

NEWSLETTER



Episcopal Parish of Ames

June 2017

“The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to...”

One of the side benefits of nearing the end of my time as rector and having had the diagnosis of cancer is that it has made me more reflective on the influences that have formed me to be the person that I am. Among these influences was my introduction to the work of William Barclay by the rector and mentor I served under for my first four years of priesthood. In fact I was so impressed with Barclay’s commentaries on the New Testament that I could have possibly introduced the Gospel reading on Sundays by saying “The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ according to Barclay.” But I didn’t!

Barclay lived most of his life close to my paternal roots in Glasgow, Scotland. He was an outstanding New Testament scholar, a theologian of international distinction, and a revered teacher. To hear William Barclay speak was to feel the earthiness and reality of life, as described by Denis Duncan an editor of his work. Barclay was a person who knew people, their feelings, and their needs. He was also a person who identified with suffering humanity. He was deaf and he and his wife had lost a daughter in a drowning accident in Northern Ireland. In 1972 BBC Scotland broadcast four television lectures by him based on his bestselling New Testament Daily Study Bible series. He died in 1978, having worked up to three days before he died.

I share with you what he said about going to church.

There are compelling reasons why church attendance is necessary to keep the Christian life alive, and to fulfill the duties of the Christian life. So it is worth looking again at some familiar reasons for going to church.

There are certain things in life which gain a great part of their value and of their impact from being experienced together.

Of course, we can worship alone, and of course there are times when we must worship alone. But the fact remains that togetherness is an essential part of worship.

There is real value in being assured that the Christian faith is not only a personal experience, but the possession of a whole community.

We need the church and the church needs us.

I could not possibly add to his great wisdom!

Faithfully,
Al

5-25-17

From your Seminarian

Dear Friends,

At the end of this academic year, it is a good time for me to write to update you on my progress in formation for the ordained ministry.

I am now about half way through my four-year program of low-residency education offered by the Church Divinity School of the Pacific (CDSP) in Berkeley, California!

In the past school year I have been immersed in Field Education at St. Timothy's, West Des Moines, and have taken classes in *Systematic Theology* online. My Field Education placement has involved getting to know many aspects of parish life and ministry in a parish that was new to me. The people of St. Timothy's welcomed me warmly and it has been lovely to get to know more people in our Diocese through this experience. They also helped me through some big 'firsts' – including being scheduled to preach for the first time the Sunday following the elections last fall – a turbulent time for many. Studying *Systematic Theology* has also been a wonderful experience for me. In many ways it feels like the subject that I was always 'meant' to study. Someone once said that physics is a good background for theology and I can now state my agreement with that from a position of experience! I am also sure that there are many other good backgrounds for theology as well – life experience being one of them.

In June I will return to the Berkeley seminary campus to study biblical Greek. It's been a long time since I have studied a language so I appreciate your prayers for that! Please also pray for the work of the search committee that will be serving the process of finding St. John's new Rector. Being a member of this search committee is one of the ways that I will serve St. John's in the coming year.

During this exciting period of growth and change I value your prayers as I discern my path forward, a path that involves significant changes for my family as well.

Faithfully,

Nicola Bowler

And I pray that you...may have power...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses all knowledge. Amen. (Ephesians 3:17-19)

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

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
Amy Mellies amymellies@stjohns-ames.org
Dr. Miriam Zach: miriamzach@gmail.com
St. John's Website: www.stjohns-ames.org
Diocese of Iowa: www.iowaepiscopal.org

Vestry, 2017

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

Newsletter, June 2017, Vol 23, Num 6

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, July 24.** Submit articles to Jeannie at St. John's or via email to church@stjohns-ames.org and jgalyon@iastate.edu

June Coffee Hour

June 4

8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

June 11

8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

June 18

8 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
10:00 a.m. Dot and Steve Prater

June 25

8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

July Coffee Hour

July 2

8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

July 9

8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

July 16

8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

July 23

8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

July 30

8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

June Lectionary

June 4

The First Lesson: Numbers 11:24-30
The Psalm: Psalm 104:25-35; 37
The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
The Gospel: John 10:1-10

June 11

The First Lesson: Genesis 1:1-2:4a
The Psalm: Psalm 8
The Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 13:11-13
The Gospel: Matthew 28:16-20

June 18

The First Lesson: Genesis 18:1-15

The Psalm: Psalm 116:1, 10-17

The Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-8

The Gospel: Matthew 9:35-10:8

June 25

The First Lesson: Genesis 21:8-21

The Psalm: Psalm 86:1-10, 16-17

The Second Lesson: Romans 6:1b-11

The Gospel: Matthew 10:24-39

July 2

The First Lesson: Genesis 22:1-14

The Psalm: Psalm 13

The Second Lesson: Romans 6:12-23

The Gospel: Matthew 10:40-42

July 9

The First Lesson: Genesis 24:34-38, 42-49,
58-67

The Psalm: Psalm 45:11-18

The Second Lesson: Romans 7:15-25a

The Gospel: Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30

July 16

The First Lesson: Genesis 25:19-34

The Psalm: Psalm 119:105-112

The Second Lesson: Romans 8:1-11

The Gospel: Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23

July 23

The First Lesson: Genesis 28:10-19a

The Psalm: Psalm 139:1-11, 22-23

The Second Lesson: Romans 8:12-25

The Gospel: Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43

July 30

The First Lesson: Genesis 29:15-28

The Psalm: Psalm 105:1-11, 45b

The Second Lesson: Romans 8:26-39

The Gospel: Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns in remembrance of memorials or celebrations. **The following dates are open:** July 2, 9, 16; Aug. 20; Sept. 3; and Oct. 22.

Parish Picnic

We will have a parish picnic at Moore Memorial Park in the Big Bluestem Shelter from **12-2 p.m. on June 11**. Hamburgers, hot dogs and water will be provided. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Summerfest in Campustown

Summerfest is **June 3 from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.**

Summerfest is FREE and open to the public. The event will feature family-friendly activities from 3-7 p.m. including a root beer garden, face painting, balloons, a petting zoo and more. There will also be live music and a beer garden (21+) open until 9 p.m. This year St. John's will be joining with Dogtown University, helping out with Bingo and give out prizes from Dogtown. Please sign up in the parish hall if you would be willing to help out for a few hours. If you have questions please contact Amy Mellies.

SEP

Emergency Residence Project

Thank you to all who have signed up for an evening meal at the Emergency Residence Project shelter this year. **We have two meals that are needed to complete the 2017 year commitment: Wednesday, September 13 and Wednesday, November 8.** Contact person is Dorothy Yoerger (232-4384) for scheduling and questions.

Monday Daisies

We need volunteers to take flowers to shut ins or to people who are in need of encouragement.

There are several dates that are open: June 4, 18, 25; July 9, 23 and 30 and all of August.

Food At First.

On May 27, we served the meal at Food at First. Michael was head chef, but no details are available in time for the newsletter. Our next meals will be June 24 and July 22 and every 4th Saturday of the month that follows. For more information contact Ed Gillott, Michael Howell or Jeannie in the parish office. **We especially appreciate help in the summer! Students are gone and others are travelling, so please sign up in the parish hall!**

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

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.

St. John's Prayerground

Creating a Prayerground, a space where children feel welcome in the sanctuary, is something that I have been thinking about for a while now. As a mother of young children, I would like them to attend more of the Sunday services without constantly worrying if my children are behaving or annoying anyone. I also want them to feel more comfortable in the service and feel like they are a part of the service. I found the following article on Prayergrounds in a Facebook forum that I belong to: <http://www.traci-smith.com/church-prayer-grounds-eight-stories-and-inspiring-examples-kidmin/>

It is filled with great ideas as well as information from different churches throughout the US who have tried this. It talks about what worked and what didn't. I have taken a culmination of their ideas and would like to implement them at St. John's, with the Vestry's approval. My thoughts are to create a space up front to the left of the altar, where the harpsichord is. I would like to put a rug down with a couple of small tables and chairs. I would like to provide a bookshelf with books, soft toys and activities for the children to do. I will have activity sheets available that correspond with the readings each week. The whole idea is to create a space where children and families feel welcome and wanted. My hope is that if we start showing them when they are young that they are a part of this community that it will translate into their middle school and high school years as well. If you have any questions, suggestions or donations please get in touch with me. Thank you for your support,

Amy

Metro Chapter Events

Summer Ministry School and Retreat, Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA, June 23 - 25, 2017

Information about the 2017 Summer Ministry School and Retreat is now on-line at the Diocesan Website.

[Ministry School and Retreat](#)

Revival 2017 - Date to be determined

The Bishop has agreed to re-schedule our REVIVAL 2017 weekend to the fall when our students are here. Stay tuned for more information and a date.

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. Additional information is available at <http://iowaepiscopal.org/Ministries/revival-2017.html>

Parking Update

On Sundays, all parking spaces designated by the white lines are available to those attending services, even the leased spaces. If our 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 use the parking spaces in the two center rows of spaces. Please be careful not to park in the apartment building spaces designated by the yellow lines or you may be towed.

Building and Grounds

The next work day is Saturday, June 10 from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. Hope you can join us.

Automatic Door Opener

As of May 7 we have received \$3700 from contributions; total cost is approximately \$5000.

If you would like to make a specific contribution to the project, simply write "Entry Doors" in the memo on the check or envelope and it will be properly appropriated.

Bruce Bjorklund, Junior Warden

Christian Formation Announcements:

Book Club

Book Club start discussing "Barefoot" by Sharon Garlough Brown on May 31st at 6pm. This is the third book in the "Sensible Shoes" series. If you would like to join us, please do.

Vacation Bible School

We are partnering once again with First United Methodist Church and United Church of Christ for VBS! Join us June 19 - 22 from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m. This year's theme is all about Super Heroes! We will learn about Super Heroes in the Bible as well as in our community. There will be a closing ceremony on June 22 at 6 p.m. for anyone who would like to come and listen!

As always we are looking for volunteers to shepherd the children from class to class. If you are interested please contact Amy Mellies. You can register your children here:

<http://2017.cokesburyvbs.com/AmesVBS2017>

Pilgrimage Meeting

Please join Charlotte and Nicola Bowler for an informational meeting on 2018 Pilgrimage to England. We are joining with youth from St. Timothy's West Des Moines for this adventure together and would love for you to join us. An informational meeting is slated for Sunday, June 4, at St. Timothy's and we will carpool there together. Please let Nicola

nbowler@ses.cdsp.edu /515-441-5491) or Amy Mellies know by June 1 if you would like to attend the meeting. Note, it looks expensive but we plan to share the fundraising effort together and our goal is that there will be low financial burden on individual families. If you are interested in pilgrimage but cannot make the meeting on June 4 - no problem - please contact Nicola for more details. Come and see!

1. Itinerary
2. Fundraising

3. Preparing for the pilgrimage through prayer and conversations
4. Deposit dates
5. For high schools students from St. John's, Ames and St. Timothy's, WDM
6. Bishop Scarfe's role in the pilgrimage

Sunday School Classes

We will take a break from Sunday school classes until after Labor Day.

Thank you!

Thank you to Kathy Johnston and Roger Balmer, LeAnn Hiller and Leigh Ann Long for making dinner for EYC! We enjoyed your food and company and hope you will consider joining us again next year!

Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Youth Events:

June 3 - Summerfest

June 14 - Making a meal for ERP - 1:30pm at St. John's

June 19 - 22 - Vacation Bible School at First United Methodist Church

June 23 - 25 - Summer Ministry School and Retreat

July 8 - Make Campustown Shine - 9am in Campustown Court

July 24 - 28 - EpIC Summer Camp

August 9 - Food at First - 5pm

April Vestry Minutes

Clergy Present: Father Al Aiton, Rector

Vestry Members Present: George Smith, Michael Howell, Maddy Losby, Doug McCay, Phyllis Heffron, Bruce Bjorklund, Dorothy Yoerger, Deb Fisher.

Vestry Members Absent: Nicola Bowler

Others Present: Ed Gillott

Minutes: The minutes of the March 21, 2017 were approved

Christian Formation/Youth: Amy was unable to attend, so there was no report.

Treasurer's Report: The financial reports were approved as presented.

Permission for Alcohol: Friendship Force requested permission to serve wine at their April 23rd meeting. Permission granted. It was suggested that an explanation of our parking issues, and a request for an organization to agree to provide someone to direct participants on where to park, be added to the permission form. A motion was made by George Smith, and seconded by Dorothy Yoerger to accept the consent agenda. Motion unanimously passed.

Announcements: The date for the Bishop's Revival 2017 at St. John's will be changed to the fall after school is in session.

Prayerful Considerations:

Maintenance Issues and Parking: Ed Gillott spoke about the status of discussions with Gilbane, which included a meeting with their representative, and shared communication from them that presented two options, in addition to the option of staying. The Vestry currently feels that any decisions relating to moving St. John's should be deferred until we have completed our search for a new rector. The search process, as well as a new rector, will help us define our mission as a parish. A motion to defer any decisions involving the three options for eighteen months until the transition to a new rector is complete was made by Michael Howell, and seconded by Phyllis Heffron. The motion passed unanimously.

There was further discussion of our maintenance issues and the need to go ahead with the most critical areas during the transition. The priorities relate to roofing, fixing the parapet wall, and replacing carpeting. Ed will present the Vestry with a spreadsheet outlining the maintenance needs and their costs. Steve Prater will help with prioritizing. Ed will get bids for tree removal in the parking lot, and the cost to pave the area once the tree was removed. This would give us an additional three parking spaces. Some parishioners have expressed concern over the removal of the tree. Ed will look into the possibility of moving the driveway to the area where the pine tree is currently located. The location of the current drive can be a safety

hazard for pedestrians, as visibility is limited for cars leaving the parking lot.

Ed presented the proposal to change the property line with Gilbane to reflect the parking spaces. The city has approved the site plan. A motion was made by Doug McCay, and seconded by George Smith. The motion unanimously passed.

Bruce Bjorklund passed along a request from the Altar Guild that the Sunday counters leave the offering plates for them to place in Sacristy.

Search: Fr. Al excused himself from the meeting so the Vestry could discuss the search process. On March 28, a special meeting of the Vestry was held with the Bishop and Steven Godfrey to discuss the search process and timeline. Members of the Vestry that were present were: Dorothy Yoerger, Nicola Bowler, George Smith, Maddy Losby, Bruce Bjorklund, Doug McCay, Deb Fisher. Amy Mellies was also present.

It was a very informative meeting, and helped us all solidify the process.

At the April Vestry meeting, the Vestry decided the next step was to form our search committee. Each Vestry member is to submit twelve names by April 30, 2017 for consideration. The ultimate committee should represent a broad spectrum in terms of the demographics of the parish. The Bishop recommended a search committee of six to eight.

Closing Prayer: Michael Howell gave a closing prayer, and the meeting adjourned

Submitted by: Deb Fisher, Clerk of the Vestry

June 2017 Events

June 3 (Saturday) 3:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Summerfest in Campustown

June 8 & 15 (Thursday) 7:00 p.m.

Deepening Faith

June 10 (Saturday) 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

St. John's Work Day

June 11 (Sunday) Noon-2 p.m.

Picnic in the park (Moore Memorial Park in the Big Bluestem Shelter)

June 14 (Wednesday) 1:30 p.m.

Youth making a meal at St. John's for ERP

June 19 - 22 (Mon. – Thurs.) 9:00am -

12:00pm. Vacation Bible School at First United Methodist Church

June 20 (Tuesday) 7:00 p.m.

Vestry Meeting

June 23 - 25 (Friday - Sunday)

Summer Ministry School & Retreat

June 24 (Saturday) 10:30 a.m.

Food At First

July 2017 Events

July 4 (Tuesday) Independence Day

Offices Closed

July 5, 12, 19, 26 (Wednesdays)

No Holy Eucharist

July 8 (Saturday) 9:00 a.m.

Make Campustown Shine – meet at Campustown Court

July 18 (Tuesday)

No Vestry Meeting

July 22 (Saturday) 10:30 a.m.

Food At First

July 24 (Monday)

Newsletter deadline

July 24 – 28 (Monday - Friday)

EpIC Summer Camp