



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

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Always an awkward thing to write in the middle of Holy Week, but by the time of publication an appropriate seasonal greeting. We are in the season of Easter. A time of celebration and feasting following what has hopefully been a well-observed Lenten season of prayer, fasting, and self-denial. I wish everyone a joyous Eastertide and pray that our worship and fellowship will contribute to that joy.

Now to shift gears entirely. I want to mention in this month's article something about the Sacrament of Confirmation. This is currently on my mind because we just recently received the bishop's visitation schedule for the second half of the year and our scheduled date is August 4. We also just received our copies of the diocesan customary, in which are the norms and standards of our diocese in everything from social media to clergy dress to worship. I will admit that I have been fairly lax on various diocesan requirements regarding voting, membership, and service in the church. But, now as the dean of the eastern deanery, I should probably be a bit more diligent in following our canons and customs. Confirmation by a bishop in apostolic succession is the standard for being a voting member of the parish and for service on vestry. Our representation at diocesan convention is also based on our numbers of confirmed communicants in good standing.

On top of the logistical/administrative reasons to receive confirmation there are the spiritual benefits as well. Confirmation confers a strengthening of the Holy Spirit upon the confirmand with what is known as the sevenfold gift of the Holy Spirit. The gifts are thus; 1) wisdom, 2) understanding, 3) counsel, 4) fortitude, 5) knowledge, 6) piety, and 7) fear of the Lord. This is not to say that those who have not received confirmation do not possess or are not exercising such gifts, but that there is a strengthening gift of grace that comes through the sacrament and the laying on of hands by the bishop.

So, this is a call to everyone in our parish who has not received the Sacrament of Confirmation to consider doing so when the bishop is here on August 4. My standard for those wishing to be put forward for confirmation is to first and foremost desire the sacrament, be of age to take responsibility for their own church attendance and participation, and have completed a study of the ACNA

catechism either personally or in a class setting (the video recordings of the class I conducted should be available online). For anyone who is interested or has further questions, please contact me and I would love to discuss further.

Next on the agenda of diocesan compliance is training and licensure for our Lay Eucharistic Ministers and Visitors. So, for everyone currently serving in those positions, be on the lookout for opportunities to take a refresher course and renew your license.

Alleluia, Christ is Risen!

Fr. Alan Horton+



PALM SUNDAY 2024



THANK YOU TO ALL FOR
MAKING OUR CHURCH CLEAN
UP DAY A GREAT SUCCESS!



Beth & Angie on
Cleaning Day



Mack cleaning
the windows



Bill hanging photos



Serving on Palm Sunday—Fr. Thomas Hightower, Robert Bloomfield, James McDuff, John Hamaker, Fr. Alan Horton

EASTER 2024



We Celebrate the Life of Abby Wilson, Founding Member of St. Gregory's



Abigail "Abby" Parsons Wilson, aged 84, died peacefully March 18, 2024. A memorial service will be held Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 2:00PM at St. Gregory's Anglican Church, in Mansfield, Texas.

Abby was born July 1, 1939 in Evanston, Illinois to Esther Waterhouse Parsons and Charles Warren Parsons. She had one sister, Mary Parsons Papp.

Abby spent her childhood living in Evanston, and loved spending her summers in Rye, New Hampshire, with many happy memories and moments at Rye Beach.

Abby attended the University of Colorado and Wheelock College, and then ventured into a career with Eastern Airlines, first as a flight attendant and eventually as a flight attendant instructor.

It was during this time that she met her husband of 45 years, Rollin Hugh Wilson. Once married, they settled in Marcellus, New York and then relocated to Texas; living in Arlington and then moving to Mansfield in 1976.

Once her children were in school, Abby restarted her career, working for the Texas Rangers baseball team, the Trammell Crow Company, and finally moving into the healthcare field at Texas South Hospital.

She supported and was involved with many different organizations and was the ultimate example of volunteerism and giving back.

She was a "Golden Girl" with over 50 years of service with PEO International and was passionate about her work with her therapy dogs, Duke and Duchess, through the Pet Partners organization.

Her deep relationship with God led her to be involved in many activities in her church throughout the years. Along with her husband Rollin, she was one of the charter members of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church (now St. Gregory's Anglican Church) holding the first service in their home.

Abby loved spending time with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren and enjoyed entertaining, bringing family and friends together for love and laughter.

Abby is preceded in death by her husband Rollin Hugh Wilson. She leaves behind to cherish her memory, children Holly Wilson Mayer, Rollin Hugh Wilson Jr. and Cheryl Abigail Wilson; grandchildren Chris Wilson, Cristine Mayer Timko, Abby Mayer Frederick and Matt Mayer; great-grandchildren Colby Wilson, Teddy and Graham Timko, Harper and Hattie Frederick, and numerous extended family and friends.

The family would like to thank the many friends and family who supported and cared for Abby through her courageous journey with cancer over the last few years.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Gregory's Anglican Church.



Following the service for Abby, join us as we dedicate our parish hall in honor of Abby and Rollin, founding members of St. Gregory's Anglican Church.



St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

The next meeting of the Genealogy Group will be Thursday, May 2nd at 9:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall. We will talk about how to research your Civil War grandfathers.

We are not having an April meeting due to several members having conflicts on that day.

The topic at our March meeting was our Civil War grandfathers. All of us brought copies of documents that we had found in our research. Shirley Watts, however, had original treasures. She had gold buttons from her grandfather's uniform. She had ribbons, horsehair hat bands, original photos and documents. It was fascinating to see all her souvenirs.

On Saturday, March 23rd, several of us went to the Family History Seminar at the LDS Family History Center in Arlington. It was an all-day affair that offered 20 different genealogy presentations. We got to pick the presentations that interested us. It was a great experience.



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

Happy Hunting!!
~Gayle



April Birthdays

- 6 Walt Bradburn
- 17 Sharon Holcomb
- 10 Hanna McDuff
- 14 Jake Mowrer
- 16 Irene Robin-Nabor
- 22 Thomas Hightower, Jr.

News from The Daughters of the Holy Cross

We are so sorrowful over the loss of Abby Wilson. At the same time, we know she is in a better place. Abby was a charter member of St. Gregory and of the DHC. We will all miss her greatly.

I hope everyone had a pleasant and reflective Easter. The DHC held their monthly meeting after the Holy Saturday service, egg stuffing and brunch. The next DHC meeting will be April 27th at 10 am.

The DHC Provincial Assembly will be held in Asheville, NC, September 12-15, 2024. The theme is "Grace Upon Grace." Attendees will also be celebrating the 15th Anniversary of the formation of the Order of the Daughters of the Holy Cross. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Theresa Brantley or Kathy Walker.

Our new book the DHC is starting is "The Nicene Creed" by Phillip Cary. The author fully explains the Nicene Creed, line by line, and gives the history and purpose of the writing of the Creed. Each of us recite the Creed on Sundays and Feast Days, so it should be beneficial to better understand it.

~Theresa Brantley

St. Clara's Guild

~Barbara Edwards

St. Clara's Guild will meet on Saturday, April 13 at 9:00 in the Parish Hall to make dignity bibs to be donated to a local nursing home.

Alice Nelson will be guiding us through the dignity bib project. Bring your normal sewing supplies and sewing machine or use one of the sewing machines we have available.

If you don't want to sew, there will be other things you can do to help. We also have fleece blankets available if you prefer to work on a blanket.



Come join us and help provide a much needed item for someone!



WHAT ARE CANTICLES?



We encounter canticles regularly in the daily office and sometimes during Mass or other liturgical services. The term "canticle" originates from the Latin word 'canticulum,' meaning 'little song.' Typically, they are recited or sung in plainsong (chanted) by an officiant or as a call and response between the officiant and the congregation. Canticles consist of biblical verses that are not found in the Book of Psalms.

Throughout the liturgical year, all the canticles appear in the readings of our liturgy. However, they are more than mere readings; they are prayers to be proclaimed in praise of God. These are scriptural prayers inspired by the Holy Spirit.

Among the canticles found in Luke's Gospel are:

- The Canticle of the Blessed Virgin (Magnificat) (Luke 1:46-55), which is Mary's song of praise upon meeting Elizabeth.
- The Song of Zechariah (Benedictus) (Luke 1:68-79), Zechariah's celebration of the birth of his son John the Baptist.
- The Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis) (Luke 2:29-32), Simeon's praise for the Lord's salvation of all people.

Many other canticles are used throughout our liturgy, each conveying its own special message to us. They all serve as prayers of praise, meant to be sung to enrich our worship experience.

~Tim Cannon

Save the Dates — Activities for the next 3 months

April	May	June
April 6 th - Service for Abby Wilson Dedication of Wilson Hall	May 12 th – June 16 th – Bottle Drive, from Mother's Day until Father's Day	June 8 th – Summer Party
April 7 th – April 28 th - Diaper Drive	May 12 th – Mother's Day Brunch	June 16 th – Father's Day Brunch
April 14 th –Potluck Sunday	May 16 th – Dominoes & Donuts	June 20 th – Dominoes & Donuts
April 18 th —Dominoes & Donuts	May 30 th – Meet and Meat	June TBD – Bishop Iker's Golf Tournament
April 27 th – Bingo & Burgers		

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

In August of 1983, Bishop Davies appointed Father Phil Cooke to be priest-in-charge of St. Gregory's Mission. That fall the mission moved out of the temporary quarters and leased a store front building in downtown Mansfield. A more permanent place to set up the Altar proved to be a significant step in the growth of the mission, but the 3500 square foot building soon became painfully inadequate to handle the growth of worship and church school. By late spring of 1985, a loan from the Crump Fund was secured to start building in late summer.

The first Eucharist at 1091 Country Club Drive was the Great Vigil, Easter on March 29, 1986. On that day the Vicar kidded the parishioners of St. Gregory's about the overnight change from a "hard core inner-city urban parish to a Country Club parish, a very bad slice off the eighth tee." The mission continued to grow and a temporary building was added for more classroom space.

St. Gregory's underwent substantial changes and growth under the direction of Father Phil Cooke. The parish went from mission status to a parish in October 1990 with Father Cooke becoming the Rector. In October 1994, the new parish hall was completed to provide offices, classrooms and facilities for various meetings, gatherings, and activities.

A Mother's Day Out program was started in 1999 and became a state certified program in 2000. The program evolved into St. Gregory's Episcopal Preschool in 2001. Then, in January 2001, after serving at St. Gregory's 17 years, Father Phil Cooke was called to serve a new church in California. Father Jesse Smith served as Interim Rector during St. Gregory's search for a new Rector.

In 2002 Father Keith Roberson began serving as Rector and continued his

service at St. Gregory's until October 2002. In his short ministry at St. Gregory's, he and his wife, Betty, formed a chapter of Daughters of the King. Father C. Gregory Sherwood was assigned to St. Gregory's as priest-in-charge by Bishop Iker in December 2002 and accepted the call as Rector in May 2003. Under Father Sherwood's leadership, the parish became lay led/clergy guided. He initiated the Boy/Girl Scout programs at St. Gregory's as well as numerous youth

programs. Under his leadership, St. Gregory's grew many new ministries and became a parish committed to Outreach. Father Sherwood left St. Gregory's on January 21, 2007.

Father Jim Norwood served as Retired Assistant Priest from 2003 through 2006 and brought new programs, such as Kairos and the Order of Saint Luke, plus spiritual guidance to the parish. Father Bill O'Connell joined the staff as Retired Assistant priest in the summer of 2006 and continued to serve as Interim Priest until September 2007.

Father Josh Whitfield helped St. Gregory's write the next chapter of its history and development. During his service, the practice of having Bible study groups for a wide variety of groups, meeting at coffee shops or parishioners homes. Father Josh left St. Gregory's in November 2009.

It was in November 2008, during Father Josh Whitfield's service at St. Gregory's, that the Episcopal Diocese of Fort Worth, under the Diocesan Bishop, Jack Iker, voted to leave the Episcopal Church and join the Anglican Church of the Southern Cone.

In 2009, the diocese was a founding jurisdiction of the Anglican Church in North America (ACNA). St. Gregory's became St. Gregory's Anglican Church at this time. A search committee was formed, consisting of the vestry and three parish members. The Bishop assigned Father Zeke Rogers to be priest-in-charge during the interim period. After consideration, the committee received the Bishop's approval to call Father Rogers as Rector. He was installed as the fifth Rector of St. Gregory the Great on October 6, 2010. Under Father Roger's direction, new ministries were started and the Vestry worked more closely with other parishioners to meet the needs of the parish. Father Rogers retired from active ministry and St. Gregory's in February 2016.

Father Alan Horton began serving as Interim of St. Gregory's on Tuesday, March 1, 2016 and became Rector Friday, June 17, 2016. Joining Father Horton at St. Gregory's, are his wife, Holly and their five children, Addison,

Emma, Asa, Gwen, and Margeaux. Under Father Horton's direction, the opportunities to get involved have been growing. New programs include a women's study group, a men's group, a Wednesday night Bible Study Group, St. Martha's Guild, Flower Guild, a Healing Ministry and a Genealogy Research Group. A Children's Sunday School Program has also been restarted. The Daughters of the King formed a chapter of Daughters of the Holy Cross affiliated with the Anglican Church.

The parish register changes as new people join and people move away, but the love of Christ and the determination to make Him known has not diminished. The future is ready to be forged by the "people in the pews". How can we reach those who don't know Christ in Mansfield? How does Christ want us to use the many gifts he has given us? These are vital questions to answer, and through prayer and dedication, the answers will be made known to us. Listen for God's directions; the best is yet to come.



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.



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