Everyone’s efforts paid off on Christmas Eve with the Children’s pageant. Anne put together the pageant with Papa Dog telling the story of Jesus birth to his family of puppies (Tim, Efay, Micah, Noah, Elizabeth, Elizabeth, and Anne). The children (and others) of the parish played the roles in the story.

The Angel that appeared to Mary (Emma) Mary, Joseph, and the Inn Keeper (Gwen, Asa, and Addie). Shepherds and Sheep (Buikam, Jake, Michael, and Margeaux) Angels speaking from Heaven (The Choir) The Star from the East (Hannah carried by James) The wise men and their trusty camel (Thomas, Tate, Micah, Sammy, Thomas). Tim Cannon (continued p. 5)
Merry Christmas! I hope everyone had a blessed Feast of the Nativity and are currently enjoying the festive Christmastide. In this edition of The Chant I have so many people to thank that I don’t know where to start. Let me first thank everyone in the congregation who contributed to the incredibly generous gift for my family. It is greatly appreciated, and I am touched by your generosity. And while I am thanking the entire congregation, I have something else to thank you all for. Thank you so much for being so wonderful and welcoming. Thank you for understanding that in order to grow and thrive we must be a place that lovingly opens our arms to bring in young families with small and sometimes noisy children. Thank you for knowing that those minor distractions mean that St. Gregory’s has a bright future and that the Church in worship includes all our voices, big and small. And it is because of this that the next thank you is necessary. I need to thank everyone who was involved in producing our Christmas pageant, especially Ann Bressert for writing and directing, all of our adults in the cast, our parents for having their children here each week to practice, and all of our children and youth for putting on such a fun and faithful production. I cannot tell you how proud I am of this parish and how committed everyone is to our growth and vitality.

Next, I have to offer an apology. I am sorry that we neglected our service of Advent Lessons and Carols this year. The last couple of years we have integrated it into our Sunday morning Eucharist and with the new liturgy I realized too late that the entire thing would have to be redone. Please know that this was a one-time oversight and we will bring it back this next year.

In other news, our new bishop, Ryan Reed, will be assuming his duties as our diocesan bishop on Jan. 1 as Bishop Iker moves into his much-deserved retirement. The seating and investiture of Bishop Reed will take place at St. Vincent’s Cathedral during a service of Choral Evensong at St. Vincent’s Cathedral in Bedford on Sunday, January 5 at 6:00 pm. Everyone is invited and it will be a beautiful service followed by a reception. Please make plans to attend this momentous occasion in the life of our diocese. Also note that this is the same day as our parish Epiphany party which will be earlier this year from 1:00-4:00 pm.

Finally, this coming semester, we will be exploring the Catholic Epistles in our Wednesday evening Bible study. They are so called, not because of any particular connection to the Roman Catholic Church, but because they are generally considered to be letters for the whole church, also known as the General Epistles. These include James, 1st and 2nd Peter, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd John, and Jude. Bible Study will resume on Jan. 15, following our weekly 6:30 pm Wednesday evening mass.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Fr. Alan Horton+

Sunday sermons are recorded, each Sunday.

January Birthdays

02 ~ Sean Sparkman
07 ~ Betty McFadin
09 ~ Beth Marshall
15 ~ Jim Rider
17 ~ Suzanne Dougherty
18 ~ James McDuff
20 ~ Theresa Brantley & Jackie Rider
25 ~ Steve Hawkins
28 ~ Jay King
30 ~ Barbara Hanson
31 ~ Blaine Marshall

January Anniversaries

09 ~ Paul and Rebecca Jennings, 4 years
16 ~ Fred and Linda Bass, 10 years
17 ~ Fr. Alan & Holly Horton, 16 years
20 ~ Phillip and Theresa Brantley, 43 years
28 ~ Fr. Tom & Meredith Hightower, 48 years
30 ~ Walt and Gayle Bradburn, 55 years

Mark Your January Calendar

03 ~ Genealogy Meeting, 9:30 am
05 ~ Epiphany at the Hortons, 1-4 pm
08 ~ Holy Eucharist, Watercrest, 1 pm
11 ~ St. Clara’s Guild, 1 pm, Parish Hall
18 ~ Holy Eucharist, Watercrest, 1 pm
25 ~ DHIC, 10 am
Vestry Dinner
26 ~ Annual Meeting & Chili Cookoff

28 & 29 Feb 2020 ~ DHIC Women’s Retreat, Crucis

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2020
Jr. Warden's Report

My three years as the Jr Warden have come to an end. The experience has been educational to say the least. I have enjoyed working with three different Vestries, and I hope we have made improvements during the last three years. We have accomplished many tasks and there, as always, are more ahead.

I would like to thank the Vestry members that I worked with, current and past for their help and input. I would like to thank the Church members that helped around the Church when called. We could not have completed the jobs we did without your help.

Trice

Events

St Gregory’s participated in the Common Ground Christmas Program by adopting eleven children this year. Not only did the children receive gifts from St Gregory’s parishioners and pre-school families; they each received hygiene kits and Kroger gift cards provided by Mansfield Cares. Some of the children received bicycles and helmets provided by an anonymous donation. Thank you for showing God’s love in assuring that these children had a Merry Christmas!

Candace Griffin

St. Gregory’s Genealogy Research Group

On December 6th, the Genealogy Group went to the Arlington Public Library. Mark Dellenbaugh, the Local History & Genealogy Librarian, gave our group a tour of the Genealogy Library and gave us instructions on using the equipment available. It was a very interesting and informative meeting.

Our next meeting will be on Friday, January 3rd at 9:30 p.m. at the Bradburn Farm. We will explore uses for the Charting Companion 7 from Family Tree Maker. The new version has a DNA Matrix Chart. I don’t think any of us has tried it yet. A new challenge!!

We are also going to discuss using old newspapers to enhance your family research. We will be making plans for our 2020 meetings. So put your thinking caps on and bring your ideas for the group going forward. Happy New Year and Happy Hunting!!

Gayle

Advent I = Hanna McDuff
Advent II = James Hisaw
Advent III = Sammy Odunze
Advent IV = Henry Tempel
**Order of St. Luke**

THE 5 STEP PRAYER MODEL (DEVELOPED BY JOHN WIMBER)
A Vinyard approach to praying for others.

John believed that every man, woman, and child who is willing to be used by God can learn to hear His voice. As we learn to hear God’s voice, we can be led by the Spirit as we minister to others through personal prayer – rather than relying on our own limited experience or insight. Wimber also taught that any person can cultivate one’s ability to hear God’s voice over time and through experience, thereby increasing our opportunities to partner with Christ in seeing lives changed, bodies healed, emotions restored to health, and people experiencing the radical, personal love that God uniquely has for them.

1. THE INTERVIEW Introduce yourself, then ask, “How can I pray for you?” or “Where does it hurt?” This is not a medical interview, but rather an opportunity to listen as we assess the person’s need.

2. THE DIAGNOSIS “Why does this person have this condition?” Identify the underlying issue you sense God is inviting you to pray for. It could be physical, emotional, relational, or otherwise.

3. PRAYER SELECTION “What kind of prayer is needed to help this person?” You can also ask, “Lord, (what) do you want to heal right now?” Consider prayers of intercession, command, pronouncement, rebuke (of demonic influences), and agreement.

4. PRAYER ENGAGEMENT “How effective are our prayers right now?” Move into prayer, laying hands on the person (respectfully and by invitation), and asking further interview questions as necessary. Pray according to your diagnostic decision and prayer selection, listening to the Spirit.

5. POST-PRAYER DIRECTION “What should this person do to remain healed?” or “What should this person do if he or she was not healed?” Offer some simple direction to the person who was prayed for. Encourage him or her to receive more prayer. Encourage the person to nurture a deep relationship with God, to stay in the Scriptures, to remain in fellowship, and to turn away from sin. If a healing occurred, encourage him or her to get confirmation from a medical professional. Finally, encourage them to document what God did. Trust God to use you in prayer – and expect the Kingdom to come!

Heinz Liedke

**Daughters of the Holy Cross**

The Daughters of the Holy Cross had their Christmas Party at the home of Mike and Ruth Sabourin on Sunday, December 8th, 2019. A delicious assortment of foods were prepared by the Daughters. After we ate and were stuffed, Bernice introduced three ladies from St. Gregory's that were interested in becoming a member of the Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. They are: Nancy Studstill, Bonnie Winters and Cindy Bloomfield. We will begin our Study in March, after our Women's Retreat in February. We all brought our teddy bears and other stuffed animals to be given to Cook Children's Hospital. We will be taking calendars to the area Nursing Homes on Sunday, December 29th, 2019, around 11:30 am. Everyone at St. Gregory's is invited to join in on the fun. A reminder that our Women's Retreat will be on February 28th and 29th, 2020, at Camp Crucis. All of the Women from the Church as well as friends and family are invited to attend the Retreat. Our next meeting will be on Saturday, January 25th, 2020, at 10:00am at St. Gregory's.

Bernice Baldwin

**St. Clara’s Guild**

The St. Clara’s Guild will meet on January 11 at 1:00 in the Parish Hall so we can plan projects for 2020. We will look at our stash of fabrics and quilt patterns to plan our next quilt. If you have cutting supplies, such as rotary cutter, cutting mat, rulers, and scissors please bring them as we hope to cut fabric once we decide on a design. If you have cotton fabrics suitable for quilting that you would like to donate, please bring it. If you have a quilt pattern that could be worked on as a group, please feel free to bring it so we can get some fresh ideas. New members are welcome. If you have any questions, please contact Barbara Edwards at 817-729-4783 or bredwards51@yahoo.com.

Barbara Edwards
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@stgregorysmansfield.org

Parish Secretary: Connie Barker
office@stgregorysmansfield.org

Organist: Jim Maas
jwepm@hotmail.com

Preschool Administration:
Elizabeth Rivera, Director
sgpreschool@stgregorysmansfield.org

Bookkeeper: Doris Short
sgfinance@stgregorysmansfield.org

Chant Editor: Phil Hawkins
phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net

Webmaster/Facebook Administrator: Tim Cannon
thetimcannon@gmail.com

© Material from this publication may be copied for personal use and for use in publications of non-profit organizations.

St. Gregory's Anglican Church
1091 Country Club Drive
Mansfield, TX 76063