



Paw Prints & Woolklippings



April 2011

*The Joint Newsletter of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, Iowa
and the Episcopal Church of the Good Shepherd, Webster City, Iowa*

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~DAY BY DAY~

The Most Peculiar Aspect of Christianity

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit." (John, Chapter 20)

Pease! So begins Jesus' big reunion with his disciples. This greeting was their second big surprise. The first, of course, was seeing their dead friend alive, risen. This was shocking enough. But to hear, not judgment, but a word of peace. . .well. . .this was almost as startling.

Jesus does not greet his fearful followers by saying, "Hey where were you? I mean I had a pretty good view from up there on the cross and I didn't see you? I saw the three Mary's and John but what happened to all that talk about, 'We'll be there for you Jesus?'"

There is no finger pointing. The Risen One comes among the fearful, guilt-ridden disciples and says simply, "Peace!" He offers them forgiveness.

And what is more he gives them a gift, the gift of his Holy Spirit that they too might continue in the way of the Risen One, forgiving one another and demonstrating to the world the power of God's forgiveness through a forgiven and forgiving people. Easter means not only that it is of the nature of Christ to defeat sin and death but also that it is of the nature of Christ to forgive.

A few years ago, the great scholar of world religions, Huston Smith, gave a lecture in which he characterized the most notable, most peculiar aspect

of each religion: Islam, prayer; Judaism, family; and so on; Christianity? forgiveness. It is unique to the faith of Jesus and to faith in Jesus to forgive enemies.

Forgiveness is at the core of what it means to be a Christian, what it means to practice our faith. Christians are called to be wildly extravagant in our ability to forgive. We are to traffic in forgiveness, to be prodigal in reconciliation.

I wonder if that is what we, as Christians, are known for? Are we as peculiarly forgiving as we might be?

Long ago, St. Augustine noted in a sermon (Sermon 49.8) on forgiveness, that sometimes people in his church omitted the phrase from the Lord's Prayer that says, "And forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." Just passed right over that phrase silently because they knew it would be lying for them to say that aloud. They knew, says Augustine, that they were making a kind of covenant with God in this "forgive us our sins as we forgive the sins of others."

Forgiveness is hard, but it is the reunion road. It re-unifies us with God and with each other. It frees us from living with constant resentment, anger and hatred that drain so much of our life-energy away. It is our peculiar pathway to life-changing joy.

And, yes, **PEACE!** Fr. Richard

~Maundy Thursday through Easter Day Service Schedule~

April 21st ~ Maundy Thursday

The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday

Good Shepherd ~ 5:00 p.m.

St. Mark's ~ 7:00 p.m.



April 22nd ~ Good Friday

The Liturgy of Good Friday

Good Shepherd ~ 5:00 p.m.

St. Mark's ~ Noon and 7:00 p.m.

April 23rd ~ Easter Eve

The Great Vigil of Easter

St. Mark's ~ 7:00 p.m.

Baptisms



April 24th ~ Easter Day

The Holy Eucharist

St Mark's ~ 9:00 a.m.

Good Shepherd - 11:00 a.m.

We will be needing readers and acolytes for the above services, except on Easter Day. If you would like to serve, please let Fr. Richard know.



Parish Secretary Leave of Absence and Transition

Kris Christy-Hogan has been granted a six-month leave of absence by the Vestry of St. Mark's, so she can care for her mother in St. Louis, beginning April 1st. Kris came to us just about a year ago and has been such a blessing to our parish. Often working longer than she should, she has created a number of very efficient office procedures, cleared out old files and records, and performed admirably as our bookkeeper. We hope Kris will be returning to Fort Dodge and St. Mark's soon, but until she does, her duties will be assumed by Ms. Pamela J. Coles, a Fort Dodge resident and a member of The Pointe, the same church Kris attends. Pam has held many administrative positions during her working life and is experienced in operations, finance and accounting, and a variety of computer programs. Over the past few weeks, Kris and Pam have been working together in the office, so that there is a smooth transition between them. Looking ahead, if circumstances prevent Kris from returning to her position with us, Pam will continue in the role. However, if Kris does return, there is the possibility that she and Pam will pick up where they left off and collaboratively job share the position.



vigil OF
THE GREAT easter

Sharing the Easter Vigil Together Saturday, April 23, 7:00 p.m. at St. Mark's

Good Shepherd and St. Mark's share a ministry covenant, a communion of mission and ministry that strengthens both congregations. We are more together than we would be separately, if this partnership ceased to be. There are many ways in which our sharing enriches us; through mutual care and concern; through personal prayer and communal prayer every Sunday, when we remember each other in our intercessions; through our mutual financial support of a full-time priest; and through our support of one another's events.

Last year, we celebrated the great festival of our faith, Easter, by sharing the Great Vigil together. It was a beautiful service. The new fire was kindled in the darkened church, the Biblical story of our salvation was proclaimed through a series of lessons, the Baptismal Covenant of which we are apart was renewed, and the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist were consumed. And the music was divine! Following the service, we had a great Champaign and sparkling cider reception, which also featured some tasty appetizers.

So, let's do it again! But this time, as we renew our baptismal promises, we will be welcoming two infants into the life of the Christian community through the waters of Baptism: Nash Irby Terry, the son of Beth Collins and Jeff Terry, and Samantha LaDonna Seaba, the daughter of Lynn and Troy Seaba.

In the coming weeks, Fr. Richard will be recruiting people from both congregations to assume roles within the service. If you would like to be a lector, acolyte or server for this service, please let him know.



Paw Prints from St. Mark's

World Vision 30 hour Famine Program

April 14-15th

It may seem a bit out of character, but scores of young people within our community are planning to fast for 30 hours to bear witness to the plight of the world's hungry. Participants are asked to ingest only juices during this consciousness-raising event and also participate in a number of stimulating exercises designed to inform them of the reality of hunger, and how we might end it. The event begins on Friday at 6:00 p.m. and ends at 6:00 p.m. the next day. Sleeping arrangements for Friday evening have been made with Phillips Middle School, so that, weather permitting, youth and chaperones will sleep on the school's athletic field in cardboard boxes. We hope to have 100 youth participants and raise \$10,000 to fight hunger. On Sunday, April 10th, we will be taking a special offering during our Sunday service in support of this project. This event is being sponsored by the Fort Dodge Interfaith Forum. For more information, please speak to Fr. Richard or Lydia Schmoker.

Youth Passion Reading on Palm Sunday

Our youth are being invited to assume the roles prescribed in the annual reading of the Passion on Palm Sunday. This year we read Matthew's version of events, so be on hand to bear witness to them and to mark the beginning of the week we call Holy.

Howard Happ+ RIP

The Rev. Canon Dr. Howard J. Happ, a priest of the Diocese of Los Angeles for nearly 40 years and a distinguished professor of religious studies, died March 27 at the Canterbury Episcopal Home Community in Rancho Palos Verdes, where he was a resident. Fr. Happ was born on May 20, 1942 in Fort Dodge, raised a Presbyterian, and graduated from the public high school. While in high school, he was drawn to the Episcopal Church and started attending St. Mark's during the tenure of Rector John Taylor, who encouraged him to become a priest. He will be remembered for his great friendship, intellect, wit, and commitment to the Anglo-Catholic tradition.

Fr. Happ held an A.B. from Cornell College in Iowa, an M.A. from the University of Chicago, a B.D. from Princeton Theological Seminary, and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Princeton University. He was for many years a professor of religious studies at California State University, Northridge. Through the years, Fr. Happ frequently returned to Fort Dodge for high school reunions and other occasions. He liked to drop in to his old parish and often was invited to celebrate and preach. A few years ago, he came to a Sunday service and realized that one of his former clerical colleagues in the Diocese of Los Angeles, Richard Graves, was the Rector.

Fr. Happ is survived by friends, colleagues and students. Requiem Eucharist is scheduled for Sunday, April 3, in Encino, California. Burial will follow in Waterloo, Iowa, where his parents are buried.

May Day Vestry Retreat

The Vestry will be observing a mini retreat on Sunday, May 1st, following the 9:00 a.m. service. Fr. Richard is hosting the planning session in his home, whose décor has been described as "Early Halloween."

SAVE THE DATE: St. Mark's Rummage Sale, Friday, May 13th, 7:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Raffle for I-Pad ~~~Coney, Chips, Cookie and Drink served from 11:00a.m.~~~

Holly's Mother's Pancake Recipe: 1 cup flour~1/2 tsp. salt~2 Tbsp. Sugar~2 Tbsp. baking powder
~1 cup milk~2 Tbsp. Oil~1 egg - beaten



"WOOLKLIPPINGS" FROM GOOD SHEPHERD

Lamb Dinner is Coming!

The Annual Good Shepherd Lamb Dinner is scheduled for Saturday, May 7, at 6:00 pm. The entertainment for this year's event is "A Celebration of Musical Theatre," so be prepared to revisit some of your favorite shows while dining. Please invite guests - sign-up sheets will be placed on the vestment cabinet in the social hall.

Bishop's Committee News

- Our 2011 Church officers include Michelle Haberman, Bishop's Warden; Angie Martin-Schwarze, Clerk, and Larry Bucknam, Treasurer. We also welcome Lynn Flowerday and Kelly Ubben to the Bishop's Committee, as they were both elected to serve three-year terms at our annual meeting in February. We thank them for their service to the congregation.
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- Treasurer Larry Bucknam is forming an audit committee for Good Shepherd, which needs to meet prior to summer to review the 2010 financials. If you would like to assist with this review, please speak to Larry.
- Now that the church has new processional torches and updated much of its communion ware, one of the last liturgical items needed right now is a new lavabo bowl. The lavabo bowl is the small basin used in the liturgy at the time of the Eucharist, when the priest, having set the table, washes his or her hands with the assistance of the acolyte. From the Latin, *Lavabo* means "I shall wash."
- The next meeting of the Bishop's Committee is Sunday, April 10th.

Hospital Chaplaincy Being Explored

The Webster City Ministerial Association is in talks with the new hospital, exploring the establishment of a cooperative chaplaincy ministry to both patients and staff. As presently envisioned, the chaplaincy role would rotate on a weekly basis among the clergy. The core of this ministry would involve pastoral visits to patients, as well as coverage for emergencies. Additionally, other pastoral services, such as worship in the new meditation room, might also be developed.

Local Chorale to Sing

The Eagle Grove Chorale will present "Come, Follow Me!" on Sunday, April 17, 3:00 pm, at the Eagle Grove Evangelical Lutheran Church, 615 SW 2nd St, Eagle Grove. "Come, Follow Me!" is a modern cantata for Lent, Holy Week and Easter by Jackson and Almeda Berkey, that features several soloists in the chorale, pianist David Moglebust, percussionist Cathy Moglebust, organist Ann Shriver, and pre-recorded sounds. Please make plans to hear this unique musical presentation.

Bishop's Visitation Set

Bishop Scarfe will be at Good Shepherd on Sunday, August 7th, at 11:00 a.m. Mark your calendars and engage your minds regarding how we might warmly and creatively welcome him!

**ST. MARK'S
HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES
APRIL 2011**

	Acolytes	LR/CB	Altar Guild	Coffee Servers
APRIL 3	Celeste Rice	Holly Scherff	Joanne Tjelmeland	Robert & Jennifer Zhai
APRIL 10	Anna Bacon	Mary Beth Rice	Sue Blanchard	Fred & Sue Blanchard
APRIL 17	Trey Anderson	Celeste Rice	Holly Scherff	John & Margo Daniel
APRIL 24	Brody O'Tool	John Daniel	Margo Daniel	John & Mary Duro

Note: Mary Duro is scheduled to set up on April 30 for May 1

Funeral Committee: Joyce Anderson, Chairman; Sharon Vogel; Cheri Cerwick; Volunteer

Birthdays

April 1 – Forrest Schmoker
6 – Richard Graves
Aaron Hudson
11 – Mary Tjelmeland

19 – Troy Seaba
27 – Darci Peterson
29 – Esther Merrill

Happy Birthday

GOOD SHEPHERD
HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES
APRIL 2011

	Acolytes	LR/CB	Lector	Greeters
APRIL 3	Zeb Katschke	Robbie Katschke	Steve Haberman	Ranae Anderson
APRIL 10	Jake Haberman	Josh Finn	Deb Leksell	Michelle Haberman
APRIL 17	Joel Haberman	Barb Flowerday	Robbie Katschke	Katie Haberman
APRIL 24	Katie Haberman	Judy McLaughlin	Nancy Dermand	Gus Dermand
	Altar Guild – Judy McLaughlin		Coffee Server – Tom & Judy McLaughlin	

BIRTHDAYS

April 2 – Ivy Hilts	13 – Connie Paisley
6 – Nicholas Davis	Lillian Webb
7 – Maren Henderson	25 – Scott Decker
9 – Lynn Leksell	28– Rhyen Anderson

Happy Birthday