

NEWSLETTER

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Episcopal Parish of Ames

March, 2009

DO WE WANT TO BE A COOL CONGREGATION?

For the past several months we have been talking about the management of our lives. We have tried to look at our management or stewardship of just about every aspect of life including our time, our abilities, our income, our health, our accumulated assets, our environment, and even our spiritual lives during this season of Lent.

Several churches in the Diocese of Iowa have completed *Cool Congregation Workshops*. In these workshops they have learned ways in which they could reduce their carbon footprint and become better managers of the resources used to heat, light, and cool their buildings. At the same time they learned ways in which they could lighten their draw on resources as individuals and households. Joan and I were privileged to attend such a workshop at this year's diocesan convention. We found it to be helpful and full of information that could really make a difference.

On Saturday, April 25th Iowa Interfaith Power and Light will be presenting this workshop here in Ames at the First Christian Church. The congregation at First Christian has extended a gracious invitation to us to send a team to participate. I really believe it would be a great opportunity for our parish as a religious response to the challenges we face in an ever-changing world. In addition to being better stewards of the resources it takes to run our physical plant, in all likelihood we would save money, hence being better stewards and managers of our parish income. The gas bill for heating last month was over \$2800. There is plenty of room for improvement.

The Daughters of the King will be holding a diocesan retreat at St. John's on that date that I committed to many months ago so I will be unable to attend the workshop. Since I have already attended one I am not concerned about that conflict and hope that we will be able to send at least six people to this important workshop.

Concerned about our impact on the environment? Looking for new ways in which to better manage your energy consumption? Care about the amount that we need to spend as a parish on energy (our electric bill on an annual basis exceeds our gas bill)? Here is your chance to volunteer to attend this half-day workshop on our behalf. If you are interested, please let me know.

Faithfully,

AI

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

March 2009

A few months ago, a comment was made,

"It must be easier for you to get to church each week."

I wasn't sure what it meant and so I've spent some time thinking about it. As we enter the season of Lent, I thought I would share my thoughts from the reflections I've made on this comment.

As a young married military wife and full time student in Virginia, I experienced love, joy, and gentleness through individuals that became extended family at church. It wasn't easy to get up each Sunday and go off to church, sometimes alone, as Bruce was "on duty", when I had studying to do or housework to catch up on, but it was comforting to be welcomed each week by those that were like aunts & uncles and nieces & nephews into the family of God. Virginia was a long way from Iowa but attending church made Virginia home.

As young parents living in California, South Carolina, and Washington, it wasn't easy to get up and go to church with one and then two little ones, again often alone as Bruce was out to sea. We could have gone to the beach, the big city, or slept in. But I found peace in the chaos as a new parent by beginning each week in worship and the congregation members were so kind and generous in welcoming my children into the world and the church. We still found time to go to the beach and the big city.

As a parent of school aged children in Maryland, Hawaii, and Ames, I learned more about patience and understanding through fellowship with other parents who have become great friends in each of the congregations. Again it isn't easy to get my family to church. Activity schedules must be juggled, teenagers want to sleep in, and a spouse away on travel but it is the faithfulness of a church community that was present in times of crisis, illness, and death and the faithfulness of a church community that celebrates weddings, babies, graduations, and retirements.

It takes a commitment to attend church regularly. This is not always easy but for me I discovered that it is "easier" to make the commitment and experience God's grace in the community rather than live a life without it.

See you at Church!

Diane Bjorklund, Director of Christian Formation
Office (at home): 233-4715 or Email: DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com

Please contact Diane by email or phone if you have any questions
about the Christian Formation programs at St. John's or would like to help.

EPISCOPAL PARISH OF AMES

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and jgalyon@iastate.edu

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Clergy

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
Formation
Jane Ringwald, Organist
Wendy Ware, Organist
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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, March 2009, Vol 15, Num 3

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, March 23.** Submit articles to Jeannie at St.

March Birthdays

6 John Joiner
8 Effie Lingren, Jack Shelley
9 Marti Elzer
11 Peter Matthews
12 Joanna Muggli
14 Steven Fales, Natalie Long
15 Jeff Becker
17 Michael Bloom
21 Rick Clark
23 John Corbett
24 Arthur Akers, Virginia Blackburn,
Jean Griffen
28 Katherine Fowler, Drew Shives
31 Orvilla Elleby, Sharon Freeman

March Anniversaries

1 Milly & Bob Ozinga
14 Jean & Weldon Walsh
24 Carol & David Vleck

March Coffee Hour

HELP WANTED

1 8 a.m. Nick Yancey and Anthony Palmer
10 a.m. Vicki and Scott Saienga
8 8 a.m. VOLUNTEER NEEDED
10 a.m. Milly Ozinga and Judy Kavanagh
15 8 a.m. VOLUNTEER NEEDED
10 a.m. VOLUNTEER NEEDED
22 8 a.m. VOLUNTEER NEEDED
10 a.m. VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Flower Fund for Easter

If you would like to contribute toward the Flower Fund for lilies and spring flowers for Easter, please contact Ruth Swenson (268-5212). The Flower Fund also is used to provide altar flowers on Sundays when there are no specific contributions as memorials or in celebration.

Mardi Gras Celebration

This year the Mardi Gras Celebration took place on Tuesday, February 24 with 70 attendees. Fellowship, food, and fun were had by everyone. Harold and Barb Martin were crowned King and Queen of this year's Mardi Gras.

Thanks to all who helped prepare the food, decorate the parish hall, came to enjoy this celebration, and to those who cleaned up after the event.

To top it off, God gave us a beautiful day and evening. We hope you can join us next year.

Food at First

The next Food at First dates are March 28, April 25, and May 23. Sign up sheets are in the parish hall. Hope to see you there.

Christian Formation/Education News

Nursery: Nicole Gish continues as our regular Sunday morning care giver. Please stop in and say hello.

Safeguarding God's Children: New vestry members, anyone who works with children and youth, and church leadership are required by the Diocese to attend this training, please check the Sunday bulletin for more information. Training is now available online or you can schedule a class with our own certified trainer, Effie Lingren.

Godly Play: The additional Godly Play classroom for children three years through Kindergarten has continued to go well. Before the spring semester began, we swapped the sides of the large room where the nursery and GP space were set up. This has given more space to the play area and plenty of space for the GP classroom. Please stop by either classroom to see what the children are working on.

The response to the Godly Play story wish list has been phenomenal. THANK YOU! Of the 18 stories we wanted to add, 10 have been donated and there are contributions toward another story. Thank you to **Nancy & Gordon Port, Helen McRoberts, Ruth and Clayton Swenson, Marrie Williams, Coralie Lashbrook, Cate and Colin Scanes, Nicola and John Bowler, Tim and Joanna Muggli, Doug and Wanda McCay, Bob and Milly Ozinga, and Don and Jan Payer.** If you would

like to donate a story please contact Diane Bjorklund for more information.

Godly Play story schedule

Mar 1 GP1 Holy Family/Mystery of Easter
GP2 Faces IV & V
Mar 8 GP1 Jesus and the 12
GP2 St. Patrick
Mar 15 NO CLASS SPRING BREAK
Mar 22 Combined Class-work day
Mar 29 Combined Class-Good Shepherd and World Communion

Currently six leaders are covering the two classes but more help would be welcomed and appreciated. Any adult is welcome to join a Godly Play class any week. They begin at 9 a.m. Look for information about a Godly Play workshop and training possibly sometime this spring.

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) has continued to meet each Sunday evening with a variety of parishioners providing meals. Thank you to the **Iles Family** for dinner on February 15 and to **Sherry Goddard** for dinner on February 22. Gretchen Montgomery served as the YAC (Young Adults in Church) leader but found a job in Des Moines and moved so we are looking for leadership for this group of 11th and 12th graders. If interested in working with older high school students, please contact Diane Bjorklund for more information. The Diocesan ski trip was held Feb 6 to 8. The Bjorklund's took six youth to the event. A total of 80 youth and 27 adults from 11 different congregations participated.

EYC March Schedule

1 5 pm Journey Night Galyon dinner
8 2 pm All attend the closing Eucharist for
Happening at St. Paul's (drivers
needed)
15 NO EYC Start of Spring Break
22 5 pm Game Night Aiton dinner
29 5 pm Journey Night Stone Dinner

Sunday mornings: The middle school class continues to meet with Leigh Ann Long and Liz Keys. Diane Bjorklund meets with the high

school class. The high schoolers have continued their interest in learning about different denominations. We plan to meet for worship at some other churches starting in April. Additional adult leadership would be appreciated.

Happening: Five of St. John's high school students are participating on the staff of Iowa Happening #26, which will be held March 6 to 8, at St. Paul's in Des Moines; the closing service will be at 2 p.m. Sunday afternoon March 8. **All are invited to attend** the Eucharist. Adults are also welcome to attend the entire weekend to see what Happening is all about.

Pilgrimage: The J2A class is busy planning their pilgrimage to the boundary waters. They have identified June 13 to 21 for their trip. The trip includes a stop at the Grotto, a possible service project in the twin cities such as a homeless meal, five days in the boundary waters canoeing and camping, and maybe a stop at a retreat center on the way home.

HELP NEEDED: Adults are needed to step up and be willing to attend Diocesan youth events with the teens. St. John's should send one adult for every five youth when an event is scheduled. Bruce and I are not always available. Some others that have helped in recent years are Ed and Diane Gillott, John and Greta Levis, Leigh Ann Long, Jane Ringwald, Liz Keys, and Helen McRoberts. Attending youth events is a great opportunity to meet other Episcopalians from around the state, laugh, and have fun with the kids. Most events are only one overnight. Air mattresses can be borrowed.

SAVE THE DATE:

Happening #26: March 6-8, St. Paul's Cathedral, Des Moines. This is a high school retreat planned and led by other high school youth in the Diocese. Closing Eucharist March 8 at 2 at St. Paul's in Des Moines.

New Beginnings #2: April 24-26, Pictured Rocks Camp, Monticello. This is a junior high retreat.

Spring Faith Formation Forum and Youth

Lock-in: May 8-9 St. John's Ames, more information to come. Hosts needed.

December 16 Vestry Minutes

Fr. Al Aiton called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Members present were: Mary Kay Abbott, Meg Dempsey, Ed Gillott, Jeff Iles, Wanda McCay, Helen McRoberts, Gay Stone, and Dorothy Yoerger. Also present were Fr. Al and Doug McCay. Absent members were Jeremy Long, Bob Ozinga, Scott Saienga and Carol Vleck. Fr. Al opened the meeting with the order of Evening Prayer.

Minutes: Minutes of the October 21 meeting were approved as emailed.

Ministry: Members of St. John's responded generously to Rite 13 Youth appeal for funds for the Heifer Project. \$318.00 provided one pig, one goat, four mosquito nets and education for one child infected by AIDS.

Campus Ministry: No report

Visitation Ministry: Fr. Al emphasized the need to encourage attendance and participation in activities. With regular attendance, pledges may increase.

Property Area: The dishwasher has been repaired. The Elevator malfunctioned and would not level with the floor. The key has been found and adjustments have been made. Bob Elzer repaired the shelf in the Chapel. Nelson Electric has adjusted the parking lights. Jeff Iles will get estimates for replacing the carpet in the 12 Step Room with a vinyl or tile surface.

Parish Life Area: Attached is a thank you letter from Dorothy Yoerger. Dorothy was a delegate to Diocesan Convention. Joining her at convention were delegates, Bruce and Bryan Bjorklund. Diane Bjorklund assisted with registration and served as a chaperone to youth delegates. Dorothy also reported that the Rite 13 Youth rang bells for the Salvation Army. The Sunday morning Lessons and Carols was beautiful and well attended. A thank you note

for contributions to the Bethesda Lutheran Church Food Pantry was passed.

Financial Area: Treasurer, Doug McCay passed out the attached October and November Financial Statements. Pledges have come in that will bring income close to budget. The Financial Reports were approved as printed.

Stewardship Committee: A list of members who have not responded to the Pledge Drive was emailed to Vestry Members. Additional pledges will likely come in by the end of the year. In January a committee will be appointed to call on people who are listed as members of St. John's and have not responded to the call to pledge.

Approval of 2009 Budget: Doug reported a carry over of about \$16,000 from 2008 will help with the 2009 budget. In addition, response to increasing pledges was positive and more members increased their pledge for 2009. The Budget was unanimously approved.

Unfinished Business: A wall hanging of the Last Supper has not been used at St. John's for many years. Fr. Al will investigate the possibility of selling to a Religious Art Collector. At one time this hanging had an estimated value of \$10,000.

New Business: Jeff Iles reported that an individual had called Jeff's home asking for help with mortgage payments. Some discussion followed in which Fr. Al encouraged any Vestry member to refer people in need to the appropriate agency. There is a list of agencies in the office.

Candidates for Vestry: Vestry members turned in their list of candidates for consideration as Vestry Members for 2009-2011 Class.

Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mary Kay Abbott, Clerk of the Vestry