

NEWSLETTER



Episcopal Parish of Ames

March 2016

Can It Be A Privilege To Give Something Up?

Right before they left for Africa for two months I had a conversation with Mary Jane and Dave Oakland about the work they would be doing to help the Bishop of Swaziland reorganize the ministry and work of the diocese. One of the things they mentioned is the severe drought that Swaziland is undergoing at this time. Obtaining enough water to survive is always a problem in our companion diocese, but with this recent drought has become somewhat critical. Even the diocesan center has been without water on certain days.

We are privileged to live in Iowa. The wealth and organization of our society has allowed us seemingly unlimited access to safe water for drinking and other purposes. Not only do we have it at our fingertips, but we have it in hot and cold running varieties. We have an unlimited amount of convenient bottled water on our store shelves, and many of us have it automatically flowing into the icemakers and doors of our refrigerators.

I do not often stop to think how an accident of birth and geography has so blessed me as regards such a fundamental need as water. When I go camping I am sometimes reminded of just how precious and limited water can be in such a setting. Growing up in the city I often left the water running while I was brushing my teeth or shaving. Later when I married into a family that had always lived in the country and had to deal with their own well and septic system I became more sensitive to the water I was wasting.

Now you may wonder why I am babbling on about plumbing! We are half way through this season of Lent. If we have thought of self-deprivation at all, giving up chocolate or ice cream for a short period when it is so readily available to us throughout the rest of the year is no big deal. Reforming the way we use and perhaps waste a precious commodity such as water IS A BIG DEAL. The water supply of the world is not ours alone, but belongs to all of God's children. If we develop an awareness of how we might better use all of the resources we are blessed with --- and not waste them, we move down the road of being more responsible Christian stewards. At least please give it a thought.

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

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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 3

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, March 28.** Submit articles to Jeannie at St. John's or via email to church@stjohns-ames.org and jgalyon@iastate.edu

March Coffee Hour

March 6
8:00 & 10:00 am VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
March 13
8:00 & 10:00 am VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
March 20
8:00 & 10:00 am VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
March 27
9:00 a.m. EASTER BRUNCH

March Lectionary

March 6
The First Lesson: Joshua 5:9-12
The Psalm: Psalm 32
The Second Lesson: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21
The Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

March 13

The First Lesson: Isaiah 43:16-21
The Psalm: Psalm 126
The Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14
The Gospel: John 12:1-8

March 20

The First Lesson: Isaiah 50:4-9a
The Psalm: Psalm 31:9-16
The Second Lesson: Philippians 2:5-11
The Gospel: Luke 22:14—23:56

March 27

The First Lesson: Acts 10:34-43
The Psalm: Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
The Second Lesson: 1 Corinthians 15:19-26
The Gospel: John 20:1-18

Opportunity for Healing Prayer

St. John's is offering an opportunity to receive prayer for healing **following the 10 am Eucharist on March 6.** After the postlude, we invite those who wish to participate to gather near the altar rail for a short litany, followed by prayer and the laying on of hands by Fr. Al.

Following the example set by our Bishop and former Bishops, we invite you to request prayer not only for yourself but also for others not present that you would like to represent.

Easter Flowers

If you would like to help provide lilies and spring bulb plants for **Easter Sunday, March 27** please

put a check in the offering plate or send a check to St. John's with "lilies" in the memo line. Please notify Mary Kay Abbott 233-4077 or let Jeannie at St. John's know so your name can be placed in the bulletin.

Easter Sunday Brunch

Easter Brunch will be **Sunday, March 27** between services. Please bring food to the church by 8:30 a.m. on March 27. All are welcome to come enjoy fellowship and good food. A signup sheet is in the Parish Hall. Please sign up to bring egg casseroles, fruit, or baked goods.

We are asking people to sign up so we know who is bringing what and also so we can make sure we will not run out of food as has happened in the past. Please remember that after the brunch is over "many hands make light work" as people will need to stay and help clean up.

The Great Vigil of Easter – Watch for an Announcement!

In the Hebrew calendar, each day begins in the evening. The traditional first service of Easter is the Great Vigil of Easter, which takes place on the evening before Easter Sunday. St. John's used to hold a joint Easter Vigil with the ELCA Lutheran churches with which we are in full communion, and plans are afoot to revive this service. This event is planned to be held at Bethesda Lutheran Church, by the clergy of Bethesda, St. John's, and Lord of Life Lutheran. It begins with a procession into the church carrying the lighted paschal candle, and placing it on its stand. Details (including the starting time) remain to be worked out, so watch for an announcement in our services, on the yellow take-home sheet, and in a parish announcement by email.

Jim Murdock, 515-708-2984 (cell),
jmurdock1510@gmail.com



Singing Valentines

Pictured above are the recipients of the singing valentines and our singers (back row) Michael Howell, Hannah Early, Jessie Patton, and Ian Warren.

Food at First

St. John's serves the Food at First meal on the 4th Saturday of each month. Our next meals will be served on March 26 and 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.

A Message from Orvilla

When Fr. Al came to me with a square of brass in his hands and said, "This is going to be placed in the sacristy," I was honored with tears when I read the engraving. However, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the many Altar Guild members who led me through those many years.

Rose McCay was my mentor when becoming an Altar Guild worker; Arlene Fanning led me through three years as her assistant and Directress; Martha Kniseley who was my assistant for ten years. Martha also helped write the Altar Guild instructions still being used for the 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. services on Sunday. There are also all the other past and current Altar Guild members which made my duties rewarding. I give them praise.

Marti Elzer, you, as the new Directress of Altar Guild are in excellent hands and have our support.

Lent Madness

Let the Lent Madness begin! Since we had such a great time last year, we are going to do it again. Please grab a Sainly Scorecard booklet or learn more about each Saint up for the Golden Halo on the website www.LentMadness.org. We will meet on March 2, 9, 16 and 23rd at 6pm.

The Rev. Mary Jane and Dave Oakland

Mary Jane and Dave Oakland are in Swaziland. They will be blogging at: <http://companionsofSwaziland.blogspot.com>

Volunteers Needed

For the 10:00 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.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns in remembrance of memorials or celebrations. **Several dates are open: March 20; April 3, 10, 24; May 1, 8, 22; June 26; July 3, 10, 24; Oct. 2, 23; and Dec. 18.**

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 if you are interested in a certain date.

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 signup sheet on the table in the Parish Hall.

There are several dates open: March 9, 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.

Christian Formation News

Sunday School Classes

Sunday school classes start at 9am. 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. Classes will meet on March 6 for **Godly Play**. Classes for **#JesusSquad** and **The Den** will meet NOT be meeting in March due to New Beginnings, Spring Break and Easter.

EYC

EYC stands for Episcopal Youth Community and is for youth from 6th - 12th grade. We will not be meeting in March due to New Beginnings, Spring Break and Easter. We are looking for people to provide a meal for the youth. If you are interested in helping please talk to Amy Mellies or sign up in the parish hall.

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>

Children's Choir

St. John's Children's Choir will meet on March 6 at 10 a.m. in The Den and will perform at the 10 a.m. service on March 13.

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. Get (and share!) the details on this [downloadable flyer](#) or on the [diocesan website](#).

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](#).

Congratulations to St. John's Youth

Congratulations to **Ian Hillier** on being asked back as a Shepherd at New Beginnings #14 for the second time! The Shepherd is one of the two teen leaders for the weekend.

Congratulations to **Charlotte Bowler** for receiving the 2016 University of Iowa Scholastic Art Award!

Congratulations to **Harrison Townsend** on his 4th place finish at the Iowa Class 3A Wrestling State Tournament! Here is an article on the tournament: <http://amestrib.com/sports/state-wrestling-ames-townsend-takes-fourth-220-pounds-class-3a>

Congratulations to Peter and Nick Matthews on State Swimming! Here are some articles on Little Cylcone swimming:
on State Swimming! Here are some articles on Little Cylcone swimming:
<http://amestrib.com/sports/boys-swimming-ames-relaxed-ready-state-meet>
<http://amestrib.com/sports/boys-swimming-ames-places-eighth-state>

Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Youth Events:

New Beginnings #16 - March 4-6, 2016
Happening #40 – April 15-16

February Vestry Minutes

February 16, 7:00 p.m.

Present: Father Al Aiton, Rector
George Smith, Sr. Warden
Stacy Joiner, Jr. Warden
Chuck Deppe, Michael Howell, Jeremy Long,
Maddy Losby, Jim Murdock, Gloria Starns

Absent: Nicola Bowler, Scott Saienga
(Treasurer)

Call to order and opening prayer: Father Al George Smith and Stacy Joiner agreed to continue in their respective roles as Senior and Junior Warden; both were unanimously approved.

Scott Saienga was approved by the Vestry to serve as Treasurer.

Gloria Starns was approved by the Vestry to serve as Clerk.

Motion to approve area of consent, George Smith, seconded by Stacy Joiner
Unanimously approved

Updates on Staffing:

1. The search for an organist continues
2. A Chaplin Search Committee needs to be formed

Stewardship:

1. Pledges for the fiscal year are consistent with the number of pledges at the same point in time as last year (~64 pledges have been received).
2. A Planned Giving Workshop will be given on February 27, 2016 at St. Johns by the Diocese of Iowa
 - a. For more information:
<http://www.dioiowa.org/News%20&%20Events/planned-giving-workshop.html>
 - b. Father Al lead a discussion on the importance of specific wishes in wills and keeping wills current.

- c. The Book of Common Prayer (page 445) calls us to be responsible in our planning
- 3. A new roster of Vestry members is needed to perform plate counts
- 4. Building updates
 - a. Carpet problems have been abated by gluing in specific areas
 - b. A roofer has been asked to investigate the cause of leaking in the roof

Endowment Grants:

A motion to approve Endowment Grants was made by Chuck Deppe and seconded by George Smith to support the following:

- \$2500.00 annually for ERP
 - \$2400.00 annually for Matthew 25 House
 - \$2500.00 annually for Choir Scholarships
- Unanimously approved.*

Upcoming Events:

- **Vestry Retreat:** February 20, 2016, St. John's. Jim Murdock provided the Vestry with an agenda.
- **A Joint Easter Vigil** with Bethesda Lutheran, St. Andrews Lutheran and Lord of Life is being considered with Jim Murdock acting on behalf of St. Johns to advance consideration and discussion. Bethesda Lutheran has agreed to host the Vigil. Lord of Life and St. Andrews have not yet responded.
- **Regional Teaching and Confirmation:** Bishop Scarfe, October 2, 2016.

Other Business:

None to report
Closing Prayer, Father Al
Adjournment: 8:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:
 Gloria Starns, Clerk of the Vestry

March 2016 Events

March 2, 9 (Wednesdays)
 Potluck and Lenten Madness 6:00 p.m.

March 16 (Wednesday)
 No Potluck & Lenten Madness due to Spring Break

March 4-6 (Friday - Sunday)
 New Beginnings #16

March 10 (Thursday)
 Exploring Faith 7:00 p.m.

March 16 (Wednesday)
 No Holy Eucharist

March 20 (Sunday) Palm Sunday
 Daughters of the King Meeting 11:00 a.m.

March 21 (Monday)
 Holy Week Service 7:00 p.m.

March 22 (Tuesday) \
 Holy Week Service 12:05 p.m.
 Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.

March 24 (Thursday)
 Maundy Thursday 6:00 p.m.
 Potluck and Stripping of the Altar

March 25 (Friday)
 Good Friday Liturgy Noon and 7:00 p.m.

March 26 (Saturday)
 Food At First, 10:30 a.m.

March 27 (Sunday) Easter Sunday
 9:00 a.m. **Easter Brunch**