

# NEWSLETTER



*Episcopal Parish of Ames*

December 2016

## **The Management of Abilities**

As we continue our look at the stewardship or management of our lives this month we turn to how we manage our abilities. This is one area that involves not only how we manage the gifts that we have received, but for whom we use them. Every ability we have is a gift from God so that makes us stewards, caretakers of something that we do not own. As always the test for ownership is the question, "Can we guarantee that we will have this tomorrow?" All of us have in our history things that we used to do that we can no longer do. In elementary school and high school I played the trombone. I would not say that I was actually good at it, but I did play. If you wanted me to demonstrate that ability today I would be hard pressed to get out a single note.

I know people who were great athletes in former years who are no longer able to accomplish the same activities, or who used to be fluent in a foreign language only to lose that ability. So we all know examples of how our abilities change over the years. The idea of looking at for whom we use our abilities is very important. I have for years gone to nursing homes to do a service for people who are unable to go out to church. I have always been so grateful for the people who have played the piano so that hymns could be sung as part of those services. They have been people with the gift of music that did not only keep it for themselves, but were generous in sharing that ability with others.

Likewise when you serve at Food at First, deliver Meals On Wheels, read to someone who can no longer see, volunteer at the hospital, or use your money to buy a Christmas gift for someone in need, or donate to the food pantry or the animal shelter---all of these are using what you have been blessed with in terms of abilities to honor God and God's creation.

So with a New Year approaching take stock of what you are capable of doing and how you might share this ability with someone else. We can be better stewards of the blessings that we have received.

Faithfully,

Al

## 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  
David Moore, Chaplain  
Dr. Miriam Zach, Music Director/Organist  
Amy Mellies, Director of Christian Formation  
Wendy Ware, Organist  
Jane Galyon, Newsletter Editor

### **How to Communicate**

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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, December 2016, Vol 22, Num 11**

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 Tuesday, December 27**. 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)

### **December Coffee Hour**

#### **December 4**

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

#### **December 11**

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

#### **December 18**

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

#### **December 25**

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

### **NOTE FROM THE VESTRY**

If you have not yet returned your indication for financial support for 2017, please do so as soon as possible. At our December Vestry meeting we have to finalize the budget for next year and it would be very helpful to have a better indication of our probable income from pledges. Thank you!



### **December Lectionary**

#### **December 4**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 11:1-10  
The Psalm: Psalm 72:1-7; 18-19  
The Second Lesson: Romans 15:4-13  
The Gospel: Matthew 3:1-12

#### **December 11**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10  
The Psalm: Psalm 146:4-9  
The Second Lesson: James 5:7-10  
The Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

#### **December 18**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 7:10-16  
The Psalm: Psalm 80:1-7, 16-18

The Second Lesson: Romans 1:1-7  
The Gospel: Matthew 1:18-25

## **December 24 & 25**

To be determined

### **Nine Lessons and Carols Service**

We invite you to our international Nine Lessons and Carols service on **Sunday, December 11, 2016, 10 a.m. service** at St. John's By the Campus Episcopal Church. In addition to congregational singing of carols from the *1982 Hymnal*, the St. John's Singers will sing anthems and the Bell Choir will ring holiday cheer.

### **Deepening Faith**

Because of the holiday season, Deepening Faith will meet on the first and third Thursdays in December (Dec. 1 and Dec. 15), instead of the second and fourth. The theme will be the practice of advent. What does it mean to "wait (on or for) God?" Traditionally Advent is a penitential season, somewhat resembling Lent. How can we practice this when today's culture is instead focused on the commercial anticipation of Christmas? Everyone is invited to join us in the discussion and practices that we will be using. There is no need for previous familiarity with Deepening Faith. We meet from 7 to 8:30p.m. in the parlor. In January we will return to the second and fourth Thursdays.

*Jim Murdock*

### **St. John's Fellowship Gathering**

There will be a "Fellowship Gathering" hosted by Joanna and Tim Muggli at 1033 Gaskill Drive, Ames on **December 10 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.** The Fellowship Gatherings provide a chance for members to get to know each other better outside of church. It is an informal event where beverages and appetizers are served.

### **Christmas Services**

There will be one service at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve and one service on Christmas Day at 11 a.m.

### **Building and Grounds - On Saturday**

November 12 we had a 5-person crew to rake leaves, clean gutters, trim trees, knock down

weeds and pick up litter. Thanks to George Smith, Daniel Appau, Jeremy Long, and David Oakland, we were able to spiff up the south end of the building where the majority of the oak leaves fall.

We still have work we would like to finish this fall on the west and north side of the building. Jeremy Long, our resident landscape expert, evaluated what we have and suggested the shrubs and daylilies be cut back and the debris raked out and removed before the snow flies. If anyone can help in the next few weeks please contact Ed for more information. We still have two yard waste containers that can be filled until the first significant snow fall.

Several major projects were finished this year thanks to our volunteers.

- Jeremy Long, Galen Wilke, and Ed removed the overgrown shrubs on the west side of the parking lot.
- The parking lot lines received a fresh coat of paint and a temporary pedestrian barrier was installed to discourage foot traffic over steep eastern embankment.
- Bruce Bjorklund replaced many of the interior compact fluorescent light bulbs with energy efficient LED bulbs.

Thanks also to the City of Ames for grading and seeding the parkways along Stanton Ave. Hopefully we can keep the cars and delivery trucks off the grass now that major construction projects are complete. Thanks to everyone who has helped to keep our exterior property maintained this year.

### **Tuba Concert**

The 7th annual **TUBACHRISTMAS** in Ames will be held on **Saturday, December 10, 2016 at 11:00am and 1:30pm** at the First United Methodist Church (516 Kellogg Avenue). To help split up the large crowd and enjoy more holiday cheer, there will be **two concerts** this year. Plenty of parking is available. Admission is free and the concert is "family friendly."

### **Food at First.**

On Saturday, November 26 we had a crew of 7 and served 30 guests. Thanks to Beverly Baustian, Jim Murdock, Victoria Farwell, Sarah, Joanna Muggli and head chef Michael Howell.

Christmas is right around the corner and we are serving our next meal on Christmas Eve, Saturday Dec. 24. Our students will be out of town, so your help is needed! Please check your calendars and bring the family to help serve a meal at the First Christian Church! We begin meal prep at 10 a.m. and serve the meal from 11:30 to 12:15. We usually finish cleanup by 2 p.m. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. In 2017 we will serve meals on January 28, February 25 and every 4th Saturday of the month that follows.

Food at First served over 650 meals on Thanksgiving Day! The meals include turkey, ham and all the fixings and were outstanding! It is amazing to see the leaders and many volunteers pull this all together. There will be another Food at First community meal served on Christmas Day. More information will follow later. For more information contact Ed Gillott or Jeannie in the parish office.

### **Readers for the 10 a.m. Service**

We need volunteers to sign up to read for the service. A signup sheet is on the table in the Parish Hall.

### **Monday Daisies**

We need volunteers to take flowers to shut ins or to people who are in need of encouragement. A new chart for signups is on the bulletin board by the water fountain.

### **Christian Formation Announcements:**

#### **Sunday School Classes**

4yo - 4th grade will be in Godly Play.

5th-8th will be known as #JesusSquad.

9th - 12th will be in The Den.

Godly Play, #JesusSquad and The Den will be meeting on December 4, 11 and 18 at 9am.

Children's Choir will meet at 10 a.m. on the same dates and perform on December 18th during the 10 a.m. service.

### **EYC**

EYC will meet on December 4 at 5 p.m. EYC will meet December 18, time and place are yet to be determined.

### **Ski Trip**

The annual Diocesan Ski Trip for youth 6-12 grade will be January 13-15 in Boone. I need paperwork by **December 16** so I can register our group. Registration is \$25 and skiing/tubing cost \$58. All checks can be made out to St. John's. If you have questions, contact Amy.



### **Concession Stand - Update**

A huge thank you to all who helped out with the concession stand last weekend. After deductions made for the fantastic hats you all now own, we made a profit of \$974.00. Thank you so much again for your time, effort and patience as the day wore on. None of this would have been possible without all of you.

### **YSS Giving Tree**

The tags are marked and hung up in the parish hall. If you take a tag, please find the corresponding number on the sheet next to the trees and write your name down. Unwrapped gifts need to be back at St. John's by **December 6 or you can drop gifts off at YSS**. If you have any questions please contact Amy Mellies.

### **Meals for the Forney Family**

Meals for the Forney's would be appreciated. If you could please look at the website [takethemameal.org](http://takethemameal.org) to find out when meals are needed, that would be greatly appreciated. Just

do a search with their name-Forney and the password: 7056.

**Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Youth Events:**

December 3 - St. Nicholas Day 10am - 1pm  
December 4 - Sunday school classes for all - EYC at 5pm  
December 11 - Sunday school classes for all - No EYC  
December 18 - Sunday school classes for all - EYC  
January 8 - Epiphany Celebration  
January 13-15 - Diocesan Ski Trip - No Sunday School Classes  
January 22 - Sunday school classes resume at 9am - EYC at 5pm  
January 29 - Sunday school classes for all - No EYC



**December Events 2016**

**December 4 (Sunday)**

Last Day to place an order for pies – Choir Scholarships Fundraiser

**December 11 (Sunday)**

Pies from the Choir Scholarships Fundraiser pick up day

**December 6 (Tuesday)**

Return Giving Tree Gifts to St. John's – unwrapped

**December 7 (Wednesday)**

NO Holy Eucharist this on this day

**December 11 (Sunday)**

**Lessons and Carols** 10:00 a.m. service

**December 18 (Sunday)**

Daughters of the King Meeting after 10 a.m. service

Children's Choir singing at the 10 a.m. service

**December 24 (Saturday)**

Food at First 10:30 a.m.

Christmas Eve Service 7:00 p.m.

**December 25 (Sunday)\*\*Merry Christmas\*\***

11:00 a.m. service

**December 26 (Monday)\*\*Merry Christmas\*\***

Offices Closed for Christmas

**\*\*\*Reminder: No Sunday Morning**

**Programs\*\*\* or EYC on December 25.**

Classes will resume on January 22, 2017

