

# NEWSLETTER



---

## *Episcopal Parish of Ames*

February, 2010

### **What Do You Want To Be When You Grow Up?**

When we were children it seemed like people often asked us this question. Often children reply with dramatic or funny answers like “I want to be cowboy”, or “I want to be a rock star”. Sometimes we actually had a sense of what we would do with our lives or what really interested us as a career. As a young child I always said that I wanted to be a missionary---which usually resulted in some laughter or my parents rolling their eyes.

No one has asked me in years what I want to be when I grow up. They are more likely now to ask me what I want to do in retirement!

People also used to ask, “What are you going to give up for Lent?” It was as though Lent simply consisted in us giving up something we really liked or enjoyed. A much better question would be “What do you want out of Lent this year?” The weeks of Lent are going to come and go no matter what we do or do not do. Is there something that this introspective season of the church year could do for you or for me?

Our Lenten program will be held on Wednesday evenings starting with a potluck meal at 6:00 p.m. Our topic of study this year will center on a small Lenten meditation booklet “***Healing Ourselves and a Hurting World.***” A copy of this booklet will be provided for everyone in the parish so even if someone cannot join us on Wednesday evenings they will still be able to participate. It was written by Sister Claire Joy of the Community of the Holy Spirit in New York and is intended to encourage, challenge, and inspire us as we search for our role in the alleviating of some of the world’s problems.

The question for our parish family during this Lenten season is “What are we going to be when we grow up spiritually?” It is an important question whether we are five or ninety.

Faithfully,

## Christian Formation Focus

*Formation is one's life-long growth in Christ*

February 2010

At the Diocesan Ski trip held in Dubuque January 15 to 17, Bishop Scarfe in his message for those gathered, stated some facts about Haiti that I didn't know and I thought the information might be interesting to others.

Did you know...?

The Episcopal Diocese of Haiti is one of 110 Dioceses in The Episcopal Church, USA. It is part of Province II.

Founded in 1861, it is among the largest diocese in our church.

Before this disaster, the diocese counted between 100,000 and 120,000 members in 169 congregations served by just 37 clergy. (In the Diocese of Iowa there are about 10,000 members, 61 churches and over 125 canonically resident priests and deacons (retired and active).

Haitian Episcopalians served more than 80,000 children in 254 diocesan educational institutions, from preschool to college.

This earthquake flattened the cathedral and its surrounding buildings, including schools and a convent; it destroyed the bishop's home and the diocesan offices.

**Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen.** *Book of Common Prayer, p124*

If you feel called to help assist those suffering in the wake of this disaster an option is to donate to Episcopal Relief & Development. Online at [www.er-d.org](http://www.er-d.org) or call 1.800.334.7626, ext. 5129. Checks can be mailed to Episcopal Relief & Development, PO Box 7058 Merrifield, VA 22116-7058.

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](mailto:DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com)

## EPISCOPAL PARISH OF AMES

### **Parish Office**

St. John's by the Campus  
Episcopal Parish and Student Center  
2338 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50014

### **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  
Jane Galyon, Newsletter Editor

### **How to Communicate**

St. John's Office: (515) 292-6655  
St. John's e-mail: [church@stjohns-ames.org](mailto:church@stjohns-ames.org)  
St. John's fax: (515) 292-1941  
Fr. Aiton: [fralaiton@stjohns-ames.org](mailto:fralaiton@stjohns-ames.org)  
James Tener: [jamestener60@gmail.com](mailto:jamestener60@gmail.com)  
Diane Bjorklund: [DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com](mailto:DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com)  
St. John's Website: [www.stjohns-ames.org](http://www.stjohns-ames.org)  
Diocese of Iowa: [www.iowaepiscopal.org](http://www.iowaepiscopal.org)

### **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, February 2010, Vol 16, Num 21**

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, February 22.** Submit articles to Jeannie at St. John's or via email to [church@stjohns-ames.org](mailto:church@stjohns-ames.org) and [jgalyon@iastate.edu](mailto:jgalyon@iastate.edu)

### **February Coffee Hour**

7 8 Elzer's  
10 Galyon's  
14 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED  
10 Sally Greve  
21 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED  
10 Vicki and Scott Saienga  
28 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED  
10 Muggli's and Kim Townsend

### **February Lectionary**

#### **February 7**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 6:1-8  
The Psalm: Psalm 138  
The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:1-11  
The Gospel: Luke 5:1-11

#### **February 14**

The First Lesson: Exodus 34:29-35  
The Psalm: Psalm 99  
The Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 3:12--4:2  
The Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

#### **February 21**

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 26:1-11  
The Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16  
The Second Lesson: Romans 10:8b-13  
The Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

## **February 28**

The First Lesson: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

The Psalm: Psalm 27

The Second Lesson: Philippians 3:17--4:1

The Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

## **2010 Altar Flowers Chart**

The 2010 request form for altar flowers is now posted on the bulletin board. Names of parishioners who have requested specific dates in advance or who requested dates during 2009 have been penciled in with a question mark (?) for confirmation or erasure for deletion. Please contact Ruth Swenson (268-5212) if you would like to contribute flowers on an open date. Mary Kay Abbott (233-4077) coordinates scheduling for even-numbered months (Feb., etc.) and Ruth Swenson (268-5212) for odd-numbered months (Jan., etc.). We do not have flowers during Lent. We are grateful for the beauty of fresh flowers on most Sundays as we offer our thanksgiving to God.

## **Emergency Residence Project Meals**

The homeless shelter depends upon local faith communities and other organizations to provide evening meals on a regular schedule. St. John's continues a commitment to this much-needed outreach service by providing the meal on the second Wednesday of each month. The sign-up sheet for 2010 is posted on the bulletin board, and your help will be much appreciated. If you have questions, please contact Ruth Swenson (268-5212), who will provide instructions and reminders.

## **Coffee Hour Volunteers Needed**

Please consider volunteering to do the coffee hour following the 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. service. Sign-up sheets are on the table in the parish hall. The church provides all paper products as well as coffee, tea, punch, etc. You are welcome to bring your own baked goods, fruit, cheese, etc, but this is not necessary as cookies and crackers are also provided if you would like to use them. Duties involve making coffee before church, laying out all the food and accessories, and cleaning up afterwards. Instructions for everything are provided. In particular *simple* instructions are

posted on the Hobart dishwasher. However if you prefer not to wash the coffee cups, etc, paper cups are available. If you have questions, please ask Carol Vleck, Margaret Dempsey or Helen McRoberts.

## **Many Thanks!**

To my secret Santa and many others who thought of me with words of encouragement and wonderful gifts this Christmas season. I am very grateful for the kindness and caring St. John's has given to me over the years I have worked here. I am truly blessed. Thank you!!!

*God Bless, Jeannie :-)*

## **Food at First**

We continue to serve the Food at First meal on the fourth Saturday of each month. This report covers the last three months.

We had a great crew of 11 people who answered the call to help to serve the post Thanksgiving meal on November 28. Leading the way were Jane Ringwald with her award winning chili and the Vleck Family with an excellent gourmet soup. Carol and David Vleck were there with both Annie and Susan, and we got to meet Susan's husband and Annie's friend. Joyce Lok had a close encounter with a sharp knife, but is reported to be recovering nicely. Rounding out the crew were Mike Moon, Chris Keenan, Sarah Terrones and Ed Gillott.

On the Saturday after Christmas we had 13 volunteers to serve 10 guests. I think the weather had something to do with the low numbers. The crew included Ian Warren, Greta Levis, Helen McRoberts, Susan Masters, Chris Keenan, Mike Moon, Marrie Williams, Sally Greve and Suzie Zaffarano, who was there with family members Bianca, Nick, Jan, Alexandra, and Lucas. What an outstanding turn out for the day after Christmas!

We started 2010 with a fabulous crew anchored by Jane Ringwald and the EYC youth. Thanks to Ian Warren (back for a 2nd consecutive month!), Grace Warren, Jenn Pearson, Andrew Galyon, Olivia Galyon, Roger Balmer, Kathy

Johnston, Gloria Starns, and Ed Gillott. We served 20 guests a hearty lunch of pork patty sandwiches, fried taters and fresh fruits and veggies. Special thanks to Roger for scrubbing down the stove top during the clean up, which was long overdue!

Thanks again to everyone! Our next dates are February 27 and March 27. Please call me if you have any questions.

*Ed Gillott*

### **Missions**

A diocesan gathering of people engaged in mission or desiring to enter mission experience will take place at Christ Church, Cedar Rapids on Friday, February 12 from 6 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Saturday, February 13 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. It will be led by Ted Gaiser, Deacon for Global Partnerships, Diocese of Massachusetts and Judith Jones, Millenium Development Goals Officer, Diocese of Iowa. If anyone is interested in going, please contact Greta Levis 232-2457, [gmlevis@gmail.com](mailto:gmlevis@gmail.com).

### **Mesi Anpil**

Several people have expressed confusion about where the best place to give might be. Based on my experience in Haiti it is my belief that donations to Haiti will probably have their greatest impact if they go to organizations with a strong indigenous or grass-roots presence in Haiti. As one volunteer said in a recent blog, "...the UN has been unable to quickly respond to the disaster even though they've been here for years because they have no contact with actual Haitians (a partial result of them speaking French rather than Creole and of their "security concerns" that limit them to armored compounds)." The Haitian Episcopal Church can get the aid from Episcopal Relief and Development out quickly to the people who need it most. "We've been working closely with the Episcopal Diocese of the Dominican Republic to get shipments into Haiti on a daily basis," said Kirsten Muth, Episcopal Relief & Development's Senior Program Director. "We are also using helicopter support from our partner Worldwide Village to provide medical

supplies and food to affected rural communities and parishes ... Relief efforts are expanding daily." In addition to assisting with daily supply shipments, Episcopal Relief & Development is working to stabilize communications through the provision of satellite phones and solar power chargers. "The infrastructure of the church, even where damaged and wounded, represents an amazing network of people, skills and resources," said Muth. "It is important that we continue to support the people of Haiti as they take the lead in the nation's recovery." The Haitian clergy are immensely grateful - "Mesi anpil" - for the prayers and financial support coming from the United States. For an excellent video of Bishop Duracin talking about the Episcopal Church's work in Port-au-Prince right now visit

<http://www.er-d.org/HaitiCrisis#Duracin>.

### **Christian Formation/Education News**

#### **Sunday Programs for Children and Youth**

#### **February Godly Play schedule at 9 am:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>St. John's</b>	<b>G P Classic</b>	<b>G P Extreme</b>
Feb 7		Parable of Deep Well	Ezekiel
Feb 14	Bishop's Visit	What is a Bishop?	What is a Bishop?
Feb 21		Parable of Parables	Jonah
Feb 28		Esther	Esther

**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 will 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 1<sup>st</sup> through 6<sup>th</sup> 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.

**Feb EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) Schedule**

Date	Sunday mornings 9 am	Sunday Evenings 5 to 7 pm
Feb 7	Class	Service Project after church
Feb 14	Bishop's Visit	Game Night
Feb 21	Class	Journey Night
Feb 28	Class	Journey Night

**EYC Meals:** Thank you to **Bruce Bjorklund** for dinner on Jan 10 and **Wendy Ware** for dinner on Jan 24. Please check the table in the Parish Hall for second semester meal signups include

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

**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. 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:**

**Happening #28**-9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> graders-

March 26 to 28 in Des Moines

**New Beginnings #4** 7<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> graders-

April 23 to 25 at Pictured Rock Camp in Monticello

**Episcopal Diocese of Iowa Camp** for 3<sup>rd</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Last semester we 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](mailto:DianeBJorklund@mchsi.com) for more information.

**EYC:** The teenagers at St. John's need adults (not just parents) to transport and attend Diocesan youth events with them. 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](mailto:DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com).