



The Gregorian Chant

**Newsletter of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
June, 2010**

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

First, I want to express my deep thanks to all of you who helped me celebrate 30 years as a priest, and 20 at St. Greg's. Thank you for the beautiful cross. It is very meaningful to me both in its symbolism and as a token of your kindness to me. Thank you also for the delicious champagne & wine from Temecula. And a very special thanks to the Sunday School children for the surprise of the tea, chocolates, and above all for your notes! I am truly blessed. As I said to someone, I pray the best is yet to come!

Many of you are now enjoying summer break. As I understand it, the reason we have a summer break in school is because, back in the day, children were needed to help with the farming over the growing months. Families that live on farms still observe this, but for most people, there is no reason other than that is the way it has been done. I know Douglas County district has year-round school because of overcrowding, but they also have schools with the traditional schedule (which must make for fun when siblings attend different scheduled schools).

Although most don't have a need of a summer break, and there have been articles about some schools converting to year-round, it is nice to have a period with more flexibility for vacations and other activities. I remember summer vacations as a child were endless unstructured time- time to enjoy nature. (I was privileged to grow up in a forest in Minnesota, with half of each summer on a lake, then live with miles of desert behind our house, and a golf course across the street.) Other than early summer baseball, and a Vacation Bible School, summer was at my disposal.

It seems that our culture today is far busier not only during the school year, but in summer as well. It is as if we cannot allow our children, or ourselves, time to just be. Barbara & I have a nice deck which enjoys evening shade. So far we haven't had time to enjoy it. It seems the only way to slow down is to leave town, and even then we often try to shoehorn as much into our trips as possible.

Our spiritual lives can benefit from "sabbatical time." This does not mean some extended silent retreat. It can be just a few minutes out of a day to reflect, to change our pace, or scene, to reconnect with our Lord. Church is designed to provide some of that, but as a community gathering, it is not always conducive to reflection. Someone once said, "I go to church to be alone with God." In this season of the church (the season of "ordinary" time) we do focus on living in Christ as his followers, but church by definition is a community. It is hard to be alone in community.

I pray to you are able to carve some time out this summer just for yourself—yourself and God. Take a moment to enjoy his creation, to wonder at the intricate beauty of it, to become still enough to be able to listen for his breath, to be open to receive his presence. May this summer be a time of renewal for you.

Then [Elijah] was told, "Go, stand on the mountain at attention before God. God will pass by." A hurricane wind ripped through the mountains and shattered the rocks before God, but God wasn't to be found in the wind; after the wind an earthquake, but God wasn't in the earthquake; and after the earthquake fire, but God wasn't in the fire; and after the fire a gentle and quiet whisper. 1 Kings 19:11-12

Blessings in Christ our Lord,

Todd +



Thanks to all of you, the youth has enough funds for their mission trip. Those going will meet with those from the other churches on June 12 for a pre-trip preparation.

We are going to be more laid back this summer, with several movie nights, beginning on June 2 at 5:30 p.m. For movie nights bring your own drinks. We will pop popcorn and possibly buy pizza if everyone wants to pitch in \$2 for it. June 2: movie night: Avatar. We are also planning other fun events and outings for the summer. All of these are open to all youth 6th grade and up. To stay up to date on our events, e-mails Brinda Pumphrey at blane_pumphrey@hotmail.com

From Jami Jones:

This year I was invited to walk with a team for the Susan G. Koman 3-day walk for the cure. Due to my Achilles tendon injury, I didn't feel I was going to be up to the challenge and am instead volunteering for the crew side of things. Harold decided he'd be my "proxy" and walk for me. He's the only guy with a bunch of girls (we're still trying to get him to warm up to wearing pink!) on the team. Since I'm on the crew, I'm not fundraising for myself but am asking on Harold's behalf. If you are able, please consider following this link and donating to Harold. He'll be walking 60 miles in 3 days in August for breast cancer.

Thank You

On behalf of my sons, I would like to thank all who helped them with their recent fund-raising for charity. Andrew is boarding a plane as I write this for an exciting summer. Included in this time is his assisting at a summer camp for homeless children, to which many of you contributed. He has enough to sponsor at least six children!

Meanwhile, Neil will be participating this Saturday in the first of two triathlons to raise funds to sponsor bicycles for needy children. Your contributions helped greatly with that effort.

As a proud dad, I thank you for helping both of them.

Fr. Todd +

Camp & Conference Center News

BUILDING A PLACE SET APART: Our diocese is looking for volunteers, both groups and individuals, to help get out new Camp & Conference Center in shape for use. We can help with everything from light maintenance and kitchen work, to heavy, backbreaking labor. They will also need skilled people such as nurses, electricians and plumbers. Each group will be assigned a project (or two), some of which will be completed in the course of your stay with us, and some projects you will either start, advance, or finish. These projects will be overseen by our staff. We ask that you or your group work hard during the day with the assigned task(s) and then take the evening to enjoy; we hope you will plan for your stay to be a work opportunity to build a place set apart, not a recreational activity. When you have completed your work for the day, the facility offers many activities and there are also many activities available in the community around us.



We will also be asking you to help cover the costs of your project and room and board (3 meals per day are included in the nightly rate-see below). Each group is responsible for basic cleaning of your own room (vanity, vacuum, etc). Each project will be assigned a value; we will ask your group to help raise the funds to cover the cost of that project. We will have some tools available, however, your project may have specific requirements you can help fill, as well as other tools or materials you may be able to donate.



Accommodations will be provided mainly in our main lodge. We will also have some other buildings available.

Room & Board, suggested donations of:

\$35/night per person (provide own linens)in main lodge

\$40/night per person (linens provided) in main lodge
\$25/night per person (provide your own linens) in one of the retreat cabins (dorm style)

\$6 breakfast, \$8 lunch, \$10 dinner per extra meal beyond
Addt. Costs: Assisting in the cost of your group's project

If you are interested in helping be part of a group from St. Gregory's, sign up on the kiosk. We will meet **after church on Sunday, June 13** to look at when & how we can do this.



Also....

It's summertime again; the trees are green, the sky is blue, and your Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts are working on their Eagle and Gold Award projects! We have many project opportunities that can help your Scouts meet their project requirements. These projects can include fundraising, planning, marketing, delegating, and many other pieces of project development. This is a great way for your youth to get involved in our new Camp and Retreat Center and to develop a sense of ownership in this new gathering place! For more information or to set up an Eagle or Gold Award Project, please contact Erica Hein -719-687-9038, wppvoluteercoordinator@gmail.com .

FISHING FOR FUN— At Galilee By-the-Sea, you'll



explore a seaside village in Bible-times Galilee, play Bible-times games, eat traditional treats, make authentic projects and discover how Jesus touched the lives of real people. It will be on **Sat., July 17 from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m.** To register and ask questions contact Kim Stephens at michael.stephens@q.com.