

The Chant

St. Gregory's Anglican Church

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

Children's procession for All Saints Day. They presented pictures of Saints from their Sunday school classes.



Greening the Church





In my time here at St. Gregory's, we have never made a big deal out of our stewardship drive. I like to think I incorporate our call to be good stewards in various ways throughout the year, not just when we need everyone to make their yearly commitment to give to St. Gregory's so we can do our best to get as close to a balanced budget as possible to present at our annual parish meeting. And so far, it has worked, and I don't expect that to be any different in 2023. Just this past year we have overcome a \$20,000 deficit budget as well as completed a much needed and wonderfully successful capital improvement campaign, complete with a new roof, new siding, fresh paint, and more. Needless to say, I couldn't be happier with the faithfulness of the giving in our parish. I think there is a lot to be said for such a natural attitude towards financial sacrifice. It is something I have cultivated in my own life and that of my family so much so that it doesn't even feel like a sacrifice anymore which – spiritually, emotionally, psychologically... however you want to describe it – frees me up to be even more generous.

But this is not the way of the world. This became apparent to me in a recent conversation with a friend regarding tithing. This friend does not practice any religion and the idea of giving ten percent to him is just unfathomable. He appreciates the idea of giving in general but pushes back on the principle of the tithe. And this put into perspective a very worldly approach to charity. His thought is that you should give what you are comfortable giving – after everything you need/want is covered. So, instead of your lifestyle being subject to your giving, your giving would be subject to your lifestyle. Of course, as anyone who has advanced in their employment knows, our spending typically expands to accommodate our earning. Whenever the paycheck goes up, there is almost always something new to bridge that gap. And, if our giving doesn't come first, we eventually find ourselves in a position where the percentage we are giving shrinks more and more as our luxuries and creature comforts just keep growing.

Nothing we have is our own, so it only makes sense to prioritize our giving to God. After all, we are only returning a portion of what he has provided. I am convinced that it is this very attitude that has seen our little parish thrive in times of economic uncertainty. This is the attitude that has seen us not only meet, but surpass every need, expected or unexpected. This is the attitude that sees every effort from diapers to canned food to angel trees, met with abundance.

So, as we are in our current stewardship season, what I want to say is thank you. Thank you for your willingness to put others first, to put St. Gregory's first, and to put God first. You have all made this stereotypically unpleasant aspect of my role as rector of this parish not just painless but inspiring. Again, thank you.

Fr. Alan Horton +

Sr. Warden's Report

As we come to the end of the year, I am looking forward to what the new year will bring for us at St. Gregory's. We just completed a very large project and will have some small or medium projects for next year. I have had a couple of people come to me concerning updates for inside and outside the church.

Our 2022 expenses are within 5% of projected, meaning the Vestry was fairly accurate in planning for the requirements of our parish. 2023 will bring new challenges and probably increased costs. We believe that we will keep increases to a minimum, but we expect that our budget will increase by 10%. We ask that you take this into account when considering your pledge for the coming year.

I pray Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy for everyone in this season of Advent.

December Birthdays

02 ~ Robert Lee
05 ~ Henry Temple
05 ~ Deborah Dolloff
06 ~ Meredith Hightower
16 ~ Mary Claire Steward
16 ~ Kathy King
18 ~ Uchechukwu Odunze
20 ~ Barbara Edwards
22 ~ James Wilbern
22 ~ John Hamaker
22 ~ Samuel Grubenhoff
31 ~ Stephanie Temple

December Anniversaries

22 ~ Uchechukwu & Nathalie Odunze,
13 yrs

December Memorials

No Flowers in December

Mark Your December Calendar

03 ~ 8am Men's Group @ Rosa's
9am Pet Partners
11am DHC Christmas Party
04 ~ 9am Eucharist
10am Sunday School
06 ~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
07 ~ 6:30pm Eucharist
10 ~ 9am St. Clara's Guild
11 ~ 9am Eucharist
10am Sunday School
5:30 Lessons & Carols
13 ~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
14 ~ 1pm Watercrest Eucharist
6:30pm Eucharist
17 ~ 8am Men's Group @ Rosa's
18 ~ 9am Eucharist
10am Sunday School
20 ~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
21 ~ 6:30pm Eucharist
24 ~ 5pm Children's Pageant
5:30pm Christmas Eve Eucharist
25 ~ 10am Christmas Day Eucharist
27 ~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
28 ~ 1pm Watercrest Eucharist
6:30pm Eucharist



In Christ, *Tim*



Choir

I would like to thank everyone for their kind comments on our Sunday music and hymns. Without the participation of our choir members, it may not have been the success we have seemed to accomplish this past year. This group of singers are all truly great to be with.



Anne Bressert & students.

We had such a great opportunity on "ALL SAINTS SUNDAY" to have a live violin accompaniment for our choir. Our parishioner Anne Bressert who provides violin lessons, brought a couple of her students so we could have live musicians to celebrate that Sunday. We were so blessed to have her and her students there.

Now that said, we would like to increase membership in our loft. We wish to recruit more St Gregory members. Male, female, soprano, alto, tenor, or bass are ALL welcome. If you feel drawn to our hymns on Sunday there isn't a better place to sing from then the lofts of St Gregory. Our main practice is still Sunday 40 minutes before the church service, with some of us are starting to meet mid-week to warm up our voices for Sunday.

As we get ready for our new year, we would welcome more to our choir. If you feel the lord asking you to praise him with your voice through music, please come join us. We truly hope and pray for more members to join us.

We are looking forward to our ADVENT season to worship with joyful sound. We look forward to everyone participating in Lessons & Carols for the Christmas season, the evening of December 11th. We should be able to create such a joyful sound with the organ music and all the voices of our parishioners. We are so blessed to be able to partake with everyone in this season of the birth of our savior.

Blessings from the choir this Christmas season, *Fritz*



St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

The Genealogy Group had a last minute change of plans at it's last meeting. The Arlington Library trip was cancelled due to an illness. We met at the Church instead, and had a great meeting.

Colin Hiley joined us and brought a fabulous family tree tracing his family back to England. It was very impressive!

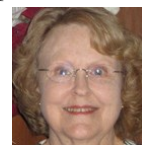
We ate lunch at Jalisco's Mexican Restaurant in downtown Mansfield. A great time was had by all.

We will try again this month to the Arlington Public Library. They have a new Retro Technology Lab to digitize your video tapes, audio cassettes, 8mm film, photos, negatives, slides, and more to preserve them. Get an overview of the digitizing equipment and observe how they work,

We will meet in the church parking lot on Thursday, December 1st, at 8:45 a.m., and carpool to the meeting.

Hope to see you there!!

Gayle



Men's Group

The Men's Group would like to remind our Church members that we are available to assist when you need help. All you need to do is let us know and we'll try to help. Contact any one of us and we'll get back with you. We can perform several things like small repairs as an example. Some of us are Aggies and can use a hammer. We know if the nail head is close to us it goes in the wall in front of us. If the head is at the opposite end it goes in the wall behind us! We're ready to assist when needed.

Men's Group, *Trice*



Daughters of the Holy Cross



Our annual DHC Christmas party will be at Kathy Walker's home. It is on Saturday, December 3rd at 11 am. A sign up for side dishes and desserts, etc. are on the credenza at church. DHC members are asked to bring a new bear, complete with tags, for the Cook Children's Hospital. Also, we are requesting members, if able, to provide an item or two for the food ministry at the United Methodist Church.

As mentioned in the last Chant, the DHC has "adopted" the United Methodist Church, Kennedale, as a ministry in need. They are needing food for their Christmas dinner for the poor. We are placing a donation box in the Parish Hall for canned goods, dry stuffing mixes, cake mixes/icings.

Our DHC Retreat is on January 27 and 28th, at Camp Crucis. Sharon Holcomb will be providing a review of Chapters 4 – 9 of our book, *The Light of Assisi, a History of St. Clare*. More information on the retreat will be forthcoming.

Theresa



Order of St. Luke, A Synopsis of the Lord's Prayer

Hallowed be Thy Name? Glory to God? Let's not rely on jumping up and down and waving a lot at God in church and shouting, "Glory, Glory!" and instead start honoring him for actually doing something? How about we start saying 'Thank You' all the time instead of 'Please'? If we thank him for what he has done, not for what we might be hoping we can get from him but what has been done, like the cross of Calvary, then we really are hallowing his name. (See Psalm 50:23). That's easy!

Thy Kingdom come? What kingdom? What is it? What's it like? Where do I get it from? Have I any right to ask for this? Will it come if I ask? If only we knew what the kingdom actually was then we would know what we're asking for and whether or not to expect it. I've read numerous books about the kingdom and found every one of them to be quite hard going. But Jesus was teaching ordinary and relatively uneducated folks looking for simple answers. What's wrong here?

Thy Will be done? What Will? Is this just a bit of wishful thinking, that God will probably do whatever he thinks is best, irrespective of our perception of our own needs? Some say he always answers prayers but where's the evidence of that? Does anyone in church ever explain God's Will and what it might be? Does it really have to be so wishy-washy and theologically complicated, or could the answers be pew-people-friendly?

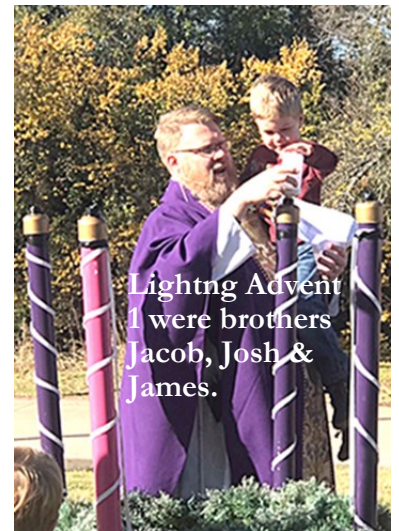
Following are our petitions to the Father, recognizing that ALL authority comes from the Father.

The study of kingdom healing sets all this down for us. We begin, slowly, to realize the nature of the kingdom and God's willingness to give it, and the work of the cross that enables the kingdom work to flow.

ALL OF GOD'S BLESSING, *Heinz Liedke*



Blessing Paull Jennings's new truck tractor.



Lightning Advent
1 were brothers
Jacob, Josh &
James.

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

<i>Rector</i>	<u>Fr. Alan Horton</u> rector@stgregorysmansfield.org
<i>Parish Administrator</i>	<u>Tracie Hinton</u> office@stgregorysmansfield.org
<i>Music</i>	<u>Fritz Barowsky</u> barowsky@yahoo.com
<i>Chant Editor.</i>	<u>Phil Hawkins</u> phil_hawkins@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster/ Facebook Administrator	<u>Tim Cannon</u> thetimcannon@gmail.com

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