



The Chant

St. Gregory's Anglican Church

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



Being Intentional in Avoiding Sin

In the field of ethics and moral theology you will find the concept of “occasions of sin” and within this there are two designations, “remote occasions of sin” and “proximate occasions of sin.” An *occasion of sin* is not the sin itself. It is the circumstance, environment, habit, relationship, or pattern that makes sin more or less likely. Moral theology has long recognized that if we are serious about holiness, we must be serious not only about resisting sin in the moment, but about being intentional in avoiding the conditions that repeatedly lead us there.

A **remote occasion of sin** is a situation that could potentially lead to wrongdoing but does not ordinarily do so. It carries some risk, but the likelihood is not strong or habitual. For example, for some people, scrolling through social media might occasionally expose them to envy or distraction, but it does not typically or consistently lead them into sin.

A **proximate occasion of sin**, on the other hand, is far more dangerous. It is a circumstance that regularly, predictably, and habitually leads us into sin. It is not hypothetical; it is proven. It is the pattern we already know. To use the same circumstance, this is the person who upon scrolling through social media will regularly become angry, argumentative, and uncharitable in their interactions.

To put it simply: if you have repeatedly fallen into the same sin under the same conditions, that condition has become a proximate occasion of sin.

Consider a simple but very real example. You have a friend you genuinely enjoy. There is nothing inherently wrong with the friendship. Yet every time you call this friend, the conversation inevitably drifts into gossip. You begin by catching up, but

before long you are dissecting other people’s marriages, criticizing mutual acquaintances, or speculating about motives and failures. You hang up with the nagging feeling of your conscience telling you that the conversation you just had was far from Christlike. If this happens once, it may be accidental. If it happens repeatedly, it is no longer accidental. The phone call itself has become a proximate occasion of sin.

The temptation here is to focus only on the gossip. “Next time,” we tell ourselves, “I’ll just be more careful.” But if experience proves otherwise and most if not every call leads to gossip, then prudence requires more than good intentions. It requires concrete change.

Being intentional in avoiding sin means asking honest and sometimes difficult questions. Do I need to shorten those conversations? Do I need to redirect them immediately when they turn? Do I need to set clear boundaries? And if necessary, do I need to stop participating in those calls altogether? This may feel drastic, yet Scripture calls us not merely to resist sin, but to flee from it. Being serious about discipleship requires discipline. In our fight against sin, we must not only recognize the sins which we frequently commit, but also the patterns that tend to lead to those sins and the situations in which we are most susceptible.

Holiness rarely happens by accident. It grows where vigilance, honesty, humility, and grace meet.

So, perhaps a good exercise during this Lenten season is to ask ourselves: What situations in my life have proven to be proximate occasions of sin and what concrete steps can I take to remove or reshape them? The answer doesn’t have to involve a dramatic overhauling of our entire lives. It may be as simple as a shorter phone call. But it is precisely those small decisions, made intentionally and regularly, that will lead us into deeper holiness and lives more pleasing to God.

Fr. Alan Horton+



Front Row: Cindy Bloomfield, Kathy Walker, Donna Sloan, Bill Griffin

Back Row: Tim Cannon, Fr. Alan Horton, Jason Hisaw

NEW VESTRY MEMBERS ELECTED

Two new vestry members were elected by acclamation at our annual parish meeting. Bill Griffin and Kathy Walker will serve three year terms, which began in January 2026. They joined Sr. Warden Tim Cannon, Jr. Warden Cindy Bloomfield, Parish Life Coordinator Donna Sloan and Outreach Coordinator Jason Hisaw.

FROM THE SENIOR WARDEN

Recently the vestry met to plan the calendar for 2025. We do this every year to make sure that all of the important items get put on the calendar. Some of the items are scheduled for us (Easter, Christmas, Bishop Reed's visitation, etc.). Other things we get to schedule ourselves.

In 2026 we are looking forward to several opportunities for fellowship. We will have our Second Annual Kubb Tournament on the Sunday after Easter (April 12). Pie Sunday will return on September 13th, along with several bingo and game nights throughout the year. New for this year is a fish fry following stations of the cross on March 27th.

I am looking forward to sharing this year with all of you. -Tim Cannon



Kubb (pronounced [koob:]) is a lawn game where the objective is to knock over wooden blocks by throwing wooden batons at them. Kubb can be described as a combination of bowling and horseshoes. Play takes place on a small rectangular playing field, known as a "pitch". "Kubbs" are placed at both ends of the pitch, and the "king", a larger wooden block, is placed in the middle of the pitch. Some rules vary from country to country and from region to region, but the ultimate objective of the game is to knock over the "kubbs" on the opposing side of the pitch, and then to knock over the "king", before the opponent does. Games can last from five minutes to well over an hour. The game can be played on a variety of surfaces such as grass, sand, concrete, snow, or even ice.

Our second annual Kubb tournament is scheduled for the Sunday after Easter (April 12). For more information, contact Tim or Father Horton.



WHEN HEALING DOES NOT COME

"What do you do when healing doesn't come?" It's a good question. Anyone who prays for people will admit they struggle with why some are healed and others are not. Praying for healing means you will see some healed. You will also see many not healed and wonder why they were not healed. Here we must understand that there are three distinct categories of healing: 1- Physical healing, 2-Spiritual healing, 3- Final healing (when we join Jesus).



Heinz Liedke

A word of caution, never tell someone why they are not healed, silently ask the Holy Spirit to guide you. People are complex and there may be many different reasons why healing has not yet happened. Healing is not always instantaneous; it could be some time before we see any results.

Seven Possible Reasons (there may be more) why some people May Not Experience Healing.

1. Lack of faith – In His hometown, Jesus could not heal many people due to unbelief. A lack of belief may block God's healing power. (Matthew 17:14-20)

2. Redemptive Suffering – Some people believe suffering is God's will for them and was given to them to teach them something or to draw them closer to God. Therefore, they do not want to be healed. (Colossians 1:24; Galatians 4:13-14)

3. Sin - A lack of repentance and a sinful lifestyle may block God's healing power. Resentment, anger, and unforgiveness create a dam that stops the flow of healing in some people.

4. Refusal to see medicine as one of the ways God heals. A person holding this belief limits God and His healing methods and means. It may also be a matter of spiritual pride. "I'm not going to a doctor. God alone is going to heal me." This pride fails to see how God created medicine and uses it to help heal mankind.

5. Demonic interference – In the book of Daniel, an evil angel held up the answer to a prayer for twenty-one days. (Daniel 10:12-13) The devil may interfere with prayers and answers to the prayers.

6. The social environment – The family system may force a healed person to revert to sickness to stabilize the family and prevent change

7. Now is not the time – God's timing may not be now, but later.

These are some possible reasons only. Jesus never chastised people who came to Him for healing He simply healed them. In fact, Matthew 12:5 says, "He healed them all." However, in his hometown of Nazareth He could heal only a few because of their unbelief. "And he was amazed at their lack of faith." (Mark 6.6) obviously there are times when unbelief blocks healing.

Then there are many other times when we aren't sure what the reason might be for lack of healing. There is a mystery that we accept in praying for people. It is this- we don't always know or understand why some are healed and others not. But we do know that more people get healed when we pray for them than when we don't. And we will not trade what we know about God – that He is a good Father – for what we do not know – why some are not healed.

THE BEGINNINGS OF A NEW MEN'S DEVOTIONAL ORDER

On February 7th, a group of men from St. Gregory gathered for breakfast and fellowship.

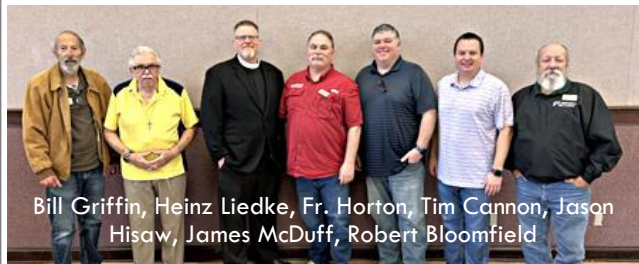
Bishop Reed opened the meeting in prayer, asking God to guide our conversation and bless our efforts. The discussion spoke about the importance of Christian brotherhood and the need for men to support one another in faith. It was discussed using Saint Augustine's Prayer Book as a guide, and the men reflected on how regular prayer and accountability help shape our daily lives.

We discussed the Order of the Knights of Saint Michael and how it can inspire a renewed sense of purpose among men in the Church. Much of our conversation centered on discovering the right ways to become more involved in parish life and how to invite our youth into deeper participation and leadership. Together we considered the masculine virtues needed today - *courage, integrity, humility, and faithful service.*

Our meeting highlighted the vision of a Men's Devotional Order committed to promoting:

- Our Bishop and Chief Pastor
- The Parish Church and its Priests

- Biblical Manhood
- Pro-Life Causes
- Prayer, Study, and Service
- Catholic Faith and Order
- Devotion to Our Lady
- Consecration to St. Joseph



Bill Griffin, Heinz Liedke, Fr. Horton, Tim Cannon, Jason Hisaw, James McDuff, Robert Bloomfield

We are encouraged and united in purpose, reminded that the Church is strengthened when men pray together, grow in virtue, and serve Christ as faithful brothers.

- Jason Hisaw



Got a story to tell?

An amusing tale to tell?

Blessing to share?

Send your stories to:

Cindy Bloomfield at
bloomfieldphoto@tx.rr.com

Email them before March 27th

I share 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

Share Jesus - A Brief Testimony

Perhaps you've seen the "*Share Jesus*" poster in Wilson Hall. This is the story behind it. For several nights, I experienced a series of dreams with one clear message placed on my heart: *Share Jesus*. At first, the words stood alone. But night after night, the Lord revealed more. In my dreams, I was shown twelve distinct steps, twelve moments in the life of Christ that together form the fullness of His story. The number itself felt intentional, echoing the twelve disciples, the twelve tribes of Israel, and the way God often uses twelve to signify completion and divine purpose.

I saw **His birth**, bringing hope into a waiting world.

I saw **His life**, filled with teaching, healing, and compassion.

I saw **His story**, the unfolding of God's love from manger to cross.

I saw **His love**, poured out freely for all people.

I saw **His word**, steady and true, guiding hearts toward the Father.

I saw **His truth**, spoken with courage and clarity.

I saw **His compassion**, reaching out to the forgotten and the hurting.

I saw **His miracles**, signs of God's power breaking into everyday life.

Then the dreams turned to the harder parts of His journey:

I saw **His betrayal**, **His agony**, and **His death**, the sacrifice He accepted for our salvation.

And finally, I saw **His resurrection**, the victory that changed everything.

Through these dreams, the message became unmistakable-To *Share Jesus* is to share all of Him. His birth, His life, His story, His love, His word, His truth, His compassion, His miracles, His betrayal, His agony, His death, and His resurrection.

This calling did not come from a meeting or a plan. I believe it came as a gentle whisper from God, night after night, inviting me to help others encounter the fullness of Christ. And if any part of this journey speaks to you, I'd be glad to share more about this with you.

- Robert Bloomfield

A VERY CHILLY DAY PROVIDED THE PERFECT SETTING FOR THE 2026 ANNUAL CHURCH CHILI COOK-OFF

Delayed by an ice storm, but still cold enough to enjoy a steaming bowl of chili, we held the St. Gregory's Chili Cook-Off on Sunday, February 1st, following our annual church meeting.

This year's entries (a record of 13 full crock-pots!) gave judges Milissa Holt and James Hisaw the difficult job of selecting winners. Competition Coordinator, Bert Sloan, oversaw the judging process, providing the criteria for this year's cook-off.

After much deliberation, the winners were as follows: Trice Edwards for Best Chili-No Beans, Barbara Edwards for Best Chili With Beans, Kathy Walker for Best Other Chili and Paul Jennings for Hottest Chili (his 3rd year in a row to win this category!) Fr. Alan Horton took home the prize for The Peoples Choice of Best Chili of the day. Our winners received special aprons and chili cook-off medals. Everyone went home warm, well fed, and ready plan next year's recipes!



Milissa Holt, Bert Sloan and James Hisaw were busy judging the entries in this year's Chili Cook-Off.



Winning runs in the family! Barbara and Trice Edwards were both winners this year. Barbara won with the beans in her chili while Trice won by leaving them out of his recipe!



Judges James Hisaw and Milissa Holt presented the award for Best Other Chili to Kathy Walker. Her unusual recipe captured the attention of all three judges.



Rebecca Jennings made sure that hubby Paul's special HOT chili was ready for judging. This was Paul's third straight win in our competition. Although Paul was on the road, he was with us in spirit and Rebecca made sure to have his photo ready for the awards presentation. Some said they were glad that Paul took pity on our taste by backing off some of his "hotter" spices!



Ever the strong competitor, Fr. Horton's special blend of spices brought him The People's Choice Award.



THE ONE WITH THE “WILD GAME OF BINGO!”

Starting off February with fun, the ladies of St. Gregory’s enjoyed dinner and lots of laughs at our 3rd Annual Galentines event held in Wilson Hall on February 12th. This is a fun event, held a few nights before Valentines as a

“girls night out” event for all of the ladies of the church. The night always includes dinner, a game or two, prizes and dessert. This year after a picnic style dinner of chicken tenders, potato salad, macaroni salad, rolls and dessert, the women played a game of bingo that will forever spark giggles and laughs. Cindy Bloomfield got an education in how NOT to create bingo



cards! Turns out there are

some special rules to creating the cards and Cindy didn’t have a clue about those rules or numbers. For the longest time, it appeared as if no one would score a bingo, (thanks to the crazy cards) but Donna Sloan came through with the big win! She won a special heart shaped baking dish. We had a door prize drawing and Sharon Holcomb’s lucky number provided her a big win

of a special box of Valentines chocolates! Everyone received a special springtime party favors and went home with happy hearts, still enjoying a few giggles over our crazy Bingo Game!



SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE SUPPER

Around 60 people came out for our Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper on Tuesday night, February 17th, in Wilson Hall.

Following in the traditions of Fat Tuesday and Mardi Gras, where servings of rich food and



sweets are consumed prior to Ash Wednesday (the beginning of Lent), everyone was served generous portions of pancakes, sausages and crisp bacon. In addition, this year Fr. Horton cooked delicious scrambled eggs, too.

Rich sweet warm syrup, melted hot butter and chocolate chips were available to enhance the pancakes.

Since this is a St. Gregory's Mens Group event, there were plenty of cooks and helpers to keep the pancakes coming, bacon crisp, and the eggs hot.



Orange juice and hot coffee along with iced tea, provided attendees with several choices of beverage. There were two King Cakes for dessert and also cookies. Truly a time of feasting and fellowship!!

This group was one of the largest served at Shrove Tuesday in several years.

Many are already talking about making plans to attend next year.

Containers of extra sausage, bacon and pancakes were sent home with many. Clean up was quick thanks to the extra helpers that stayed until the end.



SUPERBOWL PARTY WAS SUPER FUN!

We were having too much fun to think about taking pictures. Since none of our favorite teams were playing this year, some thought our party might not be as much fun as last year's party. But, they were wrong! Robert and Sonjia Durden entertained the non-football crowd with the chance to take a close look at a few planets and stars via their telescope. Pulled pork sandwiches, tacos with all the fixings, pizza chicken spaghetti, wings, cookies and lots of chips and dips were fuel we needed to cheer for the winning football pot numbers. Each quarter had us waiting until the last minute to see who would win the pot. Fr. Horton kept his winning record alive by winning 2 quarters, including the final big pot. A fun time of fellowship as usual, no matter what teams were playing. And Robert says "Thanks" to Elizabeth McDuff for making the best banana pudding ever!



FOOD DRIVE CONTINUES THIS MONTH

This month we are asking for Pantry Staples along with any non-perishable food items of your choice. Please bring your items by Sunday, March 22. Thank You!



St. Clara's Guild

St. Clara's Guild will meet on Friday, March 13 at 9:00 in Wilson Hall. We will work on more fleece blankets to be given to our parishioners who are in need of comfort for surgeries or illnesses.

-Barbara Edwards

March Happenings

- 03~ 9:30am Women's Study Group
- 05~ 9:30pm Genealogy Meeting
- 07~ 8am Men's Group @Rosa's
- 10~ 9:30am Women's Study Group
- 11~ 6:30pm Holy Eucharist
Feast of St. Gregory - Pot Luck Dinner
- 13~ 9am St. Clara's Guild
- 17~ 9:30am Women's Study Group
- 19~ 9am Dominoes & Donuts
- 21~ 8am Men's Group @Rosa's
- 22~ Youth Sunday-Food Drive~ Pantry Staples
- 27~ 6:30 pm Stations of the Cross
Followed by a Fish Fry Dinner
- 28~ 9am Cleaning of the Church and Grounds
10am DHC Meeting
- 29~ Diaper Drive ends
- 31~ 9:30am Women's Study Group

March Birthdays

06~Priscilla Hightower

10~Jennifer Mowrer

19~Phillip Brantley

21~Trice Edwards

23~Sandy Townend

31~Ellen Sparkman

St. Gregory's Genealogy Research Group

Meeting is
March 5th
at 9:30 am
In
Wilson Hall
Come Join Us!
Lunch at
Mexican Inn
following
our meeting.

-Gayle Bradburn

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.



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