

# NEWSLETTER



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## *Episcopal Parish of Ames*

February 2017

### **Putting an End to Rumors**

I always think it is a good idea to deal with things in an open and factual manner. It helps to lessen the possibility of rumors which are always something to be avoided. Having said this I will share two things with you this month. One is very personal and the second while having personal overtones also will have an influence on the life of our parish.

The first revelation deals with my health. I have been diagnosed with prostate cancer and will begin radiation treatments as soon as they are able to get an infection from a biopsy under control. I am optimistic as to the outcome of treatment and welcome your prayers. I know that many of you have gone through treatment for cancer and I know that it will be OK. I am hoping that it will not in any way interfere with my priestly duties. Saint Teresa of Avila said, "Let nothing disturb thee. Let nothing dismay thee. All things pass. God never changes".

The second announcement has to deal with my tenure as rector. Given the fact that I will turn sixty-eight during this calendar year and the diagnosis and treatment that is before me, I have notified Bishop Scarfe that I will be retiring as rector on January 1, 2018. I have truly enjoyed serving this parish for twenty-five years and have deeply appreciated your support for me and the ministry we have done together. I have decided to make this public early in order to give the Vestry options for designing a search process for the parish. When I came in 1991 the Vestry opted not to have an interim rector and conducted the search process while Father Paul Goodland was continuing as rector. While Bishop Scarfe believes it would be best to have an interim that discussion will have to take place between the Vestry and our bishop.

I believe we still have an exciting and busy eleven months ahead including Revival 2017, the Baptismal Living Day in April, and of course all of the things that will keep us busy in our ministry in Ames.

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  
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, 2017**

Senior Warden: George Smith  
Scott Saienga – Treasurer  
Bruce Bjorklund      Nicola Bowler  
Deb Fisher              Phyllis Heffron  
Michael Howell      Maddy Losby  
Doug McCay            Dorothy Yoerger

### **Newsletter, February 2017, Vol 23, Num 2**

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 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)

### **February Coffee Hour**

#### **February 5**

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

#### **February 12**

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

#### **February 19**

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

#### **February 26**

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

### **February Lectionary**

#### **February 5**

The First Lesson: Isaiah 58:1-9a  
The Psalm: Psalm 112:1-9  
The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 2:1-12  
The Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-20

#### **February 12**

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 30:15-20  
The Psalm: Psalm 119:1-8  
The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9  
The Gospel: Matthew 5:21-37

#### **February 19**

The First Lesson: Leviticus 19:1-2, 9-18  
The Psalm: Psalm 119:33-40  
The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11,16-23  
The Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

#### **February 26**

The First Lesson: Exodus 24:12-18  
The Psalm: Psalm 2  
The Second Lesson: 2 Peter 1:16-21  
The Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9

### **Deepening Faith**

Deepening Faith will meet on the second and fourth Thursdays in February, either in the parlor or beside the fireplace. Each meeting has two parts, twenty minutes of silent prayer (after a quick check-in) and a second part, which may be a discussion or lectio divina, often on the Gospel for the next Sunday. When newcomers are present, an introduction to silent prayer will be given. Our lectio divina consists of listening to three readings of a passage (by different people)

followed by responses from those present, inspired by the readings, which may turn into discussion or prayer.

Leadership will be rotating; I may not be able to come every time, depending on the medical treatments I receive. Someone should volunteer at each meeting to lead the next one. There is not a lot of leadership needed, but at least someone should look up the readings for Sunday and select one for lectio divina. For questions, contact me (Jim Murdock 232-7945 or [jmurdock1510@gmail.com](mailto:jmurdock1510@gmail.com)) or Ed Gillott.

### **Baptismal Living Day**

Baptismal Living Day will be held this year on Saturday April 1, 2017 at St. Mark's Fort Dodge. Baptismal Living Day is a time to recognize and celebrate the many ways God's people in the Episcopal Church in Iowa respond to our baptismal call of sharing God's love with others. We would like to send a team of two people plus the rector and if you are willing to be one of those people, please let the rector know.

### **Revival 2017**

Revival 2017 will replace the regular visitations of our bishop this year. It is described as "a worship experience across the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa. Renew your baptism. Rekindle the gifts of the Spirit. Recharge for ministry." Bishop Scarfe plans on making twenty area visits, from Friday evening through Sunday morning. During each visit he is inviting two congregations to meet with him on Friday evening for a revival worship based around our baptismal covenant; and he is inviting a third congregation in the area to host a similar service on Saturday evening. He will be available during Saturday to meet with clergy and congregational leaders from the three churches. On Sunday he will invite all three congregations to gather for a renewal of baptismal vows or confirmation Eucharist at the Saturday evening church.

Our dates for the mission are:

**June 2: Grace Church Boone with St. Martin's Perry, at St. Martin's**  
**June 3, 4: St. John's, Ames**

For each congregation the bishop hopes to build a team to assist with the evening services. He is looking for nominations for people to assist with the following:

- Prayer and laying on of hands
- Musicians, especially any who attended the Music that Makes Community workshop
- Welcoming hosts for the chosen venues, though he is not expecting refreshments

If you are willing to help in any way, please let the rector know.

### **Building and Grounds Update**

A great deal of our identity as St. John's by the Campus is linked to our location in the heart of Campustown, and to our church building. I have been part of this parish for 45 years going back to when I was a student living in the student apartments during the early 70's. I have spent many mornings in prayer or quiet reflection in our sanctuary and often pause at one of our two columbaria to remember friends who have died, and have spent many Saturdays working with others to tend to our landscaping and parking lot. I was on the building committee when we decided to renovate and build the addition in 1996 rather than build at a new location on the west side of town. This building has been, and still is, an important part of my spiritual journey and my lay ministry.

The last five years have seen tremendous change as our church neighborhood has changed from a small town college atmosphere to an urban environment. We are now in the middle of four high rise student apartments. At times it seems as if our church was transported to the Maple-Willow-Larch courtyard. Residential student housing has become the fastest growing aspect of commercial real estate development. The Gilbane Development company that built the two properties to our east, and renovated the University Towers, have now completed three very successful projects and are interested in developing more property in the Campustown area. They have indicated to St. John's that they would be interested in our property if we ever consider changing our current location. The

vestry has decided to have some very preliminary conversations with Gilbane to get a better idea of what options might be available.

This interest in our property comes at a time when we are taking bids to replace the 20 year old carpet in the building, fix or replace the roof, repair the exterior stucco and stonework, repair the water damage to the walls and ceilings, and approach the replacement time for our 13 furnaces and 12 air conditions. A preliminary 'guestimate' for repair cost over the next 5 years exceeds \$350,000. Repair costs will exceed what we have available in the Long Term Maintenance Fund, so decisions will have to be made on how we pay for the work. It would not be good stewardship to invest in these repairs unless we are committed to remaining in our current building, so we have decided to gather all the information we can and explore what options are available to us.

St. John's is the Anglican presence in the Ames community. How can we best serve our Lord and the needs of our community as we look ahead to the next 20 years and beyond? We invite you to join us in a conversation about our mission and ministry and how our church building fits into that vision. *Ed Gillott, for the Vestry*

#### **Food at First**

The St. John's community continues to serve a noon meal for Food at First on the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of each month in 2017. If memory serves, we started this tradition in 2006, which means the 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday has been 'ours' for 10 years now. Volunteers are critical to keep this outreach going. Helping to prepare and serve a community meal is a fun and rewarding way to get to know other folks in our parish, young and old. A sign-up sheet is available in the parish hall, or you can call or email the parish office if you'd like to help out. We begin meal prep at 10:00, serve the meal from 11:30 to 12:15, and finish clean-up by 2 pm. You can sign up for part of the meal or stick around from start to finish!

We also need your reusable food storage containers to provide take-home meals for our guests. Clean, reusable food storage containers

can be placed in the box outside the Parish office. Ice cream buckets, cottage cheese, yogurt, Rubbermaid and other containers with tight fitting lids can be reused by Food at First.

For more information on the Food at First ministry, check out the Web Site at <https://foodatfirst.wordpress.com/>

Our next meals will be February 25, March 25, April 22 and every 4th Saturday of the month that follows. For more information, contact Ed Gillott, Michael Howell or Jeannie in the parish office.

#### **Metro Chapter Events.**

St. John's is one of ten Episcopal Churches in the Metro Chapter of the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa. There will be several opportunities in 2017 to get to know our neighbors better.

1. **Metro Chapter meeting**, St. John's by the Campus, Ames. Saturday, April 29, 2016, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Find out more about what is happening in the Diocese: This is a chance to provide input into the Diocesan budget and programming priorities. Anyone who is interested in attending the 2017 Diocesan Convention should try to attend the chapter meetings. More information will be available in February.

#### **2. June 3 & 4, 2017 - REVIVAL 2017 - St. John's by the Campus**

REVIVAL 2017 is an opportunity to gather together in local congregations to reawaken and rediscover God's Holy Spirit at work among us. It is an invitation to rekindle and recharge your faith and ministry and to share in Christ's abundant joy and strength. Volunteers will be needed to help prepare for the event and encourage participation. Revivals not your thing? Well, try to keep an open mind and check out the additional information available on the Diocesan Website at <http://iowaepiscopal.org/Ministries/revival-2017.html>

#### **3. June 23 - 25, 2017 Summer Ministry School**

## **and Retreat, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA**

### **Parking Reminder**

The 10 parking spaces along Stanton Ave. are available for lease Monday through Saturday for \$50 per month. Recently the vestry approved leasing 10 more parking spaces along the east property line. Vehicles who have leased spaces display a numbered blue and white parking decal in the rear window. The terms of the lease state that the cars must be out of the parking lot early Sunday morning to make room for those attending Sunday Services.

On Sunday, all parking spaces designated by the white lines are available to those attending services. Be careful not to park in the apartment building parking spaces designated by the yellow lines or you may be towed. If the parking lot is full, public parking is available along Chamberlain Ave. or in the City parking lot to our southeast. It is not necessary to feed the meter on Sundays.

If you are parking at St. John's during the week, please register your vehicle with Jeannie and place the parking decal in driver side rear window. Please use the parking spaces in the two center rows of spaces. The revenue we receive from leasing some of our parking lot helps to pay for the cost of snow removal and maintenance. Thank you!

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

We need volunteers to sign up to read for the service. A signup sheet is 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.

### **Thank You**

Thank you once again for the generous purse at Christmas. I am sure the money will come in handy with all the extra medical expenses. I deeply appreciate your kindness.

*Faithfully, Al Aiton*

## **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.

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

February 5 - Sunday school classes for all; No EYC

February 12 - Sunday school classes for all; EYC at 5pm

February 19 - Sunday school classes for all; No EYC

February 26 - Sunday school classes for all; EYC - TBD

### **New Beginnings #18**

March 3-5 at Grace Church in Cedar Rapids.

New Beginnings is a youth even for those in 6th - 9th grade. Participants can register online

here <http://events.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=7s5gmvpab&oeidk=a07ednsprz1bf0d8cb5> and staff can register

here: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ednskse3f2d0cc84&llr=7s5gmvpab>

Please register by February 14th.

February 2017 Events

### **February 9 & 23 (Thursdays)**

Exploring Faith 7:00 p.m.

### **February 12 (Sunday)**

Potluck after the 10 a.m. service

### **February 19 (Sunday)**

Daughters of the King

### **February 21 (Tuesday)**

Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.

### **February 25 (Saturday)**

Food At First 10:30 a.m.

### **February 27 (Monday)**

Newsletter Deadline