



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

RECTOR'S REPORT FOR 2023



It's always a challenge to come into a new year and try to think back on everything that has happened in the past 12 months. I can barely recall what I did last week and as my time as the rector of St. Gregory's grows, more and more events and milestones blur together. Looking back on last year's report I noted that the word I chose to describe 2022 was "active." Continuing with that theme, the word I would use for this year would be stability. We have been continuing with our usual schedule of events and activities, we had our first balanced budget in a long time, we have seen new folks enter into the life of the parish, and just overall a good, holy, and healthy rhythm of life. And while that is all wonderful stuff, it doesn't make for the most exciting year-end report.

One area in which we have seen progress is our increased interaction within our deanery. As the dean of

the eastern deanery I am pleased to note that not only have we had several combined celebrations of the eucharist but also that the various parish men's groups have established a regular schedule of meat and meets (or is it meet and meats), in which we get together for food and fellowship. These are a completely lay-led initiative, the result of connections formed in our joint services. I am excited to see our deanery-wide cooperation continue to grow as we explore new ways to be the Church together.

In the absence of other major developments in the parish, I would like to take some space here to reflect on something that I have noticed and consider a great strength at St. Gregory's. Over the past year, several members have coped with health issues and other personal struggles. As the pastor of this flock, I always find it extremely heartening how well we care for each other. In so many situations, you have all stepped up and stepped in when needed and I cannot express how grateful I am for that. I want to thank everyone for all their efforts in

making sure that no one in our parish feels lost or forgotten. And if anyone has felt that way, I am truly sorry and pray for your forgiveness and ask you to please let me know so I can better attend to the needs of this community of faith.

As we move through 2024 I want to build on the stability of 2023 and use it as a foundation for growth in the coming year. Financially, we are in the best place we have been in my tenure as rector and from what I can tell a good deal before. We have a committed group of folks who are active in participation and leadership.

We welcome and invite visitors to join the life of the parish so effectively that I often forget who has been here for only a few years and who has been here far longer than myself.

Thank you for all your love and faithfulness and let us continue to be who God has called us to be and grow together in holiness and godliness as we serve God and his people. *Fr. Alan Horton+*



Vestry 2024

On January 21, 2024, the parish elected two new members to our vestry. John Zavala and Cindy Bloomfield are our new members and they are both ready to serve for the next three years.

Back row, Left to Right: John Zavala, Rector Fr. Alan Horton, Mac Holcomb

Front row, Left to Right: Cindy Bloomfield, Angie Griffin (Jr. Warden), Beth Marshall (Sr. Warden), Susan McDuff

Sr. Warden – Beth Marshall

I would like to thank Tim Cannon and Theresa Brantley again for faithfully serving our parish the last three years! And a HUGE welcome to John Zavala and Cindy Bloomfield. We are truly thankful you are part of the Vestry and look forward to serving with you.



The Vestry will be meeting on Sunday, 2/4, to plan this year's activities. We will of course be planning for our favorite events and activities and may be adding a new event or two so look for more information coming soon to see what we have planned for this year.

Learning to Pray the Kingdom Way

Submitted by
Heinz Liedke



Jesus said, "The knowledge of the secrets of the kingdom of God has been given to you, but to others I speak in parables, so that, though seeing, they may not see; though hearing, they may not understand." Luke 8:10 (NIV)

We seem to dislike anything to do with mystery. We demand that the deepest truths of the highest subject,

kingdom power and glory, should be so broken down into mincemeat that we ordinary people in pulpit or pew can understand them in the spare time we might have between reading the newspaper and watching television.

I'm afraid there may be too many of us quite happy with the most superficial interpretations of kingdom truths, lazily resting in the superficial judgements that flow from such ignorance.

I'm sticking with the daily H O P E routine and, through using it, I feel like I'm growing in the

knowledge of the kingdom's secrets.

Result? My thoughts will be more like his thoughts and, consequently, my 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

PS: Forgotten your H O P E prayer routine?
Simply email:

mike.endicott@jacobsweil.org.uk enter 'Hope' in the Subject field.



We are just a few weeks away from our first session of Dominoes and Donuts at St. Gregory's. I'm happy to say that the interest in this fellowship is growing! If you

have a lucky set of dominoes, then bring them. We have plenty of chairs but we will need a few card tables since the tables in the parish hall are rectangle, not square. Please let me know if you are willing to bring a table. There is a sign up sheet on the back credenza in the church. We will start the fun at 9:00 am., Thursday, February 22nd.

-Robert Bloomfield

St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

Future Meeting Dates

March 7th

April 4th

May 2nd

June 6th

All meetings start at 9:30 and we go to lunch after the meeting for more fellowship

Even if you have never done family research, join us to find out how to get started.

Happy Hunting!!

Gayle Bradburn



05 ~ Holly Horton

06~ Rebekah Vela

17~ Gayle Bradburn

17~ Anna Sparkman

20~ Michael Odunze

20~ Gwendolyn Horton

22~ IFE Okafor

23~ George Sparkman

23~ Fred Bass

24~ Elizabeth McDuff

25~ Milissa Holt

PARISH MEETING—SUNDAY, JANUARY 21, 2024



Our annual church meeting took place on a very chilly morning this year. Which was appropriate since our annual chili cookoff followed the meeting!



Tracie Hinton, Fr. Horton, Tim Cannon

Fr. Horton opened the meeting with prayer. Tracie Hinton, our parish administrator, verified the count of a quorum of present. By a vote of acclamation, John Zavala and Cindy Bloomfield were elected to fill the two vacated Vestry positions.

Fr. Horton presented his Rector's Report of 2023, followed by reports from other members. Our budget for 2024 was presented to the membership.



Out going Sr. Warden, Tim Cannon, addresses the parish following his three year term.



Chilly parishioners listen to reports and the presentation of the 2024 budget

Daughters of the Holy Cross

The Year 2024 started with a bang. Instead of holding our DHC retreat at Camp Crucis, we held a one-day Retreat at St. Gregory's. We opened it up to all the ladies of St. Gregory's and guests. It turned out wonderful, with 34 in attendance, most who would not have been able to participate otherwise.

In the morning, Candace Griffin did an absolutely fantastic job of reviewing our selected book by W. Phillip Keller, A Layman's Look at the Lord's Prayer.

We had a nice discussion afterwards. Lunch was catered by Olive Garden. Donna Sloan made homemade individual bundt cakes, with were delicious.

At this time, we all acknowledged Barbara Hanson, who will be moving to Carrollton, to be closer to her son. She has done so much for St. Gregory's, including the DHC, and will be sorely missed. We all wish her the very best.

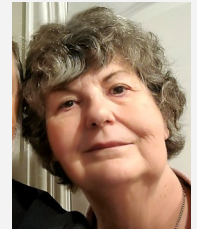
In the afternoon, Father Horton gave a review of the Book of Acts, which was

very informative. We then closed with Mass.

Currently, we have two candidates for the DHC. Studies will begin in January. If you wish to become a Daughter, please see me or Kathy Walker.

Our next DHC meeting will be Saturday, February 24th at 10:00 in the parish hall.

-Theresa Brantley



Annual Chili Cook Off Huge Success

After our annual meeting, we had our annual St. Gregory's Chili Cook Off.

This year we had 11 entries with awards for Texas Red, Beans are Best, The Most Original and the Hottest. Most of the entries were chili with beans. We had at least one chicken chili and there was a chili that had Indian spices. Best of all, we all enjoyed great chili with all the condiments.

The judges did find four winners. Paul Jennings won the prize for the hottest, Bert Sloan had the best Texas Red. The Beans are Best award went to Fritz Barowsky and the Most Original was Anne Bressert's Chili Shepherd's Pie.

Thanks to everyone for your participation.

-Tim Cannon



The Winners: Paul Jennings, Fritz Barowsky, Bert Sloan, Anne Bressert



Judges: Asa Horton, Bradley Marsh, Kathryn Moore and Tim Cannon



Note: This information was taken from the 40th Anniversary Celebration of September 29, 2018. More to come next month.

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

The history of St. Gregory's parish, Mansfield, is the story about pioneering people of God who had an assurance and conviction of faith when the full evidence of it was not yet visible.

The origins of St. Gregory's lie in the mid-1970's when the Mid-Cities populations began to push south and bring Mansfield closer to the Metroplex. Demographic factors, the presence of commuting Episcopalians in Mansfield, the vision of two Arlington parishes, and Bishop Davies were elements in the crucible that yielded this new mission station. At a Bi-Vestry Retreat with Bishop Davies at Camp Crucis on March 19, 1977, the Rectors and Vestries of St. Mark's and St. Alban's of Arlington resolved to petition the Diocese of Dallas to consider the establishment of a mission station in Mansfield.



Home of Rollin and Abby Wilson - May 1977



St. Jude's Catholic Church - 1977

The first organizational meeting was held on May 22, 1977 in Mansfield, at the home of Rollin and Abby Wilson. The meeting was chaired by Deacons George Straight and Jim Henry and Canon Moore. The second meeting and the first Eucharist for this group was at the Wilson home on June 5, 1977 with celebrant, Father Ronald George, assisted by Deacon Straight.

Regular weekly Eucharist was established and was held at St. Jude's Catholic Church on Sunday evenings.

At a parish meeting on September 18, 1977, the new mission took on the name of the Church of the Atonement. The first Bishop's committee of the mission station was elected with members being: Dick Smith, Bishop's Warden; Abby Wilson, Junior Warden and Secretary; Dr. John Frank, Nanci Rogier, Don McWilliams. Rollin Wilson was elected as the first treasurer. An initial goal of the Bishop's committee was to search for a future building site. Deacon George Straight provided the pastoral care and administrative work while the priests of St. Alban's and St. Mark's supplied the celebrants for the Church of the Atonement.

Bishop Davies' first visitation to the Church of the Atonement was on October 22, 1977 having 3 candidates presented for confirmation and one person received into the Church. In December of the same year the Church began to meet at the Walnut Creek Information Center, an office facility for the Baker-Crow Development Company in the Walnut Creek area of Mansfield.



Walnut Creek Information Center - December 1977

Thank You Barbara Hanson!

After many years as a loyal parishioner here at St. Gregory's, Barbara Hanson will be moving this month to be closer to her family. Over the years, Barbara has served this church in many capacities. She has made countless quilts. Provided more meals than we can count. Served the children of the parish, watching many of them grow from young toddlers to married adults. She has embroidered many towels and aprons for prizes at our Chili Cook Offs and Pie Contests. Barbara worked tirelessly to make sure the altar had beautiful flowers and special arrangements at Easter over the years. There are so many things she has done for us that we can not list them all. We will miss seeing her bright blue eyes and contagious smile each Sunday, but we are sure she will visit here as often as possible. Best wishes as you move into your new home.

We love you!



Bisi enjoying the great food at our Epiphany Party on January 7th



St. Clara's Guild – Barbara Edwards

St. Clara's Guild will meet on February 10 at 9:00 in the Parish Hall. At this meeting we will be working on fleece blankets to be given to children who are involved in traumatic situations, such as traffic accidents or other emergency situations where they need to be comforted. There is no sewing involved, so all you need to bring is a pair of sharp fabric scissors. The fabric for the blankets has been purchased and is ready to be assembled. If you would like to help, we welcome you! You need not be a member of St. Clara's to attend and to help with this project. Please let me know if you would plan on joining us for this project. My email is bredwards51@yahoo.com.



Save the Dates—February

- 01~ 9:30am Genealogy Meeting
- 02~ 6pm Candlemas @St. Albans
- 03~ 8am Men's Group @Rosa's
- 06~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 08~ 6:30pm Ladies Social
- 10~ 9am St. Clara's Guild
- 13~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 6:30pm Shrove Tuesday
- Pancake Supper in the parish hall
- 14~ 6:30pm Ash Wednesday Service
- 16~ 6:30pm Stations of the Cross
- 17~ 8am Men's Group @Rosa's
- 19~ Office Closed (Presidents Day)
- 20~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study
- 22~ 9am Dominoes & Donuts
- 23~ 6:30pm Stations of the Cross
- 24~ 10am DHC Meeting
- 11am OSL Meeting
- 27~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study



Sporting quite the long beard, long time member Colin Hiley returned for our service on January 7th to celebrate the Epiphany. He and Robert Bloomfield had some fun comparing the length of their chin hairs. Colin's son Todd, also joined us for the celebration.

Make a Joyful Noise!

- Fritz Barowsky

Make 2024 your year to sing! The choir is looking for more voices to join us. We practice on Sundays before mass at 8:20 am. For those who can attend, we also practice on Wednesdays at 11:30 am. You need not be a great singer to be included, just a willingness to learn and contribute. Consider a trip up the stairs to the choir loft to explore this opportunity. We would love to have you join us!



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.

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 of this group. Special training is provided for those wishing to serve on this team.



Rector Fr. Alan Horton

rector@stgregorysmansfield.org

Parish Administrator Tracie Hinton

office@stgregorysmansfield.org

Music Fritz Barowsky

barowsky@yahoo.com

Chant Editor Cindy Bloomfield

bloomfieldphoto@tx.rr.com

Webmaster/IT Admin/Facebook Tim Cannon

thetimcannon@gmail.com