

# NEWSLETTER



## *Episcopal Parish of Ames*

April 2016

### A Great Cloud of Witnesses

Our program on Saints during Lent made me think a great deal about the saints that I have come to know more about in my life. Some of them are the people that readily come to mind like Saint David, Saint John, Saint Peter, and Saint Paul. Others I have learned about from the daily lesson calendar that we use, and yet others from my personal experience in life.

Although I grew up in The Episcopal Church, I was unfamiliar with the hymn “I Sing a Song of the Saints of God.” In the 1940 Hymnal it was classified as a “Children’s Hymn” and my Anglo-Catholic parish simply never used it. In the 1980 Hymnal it is classified as “Holy Days and Various Occasions” and we do sing it on a regular basis. It describes ordinary people who are saints because of the faithful life they have lived as an example to all of us. I saw a meditation in a book I read with Morning Prayer that encourages me to share with you some saints that I have known, with proper credit to Charles McClain who provided his list of saints.

- One was a priest who did not take a pay raise so his parish could purchase the houses that are now our parking lot;
- One was my friend in high school, the only child of a single mother who always was the peacemaker and who tried to encourage the acceptance of all people, who was killed by a train in our sophomore year and is buried a stone’s throw from my parents’ grave;
- One was a beloved parish warden who took care of his wife who had Alzheimer’s;
- One was a deacon who provided support and a home for men being released from prison who no one would help;
- One was a teacher who taught me the excitement of learning in fourth grade and in her honor I still use a fountain pen to this day.

*They were all of them saints of God----and I mean, God helping, to be one too.*

Share some of your saints with others today.

Faithfully,

## 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  
Emeritus

### **Parish Assistants**

Jeannie Garcia, Secretary  
Erin Zimmerman, Chaplain  
Victoria Farwell, Music Director  
Amy Mellies, Director of Christian Formation  
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)  
Amy Mellies [amymellies@stjohns-ames.org](mailto:amymellies@stjohns-ames.org)  
Erin Zimmerman [ebzimmer@iastate.edu](mailto:ebzimmer@iastate.edu)  
St. John's Website: [www.stjohns-ames.org](http://www.stjohns-ames.org)  
Diocese of Iowa: [www.iowaepiscopal.org](http://www.iowaepiscopal.org)

### **Vestry, 2016**

Senior Warden: George Smith  
Junior Warden: Stacy Joiner  
Scott Saienga – Treasurer  
Clerk: Gloria Starns  
Nicola Bowler           Chuck Deppe  
Michael Howell         Jeremy Long  
Maddy Losby             Jim Murdock

### **Newsletter, March 2016, Vol 22, Num 4**

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, April 25.** 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)

### **April Coffee Hour**

#### **April 3**

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

#### **April 10**

8:00 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

10:00 a.m. Diane Rioux

#### **April 17**

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

#### **April 24**

8:00 & 10:00 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

### **April Lectionary**

#### **April 3**

The First Lesson: Acts 5:27-32

The Psalm: Psalm 150

The Second Lesson: Revelation 1:4-8

The Gospel: John 20:19-31

#### **April 10**

The First Lesson: Acts 9:1-6

The Psalm: Psalm 30

The Second Lesson: Revelation 5:11-14

The Gospel: John 21:1-19

### **April 17**

The First Lesson: Acts 9:36-43

The Psalm: Psalm 23

The Second Lesson: Revelation 7:9-17

The Gospel: John 10:22-30

### **April 24**

The First Lesson: Acts 11:1-18

The Psalm: Psalm 148

The Second Lesson: Revelation 21:1-6

The Gospel: John 13:31-35

### **Food at First**

St. John's serves the Food at First meal on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month. Our next meal will be served on April 23. Please sign up on the sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall if you are able to help. We begin meal prep at 10 a.m. and serve the meal from 11:45 to 12:15. For more information, contact Jeannie at the parish office.

### **Volunteers Needed**

**For the 10:00 a.m. service** we need volunteers to sign up to read for the service. A sign-up sheet is on the table in the Parish Hall.

### **Sanctuary Candle**

The Sanctuary Candle burns in remembrance of memorials or celebrations. The **2016** schedule is now on the Parish Hall table for everyone to sign up for the coming year. You are also welcome to call 292-6655 or email [church@stjohns-ames.org](mailto:church@stjohns-ames.org) if you are interested in a certain date. Open dates include **April 3, 10, 24; May 1, 8, 22; June 26; July 3, 24; Oct. 23; and Dec. 18.** We do ask that you pay \$3 per entry as this offsets the cost of the candles.

### **Emergency Residence Project**

If you are willing to provide the evening meal for the Emergency Residence Project shelter on **the second Wednesday of each month** please sign up on the sign-up sheet on the table in the Parish Hall. Open dates include: **May 11, June 8, Aug. 10, Sept. 14 and Nov. 9.**

Contact person is Dorothy Yoerger (232-4384) for scheduling and questions, and Vick Moss,

Executive Director (232-8075) for information about the number of residents to be served.

### **Prospective Student Q & A**

**April 30, 4:00-7:00** - Dinner will be provided. All high school students are invited to St. John's to meet with current Iowa State University students who will share about campus life, academics, common first year student concerns, faith while in college, and answer any questions. This will be a great opportunity to get to know some familiar faces on campus and make a smooth transition into college life.

If you know of any high school students who are thinking about coming to ISU, please invite them. Contact Erin Zimmerman, Amy Mellies, or Lydia Bucklin for more information.

### **Book Club**

Our next book will be "Pastrix" by Nadia Bolz-Weber. We will be discussing Chapters 1-4 on April 6 at 6 p.m. in the library. If you would like a copy, please contact Amy Mellies.

### **Lent Madness**

Congratulations to Daniel Appau who represented St. Helena of Constantinople for winning St. John's Lent Madness. He received The Golden Halo and a customized coffee mug. In second place was Jeremy Long who represented Joseph the father of Jesus and third place went to Natalie Long and Lizzy Bowler who represented Roch.

### **Thank You**

A big thank you to Jeanie Hume for putting together the children's choir. Thank you to all the children who participated too. We will meet again in the fall.

### **Christian Formation News**

#### **Sunday School Classes**

Sunday school classes start at 9 a.m. Godly Play Classic is for age 4 - 1st grade. Godly Play Extreme is for 2nd - 5th grade. #JesusSquad is for 6th - 9th grade. The Den is for 10th - 12th grade.

**Godly Play** will meet on April 3, 10, 17 and 24 at 9 a.m. Classes for **#JesusSquad** and **The Den** will meet on April 10 and 24.

### **EYC**

EYC stands for Episcopal Youth Community and is for youth from 6th - 12th grade. **We will meet on April 3, 10 and 24 at 5pm. We are looking for people to provide a meal for the youth.** If you are interested in helping please sign up in the parish hall or click here:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0a45aaa629a2fa7-eycdinner2>

**Happening #40**, St. Thomas, Sioux City, April 15-17. Happening is a weekend retreat designed and led by youth, for high school youth-grades 9-12. Please register participants by April 4, 2016. Staff registration deadline is March 28, 2015. Links to registration pages are on the diocesan website, [click here](#).

### **Lock-in and Youth Breakfast**

On April 30<sup>th</sup> the youth will be holding a lock-in. We will meet at 8 p.m. to make cinnamon rolls for the next days breakfast, watch movies, play games and have a lot of fun. On Sunday, May 1 we will be having our last fundraiser before our pilgrimage to Estes Park, CO. Please come and join us in fellowship and some great food!

### **Vacation Bible School**

We will be partnering again for VBS this summer with First United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ. The dates will be June 27-30. There will be an informational meeting for anyone who is willing to volunteer to help out on April 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. at FUMC. If you are interested in helping out, please talk to Amy Mellies.

### **Upcoming Youth Events:**

EYC - April 3, 10 and 24

Happening #40 - April 15 - 17

Youth Breakfast - May 1

Pilgrimage - June 6-12

Summer Ministry School/ - June 24 - 26

VBS - June 27 - 30

### **Go Fund Me Account for Pilgrimage**

The youth of St. John's by the Campus are taking a pilgrimage this summer to Colorado.

What is a pilgrimage you ask? "Pilgrimage is a time for seeking and finding God in new ways. Once all of the normal activities, relationships, and obligations which sustain our day-to-day lives are removed, individuals are free to look again at their understanding of God and their need for His grace and presence in their lives. It is important to note here that every moment of pilgrimage does not have to be meaningful, nor should it be. There must be time for play, laughter, quiet, and rest. But somehow, even in the lighthearted activities which enhance our relationships, there is something afoot. God is moving in the hearts of these pilgrims in ways which are undeniable." - Journey to Adulthood Pilgrimage Manual

We are asking friends and families to help support these three amazing youth along their way to become closer to God. Faith is a journey and this would be one step in that journey where the memories could last a lifetime.

<https://www.gofundme.com/k8r9rnsc>

### **March Vestry Minutes**

March 22, 2016, 7:00 p.m.

**Present:** Father Al Aiton, Rector  
George Smith, Sr. Warden, Stacy Joiner, Jr. Warden, Nicola Bowler, Chuck Deppe, Michael Howell, Jeremy Long, Maddy Losby, Jim Murdock, Gloria Starns, Amy Mellies (Director, Christian Formation), Erin Zimmerman (Interim Chaplain)

**Absent:** Scott Saienga (Treasurer)

**Campus Ministry:** A position description for the Chaplain was distributed to the Vestry. The Diocese and National Church will be provided the vacancy announcement for advertisement and distribution. The Lutheran churches in Ames will also be asked to post the announcement. A link to the announcement will be posted on the St. John's Website.

**Youth Ministry:** The Godly Play classroom needs to be painted and blinds in the room need to be replaced because of water damage.

**Update on search for Music Director:** One well qualified person expressed interest in the position some time ago but has not been in touch with Father Al since that time. Michael Howell will contact the potential candidate to gauge further interest.

**Treasurer's Report:** Budget summary was provided to the Vestry; there were not any budget items that required discussion.

**Motion to approve area of consent,** Chuck Deppe made a motion to approve, George Smith seconded the motion

*Vestry unanimously approved*

**Motion to approve Seminarian Grant,** Chuck Deppe made a motion to approve the grant, George Smith seconded the motion

*Vestry unanimously approved*

**Property:** The sidewalk on the west side of the church needs to be widened; city approval is required. Some bushes on church property will be removed by parish members to mitigate trash and littering problems.

**Stewardship:** Pledges are consistent with historical data and are in line with the budget

**Upcoming Events:**

April 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Hosting Happenings staff at St. John's

April 30: Youth lock-in. Diocesan retreat

May 1: Youth breakfast

June 4: Summerfest

June 6 – 12: Youth Pilgrimage: Estes Park

October 2: Regional Teaching and Confirmation: Bishop Scarfe

**Vestry Retreat:** Suggestions and observations from the February 20<sup>th</sup> retreat were summarized and provided to the Vestry by Jim Murdock.

Lanyards are being considered to replace name tags that use pins or magnets

Stacy Joiner will be setting up a Google Docs folder that will serve as an easily accessible place to keep a log on needed building repairs. The Google Docs account will also serve as place to archive the notes from Vestry retreats.

**Sunday Forum:** Opportunities for presentations, speakers, and/or events to enable our faith to help us make informed decisions.

**Other Business:**

None to report

**Closing Prayer,** Father Al

**Adjournment:** 8:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Gloria Starns, Clerk of the Vestry

**April Events 2016**

**April 2 (Saturday) 2:00 p.m.**

Happening Staff Meeting

**April 6 (Wednesday) 12:30 p.m.**

Soup Lunch after Holy Eucharist

**April 14 & 28 (Thursday)**

Exploring Faith 7:00 p.m.

**April 15-17 (Friday – Sunday)**

Happening #40 – St. Thomas, Sioux City

**April 17 (Sunday)**

Daughters of the King meeting 9:00 a.m.

**April 19 (Tuesday)**

Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.

**April 23 (Saturday)**

Food at First 10:30 a.m.

**April 30 (Saturday)**

Daughters of the King Retreat 9:00 a.m.

Prospective Student Information Session 4:00 p.m.