

NEWSLETTER



Episcopal Parish of Ames

March 2017

And So We Begin Another Lent

Most of us who grew up in a church have some memories of Lent. I always think of midweek church suppers that were meatless but fun because a number of other children came and we had fun playing together. The programs often consisted of film strips on some topic that was facing the church at the time. They were not the most exciting media, but that is what was available in those days. We ended the evening by going into that dark, cold, stone church and doing the Stations of the Cross.

This year at St. John's we have the opportunity to learn more about the Stations of the Cross. We will start with a potluck meal at 6:00 and will begin the program at 6:30. We will actually color posters of the stations as we learn more about the history and tradition of that particular stop on the route that Jesus followed on Good Friday.

Legend has it that Mary the Mother of Jesus after the crucifixion would often walk the way that he had walked on his way to the cross, stopping to recall what had taken place at certain locations. Perhaps she was trying to remember important details or honor his memory like those small roadside shrines we see erected where an accident has claimed a life. We do not know for sure if this legend about Mary is true, but we can certainly imagine her doing something like that in her grief.

Lent is a time to examine our spiritual lives, adding or taking away things that we believe will enhance our discipline and faith. I encourage you to take this opportunity seriously. Is there something you need to let go of in your life? Is there something that you could add that would bring you closer to God?

Time has a way of flying by quickly. Let this Lent be an opportunity to move in a positive direction.

Faithfully,

EPISCOPAL PARISH OF AMES

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Clergy

The Reverend Canon Alexander A. Aiton, Jr.,
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The Reverend Donald R. Payer, Deacon
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Vestry, 2017

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Michael Howell Maddy Losby
Doug McCay Dorothy Yoerger

Newsletter, March 2017, Vol 23, 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 27.** Submit articles to Jeannie at St. John's or via email to church@stjohns-ames.org and jgalyon@iastate.edu

March Lectionary

March 5

The First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7
The Psalm: Psalm 32
The Second Lesson: Romans 5:12-19
The Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

March 12

The First Lesson: Genesis 12:1-4a
The Psalm: Psalm 121
The Second Lesson: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
The Gospel: John 3:1-17

March 19

The First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7
The Psalm: Psalm 95
The Second Lesson: Romans 5:1-11
The Gospel: John 4:5-42

March 26

The First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
The Psalm: Psalm 23
The Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14
The Gospel: John 9:1-41

Lent Program

Join us Wednesday evenings for some relaxing coloring for this year's Lent program. We will be coloring the Stations of the Cross and discussing what each Station means. We will hold a potluck at 6 p.m. and the discussions will start at 6:30 p.m. This is an event for all ages! We will meet March 8, 22, 29 and April 5 and 12.

Opportunity for Healing Prayer

Prayer for healing **following the 10 a.m.**

Eucharist on March 5. 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 the rector.

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.

Food At First

On February 25, we had an outstanding crew of 10 volunteers to serve 48 guests at Food at First. Thanks to head chef Michael Howell, Diane Gillott, Joanne Muggli, Dave Oakland,

Beverly Baustian, Helen McRoberts, Daniel Appau, and John and Marlene Lowthian.

Our next meals will be March 25, April 22, May 27 and every 4th Saturday of the month that follows. For more information contact Ed Gillott, Michael Howell or Jeannie in the parish office.

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

Reggie's Sleepout

On March 25, hundreds will gather to sleep on the football field at Jack Trice Stadium in shelters made of boxes, tents and sleeping bags to help raise awareness and much needed funding to support child and youth homelessness. Reggie's Sleepout Ames will benefit three organizations that work to alleviate and eliminate homelessness in our communities: YSS, ACCESS and ERP. Please be a part of a group from St. John's that is willing to take part in this evening. There is a signup sheet in the parish hall if you are interested. If you have questions please contact Amy Mellies.

Parking Reminder

The 10 parking spaces along Stanton Ave. are available for lease Monday through Saturday for \$50 per month. The vestry has 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.* 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.

Be careful not to park in the apartment building

*parking spaces designated by the **yellow lines** or you may be towed.* If you are attending a public event at St. John's sponsored by a community group, please help the organizers monitor where attendees are parking. The fee to recover a towed vehicle can exceed \$250.

Flower Chart

We need people to sign up for Altar Flowers. If you would be interested in doing any of the following, please let Jeannie or Mary Kay Abbott know at 292-6655. The following dates are open: June 25, August 6, and September 24.

Emergency Residence Project

If you are willing to provide the evening meal for the Emergency Residence Project shelter on a Wednesday in 2017, please sign up on the signup sheet on the table in the Parish Hall. St. John's provides a meal on the second Wednesday of each month. We need volunteers for the following dates: April 12; June 14; August 9; September 13; and November 8: Contact person is Dorothy Yoerger (232-4384) for scheduling and questions.

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns in remembrance of memorials or celebrations. A sign up sheet is on the Parish Hall table. 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. **Dates available:** March 19 & 26; April 2, 9, 16 & 30; May 7 & 28; June 4; July 2, 9, & 16; Aug. 6 & 20; Sept. 3; Oct. 1 & 22; Nov. 5; and Dec. 17 & 24.

Music

If you have any hymns that you would like to sing, please sign up in the Parish Hall. Dr. Miriam Zach would like to see what you are all interested in singing.

Metro Chapter Events

St. John's is one of 10 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.

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.

Metro Chapter Spring Meeting

Saturday, April 29, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., at St. John's: 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 March.

Revival 2017 June 3 & 4 at St. John's

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>

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

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

[Ministry School and Retreat](#)

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.

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.

There will be no Sunday school or EYC in the month of March.

EYC Dinners

We are looking for three dinners to be filled for EYC on April 9, April 30 and May 7. So far this year only parents have provided the meals and it would be really wonderful if other members of the congregation would come and join us for a meal. If you are not comfortable with cooking there are several other options: we can cook for you, we can order in or we can dine out, whatever your preference is. If you are interested at all or have questions please contact Amy.

New Beginnings #18

Please keep the following youth in your prayers while they attend New Beginnings #18 in Cedar Rapids on March 3-5. Sharon Freeman, Adam Hillier, Natalie Long, Ian Hillier and Cole Hillier. Cole and Ian will be on staff, which means they will be helping to run the weekend. Cole will be shepherd for the second time, a role that oversees the entire weekend.

Happening #42

April 21-23 at Trinity Cathedral in Davenport. Applications are live for staff and participants at iowaepiscopal.org. Happening is for youth 9th-12th grade. If you have any questions please contact Amy.

Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Youth Events:

March 5 - No classes - No EYC

March 8 - Lenten Program - Coloring the Stations of the Cross

March 12 - No Sunday school classes - No EYC
March - 19 - No Sunday school classes - No EYC
March 22 - Lenten Program - Coloring the Stations of the Cross
March 26 - No Sunday school classes - No EYC
March 29 - Lenten Program - Coloring the Stations of the Cross
April 2 - Sunday school for Godly Play & #JesusSquad - No EYC
April 5 - Lenten Program - Coloring the Stations of the Cross
April 9 - Sunday school classes for all at 9am - EYC at 5pm
April 12 - Lenten Program - Coloring the Stations of the Cross
April 16 - No Sunday school classes - No EYC

March 2017 Events

March 1 (Wednesday) Ash Wednesday services
7:00 a.m.; 12:25 p.m.; 7:00 p.m.

March 3-5 (Friday – Sunday)
New Beginnings #18 - Cedar Rapids

March 5, 12, 19, 26 (Sundays)
NO Sunday School Classes and NO EYC

March 7, 21, 28 (Tuesdays)
College Students Bible Study

March 8, 22, 29 (Wednesdays)
Potluck and Lenten Program **6:00 p.m.**

March 15 (Wednesday)
No Holy Eucharist, No Potluck & No Lenten Program due to Spring Break

March 9 & 23 (Thursday) Deepening Faith
7:00 p.m.

March 19 (Sunday)
Daughters of the King Meeting

March 21 (Tuesday) Vestry Meeting **7:00 p.m.**

March 25 (Saturday) Food At First **10:30 a.m.**