

# The Chant

## St. Gregory's Anglican Church



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

### FOOTBALL, PANCAKES, DOMINOES, GALENTINES & GUMBO!

The month of February was full of social events with something for everyone!



On Thursday, February 8, the women gathered for our Second Annual Galentines dinner and fun. There was much laughter as 17 ladies enjoyed a fun evening,



starting with dinner of salad, soup, bread and dessert.

Many thanks to Rebecca Jennings, Angie Griffin, and Beth Marshall for coordinating this event for us.



Our first ever Superbowl Party on Sunday, February 11 turned out to be lots of fun, as members cheered on their favorite team. The Griffins decorated our parish hall in true fan fashion with football themed plates, napkins, bowls and special take home cups. Everyone feasted on nachos, chips & dips, sliders, pizza, popcorn and desserts. Some lucky fans went home with a little more green in their pockets thanks to a friendly football pot.



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Shrove Tuesday, February 13, found parishioners enjoying a dinner of



pancakes, bacon, sausage and bread pudding with ice cream. In addition to sweet syrup, toppings for



pancakes included such items as strawberries, bananas and chocolate chips. We even had special English toppings of lemon and sugar



provided by Dot Cannon.

This event is hosted each year by our men's group. They shop, cook and clean up afterward. This year they served 41 people in our parish hall.



Lots of shuffling going on Thursday, February 22 as the dominoes hit the tables



for our first Dominoes and Donuts group. A great start with 14 people participating. Thanks to Bill Griffin for teaching us how to play 42. And thanks to Bob Whitely and Jim Wilbern for the lesson on the regular game of domines. Our next day to play will be Thursday, March 21st at 9:00 am. Feel free to join us for the fun even if you don't want to play dominoes!



The month finished with a men's Meet & Gumbo event hosted by the men of St. Peter & St. Paul. Six men from St. Gregory's attended this event. Fr. Tom Hightower was the guest speaker.



# ST. GREGORY THE GREAT



This month we celebrate the feast of our patron saint, Gregory the Great.

Gregory served as the Bishop of Rome (a.k.a. the Pope) from 590-604. Gregory was a prolific writer, having authored several books – most famously his *Dialogues*, a four book collection of hagiographies and spiritual conversations, dozens of sermons, and hundreds of letters that have all been preserved. His writings and influence had a major impact on medieval spirituality. Born in 540 to a wealthy noble Roman family, Gregory would eventually become the Prefect of Rome like his father was. After the death of his father, he converted his family home into a monastery preferring to live the austere life of monastic poverty. In 579 he was chosen by Pope Pelagius II to be the ambassador to the imperial court in Constantinople before ascending to the papacy in 590 following the death of Pelagius II by the plague. During his time as Pope,

Gregory established an extensive system to administer alms to the poor. The church regularly received lavish gifts from wealthy families to atone for their sins and Gregory made sure that this wealth was put to good use for the relief of the poor.

Most importantly for us as Anglicans, he is the one who initiated the Gregorian mission to convert the Anglo-Saxons in Britain. Having encountered fair-haired and fair-skinned Anglo-Saxon slave boys in the Roman marketplace, Gregory is famously quoted as saying “not Angles, but angels.” He chose to send Augustine of Canterbury to convert King Æthelberht and the kingdom of Kent to the Christian faith. Augustine was successful in this endeavor and became the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

Gregory died on March 12, 604 as a highly celebrated and beloved Bishop, declared a saint by popular acclamation immediately following his death.

We will celebrate the life and ministry of Gregory on Wednesday, March 13 (feast transferred from

March 12) at 6:30 with Eucharist followed by a potluck dinner. We give thanks to God for his patronage and I hope to see everyone there.

And now for a quick note on the veneration of saints. One of the often criticized practices of catholic Christians is the so-called “worship of saints.” To be very clear, worship is directed towards God alone. As our creator, God is the only being worthy of worship. But this doesn’t mean that we cannot offer honor to created beings who are worthy of respect and recognition. What we offer to the saints is *veneration*, not worship. We also believe that in the communion of saints we are united as the Church with all the saints both in heaven and on earth and we can rightly petition the prayers of those who have gone before in the same way we ask our friends here on earth to pray for us. We are not “praying” to the saints but simply asking them to join us in our prayers and offer their prayers on our behalf.

*Fr. Alan Horton+*

## *Sr. Warden's Yearly Calendar Update*

It's time to mark your calendars for the upcoming events at St. Gregory's. You'll see many of our traditional events are still planned and we have sprinkled in a couple of new events we hope you will enjoy!



Beth Marshall  
Sr. Warden

### **March**

March 13<sup>th</sup> – Feast of St. Gregory Potluck

March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Cleaning Saturday

March 30<sup>th</sup> – Egg Stuffing & Brunch

March 31<sup>st</sup> – Easter Egg Hunt & Treats

### **April**

April 7<sup>th</sup> – April 28<sup>th</sup> - Diaper Drive

April 14<sup>th</sup> –Potluck Sunday

April 27<sup>th</sup> – Bingo & Burgers

### **May**

May 12<sup>th</sup> – June 16<sup>th</sup> – Bottle Drive, Mother's Day through Father's Day

May 12<sup>th</sup> – Mother's Day Brunch

May 30<sup>th</sup> – Meet and Meat

### **June**

June 8<sup>th</sup> – Summer Party

June 16<sup>th</sup> – Father's Day Brunch

June TBD – Bishop Iker's Golf Tournament

### **July**

July 7<sup>th</sup> – July 28<sup>th</sup> – Christmas in July (Samaritan's Purse Drive)

July 12<sup>th</sup> – Game Night

### **August**

August 18<sup>th</sup> – Pie Sunday

### **September**

September 12<sup>th</sup> – Ladies Social

September 15<sup>th</sup> – Potluck Sunday

### **October**

October 6<sup>th</sup> – October 27<sup>th</sup> – Diaper Drive

October 2<sup>nd</sup> – Pet Blessings

October 26<sup>th</sup> – DHC Lunch & Samaritan's Purse Boxing

October 27<sup>th</sup> – Fall Festival

### **November**

November 3<sup>rd</sup>—December 8<sup>th</sup>—Angel Tree

November 17<sup>th</sup> – Potluck Sunday

November 23<sup>rd</sup> – Cleaning Saturday

November 24<sup>th</sup>—Greening the Church

### **December**

December 14<sup>th</sup> – Wreaths Across America

December 15<sup>th</sup> – Lessons and Carols /Cookie Exchange

December 22<sup>nd</sup> – Decorating the Church

### **2025**

January 8<sup>th</sup> – Epiphany Party

TBD – Annual Meeting / Chili Cookoff



## The History of St. Gregory's Church

"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,  
the conviction of things not seen."

Hebrews 11:1

On March 1, 1978, the Diocese of Dallas agreed to purchase 4.2 acres of land in the Walnut Creek Development. The land purchase was finalized in July and Father Ray Woods became the regular celebrant at the Church of the Atonement. On the eve of the Annual Convention of the Diocese of Dallas the members of the Church of the Atonement voted to change the name to The Episcopal Church of St. Gregory the Great, petitioning for Mission Status. St. Gregory's was officially received by the 83rd Annual Convention of the Diocese of Dallas on September 30, 1978, and the Reverend Ray Woods was appointed as priest-in-charge, assisted by Deacon George Straight whose foundational work was deeply appreciated by the people of St. Gregory's.



4.2 Acres on Hog Pen Branch of Walnut Creek - March 1978

10 THE EPISCOPAL CHURCHMAN/January/February 1978

### Mission Station Established In Mansfield

MANSFIELD — A promising mission station has been established in Mansfield by the parish churches of St. Alban's, St. Bartholomew's and St. Mark's, all of Arlington. The Reverend George Straight, deacon, has been in charge of administrative details regarding the mission station, while the clergy of the three Arlington parishes have shared celebrating Sunday Eucharist.

Bishop Davies approved the mission station after a Triparish vestry conference of Camp Creek last spring produced the Mansfield mission proposal. The Reverend Mr. Straight did the legwork in Mansfield, which included calling upon known Episcopalian in the Mansfield area, finding a place for the first mass on station to be held and organizing the station's finances and governing body.

The first meeting of the mission station was on May 22, 1976, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wilson. The Reverend Ronald George, curate at St. Alban's, celebrated Eucharist for twelve people, several of whom were unconfirmed, but interested in becoming Episcopalians.

It wasn't long then, before Mr. Straight had an inquiry class and over the next five months after the first meeting of the mission station. Mr. Straight presented three for confirmation by Bishop Davies and one for reception from the Roman Catholic communion.

By that time, October 20, the population



THE DIOCESE OF DALLAS' NEWEST MISSION CONGREGATION—The Reverend E. Dennis Smart, (in chasuble), former Rector of St. Alban's, Arlington, and The Reverend George Straight, (far left, first row standing) with the new Episcopal folk in Mansfield, Dallas' first mission foundation in five years.

of Church of the Atonement, the mission station's new name, had grown to about 20. The right Bishop Davies presided at St. Jude's Roman Catholic Church over his flock of Mansfield Episcopalians, there were about 70 in attendance, including visitors from the Arlington parishes.

The organizational meeting of Church of the Atonement had been on September 12

Elected to the vestry were: Senior Warden Richard Smith, Junior Warden Abby Wilson, Dr. John Frank, Nancy Rogers and Donald McWilliams. Robert Wilson was elected Treasurer.

Immediate plans include the purchase of 4.2 acres of land in the Walnut Creek area of Mansfield, which will one day be the home of the diocese's newest mission.

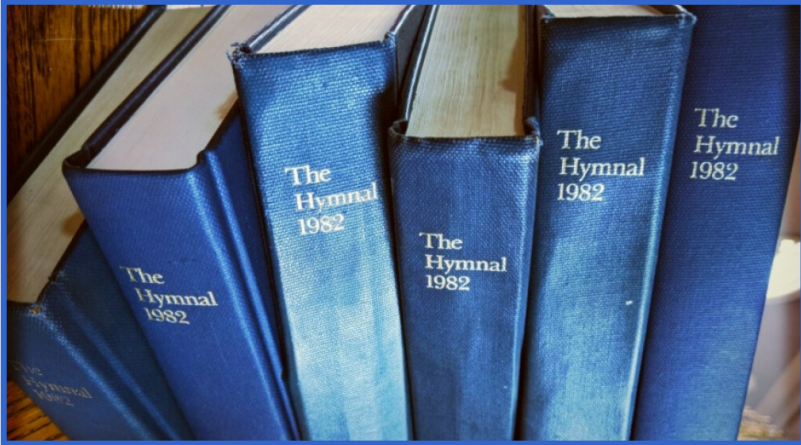
Newspaper Article from *The Episcopal Churchman* - January/February 1978

The devoted ministry of Father Ray Woods was the highlight of the next 3 ½ years in the life of St. Gregory's. Father Woods and his wife, Lorena, brought a wonderful warmth to St. Gregory's that is still remembered. He endeared himself to many and was able to help the mission endure some very difficult times. The mission was caught in a familiar "Catch 22" situation: needing people to build and expand yet needing a building and programs to attract people. The mission bade farewell to Father Woods and Lorena in February of 1982, but the effects of their ministry are still evident to this day.

In February 1982, Father Chris Colby was appointed by the Bishop to succeed Father Ray Woods as priest-in-charge of the newly formed mission. Father Colby was also serving as priest-in-charge for the new mission in Arlington, St. Peter and Paul. Soon the demands placed upon Father Colby by St. Peter and Paul made it impossible for him to stay, so he was succeeded by Father Tim Sifford as part-time priest-in-charge.

During the early years the mission experienced several frustrated attempts to build, but the people at St. Gregory's just would not quit, even when the possibility of success seemed snuffed out. God will not forget the pioneering people who held on during this time: The Wilson's, Smith's, Martin's, Rogier's, Jones', Frank's, Thorson's, Daniel's, Jackson's, Wilmot's, Campbell's, and Hopton-Jones'.

# Make a Joyful Noise



The 1982 hymnal is a compilation of hymns and liturgical music utilized by the Episcopal Church in the United States. Published in 1985, it encompasses 720 hymns, psalms, canticles, and service music.

This hymnal features a section dedicated to psalms and canticles, intended for worship use. Typically sung or chanted during services, these pieces are often accompanied by a choir or other musicians, identified by an "S" prefix denoting their location in the Service music section of the hymnal.

The hymns are systematically arranged into sections based on the daily office and the liturgical calendar. Each section provides hymns and service music suitable for the corresponding season. In the context of the Mass, five hymns are selected: an Introit, a Gradual hymn, an Offertory hymn, a Communion hymn, and a recessional hymn.

These choices align with the liturgical season, lectionary readings, and spiritual themes. The Introit often holds particular relevance to the liturgical season or the daily office hymns during Ordinary Time. The Gradual hymn typically complements the Gospel reading.

The Offertory and recessional hymns are generally chosen to align with the season or complement the lectionary, while the Communion hymn may be a eucharistic anthem or a general worship hymn. Finally the Recessional hymn will also complement the season or lectionary.

During Mass, as you sing along with the congregation, pay attention to the hymn's lyrics. Consider how they align with the lectionary, Gospel, or the current liturgical season. The prayers embedded in the hymns have the power to enhance your worship and praise.

- *Tim Cannon*

## Save the Dates—March

Note: Open confessions times from 5pm to 6pm Fridays in Lent

- 01~ 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross
- 02~ 8:00 am Men's Group @ Rosa's
- 05~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 07~ 9:30 am Genealogy Meeting
- 08~ 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross
- 12~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 13~ 6:30 pm Feast of St. Gregory followed by Pot Luck Dinner in the parish hall
- 15~ 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross
- 16~ 8:00 am Men's Group @ Rosa's
- 19~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 21~ 9 am Dominoes & Donuts
- 22~ 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross
- 23~ 9:00 am Spring Cleaning the Church  
10am DHC Meeting
- 24~ 9:00 am Palm Sunday Service  
Bring Canned Meat Donations
- 26~ 9:30 am Women's Bible Study
- 28~ 6:30 pm Maundy Thursday Service
- 29~ Noon Stations of the Cross  
6:30 pm Good Friday Service
- 30~ 9:00 am Holy Saturday Service  
8:00 pm Easter Vigil
- 31~ 9:00 am **Easter Sunday**  
followed by Easter Egg Hunt



## Mark Your Calendars

Join us for Spring Cleaning  
at the church on

Saturday, March 23rd, 9am

to get ready for Easter



## Learning to Pray the Kingdom Way

Always pray through Jesus, in his name or through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Please don't say those words in God's face without knowing why! Here's why: If a judge in your country went overseas, determined to judge a case over there that he's interested in, he'd be politely asked to go home. He'd have no right to be at the Bar over there. He'd be disbarred in that country. In the same way, we are disbarred from standing in front of Father God, banned by our misdoings, our turning our backs on him for centuries. If our prayers are righteous, kingdom stretching prayers, then it's as though Jesus himself takes them on board and comes with us to speak to Father God on our




Submitted by Heinz Liedke

behalf. It's as though he introduces us afresh by saying something like, "Father, this is a friend of mine. We get on well together and I agree with their prayers." Then it's as though the Father looks at us and says, "That's fine. If Jesus wants it then I want it and so you can have whatever you're asking for." We can't really do this properly without him. It's precisely why the H O P E routine is so important - it keeps us in the stream of the dream. Keep doing it and see the difference! Result? Your thoughts will be more like his thoughts and, consequently, your prayers are more likely to be answered!

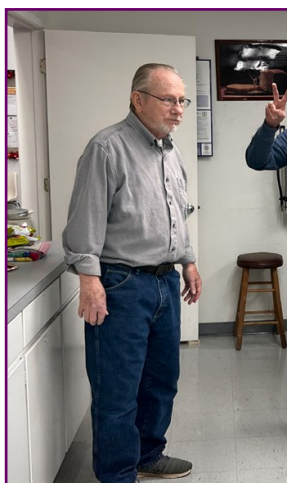
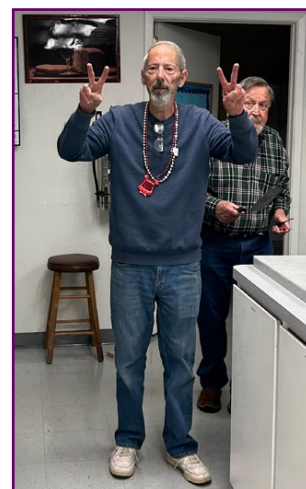
Revd Mike Endicott, Prior,  
Order of Jacob's Well UK

Revd Dean Drayton, Prior,  
Order of Jacob's Well AUS



### March Birthdays

- 6 Priscilla Hightower
- 10 Jennifer Mowrer
- 19 Phillip Brantley
- 21 Trice Edwards
- 23 Sandy Townend
- 25 Anne Bressert
- 31 Ellen Sparkman



## SHROVE TUESDAY FUN



## St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

The next meeting of the Genealogy Group will be Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall.

The topic will be researching our Civil War grandfathers. Please bring any information you may have on yours so that we may discuss it.

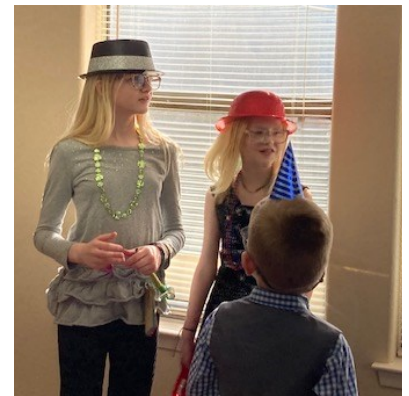
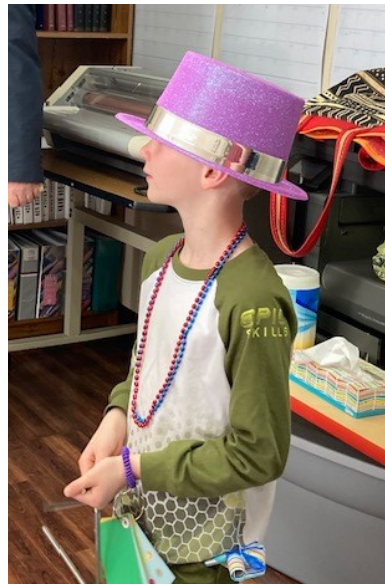
We will have a field trip to the Civil War Museum....date TBD.

Happy Hunting!!

Gayle Bradburn



# February Sunday School Bash



# Join Us in Service and Fellowship

## Altar Guild

This group maintains the altar for Sunday service, Baptisms, funerals and other special services.

## St. Gregory's Choir

The choir is for men and women who like to sing and offer praise to God with their voices.

## Daughters of the Holy Cross

This group of women take a lifetime vow of prayer, service, study and evangelism.

## Evangelism and Outreach

Planning activities and events, this team shows the love of Jesus in our Mansfield community.

## Flower Guild

Learn the art and skill of flower arrangement with fresh flowers for our sanctuary.

## Healing Ministry

A group of prayer teams to pray on those seeking healing as directed by Jesus.

## Men's Study Group

The men of the church meet on the 1st & 3rd Saturdays for a time of study, service and fellowship.

## Women's Study Group

The women of the church meet on Tuesday mornings, enjoying book studies and fellowship.

## Children's Religious Education

Help our children learn more about God and his teachings in our children's Sunday school classes.

## St. Clara's Guild

This group sews quilts for the sick or to welcome new members at baptism. They also knit caps for newborns in local hospitals and complete other hand done projects for the community.

## St. Gregory's Genealogy Group

Explore your family history and heritage with our group. Or learn how to research your family's roots using the knowledge shared by our members.

## St. Gregory's Nursery Helpers

This group provides care in our nursery for children under 3 years of age while services are taking place in the sanctuary.

## St. Martha's Guild

By providing meals for parishioners and their families during times of illness, bereavement, or even the birth of a child, this group shares God's love.

## St. Francis Pet Therapy (Pet Partners)

Through Pet Partners, owners and pets are trained to visit residents of nursing homes and schools, offering God's love through time with a gentle pet. Those without pets may also serve.

## St. Gregory's Worship Teams

Our team of Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEM), Lectors, Crucifers and Oblationers (Ushers) make up this group. Special training is provided for those wishing to serve on this team.



[stgregorysmansfield.org](http://stgregorysmansfield.org) 817-473-6205



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