



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



Romans: Still My Second Favorite Book And Now Worth Studying First

I was interviewing for admittance into Nashotah House, one of the questions I was asked was, "Outside of the Gospel accounts, what is your favorite book of the Bible?" My answer was "Paul's Letter to the Romans." My reason was that it is the fullest treatment of Paul's theology. It is an absolute treasure trove of Pauline thought. Now, to be honest, it is no longer my favorite book—the Letter to the Hebrews has surpassed it for its powerful Christology (I'm also a big fan of Melchizedek). But Romans still holds the number two spot. Which is why it is surprising to me that we have not yet covered it in Bible Study, considering that I'm the one who chooses what we study. So, this fall we will remedy that and undertake Romans on Wednesday evenings starting September 2.

For a little background, it's good to understand why Romans is such an extensive and comprehensive letter when compared to Paul's other Epistles. First and foremost, Paul did not found the church in Rome. We aren't exactly sure who did, possibly Jews returning from Jerusalem after Pentecost. This would explain some of the focus in the letter on Jew-Gentile issues. If the church was originally founded by converts from Judaism, there would be a necessity for the law-grace differentiation as well as clarification on Gentile inclusion.

Not only did Paul not found the church in Rome, he had never even visited at this point. Most of Paul's letters were written to churches he knew personally, often addressing particular problems or questions that had arisen since he had left them. Romans is different. Paul is introducing himself and his teaching to a church that knows him largely by reputation. And because he hopes that Rome will become a base of support for his missionary work farther west, he takes the opportunity to lay out the Gospel he preaches in a remarkably thorough and systematic way.

The result is a letter that touches on nearly every major theme of the Christian faith: the universality of sin, justification by faith, grace, baptism, life in the Spirit, the relationship between Israel and the Gentiles, Christian ethics, the role of government, life together in the Church, and the transforming power of the Gospel. Romans contains some of the most familiar verses in Scripture, but it also contains passages that are notoriously difficult and have been debated by Christians for centuries. This is why it is so important to study scripture wholistically. When we look at an entire Book we can understand the author in context instead of just analyzing isolated phrases and passages.

So, whether Romans is already one of your favorite books of the Bible, whether you have always found Paul a little difficult to understand, or whether you have never read Romans all the way through, I hope you will join us on Wednesday evenings following the Eucharist, as we work our way through the Pauline masterwork that is his Letter to the Romans.

Fr. Alan Horton+

"EASY LIKE SUNDAY MORNINGS"

(Credit to The Commodores, 1972)

There are few things more ambitious than trying to get three boys dressed, fed, and out the door on a Sunday morning. Even more trying to convince everyone that we are supposed to be joyful about the experience.

Some Sundays, getting to church feels like a victory before we even walk through the doors. Someone can't find a shoe. Someone doesn't want to get dressed. Someone is hungry. Someone is arguing. And, inevitably, we're running later than we planned.

Then there are the Sundays when the boys have a role in the service—a lector, crucifer, or torch bearer. Those mornings bring an excitement for church while maintaining a level of wanting to do well. Finding the right clothes, making sure everyone knows where they need to be, and somehow getting three boys out the door on time can feel like its own spiritual discipline.

But then we arrive at church. The boys put on their vestments, take their places, and suddenly the morning chaos seems worth it. Watching them participate in worship is a reminder that church isn't something we simply bring our children to. It is something we are teaching them to be part of. Maybe that's why the Sunday morning battle matters.

We don't come to Church because our lives are perfectly ordered. We come because they aren't. We come to worship, to serve, to learn, and to place our lives back in God's hands. Sometimes, the first victory of Sunday morning is simply showing up.

-Jason Hisaw

Long Awaited Columbarium Installed

After many years of prayerful planning and collaboration, the new St. Gregory's Columbarium was delivered on Friday, August 7th. This addition is a meaningful step in honoring loved ones and providing a serene space for remembrance. The craftsmanship and care behind the project embody the spirit of St. Gregory's parish members — faith expressed through beauty and devotion.



Created, constructed and installed by Rick Meagley, custom woodworker, artist and owner of The Carpenter's Woodshop, the handcrafted structure reflects both artistry and reverence. The new columns flank the existing columbarium in the St. Mary niche, forming a graceful extension that will hold 24 cremains.

"This columbarium stands as a testament to our community's enduring love and faith," one member shared. "It's a place where memory and peace meet."

Information is available in the church office for anyone interested in securing a niche space for themselves or family members.

September Birthdays

01~Mack Holcomb
05~Candace Griffin
05~Cindy Bloomfield
08~Brenda Lee
09~Rick Black
11~Noah McDuff
15~Heather Horn
26~Mary Lou Whiteley
28~Grace Kim
28~Robin Ngbor
28~Susan McDuff
30~Linda Bass

St. Clara's Guild

St. Clara's Guild will meet on Friday, September 11, at 9:00 am, in Wilson Hall. We will continue to work on some fleece blankets. And for those who want to sew, we will continue to work on the dignity bibs. Come join us for fun and fellowship! -Barbara Edwards

PIE SUNDAY 9/13



September Events

01 ~9:30 am Women's Study
05 ~8:00 am Men's Group -Rosa's
07~Labor Day -Office Closed
08~9:30 am Women's Study
11 ~9:00 am St. Clara's
12~Hour with Jesus
13~Pie Sunday
15~9:30 am Women's Study
17~9:00 am Dominoes & Donuts
18~6:00 pm Burgers & Bingo
19~8:00 am Men's Group-Rosa's
20~Sunday School Starts
Vestry Meeting
22~9:30 am Women's Study
26~10:00 am DHC Meeting
11:00 am Hour with Jesus
27~Youth Sunday & Food Drive
27~11:00 am Server Training for all Crucifers, Torch Bearers, LEMS, Pizza Lunch provided
29~9:30 am Women's Study
29~6:30 pm Michaelmas Combined Service at St. Gregory's

Bishop Reed Visits St. Gregory's

On Sunday, August 2, Bishop Ryan Reed made his annual visit to St. Gregory's Anglican Church. Both those attending in person and those joining online were blessed by his inspirational sermon, which was received with deep appreciation.

Before the visit, many parishioners came together on Saturday to clean the church and parish grounds, ensuring everything was beautiful and welcoming. Thank you to everyone who gave their time and energy. Your care made a meaningful difference.

Following Sunday's service, Bishop Reed took photos with all who served on the altar. He then joined parishioners in Wilson Hall, where the congregation enjoyed a cheerful potluck breakfast with coffee, juice, and pastries. Many thanks to all who provided such a delicious meal and helped create a warm time of fellowship.

During the gathering, Fr. Horton shared stories and presented a slideshow of his recent mission trip to Malawi, offering a heartfelt look into the ministry taking place there. It was a joyful and memorable morning for the St. Gregory's family.



"For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

Matthew 25:35



Prayer Garden Restored and Dedicated on Feast of St. Fiacre

The prayer garden at St. Gregory's Anglican Church has been fully restored, bringing renewed beauty and serenity to one of the parish's most cherished quiet spaces. The garden, long awaiting attention, has now been fully revitalized with new sprinklers, fresh grass, and landscape stone retaining walls, creating a peaceful environment for reflection and prayer.

The project was made possible through the hard work of parish volunteers and the generosity of donors whose gifts provided the materials needed. Special thanks go to Bill Griffin, whose inspiration helped launch the effort. Thanks



also to Robin Ngor, Asa Horton, Gwen Horton, and Robert Bloomfield. Gratitude is also extended to Trice Edwards, who installed the new St. Gregory's prayer garden sign.

The prayer garden was formally dedicated on August 30, the Feast Day of St. Fiacre, the patron saint of gardeners. St. Fiacre's own garden became renowned for its beauty and usefulness, drawing travelers and pilgrims seeking peace. In that same spirit, we pray that this restored garden will be a place of quiet reflectiveness, gentle stillness, and heartfelt prayer for all who enter. The dedication was performed by Fr. Thomas Hightower, marking a joyful new chapter for a space which will continue to bless our parish and community for years to come.



God's Vision for the World

from Reverend Mike Endicott

We might be surprised to find out that the most powerful flow of prayer is the way in which God communicates with us, rather than, as we might prefer to view this process, us communicating with God. "Is prayer your steering wheel or your spare tire?" asked Corrie ten Boom [1892-1983, see Clippings from My Notebook, 1982].



Submitted by Heinz Liedke

The role of foreign ambassadors in the world is to equate oneself regularly and consistently with their own government policy and focus on direct instructions from home in a crisis. Things work best if we approach the idea of our relationship with God in the kingdom from the same direction. The Kingdom of God is where God's will is done, and not necessarily about where we achieve "what we want" or manage through our persistence, to persuade God to do! To achieve this, we must stay closely in touch with the King of that Kingdom. It is in realizing this truth, that the beginning of every good (and successful) Kingdom initiative comes directly from God's heart, and is the very foundation for our newly rewarding kingdom life. It raises within us (it would with anyone) the level of a natural 'water table' of trust, the essential building block of any relationship. It serves to underline the basic necessity of listening to what God wants us to pray for, and for us to move into, before any action on our part takes place. The direction we follow, to be counted as righteous in this context, has to be through his instruction. As a result, we Kingdom people, we agents for change, we prayer-givers, will open gaps in the world to let in the grace-light of heaven.

We listen to what God wants to do, and we pray for it to happen and through this partnership, we 'make straight the way of the Lord. Then He can move. That is the main characteristic of life in the Kingdom, and it is achieved in practice through the working nature of our prayer partnership with Jesus Christ.

NEWS FROM THE CHOIR LOFT

The choir has enjoyed helping to lead the congregation in song through the last 8 months of 2026. We have tried to make the best of our contribution to keep song in our prayer, even with vacations and travel. The congregation has helped us to maintain a great year. This month we have added another lady in our choir loft. She is Kathy Walker and is helping us to project our songs. We did return a tremendous asset, Phil Hawkins, to the congregation. The climb to the loft has lost us another tenor. The congregation gained 2 great tenors with Phil Hawkins and Phil Brantley keeping the congregation in step with us.

We welcome others who would love to help us pray in song. We look forward to finding more singers who are interested in projecting our prayer in song. Please contact any of the choir members for information. We practice on Wednesday and before service on Sunday mornings. Thank you all again for allowing us to raise our voices in prayer. Fritz Barowsky



When Faith Shows Up With Tools In Hand

When leaks were discovered in the flower beds at the church, our members

didn't hesitate to act on the problem. John Hamaker, Fritz Barosky, Trice Edwards and Bill Griffin rolled up their sleeves and got to work.

In order to stop the leak, a new pipe had to be installed beneath the front steps of the church. This crew handled the situation with the steady determination that has always defined the people of St. Gregory's.

Thanks to these men for seeing a need and taking care of it without fanfare or fuss. That's the kind of members we have at St. Gregory's - people who serve quietly, faithfully and with love for their church.

In Reach News

Donna Sloan

Big thank you to everyone who helped clean up the church before Bishops Reeds visit. And thanks to everyone for sharing their delicious pot luck dishes for all to enjoy.

Mark your calendars for September! Join us on Sunday the 13th for Pie Sunday, where you can showcase your secret family recipes. Whether it's pumpkin, pecan, cream, fruit, savory or your own special creation, we welcome all entries—let's try to top last year's 13 delicious pies. Come hungry and ready to compete!



DAUGHTERS OF THE HOLY CROSS

With September upon us, we look forward to cooler weather and getting back to our routines. It is my hope that each member recommits to being at our meetings as much as possible. We need you there for support and friendship.

On September 12th, the Operation Christmas Child is having the regional kick-off party. If you would like to attend, we will meet at the church to carpool at 9:00 am. It is such a great time to share ideas with other organizations. Just let me know if you plan to attend so I can be sure to reserve table space.

Our Christmas in July was very successful. I am always so proud of the kindness and generosity of our members. Our small numbers never match the large loving hearts of our congregation. Thank you everyone. In Christ Alone, Kathy Walker

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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