

The Chant

St. Gregory's Anglican Church

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



Fr. Alan Horton, Sr. Warden Tim Cannon, Jr. Warden John Hamaker, Kathy Walker, Theresa Brantley, Angie Griffin and Beth Marshal.

St Gregory's 2022 Vestry & The Chili Cook-Off

Winners: Fr Horton (no beans & Grand Champion), Barbara Edwards (Beans), Paul Jennings (Hot)
Judges: Gwen & Asa Horton, and Brad Watson





It almost feels as though I could copy and paste my report from last year. These past two years have honestly been such a blur for me that everything kind of runs together. But we have made some progress. We have basically returned to life as usual here at the parish with the occasional hiccup due to spikes in COVID cases. We are back to offering communion in both kinds. Our choir is back in the loft and we are singing more. We have donuts every Sunday and once a month a nice, expanded spread. We are back to meeting for Bible Study and Sunday School. We've had a game night and many of our guilds and groups are back to functioning as usual. Meanwhile we have maintained our streaming service options with our Wednesday and Sunday Eucharists and weekday Morning Prayer live on Facebook. We also managed to pay off the loan on our parking lot. Thanks to a few generous donations and the establishment of a capital account with the funds that remained from the preschool we were to pay this off several years early which is a major relief in our month-to-month expenses. All in all, things are getting back on track as we all come to terms with life in the time of COVID.

Another point I made last year was coming to terms with the closing of the preschool and what that would look like. I have to say how pleased I am with the opportunities it has afforded us. We have groups within the church now able to meet at the church with more flexibility and greater access to space, but more importantly, in my opinion, we have been able to open our doors to groups outside of the parish. We have Pet Partners doing evaluations for therapy animals on a regular basis. We have a group meeting weekly for bridge lessons. We've had several other groups host meetings in our parish hall. It is my hope that this building is in use in some capacity as much as possible. Currently any group with even a passing relationship with St. Gregory's or our members or our community can use our space free of charge. Obviously, this is based on availability and up to my and the vestry's discretion, but if you know of any organization in need of space to meet, please consider St. Gregory's. The more people who know we are here, the better.

Along with bringing the community here to St. Gregory's, I also want to focus this year on St. Gregory's going out into the community – to be more active and visible outside our walls. The vestry has discussed several ways in which we can do this, including becoming more active with the Common Ground Network, participating in community activities like the Pickle Parade and Palooza with a booth, and by finding volunteer opportunities with our pro-life partners – FirstLook and the Metroplex Women's Clinic. If you have any further ideas or opportunities, let me or the vestry know.

As always, I want to thank everyone for your continued faithfulness to St. Gregory's and for the love and support you have shown to this parish, to your brothers and sisters in Christ, and to me and my family. I am beyond humbled to continue as your priest and pastor and I am hopeful for God's blessings and favor in the coming year.

Faithfully, Fr. Alan Horton+

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

February Birthdays

- 05~ Holly Horton
- 05~ Gavin Tempel
- 06~ Rebekah Vela
- 12~ Elise Melton
- 16~ Stephen Holcomb
- 17~ Gayle Bradburn
- 17~ Anna Sparkman
- 20~ Michael Odunze
- 20~ Gwendolyn Horton
- 22~ IFE Okafor
- 23~ George Sparkman
- 23~ Fred Bass
- 23~ Jason Melton
- 24~ Elizabeth McDuff
- 25~ Milissa Holt

Mark Your February Calendar

- 01~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 02~ 6:30pm Eucharist
- 03~ 6pm Bridge Group
- 05~ 8am Men's Group
- 06~ 9am Sunday Eucharist
10am Sunday School
- 08~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 09~ 1pm Watercrest Eucharist
6:30pm Eucharist
- 10~ 6pm Bridge Group
- 12~ 9am St. Clara's Guild
- 13~ 9am Sunday Eucharist
10am Sunday Delights
10am Sunday School
- 14~ Happy Valentine's Day!
- 15~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 16~ 6:30pm Eucharist
- 17~ 6pm Bridge Group
- 18~ 6pm Family Game Night
- 19~ 8am Men's Group
- 20~ 9am Sunday Eucharist
10am Sunday School
Diaper Drive
- 22~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 23~ 1pm Watercrest Eucharist
6:30pm Eucharist
- 24~ 6pm Bridge Group
- 26~ 10am DHC Meeting
11am Heinz Healing Ministry
- 27~ 9am Sunday Eucharist Children's
Sermon
10am Sunday School
Canned Meat Drive

DHC



By the time this month's Chant is published, we will have had our yearly DHC Retreat at Camp Crucis. Currently, we have 10-12 Daughters and guests attending the two-day event. We will provide details of the Retreat, plus pictures, in next month's newsletter. Father Horton will be giving a lesson on prayer at our Retreat.

In February, the DHC will be instructing new candidates interested in becoming a Daughter. If you are interested, please contact either Theresa Brantley or Kathy Walker.

The Daughters are currently studying a book by W. Phillip Keller, His Way to Pray. The author discusses seven types of personal prayer. So far, we have learned about three, the Prayer of Faith in God, the Prayer of Honest Confession, and the Prayer of Genuine Gratitude. Remaining are the Prayers of Relinquishment, Intercession, Stillness Before God, and Patience.

Theresa Bradley



Order of St. Luke

Have you ever thought why Jesus came to earth and then ministered for 3 years, when surely he could have come and gone straight to the cross, and the result would possibly have been the same? Having thought long and hard about this and the conclusion that I have come to is that He needed to show us something in those three years. My further conclusion is that in those three years He showed us that the Kingdom is here and what it is all about – God's love, caring and healing. If only we could work more on living that same model. But these are my thoughts. The question is if there is any proof in the Bible that the Kingdom of God is here? Let us start by looking at Luke 17: 21b (NIV) "because the kingdom of God is in your midst." This is Jesus speaking, and He is obviously pointing to Himself as the reality of the Kingdom. If Jesus has brought the Kingdom of God to earth, then the only question that remains is, what are we doing with this gift?

The next question that we may then have is: How do I get this right? One answer of many available comes from Mark 1: 15 (NIV) "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!" This again is Jesus speaking – and He is telling us to repent and believe in the Gospel. Repent means turning away from something, and so the first thing we need to start working on is turning away from the world and turning towards God. A very good beginning. Secondly, we need to believe in the Gospel. The Gospel is the life of Jesus and if we believe in it, we should surely live by it. We are therefore invited by Jesus to live out the Kingdom of God here on earth. Jesus brought the Kingdom of God to earth – what are we doing with this gift?

In closing let us look at Luke 4: 43 (NIV) But he said, "I must proclaim the good news of the kingdom of God to the other towns also, because that is why I was sent." This is again Jesus speaking. We call ourselves Christians which can be defined as "Christ Followers". If you agree with this then as children of God living in the Kingdom of God, we should all surely do the same as Jesus – PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

We are all put on earth by God to do different things for God, the one common thing that all of us are called to do is to PROCLAIM THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

It is a new year – maybe this could be the best way to glorify God this year. Bless you all, in His love and grace, Rev Ray Goddess LETTER FROM CANADA Blessings to all of you from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada. January 2022.

Heinz Liedke



St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

We plan on restarting our SGGRG meetings in February. We are thinking about going to the Civil War Museum since we didn't make it in January. We will post and email everyone once this trip is confirmed.

Also, there is a RootsTech Family History Seminar scheduled at the Arlington Texas Stake Center on Saturday, 19 March 2022. It runs 8 AM to 3 PM. You can attend any or all of the presentations that you would like to attend. If you are interested contact Trice or Barbara for information about the presentations. If you are interested you can register in advance and order a flash drive that contains the presentations.

Trice

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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