

The Chant

St. Gregory's Anglican Church



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



TEN YEARS LATER

It's hard to believe but this is my 10th Rector's Report and I have to admit, I don't feel like I have a whole lot to say this year.

The biggest event for me of this past year was my sabbatical which was 10 weeks away from the parish, so there's not much to report on that front. Except, it's precisely what I want to focus on this year. I usually highlight all the new initiatives and all the exciting things going on in the parish but there isn't much new going on. And I would argue that it is a good thing. We have settled into our life together and our various traditions. Bingo nights, pie Sunday, chili cookoff, dominoes and donuts, DHC, men's group, bible study, deanery-wide celebrations, etc., etc. There really isn't much room for anything else. Except new people, and that is happening. Despite not having much "new" programming, we are growing. Our average Sunday attendance hit new highs this year as we welcomed new faces and more consistently saw old faces on a week-to-week basis. And all of this in the midst of my two-and-a-half-month absence. This is a parish that takes ownership of its health and vitality. And while I recognize the importance of my ministry and my presence, I am fully confident that St. Gregory's would thrive in my absence as well. Let me be very clear, I have no plans of going anywhere, I just find this reality very encouraging.

I am also not naïve to the possibility that not everyone may feel this way. If you are reading this report and think that this doesn't apply to you at all, I offer my sincerest apologies. Maybe you haven't been in a while and are just reading this in the Chant and feeling forgotten. If so, please give me a call or send me a quick email. I would love nothing more than to find a way to more fully incorporate you into the life of St. Gregory's. I try to be responsive to the needs of everyone in the parish but I am fully aware of my own shortcomings and limitations and don't want my reflections here to put up any additional barriers.

As we look forward to the coming year, I expect our calendar to be full. One new focus will be to maintain a more continual offering of teaching through the summer months. We have received a generous donation for resources to make that happen and I will be looking into something that can be readily lay led because on top of any weeks of vacation and my yearly week at Camp Crucis I have committed to lead the retreat for the clergy of Northern Malawi this summer. I will be gone for 2 weeks in the middle of July, and I covet your prayers for my team and our travel. This will be my first time back to Malawi since my first trip there in 2016.

As always, I want to thank you all for your love and support and am excited for another year of ministry here at St. Gregory's.

Fr. Alan Horton+

CHURCH ON ICE

For the first time in its history, St. Gregory's had to cancel Sunday service because of weather. Temps below freezing, along with an ice storm, forced the closure on Sunday, January 25th. This closure delayed the Chili Cook-Off and annual church meeting until the following Sunday, February 1st.



Administrator Tracie Hinton took this beautiful photo of the church on Tuesday, January 27th as she braved the cold and ice to come to work.

SUPERBOWL PARTY

Sunday, Feb. 8th

Pre-Game 5:30 pm

Kickoff at 6:30 pm

Bring your favorite snacks!

Become the Keeper of Your Family's Story

--Robert Bloomfield

Tracing your ancestry helps you understand where you came from and how your family's past shaped your life today. You can preserve stories that might otherwise be lost. This can give you a stronger sense of identity and belonging. I'll share a few things I found out about my family.

My great-great grandfather, Augustus Pond, was a man the people living on Mackinac Island, Michigan trusted. He fished in the cold waters of the great lakes, repaired boats, hauled freight, guided travelers through fog, and raised children who knew the value of hard work.

My grandmother, Mary Pond Bloomfield, inherited the Pond steadiness, the Beaudoin warmth from her grandmother, and the island's stubborn resilience. She attended mass almost everyday at St. Anne's Catholic Church on the island. Her faith was strong and kept her strong through many hard times. She owned a restaurant and bar, Mary's Pantry, on Mackinac Island where she fed locals, travelers and anyone who needed a warm donut or a kind word. She baked fruitcakes that tasted like Christmas. In addition to her cooking, people remembered how she made them feel - welcome and safe. Every loaf of bread she baked, every person she helped, every adventure she shared was woven

from the same thread that began with her ancestors crossing the Straits of Mackinac to find a home and community. She was living proof that my ancestors didn't just survive. They contributed. They cared. They mattered.

I search for my ancestors not because I am lost, but because I recognize the weight of what they carried. At times, I feel the pull of Mackinac Island, the echo of the wind, the warmth of my grandmother's kitchen, and the quiet strength of the people who came before me. I search because I know the truth: A family doesn't disappear. It flows like water, like wind, like memory from one generation to the next. And by remembering them, I become the next keeper of the story.

Please come join us at the next St. Gregory's Genealogy Group meeting and we will help you to start your search to become the keeper of your story.

St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

The Genealogy Group's next meeting will be Thursday, February 5th, at 9:30 am in Wilson Hall. Come join us!

-Gayle Bradburn

NEWS FROM THE DHC

January was a busy month for the Daughters. This group of ladies are so dedicated to serving our church, God and praying for those in need.

Daughters of the Holy Cross welcome Sammie and Elizabeth Clark to the local order. They transferred from the Daughters of the King. Installation was held on Sunday, January 18.

The next meeting will be on February 28th at 10:00 am. This meeting will be to plan the year's calendar, select a book to study, finalize the date and schedule for our Women's Retreat.

And as always if you are interested in knowing more about the DHC or want to know about membership, speak with me or any member. We would love to have you join us! Blessings to all!

-Kathy Walker, DHC



Photo courtesy Tim Cannon



Members Candace Griffin, DeeDee Dolloff, Barbara Edwards, Alice Nelson, and Terry Black show one of two blankets completed at the last St. Clara's meeting.

ST. CLARA'S GUILD MEMBERS

COMPLETE BLANKET PROJECTS

Our ladies finished two blankets at our last meeting in January. These warm blankets are simple "cut and tie projects" — no sewing required! We have recently given 3 of these blankets to people recovering from surgery.

We will meet again on Friday, February 13, at 9:00 am in Wilson Hall. More fleece blankets will be made at this meeting. If you have a favorite pair of scissors, feel free to bring them.

If you don't sew, but want to participate, the fleece blankets might be just for you. Easy to learn and we have lots of fun conversations while we work. Come join us for a great **Friday the 13th project!**

-Barbara



*I found it! Found what?
It's something that I have
always wanted!*

Submitted by Heinz Liedke

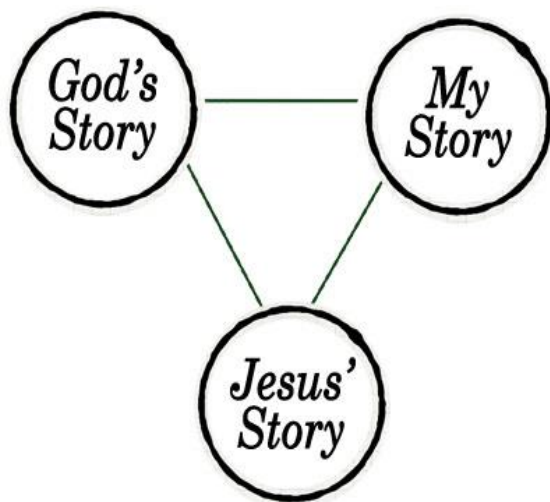
- Somehow, to share the Gospel in any picture based culture.
- Somehow, to get its message across to non-believers.
- Somehow, to still see the Good News shared where there are no phones or even no pen and paper.
- Somehow, to teach the Good News to those with learning difficulties or very little education
- Somehow, to preach the Gospel without any obvious 'Bible thumping'.
- Somehow, to do all this without it having to include complicated theology for the listeners.

And I have found it — It's called the 'Three Circles'

So just imagine..... This is a simple picture you could store in your mind as you wait for opportunities to share the message.

To explain to others through colourful and high-skill techno whizzbang or simply to just draw it in the dirt. It's your choice. Imagine an inverted triangle and in each corner is a circle.

Three corners, three circles, two at the top and one at the bottom. Top right circle is labelled 'My Story'. Top left circle is labelled 'God's Story' and the bottom circle in the triangle is labelled 'Jesus' Story'.



Always start with the top right circle. And always start by listening to the person, especially about what is troubling them.

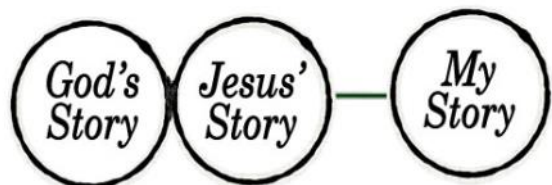
That could be anything from a migraine, to their home blowing down in a storm. From guilty feelings and worrying about any chance of an afterlife, or anything else, for that matter.

Then focus on the top left circle. You can ask the person in the 'My Story' circle to tell you what they think God's story is like. Then tell them what life was actually like for Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden picture in Genesis. You will not find the bad bits of 'My Story' in the circle of 'God's Story'.

It may also be good to ask which circle they would prefer to live in given the choice. Most will vote to live in the 'God's Story' circle, especially when they hear that it's available today and not just when they die. But there's a problem. There is a large gap between the top two circles, too wide for many of us to jump across and grab a better life for ourselves. No one can just assume they can do this through their own effort. But God, because he loves us, he had a plan to overcome this gap.

When someone tell us about their story we can listen and then say, "Can I now tell you God's story?" And away we go, proclaiming the nearness of the Kingdom of God! To show the Kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed in the Gospels, as a gift from God. We can raise the Jesus circle up to between the two on the top line.

We now have three Circles in a row. The Jesus circle always in touch with the God circle but still with just a small gap between 'Jesus' and 'My Story...This small Gap, we can explain, is exactly an arms width.



So by simply reaching over to Jesus and we have a continuous link back into 'God's Story'. And now God's river of grace can flow all the way through Christ and across to us.

We are then filled with the story of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, faithfulness, healing and everlasting life that is to be found in that God's story circle.

What a picture! All human allegories have fault lines within them for theologians to pick at but this is a simple tool to describe and share the saving acts of healing and of justification before God.

Ishare
JESUS

share His birth
His life
His story
His love
His word
His truth
His compassion
His miracles
His betrayal
His agony
His death
His resurrection

 ST. GREGORY'S
ANGELICAN CHURCH

February Birthdays

05~Holly Horton

06~Nate Horn

17~Anna Sparkman

17~Gayle Bradburn

20~Gwen Horton

23~George Sparkman

24~Elizabeth McDuff

24~James Horn

25~Milissa Holt

FEBRUARY HAPPENINGS

03~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study

04~ 6pm Healing Prayers

05~ 9:30pm Genealogy Meeting

07~ 9am Men's Diocesan Conference

10~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study

11~ 1pm Watercrest Eucharist

12~ Galantines Ladies Dinner 6:00 pm

13~ 9am St. Clara's Guild

16~ Presidents Day~ Office Closed

17~ 6:00pm Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

9:30am Women's Bible Study

18~ 6:30 pm Ash Wednesday

19~ 9am Dominoes & Donuts

21~ 8am Men's Group @Rosa's

22~ Youth Sundy

Food Drive~ Spring Break Snacks!

24~ 9:30am Women's Bible Study

28~ 10am DHC Meeting

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.



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.r.com

Webmaster/IT Admin/Facebook Tim Cannon

thetimcannon@gmail.com

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