



Paw Prints & Woolklippings

Mid-January thru February 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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Called To Boundless Mercy

In the church, we attribute certain things to God based on our understanding of the Bible, the unfolding tradition and history of the church, and what seems consistent with human reason. We say, for example, that God is loving; we say that God is compassionate; we say that God is mystery, totally beyond our capacity to understand; we say that God is forgiving and just. And these are just a few of the attributes we associate with God, aren't they? For our list could go on and on and on.

Further, we have a strong tendency to think of "being called" as nothing more than being asked to "do something", to perform some important work, fulfill the demands of a particular job. But that is not the way the word "call" is usually used in the Bible; that is not really what is going on in the scriptures when Jesus calls the first disciples; and that is not what is usually going on with us when God calls us.

You see, Jesus does not call us to do a particular job, or to fill a particular role, at least not initially. Our call as Christians is not initially for us, anymore than it was for Andrew or Peter or James or Bartholomew, a call to work. It is, instead, a call to *relationship*. Jesus does not say, "Do this," he says, "come and see;" or better still, "follow me." There is a big difference.

To respond to such a call for relationship, for intimacy, is very different from signing up to do a piece of work -- Just like falling in love is very different from serving together on a committee. To set out to do a job requires some clarity about what is involved; it is negotiable; it has limits; and you know what it looks like when the job is completed. To be called into relationship -- to be called to follow -- that is a different matter, altogether. It is to enter into a mystery; it is to move out, full speed ahead, into uncharted waters, to step out into the darkness. Jesus simply says, "Follow me." He calls us first to himself -- to a personal intimacy and shared life. That is what matters, Jesus says. Everything else is left behind.

Ultimately when we are called, it is primarily to be held for a while, not to go anywhere. Eventually it will lead us somewhere. But we won't know where for a while, maybe for a long while. The German theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer expresses this idea with these words:

If we answer the call to discipleship, where will it lead us? What decisions and partings will it demand? To answer the question we shall have to go to him, for only he knows the answer. Only Jesus Christ, who bids us follow him, knows the journey's end. But we do know that it will be a road of boundless mercy.

As we move forward in our calling as Christians, let's be sure to keep our focus on our relationship with Christ and not be too quick to move into action. That way, when we do move forward to take action, while we may not know just where we are headed, we know that we do not travel alone, but with Christ by our side, and the road we take will be one of "boundless mercy."

Love and prayers, Fr. Richard

Paw Prints for St. Mark's



It's Annual Meeting Time Again!

Our Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, February 13, 2011. As in the past, it will be held in the church at the conclusion of the 9:00 a.m. service. Among the actions to be taken will be the election of two new members of the Vestry, the adoption of a 2011 operating budget, and the election of one lay delegate and one alternate to Diocesan Convention. We will also take a moment to thank our retiring Vestry members, Sharon Vogel and Lydia Schmoker, for their service to the parish. Additionally, program reports covering a range of areas will be given. Following the service, we gather for breakfast in Taylor Hall. While the meal is being offered at no charge, a free will offering is available for those who wish to contribute.

Lutheran/Episcopal Full Communion Celebrated: Our January 6th service with our ELCA brothers and sisters, marking the 10th anniversary of full communion, was a spirited affair, a show of unity in an increasingly divided world. Clergy and laity from neighboring Episcopal and Lutheran churches came to St. Mark's to give thanks for the many ways over the last decade our denominations have engaged in fellowship and mutual ministry, both on the local and national levels. We proclaimed the word and shared the bread and wine, and pledged to continue to build bonds of affection and mutual ministry. Congregations attending included St. Mark's and Grace Lutheran of Fort Dodge, and Good Shepherd and Trinity Lutheran of Webster City. Lutheran Pastors participating included Matthew Martens of Grace Lutheran and Mike Kroona, of Trinity Lutheran.

Episcopal clergy Peg Jackson, who serves in Emmetsburg, and Don Keeler, the new priest in Storm Lake, also attended. The reception following the service featured food provided by the congregations and examples of Fr. Richard's king collection adorned the table tops. Special thanks to Dave and Cathy Moklebust for providing music drawn from both the Lutheran and Episcopal traditions. The offering for the service amounted to \$161.00 and was given to Upper Des Moines Opportunity to help heat homes this winter.

Latham Clinic Sunday, December 19th: A member of the staff of our Latham Clinic, Tricia Nichols, offered an informative talk about this program we host in our church's undercroft, which serves the children of the underserved of Fort Dodge. She not only updated us all on the services provided through the clinic, but reminded us that our congregation cares about children!

Rice Birthday Celebration/Chinese New Year! On Sunday, February 6th, Clarence Rice turns 90, and we don't for a minute plan to let him forget it! Following the 9:00 a.m. service, there will be a special birthday celebration for Bud in Taylor Hall that will feature Chinese food prepared by Robert Zhai in honor of the Chinese New Year. In case you're interested, 2011 is the year of the rabbit, so hop on over to St. Mark's for some great fun and food!

New Life: Lynn and Troy Seaba have been blessed with a new baby, Samantha LaDonna, who was born in Ames on October 28th at 7:43 a.m., weighing a healthy 7 lbs., 12 oz. and measuring 19 inches.



"WOOLKLIPPINGS" FROM GOOD SHEPHERD

Good Shepherd Bazaar and Soup Luncheon

December 4th
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

As always, it was a great time! We opened our doors and welcomed the Webster City community to a whole range of wonderful food gifts and seasonal crafts for purchase. And the soup, well, it was spectacular! The bazaar itself generated \$ 1947.25 and the luncheon brought in a little over \$1000. Additionally, the tea table of the Good Shepherd Saints, which supports our memorial fund, recorded \$22.06 in sales. The atmosphere exuded good will and seasonal cheer. The only thing missing was temperate weather, but we did our best to compensate by warming as many hearts as we could with our storied hospitality. Thanks to everyone who helped!

Annual Meeting: January 30th **Worship at 10:00 A.M.**

Prescribed by canon law, this meeting of the whole congregation is the time to look at the year past and plan for the future. The congregation's financial health is measured and a new budget is approved. Outgoing Bishop's Committee members are celebrated (thanks to Tom McLaughlin and Larry Bucknam), two new members are elected to replace them, and lay representatives to Diocesan Convention are elected. It is a time to reflect, to celebrate, and to express our gratitude for our life together and the

ministry we share! Please note that we are moving our service time to 10:00 a.m.

Mark Whaley Service and Reception: December 28, 2010

While it was a sad day in so many respects, it was also a day of celebration for a terrific person who made such a difference in our community. We are so grateful to Trinity Lutheran for hosting the service, to Dave and Cathy Moglebust for providing such wonderful music and song, and to our members for orchestrating a splendid reception at Good Shepherd. We continue to hold Nancy and her family in our prayers and live in confidence that Mark is now in that place where "there is no pain or grief. . .but life everlasting."

New Torches: Our older pair needed to be retired, so we consulted the liturgical catalogues and found some nifty replacements. Our new torches feature hurricane globes, which not only add to their beauty, but serve the practical purpose of keeping the flames a safe distance from our vestments. And if we ever want to go outside for a procession, we won't have to worry about our torches being extinguished by an unwanted gust of wind.

Nuptial Bliss: Elizabeth Leksell will marry John Sparks in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands, on February 5th. A reception in their honor is planned for February 12th in Memphis. We wish them both a lifetime of mutual joy!

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 students 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
JANUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

	Acolytes	LR/CB	Altar Guild	Coffee Servers
January 23	Brody O'Tool	Holly Scherff	Jane Martin	Lana Emrys and Jane Martin
January 30	Kaelly Scherff	Mary Beth Rice	Cheri Cerwick	Ernest and Ellie Finch
February 6	Callan Anderson	Celeste Rice	Cheri Cerwick	Bud, Mary Beth and Celeste Rice
February 13	Trey Anderson	John Daniel	Holly Scherff	Tom and Candice Martin
February 20	Brody O'Tool	John Duro	Margo Daniel	Don and Sharon Vogel
February 27	Kaelly Scherff	Sharon Vogel	Joanne Tjelmeland	Deb O'Tool

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

Birthdays

Jan	22 – Mark Daniel	Feb	4 – Brody O'Tool
	22 – Maliq McCaleb		5 – Clarence (Bud) Rice
	29 – Jacob Martin		14 – Elta Brown
	30 – Brittany Wendland		17 – Saiveon McCaleb
			20 – Tyrese McCaleb

Happy Birthday

**GOOD SHEPHERD
HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES
JANUARY 17 – FEBRUARY 28, 2011**

	Acolytes	LR/CB	Lector	Greeters
January 23	Zeb Katschke	Lynn Flowerday	Steve Haberman	Joan Haberman
January 30	Katie Haberman	Barb Flowerday	Deb Leksell	Michelle Haberman
February 6	Jake Haberman	Robbie Katschke	Nancy Dermand	Katie Haberman
February 13	Joel Haberman	Judy McLaughlin	Robbie Katschke	Gus Dermand
February 20	Zac Katschke	Cathy Moglebust	Nan Bucknam	Kelly Ubben
February 27	Zeb Katschke	Deb Leksell	Angie Martin-Schwarze	Ranae Anderson
	Altar Guild -		Coffee Server –	

BIRTHDAYS

Jan	21 – Johnathan Wilaby	Feb	2 – Hunter Hesler	18 – Molly Hoveland
	23 – Nathan Anderson		8 – Adam Dodge	18 – Samantha Leksell
	25 – Valerie Dodge		9– Mike Haberman	20 – Nan Bucknam
	29 – Antrez Conley		10 – Michelle Haberman	24 – Sophia Vanderpool
	31 – Deb Conley		17 – Jasmine Hesler	24 – Katie Haberman

Happy Birthday