



# *Paw Prints & WoolKlippings*

March 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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### ***This Lent, Keep Moving, but at a Different Speed***

Lent is right around the corner, late this year, beginning on March 9<sup>th</sup>. We associate certain words with this 40-day period that always precedes Easter: penitence, fasting, self-denial, sacrifice, sin. Not exactly a list of words to write home about. Why, if you employ them in your active vocabulary too liberally, people are likely to think you are either a religious person (probably a fanatic) or engaged in the cruelest of diets. Either way, people may try to avoid you. Probably for good reason.

In many ways Lent has become for me a time devoted not to "giving something up" (e.g. chocolate, TV) or "taking something on" (e.g. a new prayer discipline, volunteering somewhere) but rather finding a different gear, a different speed at which to live my life.

When I have an errand, I try to walk rather than drive. A cardiologist would be quick to point out that this is good for my heart, but that is not why I walk. Walking slows me down. I get where I want to go, but it takes me longer. I'm moving, but at a different speed. Life viewed from the sidewalk rather than through the windshield of my car seems less a blur. Because it is. The scenery is the same, but I am able to take more of it in, see it for what it is and isn't with greater clarity, because it passes by at a more leisurely clip.

I think avoiding the microwave would have similar benefits (who needs water to boil, or butter to melt, that fast!) or writing an actual letter with pen and paper rather than composing and sending it via e-mail, or drawing a hot bath and soaking rather than showering.

During the 60's, young people of a certain age who might be experimenting with mind altering substances, were warned, "Speed kills." And lives were saved. Literally, saved.

Finding a different, slower pace at which to live our lives, during Lent or at anytime, I believe, also imparts some life-saving benefits. Doubt me? Then try it out and see for yourself. And then, if you like, come and find me and we can

talk about it. On foot, if possible.



Love and prayers, Fr. Richard



### **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper: March 8th**

There is nothing more wonderful about being an Episcopalian than the smell of pancakes just prior to the onset of Lent. But even non-Episcopalians seem to favor the fragrance, salivate at the slightest whiff of it, and annually beat a path to our doors on the eve of Ash Wednesday.

Each year we have the opportunity to help ease the folks of our community into a penitential mood by feeding them the best breakfast in town, so let's not fail to deliver. As always, the place is Taylor Hall, the date is March 8<sup>th</sup>, and the serving hours are from 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm. The menu includes a choice of plain or blueberry pancakes, sausage, fruit, orange juice, milk, and coffee. **A donation basket to benefit the mission outreach of our parish will be available to those wishing to make a contribution.** Those wishing to make monetary or in-kind contributions to the supper are asked to please note on your check "Shrove Tuesday" or drop your food item off at church.

The day immediately preceding Ash Wednesday, the onset of Lent in the Christian churches of the West, is known in English as Shrove Tuesday. It occurs between 2 February and 9 March, depending on the date of Easter. The day takes its name from "shriving"—the pre-Lenten confession and absolution of the faithful as a preparation for Lent that was common in the European Middle Ages. Feasting on foods initially prohibited during Lent, such as meat, eggs, and milk products, was integral to the Shrove Tuesday observance.

Come to Feast before we all Fast! Free Marti Gras beads will be distributed. Tickets will be available on Sunday March 6 to distribute or you may pick them up at the St. Mark's Parish Office.



**March 9, 2011**

***The Liturgy of Ash Wednesday***

***Imposition of Ashes***

***Noon and 6:00 p.m. ~ St. Mark's***

***7:30 p.m. ~ Good Shepherd***



**Gospel Light**

### **2011 Lenten Program**

#### ***Basking in the Spiritual Light of the Jesus Story***

Jesus' Stories are full of mystery, meaning, and grace. But too often in our desire to understand them intellectually (who wrote them, and when, and for whom) we miss their spiritual meaning. This program explores some of the most important of Jesus' teachings from a spiritual point of view, a deeper way of perceiving that only the eye of the soul can see. If you want to see familiar passages of the Gospel in a new light, with fresh eyes, then this is your opportunity.

Fr. Richard is offering this study at both St. Mark's and Good Shepherd. The dates and times are:

Wednesdays at St. Mark's: March 16, 23, 30, April 6, 13. 6:00 pm Worship, followed by simple meal and study.

Thursdays at Good Shepherd: March 17, 24, 31, April 7, 14. 6:00 pm Worship, followed by simple meal and study.

## A Letter from Our Seminarian, Aaron Hudson

### Notes from the Seminary

January 27, 2011

Dear Friends,

Life at the seminary continues to be busy and rewarding! We have a full schedule of classes here, chapel three times daily, and participate in work study programs at seminary. I am assigned to work as the assistant to Dr. Russell Schulz, the recently retired Associate Professor of Music, Organist, and Choirmaster. If you flip open the front cover of the Hymnal 1982, you will see Russell's name printed (as Russell Schulz-Widmar). He was the chair of the music committee for the Hymnal 1982, has published over 200 works, and is a well-respected figure in church music and hymnody. It is a great privilege to work with Russell and to be exposed to his career of service to the seminary.

During January I took an intensive course in Hispanic ministry. I spent the first weekend of the course traveling with fellow seminarians to Laredo, Texas, which is about 4 hours from Austin, and is where Interstate 35 crosses into Mexico. My great-grandparents lived 50 miles south of Laredo in Zapata for 30 years, so I know the area well. Seminarians used to cross into Mexico, but because of the recent violence at the border, are no longer allowed to cross. It was a great experience to learn from the priests and ministers doing their work at the border. I was particularly struck by the trip to the Rio Grande River, where there is only a football strip of water between absolute prosperity in the United States and absolute poverty and despair in Mexico. So many questions came up for me as I was standing in this place, as they did for so many of my fellow seminarians. Many of us stood in wonderment as we tried to understand why we were born on this side of the border, while so many are born into such extreme conditions on the other side. While we can always point to political, social, and economic situations on the border, the clear issue there is humanitarian.

Another memorable experience happened while visiting Houston, when a fellow seminarian and I attended St. Martin's Episcopal Church, also in Houston. St. Martin's is the largest Episcopal Church in the country, with 7000 + members. Ten priests serve the parish. Of note, it is also where George H.W. Bush and former Secretary of State Jim Baker attend.

Thank you all for your continued support, and all of the well-wishes and Christmas cards. I hope this finds you well. God's peace, Aaron.

(Editor's Note: The above was slightly edited from Aaron's original letter, which can be found posted on the church office bulletin board along with some pictures that accompanied it.)



"We can only learn to love by loving." --- Iris Murdoch

"I believe that imagination is stronger than knowledge -- myth is more potent than history -- dreams are more powerful than facts -- hope always triumphs over experience -- laughter is the cure for grief -- love is stronger

than death." --- Robert Fulgham

"We ask for long life, but 'tis deep life, or noble moments that signify. Let the measure of time be spiritual, not mechanical." --- Ralph Waldo Emerson

## Paw Prints for St. Mark's



***Meadows on the Move*** Jim and Georgiana Meadows are moving to Arizona after spending seven years as residents of Fort Dodge and leaders within our community. Jim has served as the Pastor of First Congregational United Church of Christ, while Georgiana has been fully engaged as a psychotherapist and a devout member of St. Mark's.

Georgiana will be especially remembered for her leadership as Senior Warden during the search process for a new Rector following Fr. Steve Hall's departure, and her dedication and skill as the lead teacher of Godly Play. Jim has been involved in many community initiatives, including the Fort Dodge Interfaith Forum, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee, and the Harmony Brigade Barbershop Chorus.

While the Meadows' move to the southwest takes them away from us, it brings them closer to family in general and their grandchildren in particular! A little warmer weather awaits them as well. We all wish them every blessing and grace, robust health, and a future full of happiness!

***Bud Rice's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Bash!*** It was vintage Bud. As he walked out of church on Sunday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, he shook the Rector's hand and said. "I know I look like a million, but I'm only 90!"

We all had a wonderful morning celebrating with Bud and his family, and were treated to a wonderful reception in Taylor Hall. Robert and Jennifer Zhai provided a wonderful Chinese meal in honor of the Chinese New Year, and Ellie Finch carried in a birthday cake with Bud's name on it.

Holly Scherff read a "this is your life" essay about Bud that was written by Mary Beth, his devoted and long-suffering spouse. Others within the congregation stood and added a good word about Bud, who was so moved by the spectacle unfolding before his eyes that he spontaneously broke into song. The wood walls of the hall appeared to quiver. It was vintage Bud. Then someone chirped that he should keep his day job!

The Rice's have been fixtures at St. Mark's since the 1960's and have "fought the good fight" year after year while bringing so much joy to us all. We thank God for the whole lot of them, and wish Bud, in particular, the happiest of birthdays, and many, many more.

***New Life Now Committee*** On February 1<sup>st</sup>, Lydia Schmoker hosted a meeting of the New Life Now Committee at her home, which John Daniel, Holly Scherff, and Fr. Richard attended. The modest attendance was due to a raging snow storm, which kept a few people intending to come in their warm homes. A lively discussion ensued, nonetheless, that covered several areas of church life: youth and children's ministries, fellowship, growth, and newcomer incorporation.

We discovered that there was interest in starting a book club at St. Mark's, and the need to provide a deeper newcomer incorporation process for those visiting St. Mark's. That is, beyond the warm smiles and welcome letters, new folks need to be invited into our homes, taken out for a meal, and included in other ways, so that

their status as newcomers fades fairly quickly, and they become our friends in Christ. The committee plans to keep meeting and welcomes anyone interested to join them. For more information, please speak to Lydia.

**Congratulations** to Candice Martin and Art Bacon the newly elected Vestry members; the elected Vestry Officers for 2011, John Daniel, Senior Warden, Jane Martin, Junior Warden and Deb O'Tool, Clerk; John Duro, our delegate to the Diocesan Convention, and Christine Schiltz and Mary Duro, the Alternate Convention Delegates.



On April 15-16th, our St. Mark's youth group will join other youth in our community and participate in World Vision's 30 Hour Famine. We're getting a crash course in global hunger by fasting for 30 hours while raising money to help feed and care for hungry kids and their families around the world.

But we need your help! We'd like the whole church to be involved in our Famine. **Here's how you can help us rewrite history ...**

**1. Pray.** Ask God to bless our youth as they make this sacrifice and "love hungry."

**2. Participate.** We need volunteers to help with our Famine Weekend!

**3. Give.** Support our Youths' fundraising efforts and help them change lives. Every \$30 they raise can help feed and care for one child for a month! Our goal is to have a minimum of 100 youth involved and raise \$10,000. Visit [www.30hourfamine.org](http://www.30hourfamine.org) to learn more about this program or ask Lydia Schmoker or Fr. Richard.

## "WOOLKLIPPINGS" FROM GOOD SHEPHERD

### January 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting Held

We decided to have our service at 10:00 a.m., an hour earlier than usual, and met in the church following worship to conduct the yearly business of the church. Outgoing Bishop's Warden, Tom McLaughlin, chaired the meeting and Angie Martin-Schwarze was appointed to record the minutes of the meeting.

Treasurer Larry Bucknam reviewed the 2010 income and expenditures and then presented a new operating budget for 2011, which was adopted. Lynn Flowerday and Kelly Ubben were elected to serve on the Bishop's Committee. Lynn was also duly elected to represent Good Shepherd at the annual diocesan convention in the fall.

We discussed which events we would like to put on during the year and asked people to sign up to serve on our various committees. It was mentioned that it would be a good thing if we could assign dates to our events as early as possible, so we don't find ourselves trying to find a mutually agreeable date in cluttered calendars at the last minute.

We also identified the need to increase our visibility in the community and attract more newcomers to our doors. We are not located on the main drag, but nestled among residential homes, rather hidden from view. So it is incumbent on us to figure out creative ways of making ourselves more obvious and accessible to the people of our community.

As always, we enjoyed wonderful refreshments and the good cheer of our close-knit congregation. We all feel blessed to call Good Shepherd our spiritual home!

### **Thanks to Holly!**

While Fr. Richard was on vacation, we were blessed to have Holly Scherff preside as our officiant and preacher on February 20th and 27<sup>th</sup>. Holly has been nominated by St. Mark's for Holy Orders in the Episcopal Church and will interview with the Commission on Ministry this spring.

If everything goes according to plan, Holly and family will be off to seminary in the fall, perhaps joining Aaron Hudson at our seminary in Austin, Texas, or attending The School of Theology at Sewanee in Tennessee. Let's be sure to do our part by keeping Holly and her family in our daily prayers.

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

	Acolytes	LR/CB	Altar Guild	Coffee Servers
March 6	Celeste Rice	Mary Beth Rice	Jane Martin	Ed and Joanne Tjelmeland
March 13	Callan Anderson	Celeste Rice	Sue Blanchard	Cheri Cerwick
March 20	Brody O'Tool	John Daniel	Joanne Tjelmeland	Tom and Pam Anderson
March 27	Anna Bacon	John Duro	Mary Duro	Chris and Jessica Troutwine

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

*Birthdays*

Mar 2 – Sarah Seaba	18 – Kylie Wendland
3 – Casey Miller	19 – Heather Walker
14 – Rachel Kersten	21 – Hazel Doran
15 – Anna Bacon	27 – Tom Walters
17 – Floyd Hale	29 – Ed Tjelmeland

*Happy Birthday*

**GOOD SHEPHERD  
HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES  
MARCH 2011**

	Acolytes	LR/CB	Lector	Greeters
March 6	Katie Haberman	Robbie Katschke	Barbara Flowerday	Michelle Haberman
March 13	Jake Haberman	Barbara Flowerday	Steve Haberman	Katie Haberman
March 20	Joel Haberman	Judy McLaughlin	Josh Finn	Gus Dermand
March 27	Zac Katschke	Deb Leksell	Joan Haberman	Kelly Ubben
	Altar Guild -		Coffee Server –	

**BIRTHDAYS**

Mar 4 – Chris Moglebust	13 – Mike Batterson	21 – Liz Leksell
5 – Samantha Ubben	14 – John Dodge	23 – Kathleen Vanderpool
6 – Josh Lubbers	15– Larry Bucknam	23 – Cathy Moglebust
7 – Jackie Anderson	16– Laura Simms	27 – Roberta Katschke
10 – Elizabeth Dermand Alt	17 – Calypso Gray	31 – Lori Dodge Wilaby
12 – Rick Alt	18 – Dustin Conley	

*Happy Birthday*