

The Chant

St. Gregory's Anglican Church

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



*Family Game Night
Friday, February 18th*





This past month, a group of men from St. Gregory's attended the Bishop's Men's Conference of our diocese. The Rev. Jerry Kramer, a missionary who currently serves in the Middle East in the midst of some of the most hostile opposition to Christianity in the world. Fr. Kramer talked about their missionary efforts and more extensively about his discipleship efforts. He then explained how his simple method of evangelism and discipleship can and has been reproduced in other places. I am always a bit skeptical when someone tells me that any efforts towards those ends are "simple". But then again, I've never tried his method and as the old saying goes, "just because it's simple doesn't mean it's easy." So, there are several components to his process, and they essentially boil down to

- Prayer and Fasting
- Bible Study
- Multiplication

So, the first step is prayer and fasting and Fr. Kramer made it clear that no evangelistic effort will succeed at the level that he has experienced without first starting here. Your team or church or organization will never discover where God is leading them without being intentional in asking. When we pray and fast, we can expect God to direct us to those whom we are to evangelize. I have to admit that fasting has never been a discipline that I have put much energy towards. But, I know my own inclination towards taking an idea and running with it without first turning to God and asking to affirm what it is I want to do. Historically this has led to short-lived, somewhat haphazard endeavors. With that in mind, I am inviting everyone in the parish to join me in regular prayer and fasting for the mission of St. Gregory's. This will obviously look different for each person and if you would like to discuss it further, I would love to sit with anyone who is interested. Part of this will involve asking God to identify people and opportunities for you to engage in discipleship which will revolve heavily around the next step which is Bible Study.

Fr. Kramer was very specific about what Bible Study should look like in this context. He insists upon the Discovery Bible Study method. This method follows a very strict pattern of reading a fairly brief passage of scripture and then engaging it in a very proactive way – namely to determine specific actions to take in order to conform your life to Jesus based on what the passage teaches, resolve to take those actions, and commit to sharing it with a particular person. And it is this last part that leads to the third step, multiplication.

These study groups are meant to grow and divide – ideally in an exponential manner. And one of the more difficult things to get past initially when considering taking this on is that the initial goal and honestly the ongoing goal is not to grow your church. If done right, growth will be a natural side effect, but the true goal is to introduce people to Jesus Christ and form communities of disciples who are focused on conforming their lives to Christ by engaging in his Word and encouraging one another.

Needless to say, I was very impressed by Fr. Kramer and found him to be very inspiring. I want to see our community experience a transformation and for St. Gregory's to be known as a catalyst for that change. Don't worry, we're not overhauling everything we do at St. Gregory's, but this is something I want to try here. But first I need to talk to my boss and find out how he wants me to proceed.

Faithfully, *Fr. Alan Horton+*

The *CHANT* PDF is posted at
<https://www.stgregorysmansfield.org/the-chant>.
 There it can be enlarged for easier reading.

March Birthdays

- 06~ Priscilla Hightower
- 10~ Jennifer Mowrer
- 12~ Bonnie Winter
- 19~ Phillip Brantley
- 21~ Trice Edwards
- 23~ Sandra Townend
- 24~ Nathalie Odunze
- 25~ Anne Bressert
- 31~ Ellen Sparkman

March Anniversaries

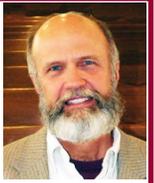
- 02~ Dan & Dee Lemser – 59 years

Mark Your March Calendar

- 01~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
6pm Pancake Supper
- 02~ 1pm Watercrest Ash Wednesday
6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 03~ 6pm Bridge Group
- 05~ 8am Men's Group @Rosas
- 06~ 9am Eucharist
10am Sunday School
- 08~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 09~ 1pm Watercrest Eucharist
6:30pm Eucharist
7:15pm Bible Study
- 10~ 6pm Bridge Group
- 12~ 9am Pet Partners
- 13~ Feast of St. Gregory observed
9am Eucharist
10am Celebration
- 14~ 9am PEO Group Meeting
- 15~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 16~ 6:30pm Eucharist
7:15pm Bible Study
- 17~ 6pm Bridge Group
- 19~ 8am Men's Group @Rosas
- 20~ 9am Eucharist
10am Sunday School
- 22~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 23~ 1pm Watercrest Eucharist
6:30pm Eucharist
7:15pm Bible Study
- 24~ 6pm Bridge Group
- 26~ 10am DHC Meeting
11am Healing Ministry
- 27~ 9am Eucharist
10am Sunday School
- 29~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 30~ 6:30pm Eucharist
7:15pm Bible Study
- 31~ 6pm Bridge Group

Jr. Warden's Report

Just a couple of things to kick off the year. Spring is around the corner. Yay! To me winter has a purpose and that is to usher in spring. But with that there will be things to do in the yard. Any and all help is and will be appreciated through the year. On that subject we will be having a couple of work days to do some spring cleaning and the sort before Easter. Stay tuned for the dates and times.



We are working through some bids and woodwork/painting and the diocese insurance for the roof replacement. We don't have enough in the capital fund to do it all this year so we will be prioritizing and doing it in phases. Not everything is in and settled yet but the vestry will have some alternatives and decisions to make. When we were looking at the woodwork painting needs we found some pretty significant hail damage incurred on the roof. In a number of places.

So the good news is that we have a pretty good grasp now on what the building needs are for now and will be in the near future. Nothing that can't be fixed and nothing the Good Lord can't help make happen.

John

DHC

The Daughters of the Holy Cross (DHC) had a great retreat at Camp Crucis the last of January. We had 8 lovely ladies in attendance. We studied Chapter 4 of His Way to Pray by W. Phillip Keller, which was the Prayer of Relinquishment. The prayer, "Oh, God, not my will but yours be done." The author names several actions of self-surrender, including a full surrender to God's sovereignty. The attendees had a wonderful discussion on what this



means in their lives. Some real bonding and healing took place. Father Horton attended Saturday and led a discussion on prayer, focusing on Relinquishment. This was followed by Mass and a delicious lunch.

We currently have five candidates that are studying to become a member of the DHC. This will take several months, with initiation in July. Each candidate has been assigned a mentor to help guide in the study.

Our March meeting is the fourth Saturday, the 25th, at 10 am. Hope to see everyone there!

Theresa Bradley

St Clara's Guild

The St. Clara's Guild met at the Parish Hall on February 12 at 9:00. We started a new quilt top and got the blocks sewn together.



Our next meeting will be Saturday, April 9 at 9:00 in the Parish Hall. Stay tuned for the April edition of the "Chant" for information on what we will be doing.

Barbara Edwards

Music & Choir

The choir has been able to continue to bring our music back to what we were experiencing before the pandemic shut us all down. We have introduced preludes for pre-service, communion, and post service listening. Helping us to get our souls prepared for prayer and service. We are also working on introducing our Gospel, and Communion hymns to fulfill our service participation for parishioners.



We will always need to have an organist for our psalms. It is such a tricky process that the computer can't do. As for assistance, if anyone who is familiar with using a computer, and would like to participate in Sunday's service music performance, we would welcome your assistance. If you have any interest and would like to know what and how we are doing this, please contact Tim Cannon, Fritz Barowsky, or Fr Horton. We would be more than happy to show you what we are doing at the Sunday service, and how you might help.

Fritz Barowsky

Parish Life

Many thanks to all those that cook for the church on any given Sunday. The ladies of Sunday Delights have brought such delicious food for those staying after church. The March 20 date for our next tasting was moved to Sunday, March 13 in order to celebrate the Feast of St. Gregory. It is a nice break during Lent for us to have a feast day. April will bring an Easter brunch that is open to the church families while the children participate in the Easter Egg Hunt.



Our St. Mary's Guild is actively working on supplying food for those in need. This guild works well as long as we know those in need of food and support. If you ever need anything or know of anyone that would appreciate help, you can call the office, or call or text Kathy (325-21-0680).

Building and supporting our family is a key focus for the year. Our prayers for our church family is that you feel loved and connected. We want to be more aware of your needs and how we can be there for you. With all that has gone on the last two years, we (the vestry) feel we need refocus our connections to our families. If you know of anyone that is not connected to us by Facebook or by streaming of our services, please let me know. If anyone feels the desire to help us reconnect, if you enjoy writing cards, making phone calls and would like to help, please contact Kathy.

In Christ love and service, *Kathy Walker*

St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

Barbara and I attended the February 2022 FWGS zoom meeting and a topic of discussion was the sale of the FWPL Central Library building and what was happening with the Genealogy Department. There are currently a lot of unknowns, but this is what we learned.



The city will still have a central library location. It will be approximately 80,000 sq. ft. but the location is TBD. That is about the size of the current library's main floor.

The Genealogy Department will be moving to the E Bolt St location on the north side of La Gran Plaza. The library that was in the building has already moved into La Gran Plaza. The timing on the move is still undetermined but the estimate is late July through December 2022.

The new location doesn't have space for all books and records. They will select the books, etc. that will be on the shelves. The remainder will be stored in a climate-controlled warehouse and available by request at the library. There will be a library Archivist, who will assist you on site where the requested items can be seen. There will be lockers for you to store your coats, etc. before entering the Archive area. This is very much like the procedure we followed when we went to the Alabama State Archives. The E Bolt St library will have a small area where meetings can be held. Their microfilm readers, scanners, etc. will be available at the new library location as well.

Trice

MyHeritage.com: Introduction to Genealogy, 40 lessons at the beginner level. If you're looking to learn more about your family history, you're in the right place! In this free online course you'll gain a detailed understanding of how to kickstart your family history research. Each lesson will provide a step-by-step walkthrough of different topics in the world of genealogy. You'll learn firsthand from top experts, and once you complete the course you'll have all the tools you'll need to grow your family tree and make exciting discoveries about your ancestors. The entire course is completely free of charge.

The 1950 census will be released in April. The 1950 U.S. Census gives us a snapshot of the country at one of the most interesting points in American history, just after the Second World War and before a decade of advances in science, civil rights, and entertainment. It was taken on April 1, 1950, roughly a year before the first color television program was broadcast. Three years later, scientists would [discover the structure of DNA](#). And by mid-decade, on December 1, 1955, Rosa Parks would refuse to vacate her seat on an Alabama bus.

If your family members were among the over 151 million people living in the U.S. on Census Day in April of 1950, you could learn rich details about their lives through 1950 census records, once they become available on Ancestry® in 2022.

The 1950 Census will provide more Americans than ever the opportunity to learn about ancestors whose stories are still in living memory. Upon the census' release, 30 million people aged nine and younger will appear for the first time in a U.S. federal census.

Order of St. Luke

THE BIBLICAL BASIS OF HEALING IN THE NEW TESTAMENT AN OVERVIEW



Healing and deliverance are expanded to a new dimension in the New Testament record through the examples of Jesus and the first Church.

THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS: In the New Testament, Jesus is the believer's model of faith and practice. His healing and deliverance ministry is the pattern that you should follow in your own ministry. Out of 3,774 verses in the four New Testament Gospels, 484 relate specifically to the healing of physical and mental illnesses and the resurrection of the dead. In Mark, 209 verses out of 666 relate to the miracles of Jesus. Of the 1,257 narrative verses in the Gospels 484 (38.5 percent) are devoted to describing healing miracles. Jesus spoke the words of God in His ministry: "...I do nothing of myself; but as my Father hath taught me, I speak these things." (John 8:28)

Jesus did the work and will of God: "For I came down from Heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of Him that sent me." (John 6:38), "I must work the works of Him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work." (John 9:4) "...My meat is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work." (John 4:34)

The purpose of Jesus was to destroy the works of the enemy including sin, sickness, and bondage: "...For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the Devil." (1 John 3:8). The works Jesus did pleased the Father: "...for I do always those things that please Him." (John 8:29)

This means that when you minister healing and deliverance as Jesus did you are pleasing the Father, speaking His Word, doing His will, and destroying the work of the enemy. There are several New Testament references where Jesus healed everyone present: - Acts 10:38, - Luke 4:40; 6:17-19; 9:11, - Matthew 4:23-25; 9:6,35; 10:1; 12:15; 14:14,34-6.

Jesus healed many types of diseases: - Epilepsy, - Dropsy - Deaf and dumb, - Palsy or paralysis, - Chronic hemorrhage, - Demonized, - Withered hand (deformities or paralysis), - Blind, - Infirmities, - Restoration of an ear that was cut off, - Raising of the dead, - Maimed (as used in Mark 9:43, clearly this indicates a limb gone).

Compassion was the motivating emotion in the healing ministry of Jesus (for examples see Matthew 9:36; 12:9-13; 14:14; 18:27; 20:29-34; 29:34; Mark 1:41; 3:1-5; 5:19; Luke 6:6-10; 7:12-15; 10:33; 14:1-6; **and John 11:38-44**).

Other emotions Jesus expressed in the healing ministry were grieving, anger, sighing, and weeping. Jesus used various methods in healing. Sometimes Jesus called the sick to Him (Mark 3:1-6). Other times they called for Him (see the story of the Centurion's servant in Matthew 8:5-13; Luke 7:1-10 and the healing of Jarius' daughter in Matthew 9:18-19; 23-26). Jesus dealt with the whole man, not just the physical condition. He taught forgiveness of sin and healing together. Sometimes He healed first, then forgave sin (see Luke 17:9 and John 5:14). Other times He forgave sins first, then healed (see Mark 2:1-12).

Sometimes healings occurred without faith on the part of the sick person (at least it was not mentioned):- Lazarus: John 11:1-44, - Malachi's ear: Luke 22:50-51, - Gadarean maniac: Mark 5:1-20, - Deaf and dumb man: Mark 7:32-35, - Peter's mother-in-law: Luke 4:38-39, - Widow's son: Luke 7:12-15, - Man with withered hand: Mark 3:1-5, - Man born blind: John 9:1-7, - Daughter of Abraham: Luke 13:10-13, - The nobleman's son: John 4:46-50, - Centurion's servant: Matthew 8:5-13, - Syrophenician's daughter: Matthew 15:21-28, - Jarius' daughter: Mark 5:35-43

more next month

Heinz Liedke

Sr. Warden's Report

Your Vestry recently had a meeting to fill out our calendar for the coming year. We will continue our monthly canned meats collection and quarterly Diaper Drive. Look for Sunday Delights on the calendar. As it was such a success last year, we have scheduled a Sunday in September for the annual Pie cook off! We have scheduled Family Game nights, a pool party, and the Fall Festival in October. You can ask any Vestry member for more information and/or how to get involved in the various events. I look forward to worshiping in fellowship with you all!



In Christ, *Tim*

ADDENDUM

March

Diaper Drive
3/1 Shrove Tuesday
3/2 Ash Wednesday
3/12 Feast of St. Gregory the Great
3/19 Pickle Parade & Palooza

April

4/9 Jr Warden Cleanup
4/10 Palm Sunday
4/13 Jr Warden Cleanup
4/14 Maundy Thursday
4/15 Good Friday
4/16 Holy Saturday
4/17 Easter

May

5/1 First Look - Bottle Drive
5/8 Mother's Day
5/22 Bishop's Visitation

June

6/3 Bishop Iker's Golf
6/19 Father's Day

July

Samaritan's Purse Christmas in July
7/17 Sunday Delights

August

8/6 Pool party
8/21 Sunday Delights

September

TBD Game Night
9/11 Pie Sunday
October
Diaper Drive
Bishop Reed's Sporting Clays
10/30 Fall Festival

November

11/13 Sunday delights
Samaritans Purse Packing
11/24 Thanksgiving
11/26 Greening the Church Angel Tree
11/27 Advent 1

December

12/25 Christmas (Sunday)
TBD Caroling

January 2023

1/8 epiphany party
1/22 Annual Meeting
27/28 DHC Retreat





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 Administrator Tracie Hinton
 office@stgregorysmansfield.org

Organist Jim Maas
 jwepm@hotmail.com

Chant Editor. Phil Hawkins
 phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net

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

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