45,000 and growing: Pickle Parade in Mansfield sweet success
This Lent in our Wednesday evening Bible Study, we have been exploring the Servant Songs of Isaiah. But, I know there are many who are unable to join us for this so I would like to take this month’s article and give everyone an overview of what we have been studying. So, the first question is what are the Servant Songs of Isaiah? These Servant Songs are four passages found in the Old Testament book of the prophet Isaiah and they are as follows: 42:1-4, 49:1-6, 50:4-9, 52:13-53:12. In each of these passages we are dealing with a servant who has been appointed by God to fulfill a great mission to restore up Israel and be a light to all the nations. But we also see that he will fulfill this mission in a very unique way. This mission will involve not might and power, but meekness and a concern for the poor and weak. There will be disgrace and suffering for the servant. He will bear the iniquities of the people. In a purely Old Testament context, this servant is something of an enigmatic character, not quite fitting the mold of any expected figure. Not a prophet, not a messiah, not a king, but in some ways bearing the marks of each.

Of course, when we examine these songs through the lens of the New Testament, the identity of the servant becomes readily apparent. Jesus is this servant. We see Jesus as the prophet, priest, and king who is the ultimate servant of God. He is fully obedient and therefore fully able to fulfill the mission of the servant which is the true mission of Israel. And we see the manner in which the mission is carried out with meekness and through sacrifice. In this connection of Jesus to the suffering servant of Isaiah, we see a very clear continuation of the Old Testament prophecies to the ministry of Jesus and the mission of the Church which he founded.

And throughout Lent we have opportunity to follow in the steps of the servant. We get the chance, through participation in the Stations of the Cross to walk through the passion of Jesus. We can immerse ourselves in what he suffered for our sake and identify our place in his journey. And, through the prayers and collects, we recall these prophecies in the various stops along the way. So, please join us for Stations of the Cross on one of the final Friday evenings left in Lent at 6:30 or on Good Friday with the end of the overnight watch in the garden at noon.

Fr. Alan Horton+

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

Our sympathy goes out the family of Gene Motter who died early on the morning of March 28. Service arrangements are pending. Please keep Harriet and her family in your prayers. May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the merits of God, rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon him. Amen.
Preschool Happenings

A quick look back on what has transpired the months of February/March before we look ahead to the coming spring months:

February was Dental Health Month. Holly Horton (accompanied by the Tooth Fairy) visited the preschool to teach the students about the importance of taking care of their teeth. A big thank you to Holly for coming out, the students learned so much and they enjoyed their dental hygiene goody bags! We ended the month of February with a tribute to Dr. Seuss, the children read some of his books, sang songs and had Dr. Seuss themed arts & crafts.

March brought the start of Fall registration for the 2019/2020 school year. At the conclusion of March we already had 35 students enrolled!

We will have spring pictures April 10th and 11th, we will also take pre-k graduation portraits for those students who will be going to kindergarten next year.

The preschool will host it's annual Trike-a-Thon on April 18th. Each year we host this event to raise money for St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital. Over the past 15+ years that we have participated we have raised over $12,000 for St. Jude’s!! We spend the week learning riding and helmet safety and the week ends with a school wide ride. It is lots of fun and such a worthwhile cause!

We will have egg hunts for the children at the end of April, after Fr. Horton has concluded with his teachings on Christ’s death, burial and resurrection.

Thanks to the bubble wands, bubble gloves, and the bubble pump the Cloud of Bubbles brought a cheer from the crowd throughout the whole parade route. We even had an Irish Pickle and a One-Wheel hoverboard escorting our float! Everyone had a great time and we are looking forward to MORE BUBBLES next year.

Tim Cannon
Daughters of the Holy Cross

The Daughters of the Holy Cross met on Saturday, March 23, 2019, at 10:00am at St. Gregory's. Bernice gave a brief summary of the Chapter along with comments from the Daughters.

The next DHC Women's Silent Retreat will be on February 28th and 29th, 2020 at Camp Crucis. There will not be a DHC meeting in April, so our next meeting will be on May 25th, at 10:00am at St. Gregory's.

Bernice Baldwin

Order of St. Luke

A guide to keep Jesus in focus and to realize the presence of the Kingdom.

1. Practiced discerning between the compound out-of-focus image of cod in the character of the crew risen Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Study his words and works in the Gospels to grow in understanding of his character.
3. Be convinced by that study that God's will is always to restore.
4. Be continually prepared to have our image of God challenged by Scripture - learn to allow modern pre-conceived ideas about his working and thinking to fall away when they are not matched by Jesus' words and works in the New Testament.
5. Seek to imitate Jesus' ministry as closely as possible.
6. Learn the goodness of the kingdom of God and the true value of the cross and how to proclaim it.
7. Do everything you do for the glory of God. It's God himself who has hidden these secret things of the kingdom from the cynical, the scientist and the blinkered thinker, and longs to show them to those of us with a child's poverty of spirit and purity of heart. Anyone of us who find it awkward and difficult to receive the kingdom of God, with the simplicity and whole-heartedness of a little child, may never walk in its blessings.

So let's do some work to settle down the wings of the theological butterfly in our brains and that cleverest of its fluttering thinking that brings satisfaction of intellect and the justification of work and ministry. Let's throw away, as far as strength will allow, those thoughts that ever doubt his passion for all who suffer. Let's beg him to fill our poor souls with his most Holy spirit so that our footsteps are guided nearer and nearer to the Christ risen out of the pages of the gospels and not out of the Christian experience and the teachings and thinking of others. Only then will we begin to demolish those arguments and pretensions that spring up from our life experiences and set themselves up in our minds against the true knowledge of God and the secrets of the kingdom, and allow us to take a firm hold of every such thought to make it conform to the character and the will of the Christ of the gospels, the perfect image of the invisible God.

As we begin to praise the Father and give thanks for something we may not have previously been aware of, the full purposes of Calvary and its role in man's journey from Eden to the New Jerusalem, the kingdom comes near and life begins to be restored around us.

As our prayers for others change from pleadings to praising, from interceding to the giving of thank offerings, so the Holy spirit brings near the kingdom through our expectations. The kingdom of god comes near not so much because we request it, but because we expect it. Revd. Mike Endicott

Heinz Liedke

St. Clara's Guild

Our next meeting will be on April 13 at 9:00, at the home of Barbara Hanson, 722 Danvers Lane, Mansfield. Since we try to have a few extra quilts on hand, our project for this month will be to make a quilt that would be appropriate to give to a woman. We would love to have anybody join us.

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

Barbara Edwards

Daughters of the Holy Cross

The Daughters of the Holy Cross met on Saturday, March 23, 2019, at 10:00am at St. Gregory's. We continued with our Book Study, Intercessory Prayer, by Dutch Sheets. Bernice gave a brief summary of the Chapter along with comments from the Daughters.

The next DHC Women's Silent Retreat will be on February 28th and 29th, 2020 at Camp Crucis. There will not be a DHC meeting in April, so our next meeting will be on May 25th, at 10:00am at St. Gregory's.

Bernice Baldwin

PHOENIX VOLUNTEERS

Fr. Horton attended The Phoenix Academy's annual business conference on February 28. The conference at the Mansfield Performing Arts Center is held to expose the students to potential post-education experiences. Fr. Horton, along with the students listened to a keynote speaker talk about “thinking outside the box”. This was followed by breakout sessions on various topics such as networking successfully and the pitfalls of social media. The event was concluded with a luncheon. Fr. Horton had an opportunity to sit with some students and get a perspective on the school from their point of view.

Tony Casamento
April Birthdays
04 ~ Paige Cannon
06 ~ Walt Bradburn
07 ~ Sharon Holcomb
08 ~ Clyde Reed
13 ~ Winnie Saunders
14 ~ Jake Mowrer
22 ~ Thomas Hightower

April Anniversaries
11 ~ Jim Willbern & Brenda Lee, 27th.
13 ~ Mike & Ruth Sabourin, 6th

April Memorials
Linda Bass ~ Thanksgiving Lisa’s birthday.

Mark Your April Calendar
02 ~ Small Group Study, 10am
03 ~ Holy Eucharist, 6:30pm, Soup Potluck, 7pm
05 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:30pm
06 ~ Men’s Group Study, Rosa’s, 8am
09 ~ Small Group Study, 10am & Vestry Meeting, 6pm
10 ~ Holy Eucharist Watercrest, 1pm & St. G’s 6:30 pm
   Bible Study, 7pm
12 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:30pm
13 ~ Outdoor Work Day, 8am & St. Clara’s Guild, 9am
14 ~ Palm Sunday with donkey, 8:30am
16 ~ Small Group Study 10am
   Mass of Collegiality 10am
17 ~ Holy Eucharist 6:30pm
18 ~ Maundy Thursday 7 pm & Altar of Repose 8pm
19 ~ Altar of Repose continues
   Stations of the Cross12pm & Good Friday 7pm
20 ~ Men’s group 8am & Prayers 12 noon
   Easter Vigil 8pm
21 ~ Easter 9am & egg hunt 10:15am
23 ~ Small group study, 10am
24 ~ Holy Eucharist Watercrest, 1pm & St. G’s 6:30pm
25 ~ Preschool Spring Program
30 ~ Small group study, 10am

Jr. Warden’s Report
Being relatively new to St. Gregory’s and the Anglican Church, being a member of the Vestry provided me with a way to gain understanding of the church and particularly our church. Being Jr. Warden has been both challenging (I.E. educational) and entertaining. Attending services at St. Gregory’s has also provided me some education.

This month is one of those months. We know that the Lord has his ways of guiding us in our activities. During one of our Adult Sunday School Classes, discussing the next Sunday’s scriptures Father Horton talked about not testing GOD.

He mentioned that there are some religions that worship with serpents. He stated that he feels that that is a test of GOD. I agree and have no intention of handling serpents. The timing of this scripture was very good. On Friday, March 15, 2019, while working with the electricians on the lights, I was cleaning the pews. To my surprise I discovered a snake under a pew. Luckily for me, it was on the right side and we sit on the left side.

This was going to force me to handle a serpent! I went to get a broom and dust pan to collect the snake and came back but could not find it. I then began to question if I had really seen one. I was down on hands and knees looking under all the pews without finding it. I left for awhile for lunch and upon my return, I located it under a different pew. So, I had to handle a serpent after all. Only I handled it with the broom and dustpan. The good news is that it was only a small brown garden snake and it is comfortably residing in a flowerbed. We managed to repair the light on the right side and are currently working on the left side.

There are several possible areas to review for the left side light.

Trice

New carpet in the Parish Hall.

St. Gregory’s Genealogy Research Group
Greetings All!!
We have several events scheduled for April. The regular monthly meeting in April will be Friday, April 5th at 9:30 a.m. Both the day of the week and the time is a change. We are going to try the new time to see if it is more convenient for our members.

April’s meeting will be at Phil Hawkins’ house at 2302 Forest Park Circle, Mansfield, TX 76063. Phil is going to discuss DNA with us. This will be the first of several presentations on different aspects of your DNA (atDNA - family ancestry, mtDNA - maternal ancestry & Y-DNA - paternal ancestry). If you have a question about DNA, please send it to Phil in advance of the meeting. If you are planning on attending please advise Phil, phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net or 817-453-4547.

Don’t forget about the seminar at the Arlington Family History Seminar April 13 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. at 3809 Curt Drive, Arlington, Texas 76016. The Class Schedule is posted on the Facebook page.

Happy Hunting!!

Gayle Bradburn

31 Mar 2019 ~ The Chant ~ 5
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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