January 31, 2020

Making Disciples of Jesus Christ for the Transformation of the World by Knowing, Loving and Serving God.

Your 2020 Vestry

James McDuff (Senior Warden), Suzanne Dougherty, Candace Griffin, Tony Casamoto, Father Horton, John Hamaker (Jr. Warden), and Kathy Walker. Elected as Diocesan Delegate & Alternate were Tim Cannon & Robert Lee.

A Big Thank You to Father Alan Horton for the great job he is doing as current Rector of St. Gregory’s Anglican Church in Mansfield, Texas. The annual meeting presented impressive reports of the Church’s financial and attendance growth. It seems fitting to give him a word of praise for the work he has done and success he has achieved in leading the congregation. The proposed suggestions and plans for continued programs and additional improvements will be eagerly anticipated by all.

Harriet Motter

Chili Cook-Off Winners

Maria Casamento for “most unusual,” Kimberly Winter for “Champion,” & “love those beans,” and Father Horton for “beans are bad.”
It is hard to believe but, before next month's edition of The Chant is published, it will already be Lent. Ash Wednesday this year falls on February 26 so now is the time to start thinking about an appropriate Lenten devotion. As usual, I encourage everyone to take up something along with the typical giving up something for Lent. I believe both of these are important disciplines to practice during the season of Lent. In denial, we learn to master our desires and passions by foregoing certain earthly pleasures; pleasures that are not in and of themselves sinful, but by giving them up we are essentially letting our fleshly nature know who’s boss. We are giving our spiritual nature the reminder that it has the power to overcome temptation and prove victorious in the time of decision. On the other hand, when we take on new disciplines, we are actively devoting time and energy and taking the effort to honor God in our daily lives. Both go beautifully hand-in-hand, mortification of the flesh and spiritual growth.

So, to aid in this, starting this month, we will be offering daily Morning Prayer, Monday through Friday, said in the church at 8:45. This will be an opportunity for us to gather each morning as a congregation and pray together according to the traditional Anglican practice. Now, I fully understand that many will not be able to join us, but I would still encourage everyone to give this practice a try. And it is now easier than ever to get started. There is a website that lays out the entire service with Psalms and readings for every day, morning and evening. It can be found at https://www.dailyoffice2019.com.

The other thing I would like to undertake as a parish this Lent will be to read 40 Days Living the Jesus Creed by Scot McKnight. It is my aim that everyone interested will read the daily devotionals found in the book and that we will use the included study guide for discussion following Mass on Wednesday evenings throughout the Lenten season. The Jesus Creed, a term coined by Scot McKnight, is the response of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark to the question from one of the scribes as to what is the greatest commandment Jesus replies; “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 30 And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.’ 31 The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” In this response, Jesus takes the fundamental Jewish statement of faith, the Shema, taken from Deuteronomy 6:4-5 and adds from Leviticus 19:18 the command to love your neighbor as yourself. I am excited to try this as a parish and sincerely hope everyone who is able will join us this Lenten season.

Finally, I would like to take a quick moment to recognize our new Vestry members, John Hamaker and Kathy Walker, as well as our new convention delegate, Tim Cannon. Thank you all for your willingness to serve in these capacities and I look forward to another exciting year at St. Gregory’s .

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

February Birthdays
05 ~ Holly Horton
08 ~ Michael Winter & Kimberly Winter
12 ~ Elsie Melton
16 ~ Stephen Holcomb
17 ~ Gayle Bradburn & Anna Sparkman
20 ~ Gwen Horton & Michael Odunze
22 ~ Ife Okafor
23 ~ Jason Melton & George Sparkman
24 ~ Elizabeth McDuff

February Memorials
Toby Navarre, Thanksgiving
Thomas & Martha Turner, Thanksgiving
Charlie & Sharon Holcomb, Thanksgiving

February Calendar
01 ~ Men’s Group Study at Roses, 8 am
03 ~ Financial Peace University, 6:30 pm
04 ~ Tuesday morning study
05 ~ Wednesday night potluck, 7 pm
07 & 08 ~ Men’s Conference, St. Peter/St. Paul
08 ~ Pet Evaluations, 8 am & St Clara’s, 9 am
10 ~ Financial Peace University, 6:30 pm
12 ~ Holy Eucharist at Watercrest, 1 pm
15 ~ Men’s Group Study at Rosa’s, 8 am
16 ~ Game/Pizza night, 5-8 pm
17 ~ Financial Peace University, 6:30 pm
18 ~ Vestry meeting, 6 pm
22 ~ Men’s BBQ Wagon, 10:30 am
24 ~ Financial Peace University, 6:30 pm
25 ~ Shrove Tuesday Pancake supper, 6 pm
26 ~ Imposition of Ashes, Watercrest, 1 pm
28 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:30 pm
28 & 29 ~ DHC Women’s Retreat, Crucis

St. Gregory’s Genealogy Research Group
The Genealogy Group met on January 3rd at the Bradburn Farm. We discussed uses for the Charting Companion 7 from Family Tree Maker. We also discussed using old newspapers to enhance your family research.

This month we attended meetings and workshops at the Fort Worth Genealogical Society and the Arlington Genealogical Society. I am not certain whether the attraction is all the wonderful information we learn at the meetings/workshops, or the great fellowship from sharing a meal together.

Our next meeting will be February 7th at 9:30 a.m. at the Bradburn Farm. We will discuss emigration, immigration, and migration. If you have a “brick wall”, bring what information you have and let’s see if the group can help you in your search.

Watch for upcoming events on our Facebook Page!! Happy Hunting!! Gayle
Preschool Happenings

The preschool staff enjoyed some much needed time off for winter break in December and January. We have battled a tough cold and flu season since returning to school in January. Our staff has done an amazing job of pulling together to cover classrooms while keeping the building clean and sanitized. We are looking forward to several fun events with the church in the next couple of months. Shrove Tuesday pancake supper is always a great time together and we are excited for some of our new families to join us. We are hoping that the new semester will bring an increase in enrollment. Although we are lower in numbers, we are still busy caring for the little ones that the Lord has entrusted us with.

February 3rd we will begin accepting registration for our summer camp program.

Pic#1 yoga time, Pic#3 Gage's letter G, Pic#3, Lilli's class working on letter G.

Daughters of the Holy Cross

Daughters of the Holy Cross collected 2020 Calendars and then took them to area Nursing Homes. Heinz and Nancy Liedke, Kathy Walker, Abby Wilson and Bernice Baldwin took calendars to the Mansfield Nursing Home on Sunday, December 29th, 2019. Bernice took 2020 calendars to Brookdale Senior Living and Abby took calendars to the Mansfield Lodge at a later date.

Thanks to all of our Parish Family that donated the calendars, the Residents are so appreciative.

Feb. 28th, 29th - DHC Women's Silent Retreat, Camp Crucis

Bernice Baldwin

Order of St. Luke

The miracles of Jesus and the benefits of his death on the cross are a focused reflection of God’s heart for his hurting children. We are totally dependent on him for the power to heal, but God has decided already what his will is on the matter; and that will is clearly revealed in the character and ministry of his Son, Jesus. He was always willing to heal everyone who came and asked him, and this consistent way of looking at things is a reflection of the Father’s heart towards all of us.

While Jesus was in one of the towns, a man came along who was covered with leprosy. When he saw Jesus, he fell with his face to the ground and begged him, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.” Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” And immediately the leprosy left him. Luke 5:12 –15

It was always so. Even before New Testament times, before God was fully revealed to us in Jesus, the people of God always knew that he was an unlimited healer: Praise the LORD, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name. Praise the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits—who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from the pit and crowns you with love and compassion, who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s. The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. Psalm 103:1–6

If we believe that we must prayerfully find out about God’s varying will from healing situation to healing situation, then we have not seen clearly enough that God has already revealed his will in his Son. Anyone thinking that they must determine the will of God afresh as to whether he will or not heal the supplicant will have problems maintaining any sort of consistent ministry of healing the sick and injured. The implicit belief that God’s will might change, depending on the individual case, only serves to produce doubt in the hearts of both the minister and the supplicant, interfering with the consistent flow of good results. We all need to cultivate a much more Christ-centered view of healing. It’s simply not good enough to say that the way we do things must be Christ-centered just because we are Christ-centered Christians. The divine call is to model our healing ministry to the world on the teachings of Jesus.

We can be assured that all who came to Jesus received from him, and we must be alive to the fact that God’s will on the matter has been settled in heaven and revealed in his word. Bless you to consider Christ’s ministry again and focus there, rather than on yours.

Mike Endicutt

Heinz Liedke
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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