



The Gregorian Chant

Newsletter of St. Gregory's Episcopal Church
April, 2011

Dear Brothers & Sisters in Christ,

This month I present a "guest article" I found in the Anglican Digest:

The Bible has some amazing statistics. First of all the Bible is not one book, but a library of sixty-six books written over a 1500-year period in three languages by forty authors living in ten different countries. The authors' works include history, mystery, romance, poetry, prose, and even humor. A cast of 2,930 characters are depicted in 1,551 places. How did this amazing collection come about?

God revealed himself through the Jewish leaders and prophets. The Jews revered their writings and carefully preserved them. These sacred writings, the Hebrew Bible, became the Scriptures of the first Christians. Christians recognized these Scriptures contained promises of the coming of Jesus. The apostles taught the good news of the gospel of Christ from the Hebrew Bible. Inspired writings, the writing of the apostles, were later added to the Hebrew sacred books to make up the canon of Scripture.

The Greek word canon means a rule, measuring rod or standard. By the fourth century the Christians conclusively recognized that there was a Christian canon - the collected writings which set forth the standards of Christian truth as first taught by the apostles. In part, this finalization of the Christian canon came about because of the rise of various heresies.

The Gnostic heretic Marcion, about 140 A.D., was the first to make a list of what books he thought were depositories of the truth. Marcion believed the God of the Old Testament was evil, so he rejected the entire Old Testament. He only accepted parts of the gospel of Luke and ten of Paul's epistles as true. Surprisingly this false teacher was performing a valuable service. By listing the books he thought were evil and wrong, the church leaders were forced to carefully consider and confirm what Christian writings were true and authoritative.

Irenaeus, a church father writing about 180 A.D. attacked Marcion's Gnostic heresies. Irenaeus affirmed the Hebrew Scriptures as true because in them were the many prophecies fulfilled in Jesus Christ. He also used quotations of many of the New Testament writings about the person and salvation work of Jesus Christ.

Throughout the second and third centuries the church fathers constantly quoted the early apostles and the gospels to explain Christian teaching to believers and to counter the teaching of heretics. These Scriptures were a canon or rule to both measure truth and resist error. The early church was in strong agreement as to which writings were sacred.

In 303 A.D. the Roman Emperor Diocletian sponsored the last empire-wide persecution of the Christians. His edicts demanded that churches be destroyed and the Scriptures burned. Some Christians were burned because they refused to turn over their sacred books. Soon after the Emperor Constantine proclaimed Christianity the legal religion of Rome in 324 A.D., he requested that Eusebius of Caesarea produce fifty copies

of the Scriptures to be used in the capital city of Constantinople. Eusebius collected the sacred texts and combined them into one volume.

There were many other Christian writings in circulation in the fourth century. Some were good for reading but not inspired. Others claimed to be inspired but were actually written by heretics and false teachers. A number of the false books, e.g., the Gospel of Thomas, had names similar to Scripture but were full of error. Bishop Athanasius of Alexandria in Egypt realized that the best defense against heresy was a clear understanding of Scripture.

In his Easter letter of 367 A.D., Athanasius set before his people "the books included in the Canon and handed down as Divine." Athanasius' list of the inspired books of both the Old and New Testaments was the first list of Biblical books which corresponds to those we have in our Bible today.

-The Rev. William T. Luley, St. Luke's, Manchester, Missouri. This was printed in *The Anglican Digest*, a quarterly periodical with many interesting articles. If interested in subscribing, check out www.anglicandigest.org

Blessings in Christ,

Todd +



**COMMUNITY GARDEN
BLESSING!**

Join us on Saturday, May 21 at 10:00 a.m. for the blessing of the Community Garden. We have five garden plots still available for individuals, families, or groups. We are also looking for many to volunteer to help with the communal garden plots, with proceeds donated to local food banks. Individual plot fees will be \$75 for a 10 x 15 ft. plot (4 available) and \$50 for a 10 x 10 ft. plot (4 available). Fee includes water for the season. No fee required to garden the communal plots. For questions or to put your name on the list for a garden plot, call Cynthia Roberts 720-252-3967.



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Youth Group NEWS

We have one final fund raising event for our summer mission trips. All ages, and especially the youth, are invited to a **benefit concert on Saturday, May 21st** at Good Shepherd Episcopal Church. The concert features a very popular group "Read You and Me." Doors open at 5:15, concert starts at 6:00. Tickets may be purchased from our youth group or at the door for \$10.

Mark your calendars for the **celebration:**

Blane's 15/35 Anniversary



Celebrating Blane Abernathy's 15 years at St. Gregory's and 35 years in music ministry.

Sunday, May 22 after the 10:00 service. Please sign up at church for the potluck.

It's that time:

Spring Clean Up Day

Join us on **Saturday, May 21** 8:30 – we're done.

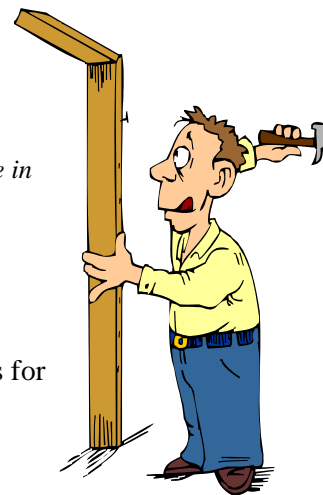
Please sign up at church so we can feed you lunch.

We need your hands to help keep our grounds in good shape.

GRAB YOUR HAMMER

Young and old, experienced carpenters and novices all can be a part of Raising the Walls of a home here in the States to be shipped to the colonias of Mexico

The people of the colonias of Mexico are living in conditions unimaginable to us in the United States. Most of the population cannot afford a safe home and are forced to build shelters out of cardboard boxes, wooden pallets, blankets, and any other materials they can find. These people have been degraded, exploited, oppressed and driven to a life of despair. Government programs for the poor do not exist in Mexico as it does here in the U.S. Who will respond? Who will take action?



Missions Ministries has been building homes in Mexico for the past 20. In response to the present need and the current circumstances in Ciudad Juarez, Missions Ministries is starting a new campaign for 2011 to build as many homes as we can for our brothers and sisters across the border. "**Raising the Walls**" is a campaign to build the walls and roofs of homes here in the States and ship them to Mexico. You can transform a life right in your area.

They are hosting a "build" day at **Bandimere Speedway on August 13**. In order for a group to sponsor and build a house they require a \$9,000 donation. They then show up on the 13th with their tools and build the shell of the house. These shells are shipped to Juarez, where professionals place them and do the plumbing, electrical, and finish work.

St. Gregory's would like to organize a group from our congregation, and include other Episcopal Churches from our Front Range Region. Please sign up at church if interested.



Ladies Spring Tea

Ladies of all ages are invited to the 3rd annual **Ladies Spring Tea** on **Sunday, May 15 at 1:00 p.m.** Bring your grandmother, mother, daughter, or granddaughter. Please sign up at church.

HEAVENLY HAPPENINGS

By
Kim Stephens

UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 15th - Teacher Appreciation Celebration & Graduating Seniors Recognition- Please join me in thanking the Sunday school teachers for their dedication and service to our children's ministry this past year during our 10:00 service. I would also like to recognize and thank those seniors who will be graduating this year for their service in the children's ministry.

May 22nd - End of the Sunday school year celebration! All Sunday school children are invited to join us in the Parish hall for a fun celebration in conclusion of our Sunday school year.

May 29th - Memorial Day Weekend- No Children's Church or nursery volunteers will be scheduled

June 5th - Children's Church will begin! Immediately following the Children's Sermon (this will be immediately following the Gospel reading) we will head to the Parish Hall to experience the Gospel story in a special way designed just for children. We will return to church in time for the Peace. We will have Children's Church each Sunday during the summer months.

VACATION BIBLE CAMP- Please save the date: **Saturday, July 9th from 10-3:30.** All Sunday school aged children are invited to join us for a fun and faith filled day! More details will follow in the upcoming months.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SCHEDULES:

SUNDAY SCHOOL-

May 1st-15th- Tony & Lisa Miller, 5/1, 5/8, Beth Prinzi, 5/15 (Preschool/K) , Lori Hazen (Gr. 1-2)
Kim Imel, Mike Welk (Gr. 3-5) Tim Dennis (Jr. High Youth)
May 22nd-Last Day of Sunday School Celebration-Kim Stephens/Margie Erbeck/Katelyn Erbeck
May 29th-No Children's Church

June 5th - Children's Church Begins

NURSERY-

May 8th- Meg Ward, Olivia Holt

May 15th- Julie Wolfinger, Jordyn Pumphrey

May 22nd- Janice Stevens, Katelyn Erbeck

May 29th - Nursery will be open, but no volunteers will be scheduled

Happy Mothers Day

