

NEWSLETTER



Episcopal Parish of Ames

October, 2009

Disagreement In The Family

I have a friend from graduate school who is an American Baptist Pastor. He jokes that every time two Baptists disagreed another denomination was formed. There are more than one hundred different Baptist denominations in the United States alone. In just about every denomination there have been many splits and varieties. Sometimes those divisions occurred over major issues of worship, polity, or fellowship. Often the instigating factor is what we would consider minor.

Until the most recent challenge facing The Episcopal Church we have pretty much remained intact. That does not mean that new congregations were never formed over disagreements in existing ones. In reality our history shows that there have been major disagreements over “high church” versus “low church”, styles of parish life, and even liking or not liking the current clergy. However in all of these situations The Episcopal Church remained as one. People simply agreed to disagree without having to leave the family.

Even Jesus’ disciples wanted to exclude people who did not believe in exactly the same manner as they did. Jesus quickly told them that if people were not “against us, they are for us”. In essence this reminds us that God’s dream for our world is for everyone to get along. The failure to do so is the root cause of every conflict the world faces. It is also the cause of battles within families, communities, and even churches.

Peace comes to us when we want peace to prevail more than we want to be right. This is true in our personal lives and in our corporate lives. Pray for the power of the Holy Spirit to allow each of us to love others as God loves us. It is only in this way that divisions will cease and God’s peace will prevail.

Faithfully,

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

October 2009

Sometimes, in the life of the church, language or vocabulary is used that not everyone understands. The younger members of St. John's are learning about this language in the children and youth programs but sometimes their parents and other adults don't know what the words mean. In this month's newsletter, I've included information about the 157th Annual Convention of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa so, for the focus of this month's letter, I'd like to define a few of the Episcopal church structure words using *A Dictionary for Episcopalians* by John N. Wall.

Parish (or church or congregation) is a worshipping community of Christians who gather weekly for Eucharist (or Communion) and then carry on Christ's work in the world. Parishes are units of a diocese and led by one or more clergy and governed by a vestry.

Vestry is composed of men and women in the congregation. The vestry has responsibility for all parish activities including planning budgets, stewardship campaigns, building maintenance, approving plans for program and outreach, and choosing delegates to diocesan convention. Vestry members are elected at a congregation's annual meeting. At St. John's, the annual meeting is held at the end of January.

Diocese is a geographical area that serves as the primary unit of organization in the Episcopal Church, USA. A diocese is made up of several congregations. In Iowa our geographic area is also our state boundary. Currently there are 61 congregations (small and large) and about 11,000 members. Each diocese is overseen by a bishop and a legislative body (convention, council, or synod of the diocese). In Iowa our legislative body is called convention. I think it is always important to remember that a Diocese is not its own physical entity. A Diocese is all of us-the members of the congregations within the geographical area.

Diocesan Convention is the annual business meeting (and "family" reunion) of lay and clergy representatives from the churches of a diocese. The business that is done is to set diocesan policies, to elect members to committees and boards, to elect delegates or deputies to Provincial Synod and to General Convention, and to accept the budget approved by the Board of Directors. Reports are given and the stories told of the work or service that was done by individuals, congregations, and committees during the past year. Fellowship, education, and worship are also a part of convention. Although only clergy and lay delegates have seat, voice and vote at Convention, **anyone** can attend workshops, register as a visitor to observe convention, and participate in worship services. Please visit www.IowaEpiscopal.org to read about this year's convention to be held November 6 & 7 in Des Moines.

Read more about Episcopal vocabulary definitions such as Province and Chapter in future newsletters. 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
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
St. John's fax: (515) 292-1941
Fr. Aiton: fralaiton@stjohns-ames.org
James Tener: jamestener60@gmail.com
Diane Bjorklund: DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com
St. John's Website: www.stjohns-ames.org
Diocese of Iowa: 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, October 2009, Vol 15, Num 9

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, October 26.** Submit articles to Jeannie at St. John's or via email to church@stjohns-ames.org and jgalyon@iastate.edu

October Birthdays

1 Lizzy Bowler, Joe Hentzel
3 Ian Cobb
4 Jaclynn Kelley
5 Sarah Jiles, Suzan Shierholz
7 Janie Joiner
9 Wanda McCay
11 Diane Bjorklund, Elisabeth Gillott
12 Ann Rudi
13 Owen Berg, Erin Rosacker
14 Bob Elzer
15 Stella Fritzell
16 Emily Cobb
17 Betsy Carter
18 Bill Kunerth
19 Erika Bjorklund
19 Matthew Cobb
21 Anthony Palmer
23 Drake Pillsbury
24 Noah Van Dam
25 Phyllis Heffron
26 David Keenan
28 Kelsey Eggink, Jeff Fisher
30 Jim Tener
31 Andrew Galyon

October Anniversaries

7 Dorothy & Charlie Yoerger
12 Meg Dempsey & Bill Gutowski
27 Joan & Fr. Al Aiton
29 Helen Graham & David Jiles
30 Joanna & Tim Muggli

October Coffee Hour

4 Youth Breakfast
11 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
10 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
18 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
10 Jane Zaring
25 8 VOLUNTEER NEEDED
10 VOLUNTEER NEEDED

Notice to Altar Guild Members

The Annual Altar Guild Meeting will be November 21. A social time with scheduling will be held for 2010 from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. A brief business meeting will follow at 9:30 a.m. Please mark your calendars reserving this date and time.

Foyer Groups

The current list of Foyer Groups is now available. You can get a list by stopping in the office or you can contact Jeannie (292-6655), and she will send you the list by email.

If you are interested in being a part of a Foyer Group, there is still time. Please let Joanna Muggli (598-4544) or Dorothy Yoerger (232-4384) know and they will sign you up.

Heartland Trivia Night

The next Heartland Trivia Night is **Friday, November 20th**. St. John's teams need to be at North Grand Christian Church (919 30th Street) between 5:30 and 6 p.m. A sign up sheet to participate and a sign up sheet to bring food and snacks are in the Parish Hall. Please sign up at St. John's or call Joanna Muggli (598-4544 home, or 556-3697 cell) to let her know you will participate.

Halloween Party

Come and join the fun at the second annual St. John's Halloween Party. The party will be held on **Oct. 30 from 6 to 9 p.m.** Costumes are welcome but not necessary. Once again we will have a treasure hunt, mini golf, and a game night. Chili will be provided. A sign up sheet is in the Parish Hall for side dishes and desserts.

UTO Fall Ingathering

Good News for the Diocese of Iowa

At the July 2009 Triennial Convention, United Thank Offering awarded a grant of \$7,025.00 to the Diocese of Iowa to help fund the chlorinator building and water monitoring training project in the Anglican Diocese of Swaziland. In Iowa, matching funds from Waters of Hope, Swazi Companions in Iowa, and the One World One Church Commission clinched the deal.

On Sept. 14, 2009, Greg and Vickie Stout and Dan Rockwell will leave for six weeks to implement the training project that has been long awaited in Swaziland. Melody Rockwell will accompany the team in a non-grant funded capacity to provide logistical, accounting, and public relations support.

The training tools and materials provided through this grant will enable these people to provide much needed services to this part of the world. Greg, Vickie, and Dan will bring years of experience with chlorinators and training programs, and plan to work closely with and through the Diocese of Swaziland HIV/AIDS network of 14 neighborhood care points.

Thanks to all who are working hard to make the world a better place to live.

There is a real need for projects like this, and your continued support of the United Thank Offering will be very much appreciated. The Fall Ingathering is November 1st at St. John's. Please be generous, and give a helping hand to those less fortunate than us.

Barb Martin, UTO Church Coordinator

Tools for the Christian Journey

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.

Tools for the Christian Journey Schedule

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”

three first time additions to the EPOA Food at First crew. Our next meals will be October 24, November 28, and December 26. A sign up sheet is located in the Parish Hall. We are always looking for new people to help with the meal. Please join us, and don't hesitate to give me a call if you have any questions.

Ed Gillott

St. John's Building and Grounds Work Days

Thanks to everyone who helped clear weeds and trash around the building on Saturday, September 19. The crew included Jeff Iles, Mary Kay and Alan Abbott, Bruce Bjorklund, Charlie Yoerger, Ed Gillott, and Joyce Lok. Once again, Alan hauled away a truck load of weeds and brush, and Bruce whipped the weeds on the east side hill. Helen McRoberts continues to care for the meditation garden area.

Our next work day is **Saturday, October 10** from 8 to 10 a.m. We have a great deal of work to do around the building to prepare for winter, so please consider helping for an hour or two.

We will serve breakfast at 7:15!

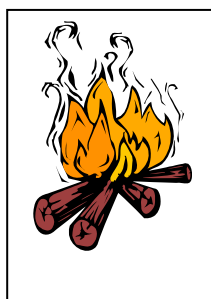
Also, we have been seeing more broken bottles in the parking lot on Saturday and Sunday mornings, so be careful as you pull into the parking lot. Picking up trash and broken glass in the parking lot is a job that should be done every week. Please consider arriving early for church, or stopping by when you have a half hour to spare to pick up trash. There is a dust pan and broom in the office or kitchen area. We will place a volunteer sign-up sheet on the board for people who would like to be responsible for part of the grounds for a month or two.

We are working on a landscaping plan for next year to present to the vestry that will address the east side hill, the shrubs along Stanton, and the east side of the sanctuary. If you have creative, low maintenance ideas for these problem areas, please let Jeff Iles, Mary Kay or Ed know. Thanks!



Oktober Fest Family Get Together

Saturday,
October 3
4:30 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 Hall.

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

A crew of nine served 35 guests at Food at First on August 22. Thanks to Chris, Mike, Helen, Jane R, Dorothy, Fran, Ann, Ed and Joyce. It was a hard working and fun crew, and included

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.

Christian Formation/Education News

October 2-4 New Beginnings #3

St. John's Ames

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. Help will be needed during meal time to host this event. Please contact Diane Bjorklund at 233-4715 or DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com if you can help.

Diocesan Convention

The annual business meeting of lay and clergy representatives from the churches of a diocese will be held November 6 and 7 in Des Moines. In addition to the regular business, fellowship, education, and worship are also a part of convention. Anyone can attend workshops, register as a visitor to observe convention, and participate in worship services. Please visit www.IowaEpiscopal.org to read about this year's convention to be held November 6 & 7 in Des Moines.

Youth Delegates at Convention

Diocesan Convention is an exciting time to celebrate our diocesan family, the ministries happening in our communities, and of course to get some work done. Youth delegates and alternates will be present for all of the Convention plenary sessions, have some fun together, as well as some formal learning time about this part of our Episcopal tradition.

This year the youth presence will consist of 11 spots (8 delegates & 3 alternates) that need to be filled. Youth delegates have seat, voice and vote on the convention floor and are there to represent the youth of the diocese. Youth delegates must be 16 - 18 years old and confirmed (as per diocesan canon).

We are asking the youth team to arrive on Thursday evening, November 5th, at 7:30 pm, to do training and discussions about the topics and

votes which will be coming to the convention floor. The youth delegates to Convention will be a part of the Youth Conference as their time permits.

Interested Youth should apply as soon as possible. Youth delegates will be selected who represent the diversity found in our diocese, taking into account things such as urban or rural church, male and female, small church or large church. **The deadline for applications for youth delegates is October**

2. www.IowaEpiscopal.org

Youth Conference "Sharing Your Faith"

The Youth Conference "Sharing Your Faith" is for youth 6th -12th grades. This year the conference will be held at the Renaissance Savery Hotel, 401 Locust St., Des Moines (just a skywalk away from the Downtown Marriott). The registration fee is \$50 and includes hotel, food, program expenses, and t-shirts. **Register by October 15!** www.IowaEpiscopal.org

The Conference will feature:

- A Program Exploring Ways to Share God's Love with Peers
- Swimming
- Singing
- Overnight in beautiful downtown boutique hotel, with access to Convention Center through skywalk
- Participation in Saturday morning Convention Eucharist
- Children and youth will make a virtual appearance at the Diocesan Convention!

Childcare at Convention

Childcare for children age 0 through 5th grade will be provided at no additional cost for registered delegates and visitors during workshops and plenary sessions. Elementary age children will participate in organized educational activities, and supervised nursery care will be provided for infants and toddlers. **Pre-registration is required** to ensure adequate supervision www.IowaEpiscopal.org. A Registration and Parent Permission/Medical Release form must be completed for each child.

Original parent/guardian signatures are required so please fax (515-277-0273) or mail (225 37th St., Des Moines, IA 50312) this form **by October 15.**

Sunday Programs for Children and Youth

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 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.

October Godly Play Story line up:

Date	G P Classic	G P Extreme
Oct 4	Combined class Noah	Combined class Noah
Oct 11	No class animal blessing	No class animal blessing
Oct 18	Great Family	Great Family & Abraham
Oct 25	Exodus	Sarah

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community) October Schedule

Date	Sunday mornings	Sunday Evenings
Oct 4	7 am Youth Breakfast for New Beginnings and Congregation	2:30 pm New Beginnings closing Eucharist
Oct 11	10 am Animal Blessing no class	1 pm Crop Walk
Oct 18	9 am Teen class 7 th to 12 th	5 pm Journey Night 7 th to 12 th
Oct 25	9 am Teen class 7 th to 12 th	5 pm Journey Night 7 th to 12 th

Help Wanted:

Godly Play: it would be great to have one or two additional leaders to help when families are out of town or individuals are under the weather.

EYC: Adults are needed to attend Diocesan youth events with the teens. St. John's should send one adult for every five youth when an event is scheduled.

Last month in Review

IA Happening #27 was held September 4 to 7 at St. Mark's in Ft. Dodge. A total of 48 individuals (39 youth) from 13+ congregations participated. Participation from St. John's included youth staff Anthony Palmer, Bryan Bjorklund, Grace Warren, and Chloe Iles; adult staff-Greta Levis and Diane Bjorklund; and youth participants Andrew Galyon and Ian Warren. The next Iowa Happening will be in March 2010.

EYC Meals: Thank you to the Galyon family for dinner on Sept 20th and to the Matthews family for dinner on Sept 27th. If you are willing to cook, serve, and clean up after a Sunday evening meal for the youth and the leaders, please contact Diane Bjorklund at 233-4715 or DianeBjorklund@mchsi.com.

Save the Date

Ski Trip January 15 to 17, 2010

June Vestry Minutes

Fr. Al Aiton called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. with the Order of Evening Prayer.

Members present were Mary Kay Abbott, Meg Dempsey, Bronwyn Frame Coralie Lashbrook, Jeremy Long, Helen McRoberts, Bob Ozinga, Scott Saienga, Jim Stone, Carol Vleck and Dorothy Yoerger. Jim Fisher was absent. Also present were Fr. Al, Deb Fisher and Diane Bjorklund.

Time of Study: Fr. Al gave an update on "Faith Alive." After discussion on Vestry participation, the vestry voted unanimously to host the event and the following dates were selected for the application: (1) March 5-6-7, (2) Feb. 26-27-28,

(3) April 9-10-11, (4) March 26-27-28. Two Co-Chairs and a Follow-Up Chair will be needed to organize host families for the team of facilitators, arrange for space for meetings and food preparation. The Chair people will be announced at a future date.

Minutes of the last Meeting were approved as e-mailed.

Ministry Area: Diane B. provided the attached report on Christian Education. Discussion on the New Beginnings retreat weekend that may be held in Ames October 2, 3, 4 followed. Fr. Al acknowledged that several parishioners have expressed concern about the lessons not being printed in the Sunday bulletin. There are many valid reasons for them to be reinstated; therefore, the lessons will be included in the bulletins in the future.

Property Area: The roof repair was thought to be complete. Bob Elzer inspected the work and found some areas of concern. Bob met with Tremco and requested that Tremco return and finish up necessary repairs. Treasurer, Deb Fisher was asked to hold back payment until the work is complete. Sound System Update: Fr. Al had investigated a device for individual use that would cost about \$1500. Discussion in regard to a sound system for the hearing challenged resulted in a few suggestions on overall improvement of sound in the sanctuary. Additional estimates will be required.

Windows: Scott S. provided the Vestry with an estimate for stained glass window restoration and preservation from Cathedral Crafts Inc. The estimate came in at \$31,040. There are not many reputable glass companies with the same expertise. The estimate is considered reasonable. There followed discussion on how to fund, not only the necessary restoration and preservation, but also, the possibility of parishioners desiring to have biblical scenes in the existing window frames. Scott S. will draft a letter to go out to the members of St. John's explaining the need to restore and protect the existing windows and offer the opportunity for members to donate towards the repairs and restoration. Funding

new pictorial windows would be a possibility sometime in the future. The results of this mailing will determine how to proceed with this project.

Grounds Work Days are set for June 20 and July 18 starting at 8 a.m. Jeremy L. pointed out a large growth of wild parsnip that will need to be eradicated very carefully due to the possibility of contact dermatitis. Scott S. offered to spray needed areas for weed control after the June 20 cleanup.

Parish Life: Bronwyn reported that she, Tim, Coralie, Susan and Bruce had met and discussed the updates needed for the Website. Coralie would like to include some parish events photos. This may require getting permission from the individuals in the pictures. The group will meet again on June 28 to attempt to update and these individuals will take responsibility for periodic updates.

The Tapestry: Coralie circulated pictures she has taken of the Last Supper Tapestry that St. John's would like to sell. She will send these pictures to the company in Chicago who will then let her know if the tapestry, in its present condition, has any significant value.

Financial Area: Treasurer, Deb Fisher provided the attached financial reports, including the 2009 Budget and Profit and Loss statements. The reports are generated by Quickbooks and have a different look from the financial statements of the past. The new statements are easier to read and compare with the past year. Deb stated that it would simplify bookkeeping to pay Jeannie a salary rather than pay her hourly. Jeannie will still need to keep track of her hours to receive comp time. Fr. Al explained that a letter from the Diocese of Iowa stated that there is a \$100,00.00 shortfall in Diocesan income and pay reduction to programs overall will be necessary. As a result, Jim Tener's Music/Chaplaincy income from the Diocese will be reduced from \$15,000 to \$10,432 effective immediately. Jim has asked Fr. Al if St. John's would be willing to help supplement his income to cover that loss. No action taken.

Unfinished Business: Bronwyn reported that all Vestry members but two had responded to the Parish Survey. The results will be compiled and a report to the vestry will be forthcoming. Bronwyn read a letter of thanks from the Bethesda Food Pantry for the food donated by members of St. John's. Dorothy asked for a few volunteers to help update the Calendar of Events for the summer, fall and winter. A meeting will be scheduled as soon as possible.

Announcements: The Iowa Cubs Game is July 17. There is a signup sheet or individuals may call Jeannie to get on the list.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kay Abbott, Clerk