The Daughters of the Holy Cross held their Annual Women's Silent Retreat on February 8th and 9th at Camp Crucis in Granbury, Texas. It was a cold Wintry Day when we arrived at the Bishop Pope Lodge on Friday, but we did not let that dampen our Spirits. Fourteen women attended the Retreat. We played Bible Trivia, some of us were better than others. We walked around the beautiful camp even though it was cold. After we ate Dinner, Jane Zavala gave us a wonderful slide show on the Essential Oils of the Bible. Nancy Liedke led us in Compline and then it was time for Silence to begin. On Saturday, we ate breakfast, in silence, then went to St. John's Chapel and said Morning Prayer. We then went back to the Lodge and decorated our rocks, shown in the picture. It was decided to have our lovely children at St. Gregory's place the rocks around our gardens at St. Gregory's on Children's Sunday, sometime when it gets warmer. After Lunch, we packed up and left to go back to our homes having spent a great two days of companionship, relaxation and spiritual renewal. On a side note, our chef, Justin, had fantastic meals for us. We are so grateful that he is the chef at Camp Crucis. The next DHC meeting will be on Saturday, March 23rd, at 10:00am at St. Gregory's.

Bernice Baldwin

Theresa Brantley, Nancy Liedke, Sharon Holcomb, Bernice Baldwin, Cheri Davis, Barbara Edwards, Gayle Bradburn, Jane Zavala, Dianne Stalewski, Angie Griffin, Candace Griffin, Beth Marshall, Justin (Chef) and Abby Wilson

Group picture by Fire Place
Lent is upon us again. For me, the Lenten season always provides such an abrupt shift. We drop our Alleluias, we veil our various images in the church, we focus on particular disciplines and give things up. In some ways it feels like pushing the reset button. It isn’t the beginning of a new year, secularly or liturgically, but Lent has a way of calling us back. Maybe we have neglected our prayers, forgotten to give thanks, become lax in our church attendance, or ignored our scripture reading, or maybe we never really did some of those things to begin with. Lent helps us to prioritize, to start those things that, any other time of the year, may seem awkward or forced. If you aren’t in the habit of praying with your spouse or children, a random Thursday evening may be a strange time to decide to start. But, the beginning of Lent may be a perfect opportunity. You can even discuss it in advance, decide on a format – for instance, the Daily Office or Compline from the BCP or A.C.T.S. (adoration, confession, thanksgiving, supplication) – and set a time and place. Or, if you just need to work in some time for personal prayer or meditation, you can find strength and encouragement in knowing that you are joining with the rest of the faithful in taking on something extra in order to deepen your spirituality and improve your relationship with God.

The changes in season, especially at Lent, remind me how we are rooted in such a beautiful cycle in our liturgical year. Just as every year, as we prepare for the Spring, we have the opportunity to plant new seeds in order to harvest the goodness of what the earth provides, each Lent we have the chance to plant new seeds of faith through sacrifice and devotion in order to harvest the joys of the resurrection at Easter. We are able to experience, year after year, in the Christian life this unchanging constancy that is at the same time fresh and new with every successive year. As we approach this Lenten season, give some thought to the harvest that you wish to see in your life in order to plant the appropriate seeds.

To help with this, following the Wednesday evening Mass at 6:30, we will be looking at the Suffering Servant of Isaiah and exploring the four servant songs contained in his book. This will be an opportunity for everyone to join us in study during the season of Lent without having to be concerned about joining in the middle of an ongoing study. So, if you haven’t joined us on Wednesday evenings, now would be a great time to give it a try. We will also have our usual Stations of the Cross every Friday evening at 6:30. Consider making regular attendance at one or both of these a part of your Lenten discipline and join with the rest of the Church in the observance of a Holy Lent.

Fr. Alan Horton+

Sunday sermons are recorded, each Sunday. http://stgregorysmansfield.org/sermons.
Jr. Warden’s Report

We have gotten off to a good start at St. Gregory’s Anglican Church for 2019. Come into the Parish Hall and see the new TV that was donated to the church. Thanks to help from Walt Bradburn, Bill Griffin and Father Horton we mounted it on the north wall. The TV is a “smart TV” with Bluetooth and lots of other features. Connie donated an antenna so we have access to the local channels and more. It will connect wirelessly to Windows components. We are checking into Apple compatibility as we think we have that capability too. The preschool can watch their movies with the school kids. We will be able to use it when we make presentations with Bible Study and training. For example St. Clara’s Guild has plans to use it to learn more about quilting.

We are currently finalizing the Parish Hall carpet replacement. The work should be starting soon.

We are in the process of selecting a company to replace one of the air conditioners in the Sanctuary.

Trice

Preschool Happenings

The month of February flew by and we accomplished a lot at the school. Summer Camp registration is well under way, we have had a slow and steady stream of registration coming in.

We will begin Fall registration for the 2019/2020 school year in the month of March. The Vestry previously approved tuition increases for the upcoming school year, this will be the first tuition increase the preschool has had in the last five years. Two and Three day a week preschool will see an increase of $10 to their monthly tuition. Four and five day a week preschool, as well as our Pre-K program will see an increase of $15 to their monthly tuition. All registration and supply fees will remain the same. The preschool will be closed March 11th-15th for Spring Break.

Once again, the preschool will partner with the church to participate in the annual Pickle Parade on March 16th.

Pic #1 Margeaux and friends (© Jamie Morgan) Pic #2 & #3 Class Valentine party (© Michelle Savitch)

Elizabeth Rivera
Order of St. Luke

What is the ‘prayer offered in faith’?

And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. James 5:15

Does this phrase ‘prayer offered in faith’ mean that we should wait until we have some sudden or great influx of faith that assures us so mightily of an imminent healing that we have almost to do nothing but stand and wait for it? Or, on the other hand, do we speak out the prayer of faith when we have understood in our minds that Jesus heals and that we have authority over sickness and disease? If we then speak the words ‘Be healed!’, will it happen for us? We may look very foolish if it does not! How do we pray an effective prayer of faith? How do we do the works that God intends us to do?

We should forget what is in our minds and consider what is in our hearts. In John’s Gospel we find the followers of Jesus facing the same misunderstandings. Jesus told his disciples that the work of God is to believe in the one he has sent (see John 6:28 –29). In other words, we can be used by God, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to heal the sick if we simply believe that Jesus did do it, that he can do it and that he will do it. If we trust enough to rely totally on him then we begin to pray in faith, whatever the form of prayer we use. But how to deepen our trust? One most important way is to move more deeply into the heart knowledge that Father God wills healing for everyone.

Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me. If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him.” John 14:6 –7. 27. Here Jesus is impressing on Philip that we can see the Father heart of God if we watch his words and works. In verse eight Philip says, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” Philip is struggling to understand. Then Jesus answers him, “Don’t you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me and the words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work . . . ” Mike Endicott

Heinz Liedke

PHOENIX VOLUNTEERS

Once again The St. Gregory’s Family answered the call to assist the students at The Phoenix Academy. The school is an innovative, alternate high school in the Mansfield ISD. We emphasize life skills as much as academics and on many occasions ask for help from the community. On February 13 we had a mock interview day to prepare students for job and college interviews. Tim Cannon, Tom Turner and Kathy Walker were on hand to interview the students. It is not easy for some young people to speak confidently about themselves to strangers so this was a great experience for them. They also had a chance to be advised on resumes, proper dress, body language and other factors critical to making a good impression. On behalf of The Phoenix Academy I want to express my gratitude to Kathy, Tim and Tom and to others who inquired about the event.

Tony Casamento
**St. Clara’s Guild**

The St. Clara’s Guild met on Feb. 2 at the home of Barbara Hanson to work on a quilt. Five ladies were present to help sew the quilt squares together.

We make prayer quilts for our parishioners who are ill and for new babies in the parish to be presented at the time of their baptism. We also crochet and knit preemie caps for the local hospital’s NICU babies and we make walker totes for nursing home residents. The St. Clara’s Guild is open to everyone at St. Gregory’s and we would love to have you join us, especially if you sew, knit, or crochet.

We meet every other month, usually on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00, at Barbara Hanson’s home. If you don’t sew, knit, or crochet, we can usually always use somebody to iron seams or cut fabric. Our next meeting will be on April 13 at 9:00.

If you have any questions, contact Barbara Edwards at 817-729-4783.

**St. Gregory’s Genealogy Research Group**

On February 7th, instead of a monthly meeting, the Genealogy Group went to visit the Genealogy Division of the J. Erik Jonsson Central Library in Dallas. We were given a brief orientation and tour by Crystal Brooks, the Genealogy Librarian.

We had six members go on the field trip….Phil Hawkins, Robert Bloomfield, Barbara and Trice Edwards, Maria Casamento, and Gayle Bradburn. We discovered that the library was easy to get to and that it had free four-hour parking underground. It is a little further to drive, but easier to park and enter the building than the Fort Worth and Arlington Libraries.

This library contains one of the largest and most comprehensive collections for family history research in the Southwest. The collection includes all states and counties of the United States. Resources for many foreign countries are also available.

We will not have a regular meeting in March. Maybe we can use this opportunity to re-visit the Civil War Museum or the Dallas Library.

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

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