

NEWSLETTER



Episcopal Parish of Ames

October 2017

Revolution or Evolution?

After World War II, Christopher Chavasse who was the Bishop of the Diocese of Rochester in England spoke about what would take place in the “new world” now that the war was over. He said when it came to facing a new situation people had three different attitudes – “the reactionary attitude, the revolutionary attitude, or the evolutionary attitude”.

The reactionary attitude resents all change. It wants everything to remain exactly as it is. Characteristically it looks backwards and has the built in tendency to say “No” when any new course of action is even suggested.

The revolutionary attitude may be a good thing – in fact it may even be an essential thing. But we need to remember that a revolution is by nature destructive and is temporary. It cannot become a routine. One raises new things out of the rubble created by the necessary demolition of the old.

The evolutionary attitude is the attitude that is prepared to grow. It is the attitude that is constantly willing and able to adjust itself to the challenge of changing circumstances. Change and growth are part of the basic fabric of life. The church should always be a growing and changing entity. Because the grace of God is sufficient for all things, the church can find the grace to deal with any situation if it is living enough and flexible enough to take it.

In the months ahead the people of St. John’s by the Campus will embrace many changes. My prayer is that we will accept the grace that will allow us to evolve into the people that God is calling us to be. I ask each and every one of you to pray for and accept this grace too.

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

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, October 2017, Vol 23, Num 9

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

October Coffee Hour

October 1
8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
October 8
8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
October 15
8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
October 22
8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
October 29
8 & 10 a.m. VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

October Lectionary

October 1
The First Lesson: Exodus 17:1-7
The Psalm: Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16
The Second Lesson: Philippians 2:1-13
The Gospel: Matthew 21:23-32

October 8

The First Lesson: Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20
The Psalm: Psalm 19
The Second Lesson: Philippians 3:4b-14
The Gospel: Matthew 21:33-46

October 15

The First Lesson: Exodus 32:1-14
The Psalm: Psalm 106:1-6, 19-23
The Second Lesson: Philippians 4:1-9
The Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

October 22

The First Lesson: Exodus 33:12-23
The Psalm: Psalm 99
The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10
The Gospel: Matthew 22:15-22

October 29

The First Lesson: Deuteronomy 34:1-12
The Psalm: Psalm 90:1-6, 13-17
The Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8
The Gospel: Matthew 22:34-46

Update on Search for New Rector

The Rector Search Committee is gathering information from all of our members through a survey as part of the search process. This survey is designed to provide a clear picture of who we

are as a church and what directions are most important for our future. The tool we are using is the Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT), which will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at St. John's and the possibilities, willingness, capacity and energy for moving our ministry into the future. **Your response is very important.**

Thank you if you have already participated in the online survey. If you need access to a computer or other assistance please look for one of the search committee members after the 8 a.m. or 10 a.m. services on October 1 or October 8. At other times, please contact Jeannie in the office at (515) 292-6655 or Ian Warren at igwarren@iastate.edu or (515) 451-7361. **The survey will close on October 8**, at which point we hope to have input from everyone!

Survey Link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/StJohnsAmes>

Faithfully, Nicola Bowler (Vestry and Search Committee Chair), Jim Fisher, Bill Gutowski, Michael Howell (Vestry), Greta Muller Levis, Chris Moon, Wendy Nutini, Ian Warren.

Deepening Faith

If you are looking to add a new opportunity for prayer, reflection and fellowship to your spiritual journey, we invite you to join us for Deepening Faith. This is a prayer group of 2 to 6 parishioners that practice contemplative prayer, Lectio Divina, and explore the treasure of prayers available in the Book of Common Prayer. The contemplative prayer is a way to practice 'the habit of holy silence.' Lectio Divina is the practice of reading a selection from scripture 3 times with periods of silence in between for quiet reflection, and a time for group discussion after the third reading.

Meetings start at 7 p.m. in the parlor and we close at 8:30 p.m. The format is flexible and there is not a structured curriculum track, so it is easy to join at any time. Participants range from

young adult to seniors with a nice mix of life experience and spiritual perspectives. The Deepening Faith group will meet on the following dates in 2017.

1. October 12, 2017 at 7:00pm
2. October 26, 2017 at 7:00pm
3. November 9, 2017 at 7:00pm
4. December 14, 2017 at 7:00pm
5. December 28, 2017 at 7:00pm

For more information, contact Ed Gillott or Steve Prater.

Parking Stickers

If you are parking in St. John's parking lot, please be sure to get a parking sticker from Jeannie in the Parish office. When cars are in the parking lot without a sticker they could be towed.

St. John's Prayerground



Preparing for the Harvest and Giving Thanks

The month of October is one of my favorite times of the year. Harvest time in Iowa is special as farmers go out in the field to bring in the fruits of their labor. Not just the corn and the beans, but also the apples, pumpkins, squash and the last pickings of those amazing garden tomatoes. The temperatures are cooler, the trees are turning brilliant colors, friends and family gather to cook out and celebrate their favorite football team, and yes, the Chicago Cubs are in the playoffs for another year. Life is good and we are blessed indeed!

It is also the time of year when we gather in our parish family to plan a budget for 2018 and plan for our fall stewardship drive. The budget is more than crunching numbers in a spreadsheet. It tells the story of our mission and how we will focus our time and treasure as the Episcopal presence in the Ames Community and Iowa State University. In the Diocese of Iowa, we are one of eight or so parishes that can still support a

full-time parish priest. We are also fortunate to have Amy Mellies leading our Christian Formation program, David Moore as our Campus Chaplain, Dr. Miriam Zach as our Music Director, and Jeannie Garcia as our full time Secretary and Office Administrator. These individuals make an outstanding contribution to our worship service and our ministry to the community. We are unique in the state of Iowa to have these four part-time positions on our staff, and we are blessed indeed!

We are also blessed to have many unpaid volunteers helping with the work of the church, led by our Volunteer Financial Assistant Diane Bjorklund. Think of all the people involved in Altar Guild, Godly Play, Hospitality, Building Maintenance, Liturgy, Music, the Vestry, and now the Search Committee and give thanks for their ministry and witness.

We will have more information on the 2018 budget and stewardship drive later this month. If you would like to participate in the process of developing the 2018 budget or the stewardship drive, please contact me or Jeannie in the parish office. And as we prepare for the harvest, remember that life is good and we are blessed indeed.

Ed Gillott, for the Finance Committee

Food at First

We served 50+ guests at Food at First on Saturday September 26. After having only two people on the sign-up sheet, we sent out a call for help and ka-bam! We had a 12-person crew for the meal! Thanks to Head Chef Michael Howell, Joanna Muggli, Beverly Baustian, Steve and Dot Prater, Katy Charlson and her mom, David Oakland, Thomas Phillips, Helen McRoberts, John Lowthian and community volunteer JulieAnn.

Our next meal dates will be October 28, November 25, and December 23. Please check your calendars and consider bringing 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 11:45 to 12:15. We usually

finish cleanup by 2:30 p.m. There is a volunteer sign-up sheet in the Parish Hall. For more information, contact Ed Gillott, Joanna Muggli or Michael Howell.



Sunday, October 8, 2017 1:00 pm
Brookside Park, Maple Shelter, Ames

St. John's Church has a long-standing tradition of supporting the interfaith CROP program sponsored by Church World Services (CWS). Dave Oakland is one of the key organizers for the Ames community, so we have supported the effort with our hearts, feet and pledges for many years.

CROP is a global program with many partners that support sustainable solutions to hunger around the world. More information is available on the [CWS Website](#).

There are several ways to participate.

- Register to be a walker! The 5K walk on October 8 at 1 p.m. starts at Brookside Park, goes west through the university, turns on to 13th St. at Stange Rd., then goes east to Brookside Park again. This is a beautiful time of year for a walk, and the weather for the last few years has been picture perfect.
- Support a St. John's walker! Please support the following walkers:
 - The St. John's Youth (EYC)
 - Amy Mellies
 - Thomas Phillips
 - David Oakland
 - Leigh Ann Long
 - Michael Howell
 - LeAnn Hillier
 - Ed Gillott

- Go Digital! Use the following link for the CROP walk website to support the St. John's team or an individual. [Donate to the St. John's CROP Team](#)

Twenty five percent of the funds will be distributed to the following local Food Pantries and Assistance programs.

Bethesda Lutheran Church: 1517

Northwestern Avenue; 9 to 11 a.m.

Monday/Wednesday, 1 to 3 p.m.

Tuesday/Thursday, and 6:30 to 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Food at First: 611 Clark Ave. and 3626 Ontario St.; 4:45 to 5:30 p.m. Monday/Thursday at Clark location and 10 to 10:30 a.m. Sat. at both locations

Good Neighbor Emergency Assistance: 3206

S. Duff Ave.; Healthy Food Vouchers are

available 9 to 11:45 a.m. Monday to Friday

Calvary United Methodist Church: 1403 24th St.; 2 to 3 p.m. Tuesday

Mid-Iowa Community Action (MICA): 230

South 16th St.; 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to

Friday; can be visited once every month, with proof of Story County residency

The Shop: Food Science Building Room 2616,

Iowa State campus; 3 to 6 p.m. Thursday, 11

a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday and 3 to 6 p.m.

Wednesday and Thursday

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry: 510

Pennsylvania Ave., Story City: 10 a.m. to noon

Saturday

Building and Grounds

A big "thank you" to Michael Howell for repairing the water coolers by the office. We had to do an emergency repair on the cooler the night of the Revival. The bubbler switch was stuck on, and the drain was not keeping up so the water was running over the side onto the floor. Michael was able to turn off the water Friday night, and had the unit in pieces the next morning to clean out the drain line.

Volunteers of all skills and abilities are needed to help maintain our exterior landscape and our building. Tasks include weeding, pruning, raking, parking lot maintenance, maintaining the

atrium garden, plumbing and electrical repair, kitchen maintenance, floor cleaning, and many more! If you have a little extra time and energy and to share, please contact George Smith or Ed Gillott for more information.



SEP

Thanks to everyone who participated in the 2017 Revival at St. John's on September 15, 2017. We enjoyed excellent music, liturgy and fellowship as we renewed our baptismal vows. If you would like to take the next step and join a study group, a book club, a prayer group, or perhaps an activity we have not thought of yet, please contact Fr. Al or one of the parish staff, Nicola Bowler, or Ed Gillott.

Diocesan Convention at the Marriott Hotel, Des Moines

Friday & Saturday - October 27 & 28, 2017

Revival 2017 continues at the Diocesan Convention in Des Moines this month.

Convention delegate information and the proposed 2018 budget are available for review on-line at

<http://www.iowaepiscopal.org/Convention/diocesan-convention.html>. You do not have to be a delegate to attend, but you do need to register as a visitor.

The registration deadline for visitors is October 11, 2017. This includes Postulants or Clergy that are not registered as part of a church's delegation (e.g. Retired Clergy and Non-Parochial Clergy) as well as spouses and children of delegates and folks who wish to attend the "open to all" portions of Convention such as Pre-Convention Workshops on Thursday or Friday. Registration information and a schedule of activities is available on the Diocesan Website. [2017 Diocesan Convention](#)

The keynote speaker will be The Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers. Spellers serves as the Canon to the Presiding Bishop for Evangelism,

Reconciliation and Stewardship of Creation. She will present at the clergy gathering in the afternoon and the open-to-all evening session on Thursday, October 26. She will be helping in a part of a Plenary Session during the Convention. And she will be the Keynote Speaker at the banquet on Friday night, October 27.



Time Changes

Please take note of these time changes:

Wednesday Bible Study will now be at 10:30 a.m.

Food at First needs volunteers to come at 10:00 a.m.

Coffee and Conversation Potluck

Thanks to everyone who brought food to our Coffee and Conversation potluck. We had excellent cooks as the food was wonderful.

An extra special thank you to these helpers: Leigh Ann Long, Diane and Bruce Bjorklund, Jolene Malone, Jodi Cory, Michael Howell, Thomas Phillips, Effie Lingren, Dorothy Yoerger, and George Smith. If you are not mentioned, please know your help was greatly appreciated. ~Joanna Muggli~

Sanctuary Candle

The Sanctuary Candle burns in remembrance of memorials or celebrations. **The following date is open:** Oct. 22.

Monday Daisies

A big "thank you" to all of you who have shared flowers from the altar with shut-ins. This

ministry is so appreciated by recipients and their families. There is a new signup sheet on the bulletin board for those people who are willing to take the flowers and have a short visit. Please contact me or Jeannie if you have questions. *Mary Kay*

Emergency Residence Project

Thank you to all who have signed up for an evening meal at the Emergency Residence Project shelter this year. We could not have fulfilled our commitment without everyone working together.

Thank you, Dorothy Yoerger

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.

Christian Formation Announcements:

Sunday School Classes:

Godly Play is for children 4 years old to 4th grade; #JesusSquad is for youth 5th - 8th grade; The Den is for youth 9th - 12th grade. No Classes on October 1, 8 or 15.

EYC (Episcopal Youth Community)

EYC will be walk on October 8th at the Crop Walk at Brookside park at 1:30pm.

We are always looking for members of the parish to share a meal with us on Sunday evenings. If you would be willing to provide and share a meal, please sign up in the parish hall.

New Beginnings #19

New Beginnings #19 will be held October 13-15, 2017 at Trinity Episcopal, Iowa City. The cost is \$30 per participant. Scholarships are always available! **St. John's will cover \$15 of the cost. Please choose to pay with check when filling out application.** Youth in grades 6-9 are encouraged to register. Youth who have attended at least two NB weekends are welcome to apply to be on staff for the weekend (staff are required to attend an overnight training September 30-October 1 at Trinity Episcopal, Iowa City).

Participants register here:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07eeflad6y34124e59&llr=7s5gmvpab>

Mark Your Calendar for these Upcoming Youth Events:

October 1 - No Classes

October 8 - No Classes - St. Francis Day/Pet Blessing - EYC @ 1:30 - CropWalk

October 13 - 15 - New Beginnings #19 at Trinity Iowa City

October 15 - No Classes

October 22 - Sunday school at 9am

October 27-28 - Diocesan Convention

October 29 - Sunday school at 9am - EYC at 5pm

June Vestry Minutes

Clergy Present: Father Al Aiton, Rector

Vestry Members Present: George Smith, Maddy Losby, Doug

McCay, Phyllis Heffron, Bruce Bjorklund, Dorothy Yoerger, Deb Fisher.

Vestry Members Absent: Michael Howell, Nicola Bowler

Others Present: Ed Gillott, Amy Mellies

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were approved with no changes.

Christian Formation/Youth: The PrayerGround was discussed, and Amy and others shared comments that they had heard. Responses have been mostly positive. Amy is considering how and where to set it up in the Sanctuary space.

Vacation Bible School is being held this week. Two of our youth will be attending EYE July 10-14 In Oklahoma. Summer camp will occur towards the end of July.

A group of 4-H youth is coming to paint downstairs.

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

Consent Agenda Approval: A motion was made by George Smith to accept the consent

agenda. Phyllis Heffron accepted it, and the motion passed.

Announcements: The date for the Bishop's Revival 2017 has been changed to September 15/17. Fr. Al will be on vacation for the month of July. John Greve will be here on Sundays and there will be no Vestry meeting in July. Convention will be October 27-28, and delegates will be welcomed. Ed Gillott has expressed interest.

Prayerful Considerations:

Stewardship 2018: It was suggested that the Stewardship campaign be linked in some way to the Parish wide profile that will be part of the search for a new Rector.

Carpet: Bruce Bjorklund has two proposals. It looks like the all in cost will be in the range of \$82,000. Bruce will ask for breakdowns for different areas of the church, so that we might consider replacing the carpeting incrementally.

Maintenance Issues and Parking:

Building updates: Ed Gillott passed out a spreadsheet detailing maintenance projects and associated costs that St. John's is likely to need over the next eight years.

Search: Fr. Al dismissed himself for this portion of the meeting. Nicola Bowler had shared minutes of the first meeting of the search committee. The next meeting of the search committee will be July 20.

Submitted by: Deb Fisher, Clerk of the Vestry

August Vestry Minutes

Clergy Present: Father Al Aiton, Rector

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

Vestry Members Absent: Deb Fisher, Scott Saienga

Other Members Present: Amy Mellies and Ed Gillott

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm and opened with Evening Prayers and meditation by Father Al.

Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting were approved as written.

Campus Ministry: It was noted that the ISU students are beginning to return and use the parking lot to unload and move into area apartment buildings. Dorothy Y. noted a Welcome Back Students Sunday event is planned after the 11 a.m. service on September 17.

Christian Formation/Youth: The Prayerground space for young children in the sanctuary continues to be planned by Amy M. She is going to utilize some furniture already in the church and has ideas for rugs and other items for this space. It was suggested she make up a "wish list" at a later point when and if she has specific needs for donations. She believes most of the comments from parishioners have been positive, although a few people have voiced concerns. A discussion regarding safety ensued, both safety for communicants and safety for the children. This discussion enlarged into a general concern about safety at the communion rail, especially due to a recent fall experienced by a parishioner in this area. The main concern is the need for more space between the two front pews and the communion kneelers/rail area. Michael H. and Ed G. will consider this further and report back next meeting.

Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Scott S. was not present but a written report was provided. Ed G. reviewed it briefly and no key issues came up. He noted the end of July target was close to where it should be. It was also noted that a second fraud situation occurred recently on one of the church credit cards. This situation was rectified through the credit card company. High praise and appreciation was voiced for the diligence and careful oversight assumed by Diane Bjorklund in detecting these incidences.

Consent Agenda Approval: A motion by Nicola B. was made to accept the Consent Agenda and seconded by George S. The motion passed.

Announcements:

- A Revival 2017 handout by the Episcopal Diocese of Iowa was distributed and a brief discussion followed. Father Al mentioned that Bishop Scarfe will come to St. John's to meet with our Revival Committee on September 7th to discuss plans for our upcoming Revival event on 9/15-17.
- Fr. Al is still looking for one additional Convention delegate (Convention is October 27, 28, 2017).

Prayerful Considerations and Area Reports:

- Building Update Ed is continuing to work with the legal counsel of the apartment building owners next door regarding the property line dispute in the parking lot. An area of concern involves the number of Vestry members required by our current By-Laws (15 members) which do not reflect the actual number we have (10 members). This may become a legitimacy issue of the Vestry sign off on the new/revised Building Title. Ed G. and Michael H. will consider our current By-Laws and how to best fix this discrepancy.
- Stewardship Scott S. and Ed G. are planning to move on this topic and link it with the Search Committee. They are considering an "every member canvas" with presentations on three services prior to the due dates for pledge returns. A considerable discussion followed about what to do with people on our list who don't come to church, the legitimacy of who is a certified member etc. No resolution of this issue; it is just a difficult situation without adherence to hard and fast rules, which the church is cautious about undertaking.
- New Carpet Update Bruce B. has obtained carpet samples which were available for Vestry viewing.
- Financials Audit The audit has been completed and sent to the Diocese.

- Columbarium Michael H. informed the Vestry there are some maintenance issues on the outdoors columbarium. Deterioration problems and stability issues. Michael H. and Ed G. will address these matters.
- General Communication Dorothy Y. suggested we need to do more to let the public know about St. John's and its services. She believes it would be good to put a newspaper advertisement in the *Ames Tribune* at certain times of the year such as at the beginning of the school year and prior to major holidays. The group agreed this was a good idea and Dorothy will follow up on this. Secondly, it was also suggested that the Vestry members need to be more visible to everyone and perhaps a poster with pictures of each Vestry member could be displayed in the narthex or other suitable spot in the church. Nicola B. and Michael H. will coordinate this effort.

Search Committee

Father Al dismissed himself for this portion of the Vestry meeting. Nicola B. discussed the progress of the Search Committee and said they were mainly doing prep work for the church member survey. The survey tool is being fine-tuned and the group is planning roundtable discussions at coffee on Sunday, September 17. These discussions will feature a Search Committee member at each table and the purpose will be to further understand what congregants believe is most important about our church and what ideas/comments they might have vis a vis the change in rectors.

Nicola also brought up the subject of budgeting for the Search Committee. She needs to know if there will be a budget set for the committee, what she needs to do to assist in this and any logistics etc. There will be further and ongoing discussion about this. Budgeting for the interim priest needs to be determined.

The meeting ended at 8:35 pm.
Submitted by Phyllis Heffron for Deb Fisher,
Clerk of the Vestry

October Events 2017

October 1, 8, 15 (Sunday)

NO Sunday School or EYC these dates

October 8

St. Francis Service (10:00 a.m. service) Animal Blessing

NO EYC due to Animal Blessing

CROP Walk 1:00 p.m. Brookside Park

October 13 -15 (Friday – Sunday)

New Beginnings #19 for 6 to 9 grades

Trinity Episcopal Church, Iowa City

October 15 (Sunday)

United Thank Offering Sunday (both services)

Daughters of the King Meeting

October 17 (Tuesday)

Vestry Meeting 7:00 p.m.

October 20 (Friday)

Trivia Night 6:30 p.m.

October 21 (Saturday)

Annual Altar Guild Meeting 9:00 a.m.

October 27-28 (Friday - Saturday)

Diocesan Convention

October 29 (Sunday)

Potluck after 10:00 service

