

1 NEWSLETTER



Episcopal Parish of Ames

September, 2009

What Has Changed?

What has changed in our lives in the past fifty years or so? Just about everything! The food we eat, what we cook it in and how we battle the weight it adds to our frames have all changed. The cars we drive, the computers we use, the cell phones we carry with us constantly have all changed the very nature of life. We pay bills on line; we use debit and credit cards more than cash, and shop sitting in front of our computers. Books are read without ever touching paper, greeting cards are sent without ever going to the store, and for most of us, if we have to write a note by hand we get a hand cramp!

Nothing we do today is done in the same manner as it was fifty years ago. If we continue to live our life as the Church the way we did in the 1960's we will probably not reach anyone because the world has changed. This fall we will look at new ways to energize our life as a congregation and as individuals. Our "Tools for the Journey" sessions on Sunday mornings at 9 a.m. will start in September with some materials from the *NOOMA* series that we used last year. In October we will begin a several month study of *Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations* from a book of the same title. This study will look at five practices including Radical Hospitality, Passionate worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk-taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity. **Even if you have never been part of this hour of study before I urge you to attend.** Only together can we make St. John's the place where people find the answers to their spiritual quest. Only together can we make this parish family an integral part of the lives of our people.

I know that time is a precious commodity to everyone, but the opportunity to deepen our own faith while helping others find theirs is in our hands. It is a critical opportunity in our shared lives.

Faithfully,

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

September 2009

Although the calendar says it is still summer, school has started and it is time to begin the Christian Formation programs for this academic year at St. John's. Sunday morning classes for all will begin on Sunday, September 13th.

There is a place for everyone:

Nursery: Our child care provider, Katie, began this summer on June 7. She is in the nursery from 7:45 until 11:45 a.m. each Sunday to keep a watchful eye on children who may not be ready for Sunday School yet or those children whose parents choose to have their children in the nursery instead of in worship with them.

Children: We will continue to offer two classes of Godly Play on Sunday mornings to best meet the needs of the children age three to 6th grade in our parish.

Godly Play 1 for children ages three through kindergarten. These students will meet in the east half of the nursery/preschool room. 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. This class will offer shorter class segments following the developmental readiness for these younger children, age appropriate response materials, and a restroom nearby.

Godly Play 2 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.

Teens: We will continue to offer a teen class on Sunday mornings for students in 7th to 12th grade as well as EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) for students in 6th to 12th grade on Sunday evenings.

Teen Class: This year, on Sunday mornings, the youth will be working with a book written by Jenifer Gramber titled "*My Faith My Life A teen's guide to the Episcopal Church*". This is a companion to their Journey to Adulthood program. Chapters include: Baptism & Confirmation, The Bible, Knowing our History, Sacraments, Prayer, the Church's political structure, and What is God Calling them to do.

EYC: The Sunday evening program will continue to blend Journey to Adulthood classes, service projects, and fellowship. Sixth graders will be invited to attend service and game nights as well as attend the Diocesan Youth Events. We will begin a new Rite 13 class for students in the fall of 2011.

Adults: The 9 a.m. education hour will also offer a program for everyone else in the Parish Hall. A schedule of topics is available on the information table.

I hope everyone at St. John's will get involved in a Sunday Christian Formation class this year. Additional assistance and leadership is always welcome. Let me know if you can help! Please don't hesitate to send me an email or give me a phone call if you have any questions about the programs at St. John's.

See you at Church!

Peace, Diane Bjorklund, Director of Christian Formation
Home Office: 233-4715 Email: DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com

EPISCOPAL PARISH OF AMES

Parish Office

St. John's by the Campus
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2338 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014

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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, September 2009, Vol 15, Num 8

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, September 21.** Submit articles to Jeannie at St. John's or via email to church@stjohns-ames.org and jgalyon@iastate.edu

September Birthdays

2 Diane Rioux
4 Eileen Marshall, Suzanne Zaffarano
5 Nancy Cassady
7 Tyler Shives
9 Marcia Akers
10 Quinn Eggink
11 Joan Aiton
12 Marie Anderson
17 Diana Douglas, Nathaniel Matthews
19 Rob Rioux
22 Brenda Freeman
25 Robert Hentzel
26 Jeff Iles
28 David Jiles
29 Pat Hentzel
30 Mike Moon

September Anniversaries

1 Deb & Jim Fisher
Diane & Rob Rioux
3 Pat & Leroy Svec
6 Vicki & Scott Saienga
6 Diane & Ed Gillott
6 Jan & Don Payer
10 Betty & Doug Haviland
14 Alyce & Les Holland
19 Marcia & John Even
22 Phyllis & Michael Heffron

September Coffee Hour

6 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
10 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
13 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
10 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
20 8 Dorothy & Charlie Yoerger
10 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
27 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
10 VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Bible Study

Bible Study resumes on Wednesday, September 9 at 10:45 a.m. If you are interested, please contact Jeannie in the church office.

Matthew 25 House News

You are invited to an Open House at the Matthew 25 House at 330 S. 2nd Street on **Sunday, September 27 from 1 - 3 p.m.** to celebrate two years of operation. There will be a picnic on the patio with hamburgers and more. Reservations are required so we know how much food to purchase so please sign up on the table in the Parish Hall or contact Don or Jan Payer at 233-8191. The deadline for signing up is September 23. Please plan to come and celebrate this joyous occasion with us!

Tools for the Christian Journey

We will begin a new season of *Tools for the Christian Journey* on Sunday, September 13 at 9 a.m. This year we will use some materials in the **NOOMA** series during the month of September and conclude with the others from the series in May.

September 13_ - "Breathe"
September 20 - "Rich"
September 27_ - "Store"

We have found them to be brief, to the point, and encouraging our discussion, so please join us.

In October we will begin to look at our life as a congregation in light of a book entitled Five Practices of Fruitful Congregations by Robert Schnase. People are searching for a church shaped and sustained by *Radical Hospitality, Passionate Worship, Intentional Faith Development, Risk Taking Mission and Service, and Extravagant Generosity*. These fundamental practices are critical to the success of congregations. Their presence and strength demonstrates congregational health, vitality, and fruitfulness. By repeating and improving these practices, churches fulfill their mission to make disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world. Schnase is Bishop of the Missouri Conference of the United Methodist Church.

October 4, 11, 18, and 25:

Introduction

November 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29:

Radical Hospitality

December: 6, 13, 20 and 27:

Passionate Worship

January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31:

Intentional Faith Development

February 7, 14, 21, and 28:

Risk Taking Mission and Service

March 7, 14, 21, and 28:

Extravagant Generosity

April 4, 11, 18, and 25:

Excellence and Fruitfulness

May 2

"You"

Fellowship Coffee Hour Instructions

The church now will be providing the following items for both 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. services: Crackers, cookies, coffee, tea, juice, cocoa, cream, sweeteners, napkins, plates, and cups.

If you wish to add more food items you are welcome to but it is not necessary.

Set Up

- Put out the food that is provided
- Make the coffee, set out cold drink and water
- Set out the cups, plates and napkins

Clean Up

- Run and empty dishwasher – cups need to be washed/rinsed to remove lip stick and tea stains. (It takes 3 minutes for a load). Ask if you don't know how to run dishwasher
- Put dishes away
- Wipe all tables and counters
- Sweep floors if necessary
- Empty all garbage (Take to dumpster out in the parking lot)
- **Be sure all appliances are turned off**

If you have any questions – Please Ask!

- Judy Kavanagh 233-1982
- Effie Lingren 292-3299
- Milly Ozinga 233-4869

Management Skills

When planning programs for the management of the resources of our parish (formerly referred to as "Stewardship") a new approach was used last year in the form of skits.

Once again the acting abilities of the parishioners will be called upon this fall to present the second set of "In the Courtyard" skits. If you are willing to help out, either as an 'actor,' director, musician, or willing to give a short talk as to what membership at St. John's has meant to you and your family please contact a vestry member.

A Special Visit

On a Wednesday in August, following the noon Eucharist, several members of our congregation traveled to Bethany Manor in Story City to bring St. John's to a parishioner who is not presently able to attend services.

Liz Keys arranged with Fr. Al that Eucharist be brought to Marilyn Forsling. Liz, Sarah Terrones, Helen McRoberts, Anita Nichols, Effie Lingren, Charlie Fouts and I accompanied Fr. Al.

We were able to do our service in the chapel at Bethany Manor. We were not able to take Marilyn "out" as we had hoped, so we picked up "take out" lunch at a local restaurant and returned to eat lunch in the lovely patio at Bethany. The staff was most accommodating and provided coffee for us.

It was a special visit and one that we hope to repeat.

Dorothy Yoerger

Daughters of the King

If you have noticed several women of our parish wearing a similar cross you might have wondered what it signifies. Daughters of the King are a group of Christian women who are trying to follow a life of Prayer and Service. We meet on the third Sunday of each month following the 10 a.m. service. The group decides on a book for study and reviews it, learning from each other. We are currently reading *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. Each month there is an intercessory prayer list praying for members of our parish, friends and family and each other. This list is confidential.

D.O.K. members follow two Rules: The Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service.

If you have an interest in learning more about D.O.K. please ask any of the members. There is a handbook and study guide which is available. In November (near All Saints Day) a Service of Rededication is held at which time members rededicate themselves to the Order. Also at this time a Service of Admission is offered for new members. However, if you are interested you are most welcome to visit our meetings at any time.



Oktober Fest Family Get Together

When: Saturday, October 3.
Gathering at 4:30 p.m.
Meal at 5:00 p.m.

Where: The McCay's

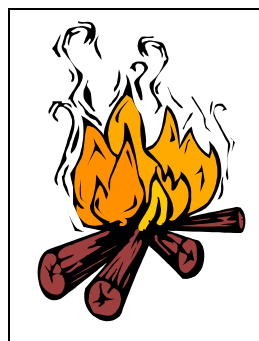
What: Brats, hot dogs, buns, condiments, table service furnished by the church. Each family bring drinks, a dish to share, and your own chairs.

Plus a bon fire, sing along and pumpkin painting.



To Do: Sign up on sheet in the Parish Hal.

McCay's address: 5500 240th Street, Ames – follow the signs that will be posted.



Questions: Call Jim and Gay Stone at 233-1038

Bring a friend and be ready to have some fun!!!

Food at First Program Information

The Food at First Program is a free community meal served at the First Methodist Church at 516 Kellogg Ave (across from the main Post Office). Everyone is invited to the meal, and everyone has their own reason for attending. The major focus is to help those who are not able to simultaneously meet their basic needs of food and shelter.

Meals are served in the Fellowship Hall. Enter the church at the South door, and go down the stairs to the left.

The St. John's parish serves the noon meal on the fourth Saturday of each month. We begin preparation and set up at 10:30 a.m. The meal is served from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. This is the time period when we need the most helpers to serve the meal and begin clean-up. We finish clean-up by 1:00 p.m. If you cannot be there for the entire period, it is usually not a problem.

Here is some general information on the program. The food is purchased from the Food Bank of Iowa, as well as through local grocers and wholesalers with whom Food at First has special arrangements to save us money. Organizations and congregations who prepare and serve meals are encouraged to contribute whatever they feel is appropriate, in terms of food and monetary donations, but there is no requirement to contribute financially in order to participate in the Food At First ministry.

Meals are currently served on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday nights, and Saturday midday, no matter what the weather! (5:30 - 6:15 on weekdays, 11:30 - 12:15 Saturdays)

Numerous organizations and congregations provide crews for meals on a regular basis, including St. Cecilia Catholic, St. Thomas Catholic, ISU Dairy Science Club, Mary Greeley Medical Center, United Church of Christ - Congregational, St. John's Episcopal, ISU Habitat for Humanity, several ISU classes, ISU Black Engineering Society, Ames SHEF (Students Helping to End Famine), St. Patrick's / Memorial Lutheran (Nevada), and First United Methodist Church.

Local businesses have generously donated food and supplies, including Barilla, Hy-Vee, Mayfair Cleaners, North Grand Farmers Market, Ames Downtown Farmers Market, Plant a Row for the Hungry, Panera, Cub Foods, Hickory Park Restaurant, Harmony Farms (Nevada), Oxford Farms (Huxley), Story Book Orchard (Story City), and DeMoss Farms.

We are always looking for new people to help with the meal. Our next dates are September 26, October 24, and November 28. Please join us, and don't hesitate to give me a call if you have any questions.

Ed Gillott

Food At First

We served 35 guests on Saturday, August 22. The crew included several new helpers. Crew members were: Ed Gillott, Chris Keenan, Joyce Lok (a new ISU Grad. student), Helen McRoberts, Mike Moon, Jane Ringwald, Ann Rudi, Fran Wilke, and Dorothy Yoerger.

St. John's Work Days

We will have two work days this fall to clean and weed around the church building:

- Saturday, September 19th from 8 - 10 a.m.
- Saturday, October 10th from 8 - 10 a.m.

Please bring your gloves and gardening tools.

Christian Formation/Education News

Thank you everyone that has said yes to working with the young members of our congregation:

Sunday Mornings:

Teen Class: **Liz Keys, Marie Vendettuoli, and John Joiner**

Godly Play 2: **Greta & John Levis and Jane Galyon**

Godly Play 1: **Jen & Pete Matthews** and Stacy Joiner, Substitute door person: **Nicola Bowler**

Sunday Evenings:

YAC (Young Adults in Church) grades 10 to 12:

Kathy Johnston & Roger Balmer and Jane Ringwald

J2A (Journey to Adulthood) grades 7-9:

Tim & Joanna Muggli and Dorothy Yoerger

Service project/Game nights:

Ed & Diane Gillott

Sunday morning programs for all begin September 13 at 9 am

The pilgrimage group will do a presentation about their trip for teens and adults during worship at both services.

Save the Date for Diocesan Youth Events: September 5-7 Happening #27

Happening is an awesome weekend retreat for students in 9th -12th grade. Happening #27 will be located at St. Mark's, Fort Dodge. St. John's has four youth and two adults serving on the staff and will have others youth and adults attending the weekend. Everyone is invited to the closing service on Monday, September 7th at 11 a.m.

October 2-4 New Beginnings #3

A weekend retreat for junior high students, New Beginnings is a great opportunity for youth to explore their relationships with their family, friends, and God. New Beginnings #3 will be hosted at St. John's, Ames. Opportunities are available for high school aged youth to serve in leadership positions. Check back! More information will be coming soon!

You are Never Too Old to Learn: Join us for Education for Ministry

Every baptized person is called to ministry. The Education for Ministry (EFM) program provides people with the education to carry out that ministry. During the Service of Confirmation we ask God to "Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them." EFM offers an opportunity to discover how to respond to the call to Christian service.

Lay persons face the difficult and often subtle task of interpreting the richness of the church's faith in a complex and confusing world. They need a theological education which supports their faith and also teaches them to express that faith in day-to-day events. As the emphasis on lay ministry has grown, EFM has come to play an important role by providing a program that develops an informed and knowledgeable laity. The EFM program does not evaluate or recommend individuals for ordination. Many people think that one must be ordained in order to be "a minister." The fact is that all baptized Christians are called to be active participants in the church's total ministry. This TOTAL MINISTRY is nothing less than the exercise of the church's vocation to continue the ministry of Jesus. He reconciled the world to God. We are called to incarnate that reconciliation in our own

time and in our own place through worship, service to others, and by proclamation of God's Word to all people.

The EFM program is preparation for the ministry to which we all are called. It is that vocation for which we pray at the end of the Eucharist: "And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord."

EFM is a four year program, but you only commit to one year at a time. The four years cover: 1) Old Testament, 2) New Testament, 3) Christian Church History, the first 1800 years, 4) Christian Church History, the last 200 years.

The class meets once a week during the school year for about 2½ hours, beginning the first week of September. We will pick an evening that best fits everyone's schedule. For more information, check out the EFM website at: <http://www.sewanee.edu/EFM/index.htm> or see Bruce Bjorklund at church. We'll be enrolling in August. If you have been looking for that course that is more than just another Bible Study, EFM just may be looking for you.