



Paw Prints & Woolklippings

December 2010 to Mid-January 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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Christmas ~ A Miraculous Gift of Joy!

A baby boy was born at night, in the cold winter. Mary and Joseph somehow got through the birthing process. The animals been through this themselves.

You might recall right now a even the last time you held a like it. I remember quite daughter. As she came out I astonishing. This tiny, pink, her lungs with the first she come from; how did this happen?



watched, knowingly, for they had

birth you have experienced, or newborn baby. There is nothing clearly the birth of my first couldn't believe my eyes; it was so living being, squirming and filling breath of a long life: where did

The days that followed were suffused with tenderness. One day we noticed - miracle of miracles - that she turned towards the light outside, and we exclaimed, "Quick, look! She's looking out the window!" The world was new, everything about it - the green leaves against the blue sky, the faces of people on the street, the wind whistling in our ears - it was all alive, pulsing with vibrancy, magic.

If you know this experience, you know that life - everyday, ordinary life - is a gift. It is a miraculous gift of joy, of love.

That's the feeling we recreate every Christmas, or at least what we aim towards with these carols, mangers, fire-lit evenings and gifts for one another. We evoke the miraculous gift of joy, of love. We feel grateful, and we act generously.

May this Christmas be a miraculous gift of joy, of love, for you and those you love, and may it inspire you to new heights of gratitude and generosity!

Love and prayers, Fr. Richard



St. Mark's Episcopal Church

A service of
Lessons and Carols
for Advent

Saturday, December 18, 2010
4:00 p.m.

Followed by
Seasonal Refreshments
Everyone is invited!



*Christmas Eve Service Schedule
Friday, December 24, 2010*

Good Shepherd, 6:00 p.m.

St. Mark's, 9:00 p.m.



STEWARDSHIP

A colorful graphic of a hand holding a leaf. The hand is rendered in shades of blue, green, and pink, and is positioned below the word 'STEWARDSHIP'.

Jesus teaches us that it is more blessed to give, and so we do. Our giving fuels the ministry we share and deepens us as disciples. Your stewardship is deeply appreciated by the Vestry and Bishop's Committee, the elected bodies responsible for the financial well-being of our congregations. As they have begun the budget process for 2011, they hope members of the congregation will complete their pledge forms and return them to the church office just as soon as possible.

Paw Prints for St. Mark's



Swaziland Sunday



Flag of Swaziland

Mission Banquet, December 12, 4:30 p.m.

Sanibonani! Good day in SiSwati. John Daniels approached me with an offer I could not refuse. He had gone to a community school fundraiser, and taking heed of Margo's stern warning that the basement was full of previous years auction rewards, he bid on something he could not keep. He was the highest bidder on a half hour of a choir ensemble's time and thought the church could use them for some type of fundraising event.

The mission we chose is the medical mission trip planned for October 2011 that is in need of funds for medical supplies, and after some discussion we decided to go big. The night of December 12th there will be three different cuisines served; Lebanese, Chinese, and American. Each cook will prepare for 25 guests. All guests will also be served a bisque and baklava. The tables will be decorated by several members of both St. Mark's and Good Shepherd; each with a unique theme and Taylor Hall will be transformed by a team of decorators led by Mary Duro. We will also have a few crafts and baked goods for sale.

I am so excited about this event. Not only is this a chance for us to show our support to the ongoing efforts of strengthening our relationship with Swaziland, it also gives us an opportunity to strengthen our relationships right here in our homes of St. Mark's and Good Shepherd.

The tickets are \$15 and are limited. If you would like to purchase some or if I have not called on you yet to participate and you would like to help, please call me at 227-6940 or Mary at 573-3294.

Thanks for your support, Holly Scherff

(This great supper is also a Christmas Dinner Party, so come in festive dress. This is your chance to wear that snowman sweatshirt that you can only wear once a year! Be prepared to sing Christmas carols!)

Latham Clinic Sunday, December 19th

We host a wonderful well child clinic in the undercroft of our church, which serves the underserved of our community. Come to church and hear from members the WIC Nursing Staff about this significant outreach program. Remember, St. Mark's cares about children!



"WOOLKLIPPINGS"

FROM GOOD SHEPHERD

Christmas Bazaar 2010



Good Shepherd Bazaar and Soup Luncheon

December 4th

10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Our annual edge of winter festival that occurs on the first Saturday of December is almost here. There will be tasty soups to enjoy and a whole range of food gifts and seasonal crafts for purchase. And as always, shoppers will have their choice of some wonderful soups and other savories! Be sure to tell your friends and encourage them to stop by.



We rejoice with the Conley family as they welcome Dillon Conley-McCarthy, a new baby boy born to parents Dan and Samantha on October 26th, weighing 9 lbs., 13 oz.



Tom and Judy McLaughlin invite everyone to their home for a Christmas Party on December 19th. The party will unfold between the hours of 6:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. Please bring Hors d'oeuvres, your favorite beverage, and a food pantry donation. This is your chance to wear your favorite Christmas outfit (the gaudier the better) so don't be shy!

Fall Fest A Success

One of the great benefits of not having pews is that you can easily transform your sanctuary into a restaurant, with the nave set up with long tables to accommodate those dining and the altar area transformed into a stage for the piano and drum set and guitar. We ate brats and sauerkraut, sang songs, did the chicken dance, and shared hilarious jokes and stories. Whoever said church couldn't be fun, a joyful place, obviously never attended Good Shepherd. Our thanks to our great musicians - Von Ketelsen and Dave and Cathy Moglebust - and our merry members who believe that it is as important to know how to play as it is to know how to pray!

The 2011 St. Mark's Education Grants will be governed by the following revised guidelines and procedures, which will be published in the next three newsletters in order to provide fair notice of the opportunity within our congregations.

Guidelines and Procedures
St. Mark's Martin Education Grants
Revised By the Vestry on September 28, 2010

1. As redefined by amendments to the Trust Agreement, the St. Mark's Martin Education Fund is designed to provide grants for educational needs of Communicants in Good Standing of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge, and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Webster City. The Vestry shall inform the Education Grant Committee before any applications are received (prior to March 31) of the amount available for distribution in the next academic year.
2. There is to be an Education Grant Committee composed of three persons appointed by the Vestry and one person from the Vestry will serve as liaison. Their terms will be staggered for three years so that each year a new person will be appointed to the committee. The purpose of the committee will be to receive the grant applications, review them for completeness and then make a recommendation to the Vestry regarding how the funds should be allocated. One person from the Vestry will be appointed to serve as a committee liaison.
3. During the months of December, January and February fair notice should be given to the parish by means of bulletins and the *Paw Prints/Wool Clippings* that education applications are available and are due by April 1. Applications will be available in the office of St. Mark's and are to be given to those who request them.
4. All applications for education grants must be in the office of St. Mark's Church on or before April 1st. There will be no exceptions to this rule. Failure to meet this deadline with a fully completed application will disqualify the applicant. The office personnel are not responsible for notifying applicants of missing data or mistakes. This is the applicant's responsibility. A notation of date and time received will be placed on the application by someone in the church office.
5. Copies of all applications will be distributed by the parish secretary to all members of the committee. The committee will review all the applications and forward their recommendations in writing to the Vestry no later than the regularly scheduled April Vestry meeting. If applicants are disqualified or denied a grant, the reasons for the committee action should be included in the report.
6. The Vestry shall review the committee's recommendations and make the awards as they deem appropriate and in accordance with these guidelines. The Vestry may alter or amend the recommended awards at their discretion. All applicants will be notified of the decisions regarding their grants by a letter signed by the Senior Warden, by May 1st.
7. When it is called for, the Rector, Senior Warden or a member of the Vestry shall present the award to an applicant at the applicant's High School awards program. Appropriate media announcement will also be made.
8. If the grant is awarded, payment will be made in two equal installments payable in July and December. Checks will be made out to the school, but sent to the student. The December distribution will not be made until the student's unofficial transcript is received in the parish office by mail or email, demonstrating satisfactory work with a GPA of 2.5 or above and full time status. Notification of this requirement will be sent with the July check.
9. Education grants may be awarded in amounts up to \$1000 per applicant per year. An applicant may reapply each year for additional funds using the same form, provided the applicant has demonstrated satisfactory work with a GPA of 2.5 or above in the previous years and is still a full time student. The maximum number of applications is five (5) years.
10. The Grant awards shall take into account the following criteria:
 1. The Vestry may give preference to applications according to the following ranking: *first*, Communicants in Good Standing of St. Mark's Episcopal Church, Fort Dodge; and *second*, Communicants in Good Standing of Good Shepherd Episcopal Church, Webster City.
 2. Applicants should be full time students of 12 credits or more.
 3. Applicants should have a GPA of 2.5 or above and cannot be on academic probation or failing.
 4. Applicants may reapply for a total of 5 years

11. Grant Eligibility

**Paraphrased Definition of Communicant in Good Standing
According to the National Canons of the Episcopal Church**

A Communicant in Good Standing is a person who:

- has been baptized in the name of the Trinity and said baptism has been recorded in the parish register;
- has received Holy Communion at least three times during the preceding year;
- has been faithful in corporate worship, unless for good cause, and been faithful in working, praying, and giving for the spread of the Kingdom of God.

**ST. MARK'S
HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES
DECEMBER 1, 2010 – JANUARY 16, 2011**

	Acolytes	LR/CB	Altar Guild	Coffee Servers
December 5	Kaelly Scherff	Celeste Rice	Cheri Cerwick	Fred and Sue Blanchard
December 12	Callan Anderson	John Daniel	Sue Blanchard	John and Mary Duro
December 19	Trey Anderson	John Duro	*Margo Daniel	
December 24	All Acolytes	Holly Scherff	Altar Guild	No Coffee
December 26	Toddy Svoboda	Mary Beth Rice	Joanne Tjelmeland	Bud and Mary Beth Rice

Funeral Committee: Margo Daniel, Chairman; Joyce Anderson; Cheri Cerwick; Volunteer

January 2	Kaelly Scherff	Celeste Rice		Esther Merrill & Susan Derscheid
January 9	Callan Anderson	John Daniel		Lisa Neet & Elaine Weidlein
January 16	Trey Anderson	John Duro		Chris and Jessica Troutwine

Funeral Committee: Sharon Vogel, Chairman; Susan Derscheid; Esther Merrill; Volunteer

Birthdays

Dec 1 – Mary Kay Daniel	17 – Kim Bloomquist	Jan 4 – Karen Vogel
4 – Brandon Seaba	21 – Elaine Weidlein	12 – Bob Smith
9 – Joyce Anderson	23 – Holly Scherff	15 – Joanne Tjelmeland
9 – Sharon Vogel	27 – Qunelle McCaleb	
15 – Georgiana Meadows	29 – Susan Derscheid	

Happy Birthday

GOOD SHEPHERD
HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES

DECEMBER 1, 2010 – JANUARY 16, 2011

	Acolytes	LR/CB	Lector	Greeters
December 5	Katie Haberman	Deb Leksell	Robbie Katschke	Gus Dermand
December 12	Zac Katschke	Robbie Katschke	Nancy Dermand	Joan Haberman
December 19	Zeb Katschke	Cathy Moglebust	Nan Bucknam	Angie Martin-Schwarze
December 24	All Acolytes	Lynn Flowerday	Angie Martin-Schwarze	Kelly Ubben
December 26	Joel Haberman	Barbara Flowerday	Adam Martin-Schwarze	Ranae Anderson
	Altar Guild – Judy McLaughlin	Coffee Servers –		
January 2	Jake Haberman	Judy McLaughlin	Lynn Flowerday	Michelle Haberman
January 9	Katie Haberman	Deb Leksell	Barbara Flowerday	Gus Dermand
January 16	Zac Katschke	Robbie Katschke	Joan Haberman	Katie Haberman
	Altar Guild -	Coffee Servers -		

BIRTHDAYS

8 – Noelle Dawn Katschke
 8 - Don Katschke
 11 – Ashley Wilde
 17 – Tatiana Gray
 21 – Cindy Hoveland
 22 – Claire Martin-Schwarze

26 – Barbara Flowerday
 26 – Evan Bucknam
 27 – Mark Milliken
 27 – Dana Gray
 29 – Sierra Conley

Happy Birthday