

1 NEWSLETTER



Episcopal Parish of Ames

January 2010

New Year's Resolutions

Some people think it is silly to make resolutions for the year that we welcome. They think this to be a waste of time because often the resolutions are not kept---sometimes they are broken in mere days. On the other hand if we improve our health, our relationships, or our work life---even for a few days, the resolutions that we make are actually beneficial to our lives.

As people of faith each and every day gives us the opportunity to work at changing those things in our lives that could use a little help. God's generous gift of grace allows us the freedom to become the people God calls us to be. God's gracious gift of forgiveness helps us when we stumble and gives us the courage to try again.

So if there are some things in our life that we really think could stand to be changed we should work on them. We can make resolutions for the New Year without any hesitation or feeling that it is hopeless because we are only going to break them. When we encounter a failure to keep a resolution we do not have to give up as though we only get one chance at change. We get new chances to bring about change each and every day.

I have known people that tried again and again to bring about a serious change in their life, falling short of the mark many times before succeeding. They finally triumphed with the change because they never gave up.

Whatever area of your life that needs amendment, go ahead and make a resolution to improve it. If you fall short of the goal, try again. An extra benefit of being a person of faith is that we know that there is always a new chance before us.

Faithfully,

Christian Formation Focus
Formation is one's life-long growth in Christ

January 2010

As we move into a new year and the second semester of the academic year, I am reminded of many of the blessings of 2009 at St. John's.

Leaders for 2 *Godly Play* classes and 1 teen class on Sunday morning

Parishioners that share their talents in woodworking, painting, sewing, and electronics for our education programs

Leaders for 2 Sunday evening *Journey to Adulthood* groups

Parishioners that cook and serve dinner on Sunday evenings for the teens

Extra help on game and service project EYC nights

Those that donated the funds for 19 new stories for our *Godly Play* classes

Our acolyte coordinator and our *Safe Guarding God's Children* trainer

Parishioners that step up to help host the Diocesan gatherings at St. John's

All the people that say "how can I help?" or "yes I can do that"

Our children and those that call St. John's their church

Blessings come in many shapes and sizes. What is no big deal to one person may be a huge help to someone else. Thank you all for the gifts you bring to St. John's. Happy New Year!!

See you at Church!

Peace, Diane Bjorklund, Christian Formation Director

Please contact me with questions about the children and youth programs at St. John's

Home Office: 233-4715 Email: DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com

EPISCOPAL PARISH OF AMES

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The Reverend Canon Alexander A. Aiton, Jr.,
Rector
The Reverend Donald R. Payer, Deacon

Parish Assistants

Jeannie Garcia, Secretary
James Tener, Chaplain and Music Director
Diane Bjorklund, Director of Christian
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Vestry, 2009

Scott Saienga, *Senior Warden*
Jim Stone, *Junior Warden*
Deb Fisher, *Treasurer* Mary Kay Abbott, *Clerk*
Margaret Dempsey Jim Fisher
Bronwyn Frame Coralie Lashbrook
Jeremy Long Helen McRoberts
Bob Ozinga Carol Vleck
Dorothy Yoerger

Newsletter, January 2010, Vol 16, Num 1

This publication, Newsletter, is published monthly except July by the Episcopal Parish of Ames, a non-profit organization, 2338 Lincoln Way, Ames, Iowa 50014. Comments or inquiries may be sent to the church office. The **deadline for the next Newsletter is Monday, January 25.** Submit articles to Jeannie at St. John's or via email to church@stjohns-ames.org and jgalyon@iastate.edu

January Coffee Hour

3 Youth Breakfast
10 8 Joan Herwig & Carole Magilton
10 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
17 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED\
10 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
24 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED\
10 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
31 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED\
10 VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Tools for the Christian Journey Schedule

January 3 NOOMA series
January 10 NOOMA series
January 17 NOOMA series
January 24 NOOMA series
January 31 NOOMA series

January Lectionary

January 3

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:7-14
The Psalm: Psalm 84:1-8
The Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-6, 15-19a
The Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

January 10

The First Lesson: Isaiah 43:1-7
The Psalm: Psalm 29
The Second Lesson: Acts 8:14-17
The Gospel: Luke 3:15-17, 21-22

January 17

The First Lesson: Isaiah 62:1-5
The Psalm: Psalm 36:5-10
The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:1-11
The Gospel: John 2:1-11

January 24

The First Lesson: Nehemiah 8:1-3, 5-6, 8-10
The Psalm: Psalm 19
The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:12-31a
The Gospel: Luke 4:14-21

January 31

The First Lesson: Jeremiah 1:4-10
The Psalm 71:1-6
The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
The Gospel: Luke 4:21-30

Annual Parish Meeting

Mark your calendars! The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on Sunday, January 31 after the 10:00 a.m. service. A light lunch will be provided. Please sign up in the Parish Hall so we know how much food to provide.

Thank You

The Bowler family would like to thank all those who have supported them in various ways since the arrival of Zara. We much appreciate our church family at St. John's.

Altar Guild "thank yous"

The few weeks before the Christmas holidays, everyone's schedule is extremely busy. It is very difficult to schedule a time for Altar Guild brass and silver polishing and decorating.

I wish to thank the following workers who took time from their busy schedules to help.

Decorating: Ruth Swenson, Mary Kay Abbott, Jean Griffen, and Marti and Bob Elzer.

For polishing brass and silver, dusting and vacuuming the Chapel, Sanctuary and Sacristy:

Marti and Bob Elzer, Jean Griffen, Eileen Marshall, Helen McRoberts, Ann Rudi, Ruth Swenson, Suzie Zaffarano, and Jane Zaring.

They came early and left early and some came late and left even later. We were finished by 11 a.m. Thank you all again!

Orvilla

Food at First

Please sign up to help with Food at First on Saturday, January 23. Please call me if you have any questions.

Ed Gillott

Christian Formation/Education News

Sunday Programs for Children and Youth
January Godly Play schedule at 9 am:

Date	St. John's	G P Classic	G P Extreme
Jan 3	Youth Breakfast	NO CLASS	NO CLASS
Jan 10	Godly Play story at 10 a.m. service	Rehearse story	Rehearse story
Jan 17		CLASS	CLASS
Jan 24		CLASS	CLASS

Jan 31	Annual Meeting	CLASS	CLASS
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Godly Play Classic is especially for children ages 3 to kindergarten but also a great place for children new to Godly Play to start. These students meet in the east half of the parking lot level classroom. They will hear the basic stories of Godly Play which are also the foundational Christian and Episcopal stories important for all of us to know in our hearts and minds.

Godly Play Extreme is for children 1st through 6th grade. These students will meet downstairs in the northwest classroom. In addition to the foundational stories, they will hear more about individuals in the old and new testaments as well as some of the saints we recognize throughout the liturgical year.

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) Schedule

Date	Sunday mornings 9 am	Sunday Evenings 5 to 7 pm
Jan 3	Youth Breakfast	NO EYC
Jan 10	Teen class (7 th to 12 th)	Game Night/ Study Break
Jan 17	Diocesan Ski Trip No Class	NO EYC
Jan 24	Teen Class	Journey Night
Jan 31	Teen Class	Journey Night

EYC Meals: Thank you to **Matthews family** on Dec 6 and the **Levis family** on Dec 13. Please check the table in the Parish Hall to sign up for second semester meals.

Save the Date for future St. John's Events:

Godly Play Orientation and Door Person Workshop will be held on Sunday, January 10 from 5 to 7. This workshop is for current teachers as well as individuals who are interested in becoming a Godly Play Door Person or in finding out more information. Please let Diane Bjorklund, Greta Levis, or Jen Matthews know if you are able to attend.

Confirmation Class: In preparation for the Bishop's visit in February, St. John's started confirmation classes on November 18. The continuing class dates are on Wednesdays from 7:15 to 9:15 p.m. (Jan 6 Lesson 4; Jan 20 Lesson 5; Feb 3 Lesson 6; and Feb 10 Wrap-up

and rehearsal for Sunday Feb 14 service. Please keep those preparing for confirmation and reception in your prayers: Jim, James, Sicily, Ian, Andrew, Zach and Jennifer. From the Book of Common Prayer pg 819: "O God, you prepared your disciples for the coming of the Spirit through the teaching of your Son Jesus Christ: Make the hearts and minds of your servants Jim, James, Ian, Sicily, Andrew, Zach and Jennifer, ready to receive the blessing of the Holy Spirit, that they may be filled with the strength of his presence; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

Save the Date for future Diocesan Events:

Ski Trip January 15 to 17, 2010 Dubuque

Happening #28 March 26 to 28 in Des Moines

New Beginnings #4 April 23 to 25 at Pictured Rock Camp in Monticello

Episcopal Diocese of Iowa Camp for 3rd to 12th graders June 27 to July 2 at Pictured Rock Camp in Monticello

Ministry Retreat July 23 to 25 in Grinnell

Day with the Bishop August 21 in Des Moines

Happening #29 September 4 to 6 location TBA

New Beginnings #5 October 8 to 10 location TBA

Diocesan Convention and Youth Conference October 29 to 30

Looking for a way to help at St. John's?

Nursery: The playroom is sometimes very full on Sunday mornings at the 10 a.m. service.

Would you be willing to be a child care helper on call? To keep the children safely supervised we should have one adult for every five children. This fall we have had 10 to 12 on some Sundays. We are preparing a list of adults to be on call to help Katie if needed. If you are willing to serve in this way, please contact Diane Bjorklund at 233-4715 or DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com for more information.

Godly Play: One or two additional adults are needed to help when our regular leaders are out of town or individuals are under the weather. There will be an orientation and training on Sunday January 10. If you are interested please contact Diane Bjorklund at 233-4715 or DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com or speak to Greta Levis or Jen Matthews on Sundays at St. John's.

EYC: The teenagers at St. John's need adults (not just parents) to transport and attend with them Diocesan youth events. St. John's should send one adult for every five youth when an event is scheduled. For an explanation of what is required to be a chaperone, please contact Diane Bjorklund at 233-4715 or DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com

November Vestry Minutes

Fr. Al Aiton called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. with the Order of Evening Prayer. Members present were Mary Kay Abbott, Jim Fisher, Bronwyn Frame, Coralie Lashbrook, Jeremy Long, Helen McRoberts, Bob Ozinga, Scott Saienga, Carol Vleck and Dorothy Yoerger. Members absent were Margaret Dempsey and Jim Stone. Also Present were: Fr. Al, Diane Bjorklund, Deb Fisher and Jim Tener. For our Time of Study, Fr. Al read from Chapter 4 on Ministry from "Life Together" by Erik Bonhoffer. Bonhoffer urges us to keep our comments in check and not to speak evil of others or to judge others.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 20 meeting were approved as e-mailed.

Ministry Area: Dorothy Y. expressed a need for volunteers to provide meals for parish members who are experiencing a loss or illness. The supply in the freezer has been depleted.

Diane B. supplied the attached Christian Formation/Education Report. Fishers responded that they may have a TV/VHS for the Nursery.

Campus Ministry: Jim T. reported that students are working on the recycling plan and the Parish Pictorial Directory is moving ahead. The Evensong Fundraiser brought in approximately \$700. "Lessons and Carols" will be held December 13 at the 10 a.m. Service. The Consultation Team is working on ideas for future fundraisers and are looking at a Valentine Cabaret Night to be held in February.

Stewardship Plan for 2010: The Stewardship Skit was well attended on Sunday, November 1 but low attendance Monday night due to an ISU Basketball game. It was suggested that next year the skits be held on Sunday morning instead of a

sermon. Also, suggested that pledge cards be included in the Sunday bulletin with an explanation. Sixty three pledge cards have been received as of today.

Adjournment: 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kay Abbott, Clerk

Property Area: Landscaping: no report -
Visibility Strips for Stairs: no report - Repairs
update: New water heater and venting bill is
\$1300. The annual check of all Fire
Extinguishers and Fire Blankets are needed for
the Classrooms.

Parish Life Area: The Coffee Hour is in need of
a new Chairperson. It was suggested that Chairs
volunteer for a month at a time. There is a need
to educate coffee volunteers on use of the
dishwasher and the need to clean up after the 10
a.m. service. Coralie L. reported that she is
looking into finding an accredited appraiser
closer to Ames. It was suggested that she contact
the ISU Textile Dept. Bronwyn F. reported that
there is growing frustration with the current
website and the lack of flexibility. It was
suggested that she talk with Pete Matthews about
a new website design, possibly on Facebook
before 2010.

Financial Area: Deb F. provided the attached
Financial Report and the attached report
explaining the plan for Segregation of Financial
Duties. The Financial Report was approved as
presented. The Endowment Committee will meet
soon. Members are Doug McCay, Scott Saienga,
Alan Abbott and Fr. Al.

Unfinished Business: The Parish Survey appears
in the November Newsletter. A Thank You note
from Bethesda Food Pantry was read and is
attached. Scott S. and Carol V. will have a report
next month on the Faith Alive weekend. The
Advent Event Breakfast will be November 29.
This is a youth fundraiser.

New Business: Fr. Al distributed a list of
parishioners to consider for the Vestry. We are
asked to list our preferences and return to Fr. Al
as soon as possible.

Announcements: The next Confirmation Class
has five candidates at this time. DOK Quiet Day
is scheduled for Saturday morning December 5.