22 September Eucharist
Fr. John Kalimi serving
John Hamaker, LEM.
Before seminary, when I was younger and less theologically educated and not at all pastorally trained, my lovely wife made some comment about our puppy, Lucy, one day being in heaven. I quickly assured her that Lucy didn’t have a place in heaven, not being of the same order of creation as human beings and therefore unable to gain access to eternity. Now, imagine my surprise when I looked over to see her crying, distraught at the idea that this adorable, sweet, ball of fluff would not be there, tail wagging, to greet her in the afterlife. This episode had a huge impact on me and has stuck with me all these years and I’m sure to the relief of everyone reading who has ever had a beloved pet, my position on this theological issue has become far more nuanced. I still hold that animals have no rational soul and no need or means of salvation, but, as for their place in eternity, well, I can’t imagine a place where we are meant to be happy with God forever without the presence of some of the purest sources of joy in our lives. If God is able to restore all creation and make all things new, then who am I to say that won’t include Lucy.

Now, why in the world have I told you all this story? On the 4th of this month, we celebrate the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, a late 12th/ early 13th century friar, known for his love of animals and deep reverence for all of God’s creation. We honor his feast day with our annual blessing of the animals, which falls on a Friday this year. We will gather in the Sally Schmidt memorial garden with our preschoolers and their families and bless all of the various cats, dogs, hamsters, lizards, and whatever other pets that may show up. This is an opportunity for us to give thanks to God for the goodness of his creation and the joy that he gives to us through the blessing of his wonderful creatures as we in turn bless them.

The collect for St. Francis is as follows:

Almighty God, grant your people grace to renounce gladly the vanities of this world; that, following the way of blessed Francis, we may for love of you delight in your whole creation with perfect joy.

This is a beautiful prayer that reminds us, as did the life of St. Francis, that this world was created for our joy and given to our care. Our love of creation and our delight in it should always be grounded in our love for God as the one who is the giver of all good things. When it is, we can enjoy this life with all things in their proper order understanding our world as both a gift and a responsibility. So, please join us for the blessing of the animals and if you are unable, I will have small bottles of holy water with prayer cards available at the back of the church on the Sunday following the feast of St. Francis.

Fr. Alan Horton+
Sunday sermons are recorded, each Sunday.
Preschool Happenings

October kicks off the busy holiday season here at the preschool. We have tons of fun activities planned for our preschool families and community. If you have not had the chance to get involved with the preschool ministry, now is a great time to start! We have lots of upcoming opportunities to volunteer and be a blessing.

We will have a visit from the fire department on October 1st. Pony pictures will be here on October 3rd (they will be back for pony rides at the Fall Festival). Blessing of the animals is Friday October 4th @ 2pm. Plan to join us in the courtyard with your animal friends.

We hope you all join us for the Fall Festival on Saturday October 19th. Our preschool families look forward to this event each year!

We will have dress up day on Halloween, October 31st. Looking forward to our annual Thanksgiving Feast on Thursday November 21st, hope you all will join us.

Pic #1 Owl class with READ dogs, Pic #2 Gavin and the 3 year old class with the READ dogs. (photo credit Lillianna)

Elizabeth Rivera

St. Gregory’s Genealogy Research Group

October’s regular monthly meeting is TBA. Watch for an announcement for the date and time.

Our last meeting was held on September 6th at the Bradburn Farm. We had a great meeting discovering some “tricks of the trade” using Family Tree Maker.

On September 10th some of us attended the Arlington Genealogical Society Meeting for their program Become a Mapaholic by Tresa Tatvrek, and on the 23rd we attended the Fort Worth Genealogical Society Meeting program, The Beatitudes of a Genealogist by Patti Huff Smith.

In October (8th): The Arlington Genealogical Society Meeting’s program will be: How Writing My Family History Made Me a Better Genealogist, presented by Judy Ramos.

Thursday, October 17th is the Historic Downtown Mansfield Ghost Tour and Haunted House from 6-8 p.m. Tickets are $20.

Saturday and Sunday, October 26th and 27th is the Saints and Sinners Walking Tour at Oakwood Cemetery. They are 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Tickets are $10.

Happy Hunting, Gayle Bradburn

Elizabeth Rivera
**Assist in this service to St. Gregory's**

St. Gregory's Choir meets for rehearsal once a week so that we can play a strong role in leading the congregation in worship. We spend the bulk of our time working on upcoming anthems. You may notice that the anthem is usually related to the Gospel reading of the day. Jim Mass works with each section to help us get our tone correct for our parts. We have four sections (ordered from highest to lowest): Soprano, Alto, Tenor, and Bass. Each one of us comes from a different level of musical background and experience. **We would welcome any of our congregational members who like to sing to assist in this service to St. Gregory's (especially as we gear up for the Advent and Christmas seasons). No music training or firm commitment are required. If you have an interest speak to any of the choir members for more information and plan to come to a rehearsal to try it out.**

Tim Cannon

**Daughters of the Holy Cross**

The Daughters of the Holy Cross met on Saturday, Sept. 28th, at St. Gregory's. Bernice handed out the Samaritan's Purse gift boxes to the Daughters at the Meeting. The DHC is once again participating in Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Ministry. Anyone from the Parrish that is interested in filling a box with needy items for Children around the world, please contact Bernice Baldwin. We are also collecting 2020 calendars for residents of the area Nursing Homes. Please leave the calendars on the credenza at the back of the Church. **Thank you!!!**

Blessings, Bernice Baldwin

**Jr. Warden’s Report**

Let me tell you a tale of no lights or air conditioning.

During a Tuesday (10th) morning preschool chapel the lights went out. We went out to the electric panel and found the main circuit breaker for the Sanctuary had tripped. We reset it and a little later it tripped again.

My first thought was it was hot outside and the breaker was some 40 years old and was needing replacing. We contacted Tutor Electric, the company that had done the last electrical work that we had done. They came out the next morning. I had turned on every light and all of the air conditioners before they arrived. When they arrived I walked out to meet them and the lights were on. We walked back heading to the electrical panel and the lights were off!

They smelled a problem! When they opened the panel we found a phase of the 440 volt power had insulation burned off. They measured the panel and determined the number of circuits we needed and prepared a quote. We approved the quote and they ordered the parts which would take 4 to 5 days to arrive. We were prepared to make the repair on Friday the 13th.

We got with Elizabeth about closing the preschool that day since ONCOR would shut off all the power so Tutor could replace the box and burned wire. ONCOR we found needed 72 hours notice to schedule the power disconnect. Since we couldn’t give them 72 hours notice and make the repair we decided to wait a week. This would ensure that parts were here, the preschool parents would have plenty of notice about the school closing. We really wanted to be sure we only closed 1 day.

It got exciting when the Thursday before we made the repair the called and said the new panel was the wrong one. They found the correct one and had it next day delivered. The repairs were made and we have lights and air conditioning again.

We would like to say “Thanks” to everyone for their patience and sweating it out. Trice
Financial Peace University

Are you tired of money stress? Then you’re ready to join more than five million people whose lives have been changed by **Financial Peace University** (FPU)! This nine-lesson course taught by Dave Ramsey, Chris Hogan and Rachel Cruze helps you work a plan to nail a budget, defeat debt, and free yourself from money worries!

We’ll host the class right here in our parish hall on **Mondays at 6:30 PM** starting **January 5, 2020**.

You’ll join a small group for discussions and lessons—all rooted in biblical wisdom and common sense. FPU includes your member workbook and a free year of Financial Peace Membership, with online tools created to support your journey.

Sign up and purchase course materials online: https://www.fpu.com/1101626

For more info, contact Senior Warden and FPU Coordinator, James McDuff, 817-683-6659, james-mcduff@sbcglobal.net

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Order of St. Luke

Kingdom Life ~ Celebrating the creativity, simplicity and delight of the kingdom of God

The kingdom of God, this cross-centred and consequently abundant, spiritual acreage of restoration, is the most fascinating place in which to spend one’s days. It’s exciting, enthralling, possessive, magnetic, thrilling and joyful, full of incident and over flowing with glory to the Son of God. It’s a miraculous place, literally; it is heaven on earth and everyone is invited to live there.

The great danger that faces all of us who don’t long to take this kingdom step, but whose habit-hearts long to stay with the Reubenites on the eastern shore of the river Jordan, is not that we’ll make a complete failure of life, or that we’ll fall back into out-and-out secularism, or be terribly unhappy — none of these things. No, the real danger is that we may miss grasping life’s greatest meaning, be unable to reach its highest good, miss out on its deepest and most lasting joy; so we won’t be equipped to serve, we’d be unaware of life on fire with the light of the presence of the kingdom of God, and be content to have it like this — that’s the danger.

It’s frightening to think that one day we could wake up and find that we’ve been so busy with the trappings and husks of church life that we’ve missed life itself. Life without our vibrant, active and restoring God, for anyone who has known the joy and richness of walking with him in his miraculous Eden-style kingdom on earth, would be impossible and unthinkable. That sort of life is what I pray my fellow Christians may be spared - being satisfied with a life that falls somewhere short of the best.

Please share this to fortify others. Till next time, if God wills it. Mike

Revd Mike Endicott, Prior of The Order of Jacob’s Well (UK)

Heinz Liedke

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**Fall Festival ~ 19 October, 9 am - 1 pm**

Volunteers needed to work the festival. Vendor applications available at the back of the church. Contact Candace Griffin.
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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