Jr. Warden’s Report

Not much to report from the Jr Warden this month. No major maintenance or improvement project news. Still looking for anyone that wants to help with the yard work and mowing this summer. Please see me after church or send me an email. We will be having a work day later in the next month before Easter. That date is still to be decided, but stay tuned. Everyone’s help is needed and appreciated to make the grounds look their best for the season.

John
I want to take my space in this edition of The Chant to provide some insight and clarification into the recent decision by the vestry to discontinue the operation of St. Gregory’s preschool.

First, I think it should be known that our decision was not based on any failing by the school itself. For as long as I have been here the school has been vibrant and profitable. Our school has provided a loving, Christ-centered environment for the numerous children that we have been given the privilege to teach and nurture. All one has to do is note the responses from current and even past families regarding the closure and to get a glimpse of the impact that this school has had in our community. This is entirely due to our amazing director and her wonderful team of teachers. I cannot thank them enough for their love of the students who have come through our doors as well as their loyalty to St. Gregory’s.

Second, I would like to make it clear that the decision is not due to any diminished confidence about the outcome of the ongoing lawsuit. As I have mentioned in past discussions, we are expecting a ruling from the Texas State Supreme Court by June, before their summer recess. I am still highly convinced and hopeful that our diocese will prevail when we receive the decision of the court. But, we cannot let our optimism put our teachers in danger of losing their employment and our families at risk of being stuck without a school for their children. As far as the lawsuit is concerned there are just too many unknowns. While the previous opinion of the Supreme Court would logically lead to a positive outcome for us based on Texas law, we can never be fully aware of the political machinations and spiritual warfare that may be going on behind the scenes. And, if the decision were to go against us, we have no idea if we would have 2 hours, 2 days, or 2 weeks to vacate the property. The vestry came to the decision knowing that it was the only responsible course of action.

Finally, I want to assure everyone that no matter what, God will continue to lead us in the direction he would have us go. School or no school, favorable or unfavorable ruling, St. Gregory’s will continue as a family committed to the spread of the Gospel in the Anglican tradition. Going forward, we must be vigilant in prayer and ever open to new opportunities that God may present to us in the absence of our school. We will move into a season of listening and discerning as we seek new ways to continue being a positive influence in our community. If you have any questions, concerns, or ideas regarding our future, please express them either directly to myself or to one of our vestry members and know that they will be addressed. Thank you all for your continued faithfulness as well as your continued trust in me and the vestry in the leadership of this parish.

Fr. Alan Horton+

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

March Birthdays
06 ~ Priscilla Hightower
08 ~ Olivia Winter
10 ~ Jennifer Mowrer
12 ~ Bonnie Winter
19 ~ Philip Brantley
21 ~ Trice Edwards, Ellen Sparkman, & Michael Sabourin
23 ~ Sandy Townend
24 ~ Nathalie Odunze
25 ~ Anne Bressert

March Anniversaries
02 ~ Dan & Dee Lemser, 57 years
26 ~ Linda & Roy Wirt, 44 years

March Memorials
Cheri Davis ~ Thanksgiving for children’s birthdays

Mark Your March Calendar
02 ~ Financial Peace University, 6:30pm
04 ~ Lenten Soup Supper & Devotional study, 7pm
       Choir practice, 7pm
06 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:30pm
07 ~ Men’s study/group, 8am
11 ~ Holy Eucharist, Watercrest, 1pm
       Feast of St. Gregory’s, 6:30pm
       Potluck/devotional study, 7pm
       Choir practice, 7pm
13 ~ Genealogy Meeting, Parish Hall, 9:00am
       Stations of the Cross, 6:30pm
17 ~ Vestry meeting, 6pm
18 ~ Holy Eucharist, 6:30pm
       Lenten Soup Supper & Devotional study, 7pm
       Choir practice, 7pm
20 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:30pm
21 ~ Men’s study/group, 8am
25 ~ Holy Eucharist, Watercrest, 1pm
       Holy Eucharist at St. G, 6:30pm
       Lenten Soup Supper & Devotional study, 7pm
       Choir practice, 7pm
27 ~ Stations of the Cross, 6:30pm
28 ~ DHC, Parish Hall, 10am
Preschool Happenings

Well, the mood around the preschool has been rather solemn lately. The church's decision to close the preschool was certainly not an easy one, and I know the vestry has the best interest of all those involved at heart, however, it doesn't make it any easier to come to terms with. It is my sincere hope and prayer that as St. Gregory's moves forward, that the ministry of the preschool will be a consideration in the future. The preschool has been a vital part of the community and a very successful outreach of the church for over 19 years and I would love to see St. Gregory's use their resources to continue to minister to those in the community.

Over the next 3 months we are going to enjoy each and every "last" event to the fullest! In February we celebrated Valentine's Day with class parties and special treats. Coming up in the month of March we will be closed 3/9-3/13 for spring break.

Pic #1: 3 year old class Valentine party, Pic#2: Robots for the letter R, Pic#3: finding the letter R

Elizabeth

St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

The Genealogy Group met on February 7th at the Bradburn Farm. We discussed Emigration, Immigration, and Migration. We also shared our successes for the last month.

As usual, we attended meetings and workshops at the Fort Worth Genealogical Society and the Arlington Genealogical Society.

Our next meeting will be March 13th 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall. Note the change in time. We are going to break into groups before the regular meeting starts. We have a number of members that are very new to genealogy. We have assigned each of them a Mentor. The Mentors will help their partner with individual one-on-one help. Our regular meeting will follow.

Please RSVP if you are going to attend the meeting so that we have enough handouts printed.

Happy Hunting!! Gayle

St. Francis Pet Ministry

Dixie, the black schnauzer and Lucy, the pomeranian, enjoy visiting the residents at the Mansfield Nursing Home. They bring so much love and comfort to the residents. Most of the time, they are the only visitors that they receive. It is so heart warming to see their eyes light up when they see the dogs. If you have a dog or a cat that you think would be good to go the Nursing Home, please contact Bernice Baldwin or Candace Griffin. Your animal does not need to be registered to go to the Mansfield Nursing Home. We receive as much from them as they receive from us.

Blessings, Bernice & Candace

Men's Group

The men of St. Gregory's met on Saturday the 22nd of February for a BBQ Bandwagon. About ten of us carpooled around to several different barbecue joints. We started out at Hurtado's in Arlington, however it was their grand opening and the line was 2 blocks long so we decided to save it for next time. We went to the Arlington Steakhouse (Jambo's is served here), David's on Park Row, and ended up at Smoke 'N Ash BBQ on Matlock. We sampled chopped and sliced brisket as well as the sausage at each place. Everyone kept notes and gave scores while sampling the BBQ. Fr. Horton, Robert, Fritz, Thomas, Tony, David, Tim. Jake and Jim attended, but are not pictured.

The winner was Jambo's but not by a larger margin. Everyone agreed that all three were good enough to go back, but probably won't have the Christmas party at any of the 3. We were served quickly by friendly staff at each location. The Jambo's pepper sausage was spicy and too salty for some (I thought that it was juuust right). It was a good day out with fellowship and BBQ, and a good time was had by all.

Tim Cannon
Order of St. Luke

Here are the words of a blind man, HOW MUCH CAN WE RELY ON GOD TO HEAL?

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

Heinz Liedke

Parish Life

I am excited to be on the vestry again and things have been off to an eventful beginning. The Shrove Tuesday Pancake was very successful. Thanks to all the men that help cook and serve the delicious food. Thanks to Barbara Hanson for her time and talent that she gives to our children. The mask making station and parade were enjoyed by those attending.

Lent is now in progress so the Wednesday night meatless soups and salads dinners will take place after church and before our bible study. The sign-up sheet will be available on the back credenza for people to volunteer to bring food. This time for reflection and fellowship helps prepare us for Easter.

A new schedule for the Sunday Delights group for April – June will be printed soon. Each group has truly blessed our parish with your yummy delights. If you know you will be out of town for a specific date, please let me know by text or email. On Saturday, April 11, there will be a breakfast brunch for the ladies after the Saturday mass. After we eat, then the ladies will help stuff the Easter Eggs for all the younger children. Please come join in on a fun morning. If additional people want to help with the Easter morning food, please let me know.

Keep being faithful to our church, let us grow even closer together through Christ.

In Christ’s Love, Kathy Walker
Daughters of the Holy Cross Retreat, Camp Crucis, 27 & 28 February.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Contact Information</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rector</td>
<td>Fr. Alan Horton</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rector@stgregorysmansfield.org">rector@stgregorysmansfield.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish Secretary</td>
<td>Connie Barker</td>
<td><a href="mailto:office@stgregorysmansfield.org">office@stgregorysmansfield.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organist</td>
<td>Jim Maas</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jwepm@hotmail.com">jwepm@hotmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool</td>
<td>Elizabeth Rivera, Director</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sgpreschool@stgregorysmansfield.org">sgpreschool@stgregorysmansfield.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Administration</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bookkeeper</td>
<td>Doris Short</td>
<td><a href="mailto:sgfinance@stgregorysmansfield.org">sgfinance@stgregorysmansfield.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chant Editor</td>
<td>Phil Hawkins</td>
<td><a href="mailto:phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net">phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webmaster/Facebook Administrator</td>
<td>Tim Cannon</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thetimcannon@gmail.com">thetimcannon@gmail.com</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

© 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