we did for Steve’s family. We came together as the Body of Christ to do the work of God. Thank you all and know that I love and appreciate each of you and the gifts that you bring to make St. Gregory’s such a wonderful place.

Fr. Alan Horton+

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

January Birthdays
07 ~ Betty McFadin
09 ~ Beth Marshall
15 ~ Jim Rider
17 ~ Suzanne Dougherty
18 ~ James McDuff
20 ~ Theresa Brantley & Jackie Rider
25 ~ Steve Hawkins
30 ~ Barbara Hanson
31 ~ Blaine Marshall

January Anniversaries
09 ~ Paul & Rebecca Jennings
16 ~ Fred & Linda Bass
20 ~ Philip & Theresa Brantley
28 ~ Fr. Tom & Meredith Hightower
30 ~ Walt & Gayle Bradburn

Mark Your January Calendar
01 ~ Office closed
05 ~ Men’s Group / study
06 ~ Annual Reports from ministry leaders due
     ~ Epiphany party at Fr. Horton’s
09 ~ Holy Eucharist at Watercrest, 1 pm
19 ~ Men’s Group / study & Vestry Dinner
20 ~ Annual Meeting & Chili Cookoff
23 ~ Holy Eucharist at Watercrest, 1 pm
26 ~ DHC at St. Gregory’s, 10 am
27 ~ Canned Meat Collection
30 ~ Compline in place of Holy Eucharist

February Calendar
08 & 09 ~ DHC Silent Retreat, Camp Crucis

Advent I ~ Gavin Tempel
Advent II ~ Noah McDuff
Advent III ~ Margeaux Horton
Advent IV ~ Charlie Page

A d v e n t  I ~ G a v i n  T e m p e l
A d v e n t  I I ~ N o a h  M c D u f f
A d v e n t  I I I ~ M a r g e a u x  H o r t o n
A d v e n t  I V ~ C h a r l i e  P a g e
On November 28 some parishioners answered the call to help out at The Mansfield ISD Financial Reality Fair. At the fair students used budget sheets as they visited booths to live “a-day-in-the-life” where they were called upon to make financial decisions. Each booth represented an expense or financial decision scenario. The students visited each booth and tried to “balance” their income and expenses by the end of the fair. Tim Cannon, Walt Bradburn and Maria Casamento were on hand to provide financial guidance to the students as they made their choices.

Tony Casamento

Our book fair was a HUGE success, bringing in the biggest profit to date! Our goal was to reach $700 in sales and we made almost $1,400, this gives us over $650 in Scholastic dollars to use for books and classroom materials. We will be making our classroom selections from our Scholastic dollars in the new year.

January is an exciting time, it is the start of the second semester here at the preschool and we have 4 new students scheduled to start with us. The preschool is thriving and we have had a great year so far with registration up from years past and parent participation at an all time high! Thank you for your support of the preschool and the work we do.

The preschool staff will be on Christmas break from December 21st to January 7th, this is a much needed break for all our teachers after all the holiday events and activities the past several months!

Elizabeth Rivera

Preschool Happenings

We had a packed house for our annual Preschool Christmas program. This year’s program was titled “Rockin’ Royal Christmas”. The focus was on Jesus our King and the royal inheritance we all have as heirs to the kingdom. It was a wonderful night and the kiddos did a fantastic job!
Daughters of the Holy Cross

The Daughters of the Holy Cross had their annual Christmas Party at the Home of Abby Wilson on Sunday, December 9, 2018. Abby cooked a delicious chicken casserole for us and everyone else brought wonderful and yummy food items to the party. We also had punch, wassil, tea and coffee to drink. All of the Daughters and women at St. Gregory’s and spouses were invited to attend. We all had a great time eating and visiting with each other. Everyone brought a teddy bear or other stuffed animal that will be donated to Cook Children’s Hospital. I want to Thank Abby for hosting the party and to everyone that brought such delicious food and drink for all of us to enjoy.

We want to thank everyone that donated 2019 calendars to the Residents of the Nursing Homes. They enjoy receiving these calendars and it means so much to them that someone thought of them.

Our DHC Women’s Retreat will be on February 8 & 9, 2019, at beautiful Camp Crucis. All of the women at St. Gregory’s as well as Family and Friends are invited to attend. Our next DHC meeting is Saturday, January 26th, 2019, at 10:00am at St. Gregory’s.

Bernice
The genealogy group had a wonderful field trip this month on December 6th to the Civil War Museum. Jack Dyess was our docent. He told us that the center of the museum was called the Mason Dixon Line. Confederate displays were on the left (South) and Union displays were on the right. He had wonderful stories to tell about the exhibits. We saw the only existing uniform of General Grant, which had no buttons on it. Jack said that when General Grant returned home after the war, his wife cut up all of his uniforms except this one and gave the pieces out as souvenirs. She also cut off all the buttons and gave them away, thus no buttons on the uniform at the museum.

I think we were all in agreement that we need to go to the museum again because there was so much to see. After returning to the church some of the group went to Los Molcajetes for fellowship and Mexican food. A great time was had by all.

The next monthly meeting will be held Thursday, January 3rd at 9:00 a.m. at the Bradburn Farm. We will discuss what topics we want to explore this year and what field trips we want to do. Come join us.

Happy Hunting!!  Gayle Bradburn
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

Rector
Fr. Alan Horton
rector@stgregorymansfield.org

Parish Secretary
Connie Barker
office@stgregorymansfield.org

Organist
Jim Maas
jwepm@hotmail.com

Preschool Administration
Elizabeth Rivera, Director
sgpreschool@stgregorymansfield.org

Bookkeeper:
Doris Short
sgfinance@stgregorymansfield.org

Chant Editor:
Phil Hawkins
phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster/Facebook Administrator
Tim Cannon
thetimcannon@gmail.com

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