Well, talk about a strange time to be writing a newsletter article. So much is still so uncertain. As of the moment that I am writing this, and things are changing moment to moment, current restrictions mean that we will be able to celebrate the great feast of Easter, gathered together as the Body of Christ. Of course, I completely understand that this may not actually happen, and restrictions may be extended. It would be dishonest for me to say that everything going on right now has not caused me to be somewhat disheartened and a little anxious. But, I am still supremely confident in the sovereignty of the good and loving God in whom we believe. With that said, I think it is important that we look diligently for the ways in which God is already working in the midst of these troublesome times. So, I want to take the space here to reflect on some of the good things that I have found.

First, the most practical benefit that I have noticed is that we have been pushed to engage our community and the world in new and creative ways. From live streaming services and drive-up communion to finally setting up an online giving option, we are finding ways with the aid of technology to maintain our sense of community and continue the work of the Church. And Christians all over the country are doing the same. Facebook Bible studies and YouTube catechesis are quickly becoming useful tools for teaching and even evangelization in our increasingly digital world. We are collectively moving into a new age of proficiency with various digital platforms which will continue to serve us long after things have gone back to business as usual.

Next, you have all heard the saying “absence makes the heart grow fonder.” This time of separation from one another has served to show me how dearly I love each and every one of you. I am thankful for all of the support and encouragement I have received via texts, phone calls, emails, and even physical notes and letters in the mail. I want to urge you all to continue checking in on each other and displaying the love that exists in this community through our mutual care of one another. Let us allow God to deepen our love for one another as we endure this time of physical separation.

The last benefit is one that I hope for each of you. I hope that this time of separation has deepened your desire for our communal worship and particularly for the sacrament. We often take for granted the things in this world that are regularly at our disposal. I hope that following this, none of us will take for granted our ability to worship as a family in our Church and partake of the blessed Body and Blood of Christ. The sacrament is central to our lives as Christians and we should always yearn for the closeness to Jesus that it affords us.

Please know that I miss you all deeply and am anxiously awaiting when we will be able to gather together again and lift our hearts and voices together in the worship of our Lord in the glory of his resurrection. In the meantime, join us in our streaming worship, pull out the church directory and call up your fellow parishioners to see how they are doing, and pray for God’s glory to be revealed in all of this.

Fr. Alan Horton+

Sunday sermons are recorded, each Sunday.
Jr. Warden’s Report

Not much has taken place. If the virus allows we will be having a work day April 5 in time before Easter, assuming we have an Easter service. My duty on the vestry is to make sure our property and building and the grounds are taken care of and maintained. That includes any repairs as well as upgrades or improvements. Until the lawsuit with ECUSA is settled we will be careful about our stewardship of the resources provided us in case of the unthinkable, as we do not want to make investments in someone else’s property. So even though not much is visibly going on still a lot is going on otherwise. I’m just hopeful and praying that our church family remains healthy and look forward to gathering together to worship again soon.

John

Pet Partners

We are very grateful to St. Gregory’s for our Pet Partners Evaluations being held in the Parish Hall. We hold them two-three times a year. This gives us the opportunity to have more Pet Therapy teams to serve our communities in this ministry.

Pet Partners Animal Therapy Program has been a great ministry with my registered therapy dogs since 2005. The purpose is reaching out to others with Touching Lives, Improving Health. One of our special times is visiting the St. Gregory’s Preschool and enjoying the children petting and learning about therapy dogs.

St. Gregory’s member Sharon Holcomb loved seeing and petting our therapy dogs at TCC where she works. The students enjoy some stress relief from the studying and exams when our teams visit there.

Duke and Duchess always love Father Horton and the Blessings of the Animals at St. Gregory’s.

We loved seeing Tony Casamento at the Special Event for the Back Pack Back to School.

Our teams visit hospitals, nursing homes, schools, prison, and special events. A new opportunity for Pet Partners teams with additional training is the Animal-Assisted Crisis Response (expanding the impact of Therapy Animals to crisis situations).

I want to thank Candace and Bernice for visiting with their dogs at Mansfield Nursing Home. They are not involved with Pet Partners but are able to visit the nursing home as long as they have the shots and good dogs, which they are. St. Gregory’s St. Francis Therapy Ministry has been very active for several years and they are keeping it going. We would love to have more teams for those ministries too so if you are interested contact Bernice or Candace.

Abby Wilson

Mark Your April Calendar ?? Cancellations likely??

01 ~ Soup Supper & Lenten Devotional
04 ~ Men’s group study
05 ~ Palm Sunday, donkey visit
09 ~ Maundy Thursday, 7pm
  Altar of Repose, 8pm-12am
10 ~ Altar of Repose, 12am-12pm
  Stations of the Cross, 12pm
  Good Friday Mass, 7pm
11 ~ Prayers, 9am
  Brunch & filling eggs, 9:45am
  Easter Vigil, 8pm
12 ~ Day of the Resurrection, 9am
  Easter Egg hunt, 10:15am
18 ~ Men’s group study, 8am
21 ~ Vestry meeting, 6pm

Confirm all activities!

April Birthdays

04 ~ Paige Cannon
06 ~ Walt Bradburn
07 ~ Sharon Holcomb
08 ~ Clyde Reed
10 ~ Hannah McDuff
14 ~ Jack Mower
22 ~ Thomas Hightower, Jr.

April Anniversaries

11 ~ Jim Wilburn & Brenda Lee, 29th
13 ~ Michael & Ruth Sabourin, 7th

April Memorials

James & Elizabeth McDuff
Hannah’s BD

St. Clara’s Guild

Quilt that was given to Gayle Bradburn on March 21st after having been blessed by Father Horton and having the prayer knots tied. The quilt was made by Barbara Hanson for St. Clara’s Guild.
Order of St. Luke
Why Healing Prayer? Mike Endicutt

Healing was a major part of Jesus’ ministry. His compassion to heal the sick revealed the heart of the Father. Never do we hear of Jesus turning someone away who wants to be healed; and in many instances, scripture reveals that he “healed ALL who came to him.” In Luke’s Gospel, we are told that Jesus sent out 70 unnamed people ahead of him to all the towns he planned to visit, with specific instructions to “Heal the sick, and tell them, ‘The Kingdom of God is near you.’” The Father’s heart does not change. He desires wholeness for each of us. To deny this is to deny the truth of scripture. But sickness, pain, injury, and heartache abound in this world because the enemy still exists here. While we know that Satan is defeated, we also know that even a defeated foe will continue to harass his enemy. As Christians, we are called to put on the full armor of Christ to stand up against the enemy by bringing the healing heart of the Father to the world, one person at a time.

These miraculous signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak in new languages… They will be able to place their hands on the sick, and they will be healed. (Mark 16:17 NIV)

Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. (James 5:14 NIV)

But many believers are hesitant to ask for healing prayer from their brothers and sisters in Christ. Mark’s Gospel tells us of the time that Jesus visited his home town and “could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few sick people and heal them.” Could it be that Jesus only healed “a few” because only a few came to him? Common reasons for hesitancy to come to a prayer team member for prayer:

“My issue isn’t nearly as bad as someone else’s.” Remember that God cares for all of his children. Not a sparrow falls to the ground without his knowing. How much more does he care for you! Praying and being prayed for strengthens and heals in more ways than we even imagine!

“I’m embarrassed to pray aloud with someone.” Prayer team members are trained to put people at ease and not to do anything that would make someone uncomfortable. Coming before our Lord in prayer is an honor, privilege, and blessing.

“If God wanted me healed, he would have already healed me.” If God had not wanted people healed, Jesus would have been going against the will of the Father when he commissioned his disciples to heal the sick. God himself walked on dusty streets, touched people, talked with them … in the flesh. Part of God’s plan is to share the inheritance of his kingdom with his children. The power of the Holy Spirit dwells in all believers for a reason.

“I don’t have enough faith to be healed.” Consider the mustard seed. Also remember that Christ never admonished a sick person for not having enough faith. And Lazarus couldn’t have had faith… He was dead!

Heinz Liedke, Diocesan Convener

St. Gregory’s Genealogy Research Group

The St. Gregory’s Genealogy Research Group is not meeting until the current health crisis is over, but we hope everybody is still working on their genealogy research at home. There are many resources available online, so this is a great time to take advantage of them.

One resource that is available is from Rootstech. They have made 17 videos from their recent 2020 Salt Lake City session. To access the videos, type in Rootstech 2020 and it will take you to their website where there is a link to the videos. We have not watched them yet, but plan to do so soon.

Barbara Edwards

Adding Branches to Your Family Tree Using DNA
February 26 2020

Unlocking the Power of the FamilySearch Wiki
February 27 2020

Discover Your Family with Interviews and Sources
February 28 2020

What’s New at Ancestry
February 26 2020
## 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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